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## ***Shuster Announces Open Season for Firefighter Grant Program***

*Washington, D.C.*—**Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the open application season for the Department of Homeland Security's FY2008 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER) will begin on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The open grant application period will end on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

The objective of the SAFER grant program is to assist local fire departments in increasing their number of frontline firefighters. The SAFER grants support two specific activities: the hiring of new firefighters, and the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. The grants pay a portion of the salaries of newly hired firefighters over the 5-year award performance period.

This year, approximately \$165 million will be awarded through the SAFER grant program. Congressman Shuster urges all interested fire departments to visit the SAFER grant website for application materials at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com). In addition, fire departments with questions about the grant program are encouraged to call the congressman's district office toll-free at 1-800-854-3035.

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