

"I'm proud of the work our firefighters do to keep our communities safe, and I'm pleased that this federal grant program is doing so much to help our first responders during these tight economic times," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "I will continue to use my seat on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee to support this vital program."

Grants were awarded to local fire departments through AFG's Operations and Safety Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program.

Operations and Safety Program grants:

- Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade - \$43,486
- Carmel Valley Fire Protection District - \$140,938
- Salinas Rural Fire Protection District - \$39,060

Funds awarded through the Operations and Safety Program must be directed to training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and health and safety modifications to stations and facilities.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grants:

- Carmel Valley Fire Protection District - \$772,132
- Soledad Fire Department - \$163,488

SAFER grants are designed to enhance the ability of fire departments to maintain 24-hour staffing and assure that their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. This is done by increasing the number of frontline firefighters and rehiring firefighters who were laid-off due to the economy.

Since 2001, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program has provided approximately \$4 billion in grants to first-responder organizations to obtain much-needed emergency response equipment, personal protective equipment, firefighting and emergency vehicles, and training.

The awards are administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

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