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## ***Shuster Announces Critical Fire Grants for Blair County Fire Departments***

*Washington, D.C.* – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the Duncansville Fire Company Number 1 and the Pinecroft Volunteer Fire Company have been awarded grants through the Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

Duncansville Fire Company Number 1 was awarded \$261,250 which will be used for the purchase of a new pumper tanker truck. The Pinecroft Volunteer Fire Company was awarded \$73,388 for operational and safety equipment including, 15 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, spare air cylinders, and other equipment.

“This is fantastic news for residents of Blair County and the volunteers of these two fire companies,” Shuster said. “These grants will allow our local rural fire companies to purchase equipment they couldn’t afford through fundraising alone. The new pumper truck will save lives of civilians and the new breathing equipment will help safeguard the lives of firefighters.”

“I congratulate both companies on their successful grants,” Shuster added.

Congressman Shuster would also like to remind local fire firefighters that the application period for interested fire companies to take part in the FY 2010 AFG Program is now open. The application period will close on Friday, May 28, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The AFG Program guidance and application materials are currently available for review at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).

Congressman Shuster encourages fire departments across the 9<sup>th</sup> district to take advantage of the application period to apply for funding to help finance new equipment and training.

The AFG Program provides financial assistance directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations to enhance their capabilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The primary goal of the program is to help fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations meet their firefighting and emergency response needs. The AFG Program seeks to support organizations that lack the tools and resources necessary to more effectively protect the life and safety of the public and their emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards.

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