



New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness **NEWS**

Jon S. Corzine, *Governor*

Richard L. Cañas, *Director*

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State Awards Homeland Security Grant to Trenton to Enhance Regional Emergency Response Capabilities -Funds will be used to Train and Equip Emergency Personnel-

TRENTON — New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Director Richard L. Cañas announced today the City of Trenton has been awarded \$1 million in state homeland security funds to expand the emergency response capabilities of its first responders and emergency personnel in the greater Mercer County area, including parts of Pennsylvania.

Cañas said the funds will be used to purchase a mobile operations command center vehicle, which will enable interoperable radio and data communications among first responders from multiple agencies during any type of emergency. The vehicle will be maintained by the Trenton City Department of Fire and Emergency Services and will be deployed outside the city limits when needed. Currently, the city's fire department provides the region with hazardous materials response and rescue apparatus for incidents in surrounding towns and communities.

Grant funds will also be used to provide response and recovery training and conduct exercises for regional first responders. Emergency personnel from municipal fire departments within Mercer County and in Bucks County Pennsylvania along with personnel from the Mercer County Office of Emergency Management and the Lower Makefield Township Police and Office of Emergency Management will receive training and will participate in table top exercises and simulated emergency response drills.

Trenton is being awarded these funds under the competitive State Aid Regional Grant Program administered by OHSP through its Capital Account for Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure, funded in the state's annual budget and appropriations act.

“New Jersey will continue to make key investments in the critical areas of public safety and emergency preparedness,” Governor Jon Corzine said. “Making sure that emergency personnel have the tools they need to perform their brave acts each and every day will remain a top priority.”

“Mercer County takes tremendous pride in our emergency preparedness efforts,” Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes said. “We will continue our commitment to ensuring county and local first responders are properly trained and have the equipment they need to respond to and recover from any emergency.”



“We’re grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for appropriating these funds,” Cañas said. “Given current fiscal constraints; we must find ways to work with partners at the regional level, and under this particular grant, partners from a neighboring state.”

“Not only will this grant provide for the purchase of much-needed emergency response equipment; it will also allow the Mercer county region to enhance its interoperability,” said Major Edward Cetnar of the New Jersey State Police, which serves as the state’s Office of Emergency Management.

“Today we are announcing steps to take the historic Trenton cooperation to a new level by strengthening our emergency response capabilities - both within our city and across township, county, and state boundaries,” said Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer. “As we all know, these boundaries become invisible when emergency needs arise. Our regional cooperation on haz-mat and rescue operations and multi-jurisdictional work on combating gangs has been exceptional. But we also know that the equipment and training required for emergency response costs money and that resources are scarce in this economic downturn. Now, however, with this grant, we will be able to build further enhancements to our emergency management operations for the future.”

Governor Corzine created the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) after taking office in 2006. OHSP is responsible for leading the state’s counter-terrorism and preparedness efforts. OHSP oversees and distributes discretionary state and federal homeland security and preparedness funds on behalf of the State of New Jersey.

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