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Fire Team USA Workshop Receives Grant to Continue 2009 – 2010 Tour

Tuesday, August 11, 2009, Patterson, New York – The National Fire Sprinkler Association is pleased and very excited to announce that Fire Team USA received notification from the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that their grant in the amount of \$732,580 was funded.

Fire Team USA is proud to partner with the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association for delivery of this workshop series. The work of Fire Team USA was piloted in Tennessee in 2005 with a FY04 grant called Fire Team Tennessee, and proved to be successful in communities across the Volunteer state. In 2006, the grant became Fire Team USA and workshops were delivered in states across the nation.

Through the AFG program, the department awards grants to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders throughout the country to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect public health and safety with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants provide resources for local fire departments and emergency medical services programs to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and fire prevention initiatives such as Fire Team USA.

Fire Team USA will use the grant funds for delivery of Fire Team USA, a workshop series that brings together public policy-makers, fire chiefs, building officials, water purveyors, and fire marshals to learn about fire sprinklers and how they can be an effective strategic planning tool and resource for their community.

“The Fire Team USA workshop is a tremendous opportunity for communities interested in improving overall public fire safety. The workshop not only addresses public fire safety issues and common concerns, but introduces very fundamental, broad-scope philosophies that can help the public policy-maker fully understand the economic benefits afforded the fire sprinkler-protected community,” said NFSA President John Viniello. He added, “The grant allows Fire Team USA to deliver these workshops around the country at absolutely no cost to the registrant. In fact, it even covers the cost of lodging. With the goal of improving fire safety for every community across the country, this program really delivers.”

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the department’s Directorate for Preparedness through its Office of Grants and Training (G&T) in cooperation with the United States Fire Administration, also a division of the Preparedness Directorate.

The Directorate for Preparedness bolsters the nation’s security through a multilayered

system of preparedness measures based on risk assessment and management. Working with federal, state, local and private sector partners, the Directorate for Preparedness identifies threats, determines vulnerabilities and targets resources where risk is greatest. Through grants, training and exercises, fire service, public health and citizen preparedness initiatives, the Directorate fosters a layered system of protective measures to safeguard our borders, critical infrastructure and cyber security and telecommunications systems.

The Office of Grants and Training, the federal government's lead agency responsible for preparing the nation against terrorism and other catastrophic events, provides a wide array of support to the emergency preparedness and response community. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) works to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support.

“I've been in the business of educating folks about residential fire sprinklers for 25 years, and it is refreshing to see and be involved in this effort,” explains Jim Dalton, Director of Public Fire Protection for the National Fire Sprinkler Association. “The resources are available, the technology is proven, all we need is for caring and committed leaders to step up to the plate and create the plan that works best for their community. It's exciting to be a part of this initiative, building upon the success of Fire Team USA in recent years and taking this important information to the nation.”

For more information on Fire Team USA, call 615.533.0305, or check them out on the web at www.fireteamusa.com.

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