

Washington, DC — The Sandy Fire District will receive a \$64,800 federal grant for fire prevention from the Department of Homeland Security, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today. The funds will be used to update fire fighting equipment.

“First responders like the Sandy Fire District are on the front lines responding to disasters in our communities,” Blumenauer said. “They know what they need to do their job effectively. The federal government’s job is to provide the resources to help them. I congratulate the Sandy Fire District on its successful application.”

Sandy Fire District’s Chief Gary McQueen applied for the grant earlier this year. The grant funds will be used to purchase a variety of fire fighting equipment, including new protective gear (known as “turn outs”), a new hazardous gas detector, rapid intervention packs for rescuing trapped victims, voice amplifiers to wear while using air masks, and electronic equipment to test the fitness of fire fighting masks. Fire fighters wear air masks to allow them to safely enter burning buildings. The masks must be tested each year to ensure they work correctly. The Sandy District plans to allow neighboring fire districts to use the testing equipment.

“We are very excited about this grant,” McQueen said. “The equipment is badly needed and this funding will allow us to free up our limited funds for other critical needs. We are extremely grateful to FEMA for selecting us. We know there are many needs out there and they don’t have an easy job.”

The funds were awarded by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency’s “Assistance to Fire Fighter Grant Program” (AFG). The program assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States to increase effectiveness in fighting fires as well as to promote fire prevention and safety programs.