

Congressman Brady and FEMA Officials Announce Grant Award to Chester Fire Department (10/09/03)

CHESTER, Pa.,

Oct. 9, 2003 - As a part of National Fire Prevention Week, Congressman Robert A. Brady (D., Pa.) today announced the award of an \$89,856 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the City of Chester Fire Department.

At a ceremony at Fire Station 82, the Congressman was joined by Chester Fire Commissioner James Johnson, City of Chester Mayor Wendell Butler Jr., City Director of Public Safety Monir Z. Ahmed and City Grants Coordinator Katie Rodriguez.

The grant will fund a mobile fire prevention public education program that will travel to daycare facilities, schools and community-sponsored events.

"The funding represents the important role the federal government can play to help firefighters better protect their communities and themselves," Congressman Brady said. "These firefighters are our frontline defense."

Fire Commissioner Johnson said receiving the grant during National Fire Prevention Week helps to reinforce the importance of public education programs. "Home fire safety is paramount. Everyone must install and maintain smoke alarms, develop and practice a home fire escape plan."

FEMA Region III Fire Program Specialist Lori Bainbridge said this is the third year the

Chester Fire Department received a FEMA grant. Last year, the department was awarded a FEMA training grant.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States. Information on the grants is posted on the USFA web site at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>. To date, 315 grants totaling more than \$24 million have been awarded to Pennsylvania fire departments from the 2003 funding.

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On March 1, 2003, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen Corps, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.