

Washington, DC — The Hoodland Fire District will receive a \$109,908 federal grant for fire prevention from the Department of Homeland Security, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today. The funds will be used to install a reader board on Highway 26 between Welches and Zigzag, purchase a portable audio/video kiosk to display educational materials, develop a series of educational multimedia programs on fire safety and prevention, train personnel, purchase smoke detectors for distribution, and purchase computer equipment. The District applied for the grant in April. It is the second federal fire prevention grant awarded to the District.

“This is the kind of federal expenditure that will really make a difference here in Oregon,” Blumenauer said. “First responders, like the Hoodland Fire District, are on the front lines responding to disasters in our communities. This grant will help them to continue to be effective in their duties.”

The audio/video kiosk will be displayed at a variety of sites around the District and will also be brought to public events as an educational tool. It will offer interactive programs developed by the Fire District with information about the District, emergency procedures, and educational messages on fire prevention. For example, the kiosk will include information on how to clean chimneys and details on the District’s successful chimney cleaning program. As part of its program, the District currently offers the use of flue-cleaning brushes. Flue fires can be a major source of calls to Fire Districts during winter months. The Hoodland Fire District has seen a dramatic reduction in flue fires when residents are educated about the need for proper chimney cleaning.

The computer controlled reader board will be used to display educational messages and information about road closures and weather conditions. District staff will be able to access and change the reader board’s message remotely by computer or phone. This will allow up-to-date information about conditions on Highway 26.

The grant funds will also be used to make copies of the educational programs available to the public, and to purchase 1,000 smoke detectors to give away to community members. Some funds will be used for staff and volunteer training to be fire safety inspectors or fire cause investigators. Grant funds will also be used to purchase computer equipment to enhance fire prevention programs.

Hoodland Fire District Receives Federal Fire Prevention Grant

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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. It requires a local match of ten percent by the local fire district. The funds awarded to the Hoodland Fire District will be matched by a District contribution of \$12,212.