

## Rothman Helps Secure \$ 228,600 In Federal Grants For Hackensack And Edgewater Fire Departments

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Funds Will Benefit Many Area Municipalities, Come From

National Program Congressman Helped Establish

houseBergen County, NJ - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today announced that he has helped secure a \$217,800 grant for the Hackensack Fire Department and a \$10,800 grant for the Edgewater Fire Department from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA). The funds are part of a national program that was established under legislation Rothman cosponsored and will be used to purchase equipment to benefit municipalities throughout Bergen County and the surrounding area.

house&euro;&ouml;Our heroic firefighters are a vital part of our first line of defense in almost all emergencies,&euro;&A said Rothman, a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, who last year organized and hosted an information session for local fire departments to learn about applying for such grants. &euro;&ouml;It is our responsibility to provide 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.&euro;&A

houseHackensack will use the grant to purchase equipment to expand the capability of its existing six engine companies so that they can upgrade rescue services. The Hackensack Fire Department will be able to help with emergencies such as extricating victims who are trapped, locating and rescuing missing or trapped firefighters, and identifying and rescuing victims of chemical and biological agents which could be used in a terrorist attack. Additionally, the Department will use the grant to strengthen its ability to respond to building collapses, as well as to develop the capability to mass decontaminate victims of any chemical or biological attack. The Hackensack Fire Department will provide these services to the residents of Hackensack as well as to the county and region at large as needed.

houseEdgewater will use the grant to purchase equipment to annually test each firefighter&euro;&trade;s self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), which is mandated under guidelines from the Occupational Safety & Health Administration. Currently, the Edgewater Fire Department pays for a private vendor to test each of the Borough&euro;&trade;s 60 firefighters SCBAs at a cost of \$25 per unit. The Edgewater Fire Department will also lend out the new equipment to the roughly 400 firefighters from the nine other municipalities whose fire departments comprise the East Bergen Firefighter Mutual Aid Association. In addition to Edgewater, the East Bergen Firefighter Mutual Aid Association includes Cliffside Park, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, Fairview, Fort Lee, Leonia, Palisades Park, Ridgefield, and Tenafly.

house&euro;&ouml;Fighting fires is a dangerous and difficult job, which is why we must give our firefighters the best equipment possible to save lives, put out fires, and make sure that they keep themselves safe,&euro;&A said Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which provides the funding in the budget for firefighter grants. &euro;&ouml;These funds can mean the difference between life and death, saving property or losing it. I will continue to fight in Congress for the dollars that our emergency responders need to protect themselves and our communities.&euro;&A

houseRothman's educational seminar on how local fire departments can apply for grants from the federal government was held in March of last year. It included a briefing from a FEMA representative who explained the grant application process. More than 19,500 fire departments - volunteer and career - applied for grant awards in 2002, submitting requests totaling almost \$2.2 billion. After a lengthy peer review, involving 300 fire service representatives from throughout the United States, Hackensack and Edgewater we chosen to receive grants

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