

May 25, 2006 Summerhill firefighters get grant

For Immediate Release

May 25, 2006

Summerhill firefighters get grant

Johnstown, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha today announced that the Summerhill Township Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded a grant of \$39,400 through the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

The Summerhill volunteers will use the grant for both recruitment and retention purposes. They plan to purchase new visual aid and educational equipment such as a laptop computer and projector for new member informational presentations. They are planning to improve retention by boosting the fire department's image and member morale through the purchase of new uniforms, exercise equipment for a new weight room, and annual awards presentations for firefighter of the year and length of service.

"The jobs of volunteer firefighters are often made more difficult by the need to operate on shoestring budgets with no room to pay for proper training and recruitment of volunteers," Murtha said. "These grants relieve some of the financial pressure on those who freely sacrifice their time and often risk their lives to protect their friends and neighbors."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) - Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants help fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations to increase the number of firefighters and enhance their ability to ensure that their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

The Assistance to Firefighters program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration, part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Funds are used for operations and firefighter safety programs such as training, equipment and personal protective equipment; fire prevention programs such as public education, fire code enforcement, and the purchase and installation of smoke alarms; and the purchase of firefighting vehicles such as pumpers, brush trucks and rescue vehicles.