

Rothman Helps Boost Local Homeland Security

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Secures \$27,081 Grant For Saddle Brook Volunteer Fire Department
Funds For First Responders Come From National Program Congressman Helped Establish

Saddle Brook, NJ - Continuing his efforts to bolster homeland security in Northern New Jersey by providing first responders with the resources they need to protect the public and themselves, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today announced that he helped secure a \$27,081 grant for the Saddle Brook Volunteer Fire Department. The grant comes from the Assistance to Firefighter Grant program, which was established under legislation Rothman cosponsored. The funds are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA), which are both part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"As we look to further strengthen our homeland security, we recognize that our local firefighters are a vital part of our first line of defense in almost all emergencies," said Rothman, a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. "It is our responsibility to provide all of our first responders, including our firefighters, with the resources they need to ensure their own safety and the safety of all those in our communities whose lives they protect day in and day out. Whether responding to a local fire or a terrorist attack, we need to be sure ahead of time that our firefighters are equipped to respond quickly and efficiently to any emergency."

The grant will be used to purchase 10 new sets of protective pants and coats for firefighters. The current gear used by the Saddle Brook Volunteer Fire Department is outdated and no longer meets safety standards. Additionally, the grant will be used to purchase 20 new walkie talkies, enabling firefighters to better communicate and coordinate with each other during emergencies. The walkie talkies the department currently uses are unreliable and 20 years old.

"Fighting fires is a dangerous and difficult job, which is why it is essential that our firefighters have the best equipment to save lives, put out fires, and make sure that they keep themselves safe at the same time," said Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which provides the funding for firefighter grants. "These funds can mean the difference between life and death, as well as property damage and destruction. As we approach the second anniversary of September 11, we must remain as committed as ever to improving our homeland security by providing all of the resources necessary to our first responders to ensure the safety of the people of New Jersey and the country."

Fire departments having questions regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program should call Rothman's Hackensack office at 201-646-0808.

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