

Funds Come From National Program Congressman Helped Establish

July 17, 2002

Rothman Helps Secure \$13,677 Grant For
Saddle Brook Fire Department

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Saddle Brook, NJ - In an effort to provide local firefighters with the resources they need to protect themselves and area residents from disasters, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today announced that he has helped secure a \$13,677 grant for the Saddle Brook 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.

"As the tragic events of September 11th reminded us, our heroic 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, who earlier this year organized and hosted an information session for area fire departments to learn about applying for such grants. "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. This grant will allow every Saddle Brook firefighter to have an emergency signal on their equipment that will be able to alert others if they are in trouble or immobile."

The grant will be used to equip every Saddle Brook firefighter's oxygen tank with a Pass Alarm, which automatically gives off a loud noise when a firefighter is motionless for 30 seconds because he or she is either trapped or incapacitated. Additionally, a firefighter may activate the alarm sooner if there is impending danger.

"Fighting fires is a dangerous and difficult job, which is why it is essential that our firefighters are as well-equipped and trained as thoroughly as possible," said Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which provides the funding in the budget for firefighter grants. "These funds can mean the difference between life and death, property survival and destruction. I will continue to fight in Congress for the dollars that our emergency responders need to protect themselves and our communities."

Rothman's educational seminar on how local fire departments can apply for grants from the federal government was held in March of this year. It included a seminar 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. A lengthy peer review, involving 300 fire service representatives from throughout the United States, was conducted by the USFA over the past several months.

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