

Congressman

Paul E. Kanjorski

Representing the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania

FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GUIDE



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CONGRESSMAN PAUL E. KANJORSKI HAS PREPARED THIS FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GUIDE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISIONS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO CRAFT A PLAN TO MEET YOUR NEEDS.

CONGRESSMAN PAUL E. KANJORSKI HAS PREPARED THIS FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GUIDE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. BEFORE MAKING ANY DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO CRAFT A PLAN TO MEET YOUR NEEDS.

INTRODUCTION

- PROTECTING PENNSYLVANIA'S COMMUNITIES -

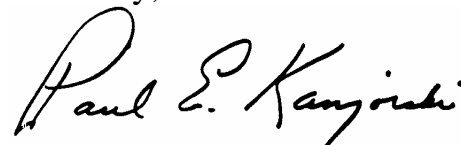
Firefighters play a vital role in not only protecting their communities in the event of a fire, but also in educating the public about how to prevent fires before they occur. Beyond their traditional roles in fighting and preventing fires, we also call on these brave public servants to serve as first responders in the event of natural disasters, accidents, and acts of terrorism. Given their sacrifices on behalf of and in service to the public, we should, at a minimum, do our part to ensure that our firefighters have the support, training, and equipment they need to do the jobs we ask them to do.

It is with that thought in mind that I have compiled this guidebook. As you know, fire departments in our region, and indeed across the nation, are highly dependant on local budgets, federal, state, and private funding programs, and contributions made by our local citizens. This booklet is intended to provide an overview of the various resources available to fire departments. It is my hope that it will serve as a resource for both volunteer and career fire departments in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The guidebook has been divided into five sections in a way that I hope will be straightforward and easy for you and your fire department to use. The first section outlines training and equipment grants available on the federal and state levels. The second section provides detailed information on the new SAFER program, which provides assistance to fire departments to hire and recruit personnel. The third section details fire safety and prevention programs while the fourth section outlines the process by which the majority of federal homeland security funds are distributed. The appendix will include information on related resources and funding alternatives.

As always, I stand ready to assist you on matters relating to firefighting. After reviewing this guidebook, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Kanjorski
Member of Congress

**SECTION I:
FIREFIGHTING TRAINING, EQUIPMENT & EDUCATION**

INTRODUCTION

The following section has been compiled to provide information about training, equipment and educational opportunities for fire departments in the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. As you might expect, the grant programs outlined in this section all operate under their own respective guidelines. Therefore, you should spend some time reviewing the specific eligibility requirements and limitations to determine their applicability to your situation. Congressman Kanjorski's office can assist you if you have any specific questions about any of the programs included in this section.

– FEDERAL GOVERNMENT –

U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION (USFA)

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/>

As an entity of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the mission of the USFA is to reduce losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination, and support. USFA serves the nation in close coordination with other Federal agencies, and in partnership with fire protection and emergency service communities. With a commitment to excellence, USFA provides public education, training, technology and data initiatives.

Contact Information

U.S. Fire Administration Grant Program Technical Assistance Center
16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727-8998
Phone: 1-301-447-1000

The U.S. Fire Administration provides training opportunities and administers grant programs that may be of interest to your department. For further information about them, you can use the contact information above or visit the individual web addresses associated with each individual program.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/afg/>

The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is to award one-year grants directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services (EMS) organizations of a State to enhance their abilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The program's primary goal is to provide assistance to meet fire departments' and nonaffiliated EMS organizations' firefighting and emergency response needs. This program seeks to support organizations that lack the tools and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and their emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards they may face.

USFA has established grant categories for eligible fire departments and emergency management organizations for this grant program. Each department can apply for grants in one of each category. Within each category, a department can apply for any number of eligible activities. The categories and eligible activities are as follows:

Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety

The five different fundable activities that are included in this program area are listed below. All fire department activities must be applied for under the Fire Department Operations and Safety program area, including fire-based EMS training or equipment. Equipment requests must meet all mandatory regulatory requirements, as well as any national and/or DHS/FEMA-adopted standards, in order to be eligible for purchase with grant funds. Equipment/technology requests should have the goal of solving interoperability or compatibility programs.

Each of the below program areas has its own priority. Applications that focus on each of the programs priority are more likely to receive funding.

- **Firefighter Training**: Examples of training activities include, but are not limited to: Firefighter I and II certifications; First Responder EMS; drive/operator; fire officer; HAZMAT response; alternative fuel firefighting; incident command; supervision and safety; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) awareness, performance, planning and management; or train-the-trainer courses in any of these areas. *Applications focused on national or State certification training, including train-the-trainer initiatives, will receive a higher competitive rating.*
- **Firefighting Equipment**: Funds are available to equipment to enhance the safety or effectiveness of firefighting, rescue, and fire-based EMS functions. Grants are also available for equipment necessary for response to CBRNE incidents. *Priority will be given to fire departments to purchase firefighting equipment (including rescue, EMS, and CBRNE) that supports a department's existing mission or that replaces used or obsolete firefighting equipment. Second priority will be to fund departments seeking to expand their functional capabilities within their existing mission areas or to appropriately equip themselves to meet a new risk. Furthermore, the purchase of equipment that brings the department into compliance with nationally recommended standards (such as NFPA) or statutory compliance will receive the highest consideration. The purchase of equipment that brings a department into voluntary compliance with OSHA standards will also receive a high competitive rating but secondary to equipment that leads to a department's statutory compliance.*
- **Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**: Funds are available to acquire primarily OSHA-required PPE for firefighting personnel. *Applications that request funding to replace equipment, the age and condition of the PPE that is to be replaced will be the primary consideration with the replacement of older or worn-out equipment receiving higher consideration than requests for replacement of newer equipment. For Self Contained Breathing Apparatus' (SCBA),*

applications will only be considered for replacing old, inoperable SCBA and/or upgrading older SCBAs to new standard within a region if proper justification was provided. Specifically, applications will not be considered for replacement of SCBA that is compliant to the 1997 Edition of NFPA 1981 nor the 2002 Edition of NFPA 1981.

- **Firefighter Wellness and Fitness:** Fire department wellness/fitness activities must offer periodic health screenings, entry physical examination, and immunizations. Applicants for grants in this activity must currently offer, or plan to use grants to provide all three benefits in order to receive consideration for funding for any other initiatives under this activity. *Higher competitive ratings will be given to applicants who lack wellness/fitness programs.*

- **Modifications to Fire Stations and Facilities:** AFG grants may be used to modify fire stations and other facilities to protect the health and safety of firefighting personnel. Activities involving modifications to facilities are subject to all applicable environmental and historic preservation requirements. Grant funds may not be used for new construction. FEMA will NOT fund any requests for modifications other than the initiatives listed below:
 - Sprinkler systems
 - Smoke & Fire alarm notification systems
 - Vehicle exhaust evacuation systems
 - Vehicle mounted exhaust filtration systems
 - Air improvement systems
 - Emergency power generators

The highest priority has been assigned to sprinkler systems, exhaust evacuation systems, and fire/smoke alarm systems. Grant funds are to be used only to retrofit existing structures that do not have the eligible safety features or to upgrade facilities whose features are outdated. Older structures will receive the highest consideration.

Firefighting Vehicles

AFG provides grants for new firefighting vehicles, used fire apparatus originally designed for firefighting, or refurbished apparatus originally designed for firefighting. Applicants who serve rural communities are limited to one vehicle per application. (If a rural applicant submits an application requesting more than one vehicle, the application will be deemed ineligible.) Funds may also be used to refurbish a vehicle the department currently owns, but only if it is a vehicle originally designed for firefighting. New vehicles purchased with AFG funds must be compliant with NFPA 1091 or 1906 standards. Used apparatus must be compliant with NFPA 1901 or 1906 standards for the year the vehicle was manufactured. Refurbished apparatus must meet NFPA 1912 standards.

The following table lists the funding priorities for this program area by each type of community.

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Urban Communities</u>	<u>Suburban Communities</u>	<u>Rural Communities</u>
Priority One	Pumper Aerial Quint (Aerial <76') Quint (Aerial >76') Rescue	Pumper Aerial Quint (Aerial <76') Quint (Aerial >76')	Pumper Brush/Attack Tanker/Tender Quint (Aerial <76')
Priority Two	Command HAZMAT Light/Air Rehab Foam Truck	Command HAZMAT Rescue Tanker/Tender Brush/Attack Foam Truck	HAZMAT Rescue Aerial Quint (Aerial >76')
Priority Three	ARFFV Brush/Attack Fire Boat Tanker/Tender Ambulance	ARFFV Rehab Light/Air Fire Boat Ambulance	Foam Truck ARFFV Command Rehab Fire Boat Ambulance Light/Air

While writing your department's narrative, you should include if your department meets any of the following criteria to receive higher consideration for funding.

- *Seeking to replace or refurbish unsafe vehicles rather than seeking to replace vehicles with safety features.*
- *Wanting to replace vehicles that have been converted for use as firefighting vehicles, but were not originally designed for firefighting*
- *Fire departments that own fewer firefighting vehicles like the type requested relative to other departments serving similar types of communities*
- *Departments with fewer vehicles of a given type than other departments that service comparable call volumes*
- *Departments possessing an aged fleet of vehicles*
- *Departments that have formal automatic aid agreements with neighboring departments*
- *If applicant has a comprehensive driver training program (Applicants without a comprehensive driver training program who will not implement appropriate driver training in conjunction with their AFG award or through other resources will NOT be considered for a vehicle award*

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Operations and Safety

AFG funding priorities differ for fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations. Equipment requested under AFG must meet all mandatory regulatory

requirements, as well as any national and/or DHS/FEMA-adopted stands in order to be eligible for purchase with grant funds. The Responder Knowledge Base (RKB), which can be accessed by visiting <http://www.rkb.mipt.org/>, includes relevant information on first responder standards and allows guest users to ask any questions they may have regarding applicable standards.

AFG grants may be used to enhance emergency medical services provided by nonaffiliated EMS organizations. *FEMA will give a higher level of considerations to organizations with significant levels of incidents and to organizations that protect large populations relative to other applicants, regardless of the type of community served. Equipment/technology requests should have the goal of solving interoperability or compatibility programs. Therefore, applicants should describe in their narrative sections how the purchase of equipment would comply with standards and/or facilitate solving interoperability or compatibility problems.*

The five different activities that are available for funding are as follows:

- **EMS Training:** Examples of training activities include, but are not limited to, fire responder, BLS, ALS, Paramedic, HAZMAT Operations, or Rescue Operations. *Because training is a prerequisite to the effective use of EMS equipment, organizations whose requests are more focused on training activities will receive higher competitive rating than organizations whose requests are more focused on equipment. A higher competitive rating will be given for projects planning to upgrade services to ALS level of response. Furthermore, organizations that are seeking to elevate their response level from EMT-B to EMT-I will receive the highest priority and organizations that are seeking to elevate their response level from EMT-I to Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) will receive a high priority. Second priority will be given to elevate emergency responders' capabilities from first responder to a BLS level of response (i.e. EMT-B). Due to the time and cost, upgrading an organization's response level from EMT – B and EMT – P is a lower priority. Organizations seeking training in medical services will receive higher priority than organizations in rescue or HAZMAT operations. Organizations that are seeking to train a high percentage of their active first responders will receive additional consideration when applying under the Training Activity.*
- **EMS Equipment Acquisition:** *Because training is a prerequisite to the effective use of EMS equipment, organizations whose requests are more focused on training activities will receive a higher competitive rating than organizations whose requests are more focused on equipment. Applicants must demonstrate that users of equipment purchased with the grant either are, or will be, sufficiently trained to use the equipment. Organizations that request training to the ALS level of response, along with basic support equipment will receive a higher priority. Requests seeking assistance to purchase equipment to support BLS level of response are a secondary priority. Organizations seeking equipment for rescue or HAZMAT operations will receive lower consideration than*

organizations seeking equipment used to provide medical services. Organizations upgrading their equipment for existing services will receive the highest consideration. Organizations taking on “new risks” (when an organization is forced to address risks that have materialized in the organization’s area of responsibility i.e. a new chemical plant) will be considered a secondary priority. Organizations taking on a “new mission” (when an organization expands into an area not previously offered) will receive a lower priority. Organizations that are replacing used or obsolete equipment will receive lower consideration compared to organizations that are upgrading their equipment for existing services. Finally, equipment that will bring an organization into compliance with State or Federal regulations will receive higher consideration than equipment that has no statutory basis.

- **EMS Personal Protective Equipment:** AFG allows grant funds to be used to acquire PPE for active EMS first responder personnel, particularly PPE required by OSHA. *Applicants who are not, or will not be, sufficiently trained to use the equipment requested under this activity will not be eligible for funding. AFG will prioritize funding for organizations needing to purchase PPE for the first time. FEMA will give very high consideration to organizations replacing obsolete or substandard equipment. In these cases, the condition of the equipment to be replaced will be factored into the score, with a higher priority given to replacing equipment that is old, damaged, torn, or contaminated over equipment that is worn but usable. In addition, FEMA will give a high competitive rating to EMS organizations with a large percentage of active staff without compliant EMS PPE. FEMA will give a high competitive rating to organizations that want to purchase enough PPE to bring their compliance to 100 percent.*

- **EMS Wellness and Fitness:** Applicants for this grant must currently offer or plan to use grant funds for all three of these benefits: periodic health screenings, entry-level physical examinations, and immunizations. *Highest consideration will be given to candidate physical agility evaluations. FEMA will afford higher competitive ratings to applicants lacking wellness/fitness programs over applicants who already employ a wellness/fitness program. Finally, FEMA will give higher competitive ratings to organizations whose wellness/fitness programs mandate participation and are open to all personnel.*

- **Modifications to EMS Stations and Facilities:** Eligible modifications under this provision include only installation of the following: sprinkler system, smoke and fire alarm notification system, vehicle exhaust evacuation system, vehicle mounted exhaust filtration system, air improvement system, or emergency power generators. *The highest priority has been assigned to sprinkler systems, exhaust evacuation systems, and fire smoke alarms. Grant funds are to be used only to retrofit existing structures that are outdated or do not have eligible safety features. Older structures built post 2003 will be given highest priority.*

EMS Vehicle Acquisition

AFG grants may be used to acquire new, used or refurbished EMS vehicles or to refurbish a vehicle the organization currently owns. *Highest priority will be given to ambulances or transport units to support EMS functions. Vehicle grantee cannot use AFG funding as a substitute for their usual vehicle replacement budget, this grant is used to supplement not replace funding. Highest consideration will be given to vehicles converted to EMS vehicles but were not designed to be EMS vehicles or to replace vehicles without seatbelts. Priority will be given to organizations with few vehicles of a certain type or outdated vehicles. Organizations with a formal aid agreement will be given higher consideration. Applicants must have an established comprehensive driver training program. Grantee must upon receiving funds remove the unsafe vehicle from the organization.*

Contact Information

USFA maintains a toll free information line for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The toll free number is 866-274-0960 and the calling hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the application period and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on Saturday. You may also submit questions via e-mail inquiries to firegrants@dhs.gov.

USFA's Guide to Funding Alternatives for Fire and Emergency Services

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-141.pdf>

USFA has compiled this comprehensive document to provide fire and emergency services departments with background information on fundraising methods that are often employed by fire departments around the country. The guide also contains specific contact information and other helpful suggestions for fire departments interested in enhancing their fundraising capacity.

USFA Training Opportunities

<http://training.fema.gov/>

The USFA also maintains a website (<http://training.fema.gov/>) that provides a comprehensive list of training and education resources available from USFA, including course offerings from both the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy (NFA). These resources are primarily targeted towards the fire service, its allied professions, and emergency management officials. Some of the programs offered are listed below:

National Fire Academy Training Assistance

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/>

Transportation costs and lodging for students who represent career or volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, or State/local governments attending resident courses are provided as part of funding under the Student Stipend Reimbursement Program. Students from other countries, other Federal agencies, private industry, or contractors of State/local fire departments or government entities must pay their own transportation and lodging fees. Through its courses and programs, the

National Fire Academy works to enhance the ability of fire and emergency services and allied professionals to deal more effectively with emergencies. Phone: **(301) 447-1035**

State Fire Training System Grants

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa>

Project grants to provide financial assistance to State Fire Training Systems for the delivery of a variety of National Fire Academy (NFA) courses/programs.

Phone: **(301) 447-1376**

National Emergency Training Center (NETC)

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/directions.shtm>

St. Joseph's College was purchased by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1979 to serve as a training facility. Prior to its official closing in 1973, the college served as a four-year liberal arts college for women. In 1981, the facility was entered into the Federal records as the National Emergency Training Center (NETC). Today, the 107-acre campus houses USFA, including NFA, the Emergency Management Institute, the Field Personnel Office, Satellite Procurement Office, and the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial. Phone: (301) 447-1000/Fax: (301) 447-1052

Within the NETC, some programs that you may find helpful are listed below. You can learn more about each of these specific programs by using the contact information provided above or by visiting each program's individual web address:

Emergency Management Institute

<http://www.training.fema.gov/>

The Emergency Management Institute is an organization under FEMA that specializes in providing numerous educational opportunities for all things related to emergency preparedness. The Institute administers a number of classes and courses available to train local responders in their local areas as well as at national training centers.

National Preparedness Network

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/training/prepnet/>

The National Preparedness Network (formerlyEENET) is a satellite-based distance learning system used by FEMA to bring interactive training programs into virtually any community nationwide. With a wide variety of programs for the public safety community, there's something for everyone. All programming is open, and is in the public domain.

Learning Resource Center

<http://www.lrc.fema.gov/index.html>

The Learning Resource Center provided *bibliographic access only* to the collection of the National Emergency Training Center's (NETC) Learning Resource Center (LRC). While the LRC is the on-campus library for the staff and

students of the National Fire Academy (NFA) and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), the OCC will function for Internet users as a database on fire service and emergency management topics.

For more information on these and other grants, you can go to the FEMA website which provides a listing of their grants. Go to the following web address for more information on grants for emergency personnel:

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/grant.shtm>

Many grants are administered directly through state agencies. As a first step, you should contact the Pennsylvania state agencies listed below for more information about homeland security funds.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

www.dhs.gov/index.shtm

The Department of Homeland Security is committed to working with citizens, private industry, trade organizations, and all levels of government to keep America safe. While most of the opportunities provided by DHS are administered through state and local organizations as block grants, there are opportunities to work with the Department in obtaining technical assistance and training. Additionally, the DHS can sometimes help provide direction to the most appropriate grants and loans relevant to a community leaders' specific vision.

NOTE: DHS allocates the majority of federal funds for homeland security activities to the states for distribution to local first responders. The process by which federal homeland security funds are distributed will be described in Section IV of this guide.

Contact Information

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C. 20528

Phone: (202) 282-8000

The following program may be of interest to fire departments interested in purchasing equipment:

Emergency Responder Equipment Purchase Program

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fs-padef.htm>

The Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), within DHS Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) has entered into an Inter-Agency Agreement with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), to allow ODP's state, local and tribal grant

recipients to take advantage of the streamlined equipment procurement services that are available through the DSCP Fire and Emergency Program.

Contact Information

Email: firefighting@dscp.dla.mil or Shirley.B.Jones@dla.mil

Phone: (215) 737-4421

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

<http://www.nifc.gov/rfa/>

The Department of the Interior receives an appropriated budget each year for a rural fire assistance (RFA) grant program. The maximum award is \$20,000. This funding will enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments through training, equipment purchases, and fire prevention work on a cost-shared basis. The DOI assistance program targets rural and volunteer fire departments that routinely help fight fire on or near DOI lands. One of these four agencies administers those lands: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Park Service (NPS).

Contact Information

If you think your department may be eligible for the DOI RFA program, please contact your local DOI agency office for specific information. You can find a listing of Pennsylvania contacts for each of the four agencies at:

<http://www.nifc.gov/rfa/>

U.S. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

www.fema.gov/

FEMA provides several opportunities to help communities meet their security needs. FEMA's website offers a comprehensive guide on individual, family, and community preparedness. This guide, titled *Are You Ready*, was revised, updated, and enhanced in August 2004 to provide the public with the most current and up-to-date disaster preparedness information available. *Are You Ready?* provides a step-by-step approach to disaster preparedness by walking the reader through how to get informed about local emergency plans, how to identify hazards that affect their local area, and how to develop and maintain an emergency communications plan and disaster supplies kit. To reach this FEMA guide, you can go to the following web address:

[http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/.](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/)

FIREFIGHTING TRAINING, EQUIPMENT & EDUCATION

– COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA –

PA OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER (OSFC)

www.osfc.state.pa.us

In 1995, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed Fire Commissioner Act, thereby establishing the current Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner. Under this legislation, the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner is the official charged with meeting the diverse training, operational, and informational needs of the Commonwealth's fire and emergency service community. The Commissioner, who is appointed by the Governor, oversees the development and operation of Pennsylvania's emergency service training program, the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program (VLAP) that provides low-interest loans to volunteer fire and emergency services organizations, and the state's fire safety education program. In addition, the Commissioner is responsible for the development of a comprehensive fire incident reporting system.

Contact Information

2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: (717) 651-2001 email: ra-fire@state.pa.us

The following OSFC programs may be of particular interest. You can visit the OSFC website or call the toll-free number above for more information on each of these programs.

Volunteer Loan Assistance Program

<http://www.osfc.state.pa.us/osfc/cwp/view.asp?A=3&O=244793>

The General Assembly established the "Volunteer Companies Loan Fund" on July 15, 1976 with Act 208. The Volunteer Loan Assistance Program (VLAP) provides loans at a fixed 2% interest rate to volunteer fire, ambulance and rescue companies for the acquisition, rehabilitation or improvement of apparatus, facilities and equipment.

Contact Information

Barbara Stair, VLAP Administrator – Office of the State Fire Commissioner

2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9364

Phone: (717) 651-2207 / Fax: (717) 651-2210 / Email: bstair@pa.state.us

You can also reach the VLAP staff at (800) 670-3473 or (717) 651-2200 or via e-mail using fire@state.pa.us.

Volunteer Fire Company, Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant

Grants to eligible Volunteer Fire Companies will be contingent on their agreeing to participate in and report information using the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting System (PennFIRS). These Volunteer Fire Company grant awards will be

calculated using a basic award of the first \$7,000.00 of the applicants grant request, plus an additional award representing all or a portion of the remainder of their request which will be determined by applying an award factor based on bonus points as described in the program guidelines. Volunteer Fire Company grants to individual volunteer fire companies shall not exceed \$15,000.00.

Pennsylvania State Fire Academy (PSFA)

The Pennsylvania State Fire Academy provides comprehensive resident and weekend programs for firefighters, rescue personnel, arson investigators, hazardous materials teams, and other emergency responders. Through the use of high quality instructors, the Academy is able to develop, select, and conduct educationally-valid and technically up-to-date courses addressing the professional development needs of all participants in the fire service and emergency response community, while at the same time providing a means of professional certification through the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. In addition, the Academy offers both resident programs, whereas students report to the state facility, and also an Academy on the Road program, where the course travels to local communities.

Contact Information

PA State Fire Academy 1150 Riverside Drive, Lewistown, PA 17044
Phone: 1-800-459-4096/ Email: fire@state.pa.us

PA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR)

www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is charged with maintaining and preserving the 116 state parks; managing the 2.1 million acres of state forest land; providing information on the state's ecological and geologic resources; and establishing community conservation partnerships with grants and technical assistance to benefit rivers, trails, greenways, local parks and recreation, regional heritage parks, open space and natural areas.

Contact Information

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Rachel Carson State Office Building - PO Box 8767
400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767
Phone: (717) 787-2869/ Fax: (717) 772-9106

The following grant program is administered by DCNR. Any questions regarding the grant program, and/or eligibility requirements, can be directed to DCNR by using the contact information above.

Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/ffp/vfagrant.aspx>

Section 10(b)3 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended by the Forest Stewardship Act of 1990, authorizes and directs the Secretary of

Agriculture to provide financial, technical and other assistance to state foresters or other appropriate officials in cooperative efforts to organize, train and equip local forces in rural areas or communities under 10,000 population to prevent, control and suppress fires which threaten human life, livestock, wildlife, crops, pastures, orchards, woodlands, farmsteads, or other improvements in rural areas. The key objectives of this program are to save lives and protect property in unprotected or inadequately protected rural areas.

PA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (PEMA)

www.pema.state.pa.us

PEMA's mission is to coordinate state agency response, including the Office of the State Fire Commissioner and Office of Homeland Security, to support county and local governments in the areas of civil defense, disaster mitigation and preparedness, planning, and response to and recovery from manmade or natural disasters. PEMA helps to distribute many of the funding opportunities that are handed down from DHS or FEMA.

Contact Information

2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9364
Phone: (717) 651-2007/Fax: (717) 651-2040/

The following PEMA programs may be of particular interest. You can learn more about each of these programs through the contact information above:

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTS)

A Community Emergency Response Team is a group of individuals who are trained to act as a first response unit in the case of an emergency. You can start your own CERT with help in organization, education and training from the Emergency Management Institute as well as PEMA.

Citizen Corps

Citizen Corps was created to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. It provides opportunities for people to participate in a range of measures to make their families, their homes, and their communities safer from the threats of crime, terrorism, and disasters of all kinds.

Section II:
FIREFIGHTING HIRING, RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

INTRODUCTION

In recognition of the fact that only limited funding is available to assist fire departments in the hiring, recruitment and retention of firefighters, Congressman Kanjorski voted in favor of the legislation that created the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. The SAFER Act authorizes grants to career, volunteer and combination departments. The program not only provides funding to hire firefighting personnel, it also provides funds to volunteer departments to strengthen the recruitment and retention of volunteers. Grants are to be awarded on the basis of need through a competitive, peer-reviewed process modeled after the Assistance to Firefighters grant program. The goal is for SAFER grantees to enhance their ability to attain 24-hour staffing, thereby ensuring that their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. The following pages go into greater detail on this program.

STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER)

The SAFER grants have two activities: 1) **hiring of firefighters** and 2) **recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters**.

The **Hiring of Firefighters Activity** portion of this program involves a five-year grant to assist fire departments pay a portion of the salaries of newly hired firefighters. These newly hired positions must be in addition to authorized and funded active firefighter positions. Grantees that fail to maintain this level of staffing risk losing all or a portion of their grant. Volunteer, combination, and non-profit career fire departments are all eligible to apply for assistance in hiring new firefighters. These grants require the awardee to match an increasing proportion of the salary over a four-year period; in the fifth year of the grant, the awardee must absorb the entire cost of any positions awarded as a result of the grant. It is my understanding that the federal grants will pay 90-, 80-, 50- and 30-percent of the employee's salary in the first four years, with the municipality or fire department agreeing to fully fund the employee from the fifth year on.

The **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity** grant provides assistance to awardees for periods of up to four years. The purpose of these grants is to assist with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Volunteer departments, combination departments and local or statewide organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters are eligible to apply for assistance under this activity. Below are a few quick details that you should keep in mind.

Eligibility

Your type of organization affects your eligibility for funding. All volunteer and combination fire departments may apply for either or both of the two grant program activities. Volunteer firefighter interest organizations are eligible for funding only in

the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity. Career fire departments are eligible for funding only in the Hiring of Firefighters Activity.

Deadline

The deadline date changes each year. Please be prepared and actively look for more information around the month of May.

Contact Information

In order to learn more about this program, you should start by visiting the USFA website at <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/>. This website contains useful background information and program guidance, as well as a tutorial on applying for each program and other useful materials. Fire departments that have questions regarding these grant opportunities can also contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov.

Section III:
FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION

INTRODUCTION

Fire departments play an integral role in promoting fire safety and prevention activities in their communities. The following programs outline resources and programs available at the state and federal levels designed to assist local fire departments promote fire safety and prevention. Below are some of the key programs.

– **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** –

U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION'S FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY GRANTS

http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fp_about.aspx

The purpose of these grants is to assist State, regional, national or local organizations to address fire prevention and safety. The program's primary goal is to reach high-risk target groups including children, seniors and firefighters. **Under the authorizing statute the emphasis for these grants is the prevention of fire-related injuries to children.**

Eligibility

Congress has authorized the USFA to award grants to national, regional, State, local, or community organizations (including fire departments) that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention or safety programs and activities.

Deadline

The deadline date changes each year. Please be prepared and actively look for more information around the month of September.

Contact Information

U.S. Fire Administration Grant Program Technical Assistance Center
16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727-8998
Questions can be email to FireGrants@dhs.gov.
Phone: 1-866-274-0960

– **COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA** –

PA OSFC – FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner offers a series of workshops designed to provide the knowledge and tools to develop and maintain juvenile firesetter intervention programs. These uniquely structured two-day training events are ideal for the fire service, law enforcement agencies, mental health practitioners, social services agencies, the juvenile justice system and other agencies and professionals who work with juveniles.

Contact Information

You should contact OSFC using the information on page 10 for more information.

*Section IV:***HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING DISTRIBUTION PROCESS**

INTRODUCTION

The very real threat of terrorism that manifested itself in the events of September 11, 2001 has fundamentally changed and intensified the focus of our country's domestic security efforts. As the security threats increase so too must community vigilance and reaction capability. In the face of this reality, Congress has made a substantial investment in programs designed to strengthen our nation's domestic security. The following pages outline the process by which federal dollars are allocated to state and local governments for use by first responders.

- FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

www.dhs.gov/index.shtm

The Department of Homeland Security is committed to working with citizens, private industry, trade organizations, and all levels of government to keep America safe. Most of the opportunities provided by DHS are administered through state and local organizations as block grants.

HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

- COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA -

PA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (PEMA)

www.pema.state.pa.us/

The vast majority of all federal money dedicated to Homeland Security programs is administered by the states. In Pennsylvania the state agency responsible for Homeland Security is the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). PEMA's mission is to coordinate state agency response, including the Office of the State Fire Commissioner and State Office of Homeland Security, to support county and local governments in the areas of civil defense, disaster mitigation and preparedness, planning, and response to and recovery from man-made or natural disasters. PEMA helps to distribute many of the funding opportunities that are handed down from the DHS or FEMA.

Contact Information

2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9364

Phone: (717) 651-2007/Fax: (717) 651-2040

PA OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

<http://www.homelandsecurity.state.pa.us/>

In Pennsylvania, PEMA works very closely with the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security to coordinate activities and distribute funds. Both entities in turn work with local and regional officials to prioritize the distribution of homeland security funds.

Pennsylvania homeland security opportunities are managed through nine Counter Terrorism Task Force Districts. The counties that compose the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania are divided into two Counter Terrorism Task Forces: the *Northeast PA Emergency Response Group* and the *East Central PA Counter Terrorism Task Force*. The vast majority of Homeland Security grant money is for both training and equipment funding to organizations that supply first providers, primarily police and fire departments as well as medical professionals.

Contact Information:

Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security
 2605 Interstate Drive, Suite 380
 Harrisburg, PA 17110
 Phone: 717-651-2715



NORTHEAST PA EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP		EAST CENTRAL PA COUNTER-TERRORISM TASK FORCE	
<i>Lackawanna County</i>	<i>Northampton Co.</i>	<i>Carbon County</i>	<i>Wyoming County</i>
<i>Monroe County</i>	<i>Pike County</i>	<i>Columbia County</i>	<i>Schuylkill County</i>
<i>Lehigh County</i>	<i>Susquehanna County</i>	<i>Luzerne County</i>	<i>Bucks County</i>
Contact Information		Contact Information	
Monroe County EMA 100 Gypsum Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 Ph:(570) 992-4113/Email: gmilller@co.monroe.pa.us		Schuylkill County EMA 435 North Centre Street, Pottsville, PA 17901 Ph:(570) 622-3739/Email: akaplan@co.schuylkill.pa.us	

Additionally, a board of directors made up of County Emergency Management Coordinators controls each task force. The County Coordinators for the counties in the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania are as follows:

Carbon County Emergency Management Agency

Coordinator: Mark S. Nalesnik / *Address:* 1264 Emergency Lane, Nesquehoning, PA 18240
Phone: (570) 325-3097 / *Fax:* (570) 325-9132 / *Email:* ccema@ptd.net

Columbia County Department of Emergency Services

Coordinator: Larry Lahiff / *Address:* Court House P.O. Box 380,
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
Phone: (570) 389-5720 / *Fax:* (570) 784-2975 / *Email:* llahiff@columbiapa.org

Lackawanna County Department of Emergency Services

Coordinator: Robert Flanagan / *Address:* Lackawanna County Center for Public Safety
30 Valley View Business Park
Jessup, PA 18434
Phone: (570) 961-5511 / *Fax:* (570) 963-6529 / *Email:* flanaganr@lackawannacounty.org

Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency

Coordinator: Steve Bekanich / *Address:* 185 Water Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
Phone: (570) 820-4400 / *Fax:* (570) 820-4456 / *Email:* sbekanich@luzernecounty.org

Monroe County Office of Emergency Services

Director: Guy Miller / *Address:* 100 Gypsum Road, Stroudsburg , PA 18360
Phone: (570) 992-4113 / *Fax:* (570) 402-7358 or 7359 / *Email:* [gmiller@co.monroe.pa.us](mailto:gmillier@co.monroe.pa.us)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FIREFIGHTERS

– NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS –

Disclaimer: The information summaries and related contact information and websites are included below because these entities offer information and commercial products that may be of interest to the firefighting community. The inclusion of information about these sources does not in any way constitute an endorsement of the views expressed or the facts presented on the websites listed in this section. Congressman Kanjorski does not endorse *any commercial products* that may be advertised on any of these sites.

– NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS –

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS (IAFF)

<http://www.iaff.org>

The IAFF is an international union affiliated with the AFL-CIO and the Canadian Labor Congress. At the present time, the IAFF represents approximately 245,000 paid professional fire service employees in the United States and Canada.

FIRST RESPONDER INSTITUTE

www.firstresponder.org

First Responder Institute, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization whose objective is to provide assistance to emergency personnel to help them make their communities safer. Phone: (301) 421-0096

CHIEF

www.chiefsupply.com/

CHIEF serves the Public Safety and Surveying industries, and the general public, with high-quality supplies spanning over 500 of the industry's most respected manufacturers. CHIEF Grants is a free service from CHIEF, dedicated to helping public safety professionals meet today's funding challenges. Phone: (888) 588-8569

TUMS FIREFIGHTER GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM

http://www.firstresponder.org/grant_in_aid.htm

TUMS brand calcium tablets sponsors a grant program to support fire and local emergencies through the First Responder Institute (FRI). For further information, contact the First Responders Institute using the contact information above.

THE FIREFIGHTER DIRECTORY

<http://www.firefightersonline.com/directory/>

This website provides links to different networks, resources, and directories from all around the country. It also includes information on police and EMS, and links to museums and personal fire fighter pages.

THOMSON DELMAR LEARNING

<http://www.firescience.com/>

This website and service has books and training services for fire fighters and EMS.
Phone: 1-800-354-9706

FIREHOUSE ONLINE MAGAZINE

<http://www.firehouse.com>

This is a monthly online magazine that has news and headlines about firefighting all throughout the country. The site also includes talk forums, job announcements, and training opportunities.

FIREHOUSE.COM

<http://www.firehouse.com/>

This website provides information on potential grant opportunities.

– PENNSYLVANIA ORGANIZATIONS –

PENNSYLVANIA FIREFIGHTERS

<http://www.pafirefighter.net/LinkCount/dirCat.asp?id=18>

A website that lists many of the different fire companies throughout the state.

PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.ppffa.org>

The Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association represents over 10,000 paid professional Fire Fighters throughout Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA FIREFIGHTERS

<http://www.pafirefighter.net/index.asp>

A website that focuses on Pennsylvania fire news, as well as from other parts of the country and the world. This website also features a section of pictures, items for sale, and other firefighter related links.

PENNSYLVANIA FIRE & EMERGENCY INSTITUTE

<http://www.pfesi.org/>

The Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute is an association of emergency service organizations, emergency responders, industry, and elected officials.
