

Estacada Fire District Receives Fire Fighter Safety Grant

Monday, 09 August 2004 19:00

Washington, D.C.—The Estacada Rural Fire District #69 will receive a \$137,241 federal grant from the Department of Homeland Security to assist firefighters, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today. The funds will be used to outfit all of the district's firefighters with new air masks.

"I'm pleased that the Estacada Rural Fire District was awarded this grant," Blumenauer said. "It's important that we provide federal funding to assist and protect firefighters in their dangerous line of work."

The new air masks, called self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs), will allow firefighters to know how much air is left in the SCBAs as well as make communication between firefighters easier and clearer. In addition to the new SCBAs, the grant will also be used to purchase rapid intervention team bags which allow firefighters to bring emergency air to firefighters if trapped by building collapse. Also, an air monitor will be purchased to be used in filling the air packs that will ensure high air quality.

"We've been waiting and watching each Friday to see if we were on the grant award list," Fire Chief Alan Hull said. "We're pretty excited about it. This will allow us to replace our existing SCBAs with state of the art ones that meet national security standards."

This marks the first successful attempt by the District at receiving a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The grant comes from the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The program's aim is to ensure that firefighters across the country have the necessities required for them to do their job effectively and safely.