

Congressman

**Paul E. Kanjorski**

*Representing the 11th Congressional District of Pennsylvania*

## **FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GUIDE**



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**CONGRESSMAN PAUL E. KANJORSKI HAS PREPARED THIS FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GUIDE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISIONS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO CRAFT A PLAN TO MEET YOUR NEEDS.**

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**CONGRESSMAN PAUL E. KANJORSKI HAS PREPARED THIS FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE GUIDE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. BEFORE MAKING ANY DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO CRAFT A PLAN TO MEET YOUR NEEDS.**

## INTRODUCTION

### - PROTECTING PENNSYLVANIA'S COMMUNITIES -

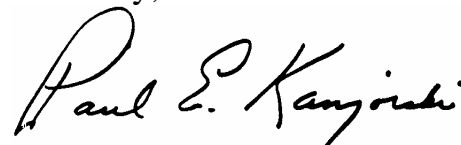
Firefighters play a vital role in not only protecting their communities in the event of a fire, but also in educating the public about how to prevent fires before they occur. Beyond their traditional roles in fighting and preventing fires, we also call on these brave public servants to serve as first responders in the event of natural disasters, accidents, and acts of terrorism. Given their sacrifices on behalf of and in service to the public, we should, at a minimum, do our part to ensure that our firefighters have the support, training, and equipment they need to do the jobs we ask them to do.

It is with that thought in mind that I have compiled this guidebook. As you know, fire departments in our region, and indeed across the nation, are highly dependant on local budgets, federal, state, and private funding programs, and contributions made by our local citizens. This booklet is intended to provide an overview of the various resources available to fire departments. It is my hope that it will serve as a resource for both volunteer and career fire departments in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The guidebook has been divided into five sections in a way that I hope will be straightforward and easy for you and your fire department to use. The first section outlines training and equipment grants available on the federal and state levels. The second section provides detailed information on the new SAFER program, which provides assistance to fire departments to hire and recruit personnel. The third section details fire safety and prevention programs while the fourth section outlines the process by which the majority of federal homeland security funds are distributed. The appendix will include information on related resources and funding alternatives.

As always, I stand ready to assist you on matters relating to firefighting. After reviewing this guidebook, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Kanjorski  
Member of Congress

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**SECTION I:  
FIREFIGHTING TRAINING, EQUIPMENT & EDUCATION**

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**INTRODUCTION**

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The following section has been compiled to provide information about training, equipment and educational opportunities for fire departments in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Pennsylvania. As you might expect, the grant programs outline in this section all operate under their own respective guidelines. Therefore, you should spend some time reviewing the specific eligibility requirements and limitations to determine their applicability to your situation. Congressman Kanjorski's office can assist you if you have any specific questions about any of the programs included in this section.

– FEDERAL GOVERNMENT –

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**U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION (USFA)**

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<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

As an entity of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the mission of the USFA is to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination, and support. USFA serves the nation in close coordination with other Federal agencies, and in partnership with fire protection and emergency service communities. With a commitment to excellence, USFA provides public education, training, technology and data initiatives.

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**Contact Information**

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U.S. Fire Administration Grant Program Technical Assistance Center  
16825 South Seton Avenue , Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727-8998  
Phone: 1-866-274-0960

The U.S. Fire Administration provides training opportunities and administers grant programs that may be of interest to your department. For further information about them, you can use the contact information above or visit the individual web addresses associated with each individual program.

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**Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program**

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<http://www.firegrantsupport.com>

The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program is to award one-year grants directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services (EMS) organizations of a State to enhance their abilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The program's primary goal is to provide assistance to meet fire departments' and nonaffiliated EMS organizations' firefighting and emergency response needs. This program seeks to support organizations that lack the tools and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and their emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards they may face.

USFA has established four distinct grant categories within this grant program. Each department can apply for grants in one of four categories. Within each category, a department can apply for any number of eligible activities. The categories and eligible activities are as follows:

**Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety**

Eligible Activities: Training, Wellness & Fitness, Firefighting Equipment, Personal Protective Equipment;

**Fire Prevention**

Eligible Activities: Public Education, Public Awareness, Code Enforcement, Arson Prevention;

**Emergency Medical Services**

Eligible Activities: Equipment, Training, & Vehicle Acquisition;

**Firefighting Vehicles**

Eligible Vehicles: Pumpers, Tankers, Brush Trucks/Attack Pumpers, Ambulances, rescue vehicles;

**Contact Information**

USFA maintains a toll free information line for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The toll free number is 866-274-0960 and the calling hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The line will also accept voice-mail messages after hours, on weekends, or if the line is busy. You may also submit questions to a toll free fax line, 866-274-0942, or e-mail inquiries to [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov).

**USFA's Guide to Funding Alternatives for Fire and Emergency Services**

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-141.pdf>

USFA has compiled this comprehensive document to provide fire and emergency services departments with background information on fundraising methods that are often employed by fire departments around the country. The guide also contains specific contact information and other helpful suggestions for fire departments interested in enhancing their fundraising capacity.

**USFA Training Opportunities**

<http://training.fema.gov/>

The USFA also maintains a website (<http://training.fema.gov/>) that provides a comprehensive list of training and education resources available from USFA, including course offerings from both the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy (NFA). These resources are primarily targeted towards the fire service, its allied professions, and emergency management officials. Some of the programs offered are listed below:

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### **National Fire Academy Training Assistance**

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/afgp/nfata.shtm>

Transportation costs and lodging for students who represent career or volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, or State/local governments attending resident courses are provided as part of funding under the Student Stipend Reimbursement Program. Students from other countries, other Federal agencies, private industry, or contractors of State/local fire departments or government entities must pay their own transportation and lodging fees. Through its courses and programs, the National Fire Academy works to enhance the ability of fire and emergency services and allied professionals to deal more effectively with emergencies. Phone: (301) 447-1035

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### **State Fire Training System Grants**

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa>

Project grants to provide financial assistance to State Fire Training Systems for the delivery of a variety of National Fire Academy (NFA) courses/programs. Phone: (301) 447-1376

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### **National Emergency Training Center (NETC)**

<http://training.fema.gov/VCNew/firstVC.htm?Submit=OK>

St. Joseph's College was purchased by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1979 to serve as a training facility. Prior to its official closing in 1973, the college served as a four-year liberal arts college for women. In 1981, the facility was entered into the Federal records as the National Emergency Training Center (NETC). Today, the 107-acre campus houses USFA, including NFA, the Emergency Management Institute, the Field Personnel Office, Satellite Procurement Office, and the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial. Phone: (301) 447-1000/Fax: (301) 447-1052

Within the NETC, some programs that you may find helpful are listed below. You can learn more about each of these specific programs by using the contact information provided above or by visiting each program's individual web address:

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#### **Emergency Management Institute**

<http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/>

The Emergency Management Institute is an organization under FEMA that specializes in providing numerous educational opportunities for all things related to emergency preparedness. The Institute administers a number of classes and courses available to train local responders in their local areas as well as at national training centers.

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#### **Emergency Education NETwork**

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/eenet/>

The Emergency Education NETwork (EENET) is a satellite-based distance learning system used by FEMA to bring interactive training programs into virtually any community nationwide. With a wide variety of programs for the

public safety community, there's something for everyone. All programming is open, and is in the public domain.

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### **Learning Resource Center**

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<http://www.lrc.fema.gov/index.html>

The Learning Resource Center provided *bibliographic access only* to the collection of the National Emergency Training Center's (NETC) Learning Resource Center (LRC). While the LRC is the on-campus library for the staff and students of the National Fire Academy (NFA) and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), the OCC will function for Internet users as a database on fire service and emergency management topics.

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### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)**

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[www.dhs.gov/](http://www.dhs.gov/)

The Department of Homeland Security is committed to working with citizens, private industry, trade organizations, and all levels of government to keep America safe. While most of the opportunities provided by DHS are administered through state and local organizations as block grants, there are opportunities to work with the Department in obtaining technical assistance and training. Additionally, the DHS can sometimes help provide direction to the most appropriate grants and loans relevant to a community leaders' specific vision.

***NOTE: DHS allocates the majority of federal funds for homeland security activities to the states for distribution to local first responders. The process by which federal homeland security funds are distributed will be described in Section IV of this guide.***

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#### **Contact Information**

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C. 20528  
Phone: (202) 282-8000

The following program may be of interest to fire departments interested in purchasing equipment:

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#### **Emergency Responder Equipment Purchase Program**

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<http://www.dscp.dla.mil/gi/general/fire.htm>

The Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), within DHS Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) has entered into an Inter-Agency Agreement with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), to allow ODP's state, local and tribal grant recipients to take advantage of the streamlined equipment procurement services that are available through the DSCP Fire and Emergency Program.

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#### **Contact Information**

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Email: [firefighting@dscp.dla.mil](mailto:firefighting@dscp.dla.mil) or [Shirley.B.Jones@dla.mil](mailto:Shirley.B.Jones@dla.mil)  
Phone: (215) 737-4421

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## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

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<http://www.nifc.gov/rfa/>

The Department of the Interior receives an appropriated budget each year for a rural fire assistance (RFA) grant program. The maximum award is \$20,000. This funding will enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments through training, equipment purchases, and fire prevention work on a cost-shared basis. The DOI assistance program targets rural and volunteer fire departments that routinely help fight fire on or near DOI lands. One of these four agencies administers those lands: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Park Service (NPS).

### **Contact Information**

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If you think your department may be eligible for the DOI RFA program, please contact your local DOI agency office for specific information. You can find a listing of Pennsylvania contacts for each of the four agencies at: <http://www.nifc.gov/rfa/contacts.html>.



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## **FIREFIGHTING TRAINING, EQUIPMENT & EDUCATION**

– COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA –

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### **PA OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER (OSFC)**

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[www.osfc.state.pa.us](http://www.osfc.state.pa.us)

In 1995, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed Fire Commissioner Act, thereby establishing the current Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner. Under this legislation, the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner is the official charged with meeting the diverse training, operational, and informational needs of the Commonwealth's fire and emergency service community. The Commissioner, who is appointed by the Governor, oversees the development and operation of Pennsylvania's emergency service training program, the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program (VLAP) that provides low-interest loans to volunteer fire and emergency services organizations, and the state's fire safety education program. In addition, the Commissioner is responsible for the development of a comprehensive fire incident reporting system.

#### **Contact Information**

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2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Phone: (800) 459-4056

The following OSFC programs may be of particular interest. You can visit the OSFC website or call the toll-free number above for more information on each of these programs.

#### **Volunteer Loan Assistance Program**

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<http://www.dscp.dla.mil/gi/general/fire.htm>

The General Assembly established the "Volunteer Companies Loan Fund" on July 15, 1976 with Act 208. The Volunteer Loan Assistance Program (VLAP) provides loans at a fixed 2% interest rate to volunteer fire, ambulance and rescue companies for the acquisition, rehabilitation or improvement of apparatus, facilities and equipment.

#### **Contact Information**

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Cheryl Ritter, VLAP Administrator – Office of the State Fire Commissioner  
2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9364  
Phone: (717) 651-2205 / Fax: (717) 651-2210 / Email: [critter@state.pa.us](mailto:critter@state.pa.us)

You can also reach the VLAP staff at (800) 670-3473 or (717) 651-2200 or via e-mail using [fire@state.pa.us](mailto:fire@state.pa.us).

#### **Volunteer Fire Company, Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant**

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Grants to eligible Volunteer Fire Companies will be contingent on their agreeing to participate in and report information using the Pennsylvania Fire Information Reporting System (PennFIRS). These Volunteer Fire Company grant awards will be

calculated using a basic award of the first \$7,000.00 of the applicants grant request, plus an additional award representing all or a portion of the remainder of their request which will be determined by applying an award factor based on bonus points as described in the program guidelines. Volunteer Fire Company grants to individual volunteer fire companies shall not exceed \$15,000.00.

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**Pennsylvania State Fire Academy (PSFA)**

The Pennsylvania State Fire Academy provides comprehensive resident and weekend programs for firefighters, rescue personnel, arson investigators, hazardous materials teams, and other emergency responders. Through the use of high quality instructors, the Academy is able to develop, select, and conduct educationally-valid and technically up-to-date courses addressing the professional development needs of all participants in the fire service and emergency response community, while at the same time providing a means of professional certification through the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. In addition, the Academy offers both resident programs, whereas students report to the state facility, and also an Academy on the Road program, where the course travels to local communities.

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**Contact Information**

PA State Fire Academy 1150 Riverside Drive, Lewistown, PA 17044  
Phone: 1-800-459-4096/ Email: [fire@state.pa.us](mailto:fire@state.pa.us)

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**PA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR)**

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is charged with maintaining and preserving the 116 state parks; managing the 2.1 million acres of state forest land; providing information on the state's ecological and geologic resources; and establishing community conservation partnerships with grants and technical assistance to benefit rivers, trails, greenways, local parks and recreation, regional heritage parks, open space and natural areas.

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**Contact Information**

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Rachel Carson State Office Building - PO Box 8767  
400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767  
Phone: (888)537-7294

The following grant program is administered by DCNR. Any questions regarding the grant program, and/or eligibility requirements, can be directed to DCNR by using the contact information above.

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**Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant**

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/ffp/vfagrant.aspx>

Section 10(b)3 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, as amended by the Forest Stewardship Act of 1990, authorizes and directs the Secretary of

Agriculture to provide financial, technical and other assistance to state foresters or other appropriate officials in cooperative efforts to organize, train and equip local forces in rural areas or communities under 10,000 population to prevent, control and suppress fires which threaten human life, livestock, wildlife, crops, pastures, orchards, woodlands, farmsteads, or other improvements in rural areas. The key objectives of this program are to save lives and protect property in unprotected or inadequately protected rural areas.

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## **PA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (PEMA)**

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[www.pema.state.pa.us](http://www.pema.state.pa.us)

PEMA's mission is to coordinate state agency response, including the Office of the State Fire Commissioner and Office of Homeland Security, to support county and local governments in the areas of civil defense, disaster mitigation and preparedness, planning, and response to and recovery from manmade or natural disasters. PEMA helps to distribute many of the funding opportunities that are handed down from DHS or FEMA.

### **Contact Information**

2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9364

Phone: (717) 651-2149/Fax: (717) 651-2040/Email: [ra-easternregion@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-easternregion@state.pa.us)

The following PEMA programs may be of particular interest. You can learn more about each of these programs through the contact information above:

### **Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTS)**

A community Emergency Response Team is a group of individuals who are trained to act as a first response unit in the case of an emergency. You can start your own CERT with help in organization, education and training from the Emergency Management Institute as well as PEMA.

### **Citizen Corps**

Citizen Corps was created to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. It provides opportunities for people to participate in a range of measures to make their families, their homes, and their communities safer from the threats of crime, terrorism, and disasters of all kinds.

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*Section II:*  
**FIREFIGHTING HIRING, RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

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**INTRODUCTION**

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In recognition of the fact that only limited funding is available to assist fire departments in the hiring, recruitment and retention of firefighters, Congressman Kanjorski voted in favor of the legislation that created the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. The SAFER Act authorizes grants to career, volunteer and combination departments. The program not only provides funding to hire firefighting personnel, it also provides funds to volunteer departments to strengthen the recruitment and retention of volunteers. Grants are to be awarded on the basis of need through a competitive, peer-reviewed process modeled after the Assistance to Firefighters grant program. The goal is for SAFER grantees to enhance their ability to attain 24-hour staffing, thereby ensuring that their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. The following pages go into greater detail on this program.

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**STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER)**

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The SAFER grants have two activities: 1) **hiring of firefighters** and 2) **recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters**.

The **Hiring of Firefighters Activity** portion of this program involves a five-year grant to assist fire departments pay a portion of the salaries of newly hired firefighters. These newly hired positions must be in addition to authorized and funded active firefighter positions. Grantees that fail to maintain this level of staffing risk losing all or a portion of their grant. Volunteer, combination, and non-profit career fire departments are all eligible to apply for assistance in hiring new firefighters. These grants require the awardee to match an increasing proportion of the salary over a four-year period; in the fifth year of the grant, the awardee must absorb the entire cost of any positions awarded as a result of the grant. It is my understanding that the federal grants will pay 90-, 80-, 50- and 30-percent of the employee's salary in the first four years, with the municipality or fire department agreeing to fully fund the employee from the fifth year on.

The **Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity** grant provides assistance to awardees for periods of up to four years. The purpose of these grants is to assist with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Volunteer departments, combination departments and local or statewide organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters are eligible to apply for assistance under this activity. Below are a few quick details that you should keep in mind.

**Eligibility**

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Your type of organization affects your eligibility for funding. All volunteer and combination fire departments may apply for either or both of the two grant program activities. Volunteer firefighter interest organizations are eligible for funding only in

the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity. Career fire departments are eligible for funding only in the Hiring of Firefighters Activity.

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**Deadline**

The deadline date changes each year. Please be prepared and actively look for more information around the month of May.

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**Contact Information**

In order to learn more about this program, you should start by visiting the USFA website at <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/>. This website contains useful background information and program guidance, as well as a tutorial on applying for each program and other useful materials. Fire departments that have questions regarding these grant opportunities can also contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov).

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*Section III:*  
**FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION**

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**INTRODUCTION**

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Fire departments play an integral role in promoting fire safety and prevention activities in their communities. The following programs outline resources and programs available at the state and federal levels designed to assist local fire departments promote fire safety and prevention. Below are some of the key programs.

– **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** –

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**U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION'S FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY GRANTS**

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[http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fp\\_about.aspx](http://www.firegrantsupport.com/fp_about.aspx)

The purpose of these grants is to assist State, regional, national or local organizations to address fire prevention and safety. The program's primary goal is to reach high-risk target groups including children, seniors and firefighters. **Under the authorizing statute the emphasis for these grants is the prevention of fire-related injuries to children.**

**Eligibility**

Congress has authorized the USFA to award grants to national, regional, State, local, or community organizations (including fire departments) that are recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention or safety programs and activities.

**Deadline**

The deadline date changes each year. Please be prepared and actively look for more information around the month of September.

**Contact Information**

U.S. Fire Administration Grant Program Technical Assistance Center  
16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727-8998  
Phone: 1-866-274-0960/Web: <http://usfa.fema.gov/grants/afgp/safetygrant/>

– **COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA** –

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**PA OSFC – FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

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The Office of the State Fire Commissioner offers a series of workshops designed to provide the knowledge and tools to develop and maintain juvenile firesetter intervention programs. These uniquely structured two-day training events are ideal for the fire service, law enforcement agencies, mental health practitioners, social services agencies, the juvenile justice system and other agencies and professionals who work with juveniles.

**Contact Information**

You should contact OSFC using the information on page 10 for more information.

*Section IV:*  
**HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING DISTRIBUTION PROCESS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The very real threat of terrorism that manifested itself in the events of September 11, 2001 has fundamentally changed and intensified the focus of our country's domestic security efforts. As the security threats increase so too must community vigilance and reaction capability. In the face of this reality, Congress has made a substantial investment in programs designed to strengthen our nation's domestic security. The following pages outline the process by which federal dollars are allocated to state and local governments for use by first responders.

**– FEDERAL GOVERNMENT –**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

[www.dhs.gov/](http://www.dhs.gov/)

The Department of Homeland Security is committed to working with citizens, private industry, trade organizations, and all levels of government to keep America safe. Most of the opportunities provided by DHS are administered through state and local organizations as block grants.

**U.S. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

[www.fema.gov/](http://www.fema.gov/)

FEMA provides several opportunities to help communities meet their security needs. One of these opportunities is listed below, however for a more complete list, see <http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/>.

**National Capability Assurance**

FEMA's Capability Assurance effort focuses on resources and programs to help the state and local emergency management and response communities be better prepared to respond to disasters and incidents of all kinds. These processes and resources focus primarily on assessment and exercise-related programs, processes and systems.

*Many grants are administered directly through state agencies. As a first step, you should contact the Pennsylvania state agencies listed below for more information about homeland security funds.*

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**HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING DISTRIBUTION PROCESS**  
**– COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA –**

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**PA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (PEMA)**

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[www.pema.state.pa.us/](http://www.pema.state.pa.us/)

**The vast majority of all federal money dedicated to Homeland Security programs is administered by the states.** In Pennsylvania the state agency responsible for Homeland Security is the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). PEMA's mission is to coordinate state agency response, including the Office of the State Fire Commissioner and State Office of Homeland Security, to support county and local governments in the areas of civil defense, disaster mitigation and preparedness, planning, and response to and recovery from man-made or natural disasters. PEMA helps to distribute many of the funding opportunities that are handed down from the DHS or FEMA.

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**Contact Information**

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2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9364

Phone: (717) 651-2149/Fax: (717) 651-2040/Email: [ra-easternregion@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-easternregion@state.pa.us)

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**PA OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

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<http://www.homelandsecurity.state.pa.us/>

In Pennsylvania, PEMA works very closely with the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security to coordinate activities and distribute funds. Both entities in turn work with local and regional officials to prioritize the distribution of homeland security funds.

Pennsylvania homeland security opportunities are managed through nine Counter Terrorism Task Force Districts. The counties that compose the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Pennsylvania are divided into two Counter Terrorism Task Forces: the *Northeast PA Emergency Response Group* and the *East Central PA Counter Terrorism Task Force*. The vast majority of Homeland Security grant money is for both training and equipment funding to organizations that supply first providers, primarily police and fire departments as well as medical professionals.





<b>NORTHEAST PA EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP</b>		<b>EAST CENTRAL PA COUNTER-TERRORISM TASK FORCE</b>	
<i>Lackawanna County</i>	<i>Northampton Co.</i>	<i>Carbon County</i>	<i>Wyoming County</i>
<i>Monroe County</i>	<i>Pike County</i>	<i>Columbia County</i>	<i>Schuylkill County</i>
<i>Lehigh County</i>	<i>Susquehanna County</i>	<i>Luzerne County</i>	<i>Bucks County</i>
<b>Contact Information</b>		<b>Contact Information</b>	
Monroe County EMA 100 Gypsum Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 Ph:(570) 992-4113/Email: <a href="mailto:mcoes@ptd.net">mcoes@ptd.net</a>		Schuylkill County EMA 435 North Center Street, Pottsville, PA 17901 Ph:(570) 622-3739/Email: <a href="mailto:akaplan@scema.org">akaplan@scema.org</a>	

Additionally, a board of directors made up of County Emergency Management Coordinators controls each task force. The County Coordinators for the counties in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Pennsylvania are as follows:

<p><b><u>Carbon County Emergency Management Agency</u></b>  <i>Coordinator:</i> Mark S. Nalesnik / <i>Address:</i> 1264 Emergency Lane, Nesquehoning, PA 18240  <i>Phone:</i> (570) 325-3097/<i>Fax:</i> (570) 325-9132/<i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:ccema@ptd.net">ccema@ptd.net</a></p>
<p><b><u>Columbia County Department of Emergency Services</u></b>  <i>Acting Coordinator:</i> Larry Lahiff / <i>Address:</i> P.O. Box 380, Bloomsburg, PA 17815  <i>Phone:</i> (570) 389-5720/<i>Fax:</i> (570) 784-2975/<i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:emaops@columbiapa.org">emaops@columbiapa.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>Lackawanna County Department of Emergency Services</u></b>  <i>Coordinator:</i> Robert Flanagan / <i>Address:</i> 200 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503  <i>Phone:</i> (570) 961-5511/<i>Fax:</i> (570) 963-6529 / <i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:flanaganr@lackawannacounty.org">flanaganr@lackawannacounty.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency</u></b>  <i>Coordinator:</i> Albert Bardar / <i>Address:</i> 200 North River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711  <i>Phone:</i> (570) 820-4400/<i>Fax:</i> (570) 820-4456/<i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:al.bardar@luzernecounty.org">al.bardar@luzernecounty.org</a></p>
<p><b><u>Monroe County Office of Emergency Services</u></b>  <i>Director:</i> Harry C. Robidoux / <i>Address:</i> 100 Gypsum Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360  <i>Phone:</i> (570) 992-4113/<i>Fax:</i> (570) 402-7358 or 7359/<i>Email:</i> <a href="mailto:mcoes@ptd.net">mcoes@ptd.net</a></p>

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## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FIREFIGHTERS**

### **– NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS –**

*Disclaimer:* The information summaries and related contact information and websites are included below because these entities offer information and commercial products that may be of interest to the firefighting community. The inclusion of information about these sources does not in any way constitute an endorsement of the views expressed or the facts presented on the websites listed in this section. Congressman Kanjorski does not endorse *any commercial products* that may be advertised on any of these sites.

### **– NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS –**

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#### **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS (IAFF)**

<http://www.iaff.org>

The IAFF is an international union affiliated with the AFL-CIO and the Canadian Labor Congress. At the present time, the IAFF represents approximately 245,000 paid professional fire service employees in the United States and Canada.

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#### **FIRST RESPONDER INSTITUTE**

[www.firstresponder.org](http://www.firstresponder.org)

First Responder Institute, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization whose objective is to provide assistance to emergency personnel to help them make their communities safer. Phone: (301) 421-0096

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#### **CHIEF**

[www.chiefsupply.com/](http://www.chiefsupply.com/)

CHIEF serves the Public Safety and Surveying industries, and the general public, with high-quality supplies spanning over 500 of the industry's most respected manufacturers. CHIEF Grants is a free service from CHIEF, dedicated to helping public safety professionals meet today's funding challenges. Phone: (800) 824-4338

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#### **TUMS FIREFIGHTER GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAM**

[http://www.firstresponder.org/grant\\_in\\_aid.htm](http://www.firstresponder.org/grant_in_aid.htm)

TUMS brand calcium tablets sponsors a grant program to support fire and local emergencies through the First Responder Institute (FRI). For further information, contact the First Responders Institute using the contact information above.

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#### **WORLD FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

<http://www.worldfiredepartments.com/usa2/resources.htm>

A website that helps firefighters connect to other people, organizations and support systems. This website includes information on how to talk to kids about fire, available firefighter associations, information for women firefighters, and information for spouses

of firefighters. There are also links for buying firefighter gear and other supportive pieces.

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### **THE FIREFIGHTER DIRECTORY**

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<http://www.firedirectory.com/categories/directories.html>

This website provides links to different networks, resources, and directories from all around the country. It also includes information on police and EMS, and links to museums and personal fire fighter pages.

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### **THOMSON DELMAR LEARNING**

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<http://www.firescience.com/>

This website and service has books and training services for fire fighters and EMS. Phone: 1-800-998-7498

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### **FIREHOUSE ONLINE MAGAZINE**

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<http://www.firehouse.com>

This is a monthly online magazine that has news and headlines about firefighting all throughout the country. The site also includes talk forums, job announcements, and training opportunities.

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### **FIREHOUSE.COM**

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<http://www.firehouse.com/>

This website provides information on potential grant opportunities.

– PENNSYLVANIA ORGANIZATIONS –

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### **PENNSYLVANIA FIREFIGHTERS**

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<http://www.iseekhealth.com/public-health-and-safety/pennsylvania-6106.htm>

A website that lists many of the different fire companies throughout the state.

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### **PENNSYLVANIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

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<http://www.ppffa.org>

The Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association represents over 10,000 paid professional Fire Fighters throughout Pennsylvania.

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### **LITITZ FIRE COMPANY**

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<http://www.lititzfire.com/index.phtml>

A website from a Lancaster County fire company who uses this as a way to get in touch with the community and help citizens stay informed. A good example of what your fire company can do.

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## **PENNSYLVANIA FIREFIGHTERS**

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<http://www.pafirefighter.net/index.asp>

A website that focuses on Pennsylvania fire news, as well as from other parts of the country and the world. This website also features a section of pictures, things for sale, and other firefighter related links.

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## **PENNSYLVANIA FIRE & EMERGENCY INSTITUTE**

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<http://www.pfsi.org/>

The Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute is an association of emergency service organizations, emergency responders, industry, and elected officials.



