

Elma Fire Department Receives \$34,000 grant for Gear

Local News

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Posted on : August 10, 2009 at 5:22 am

August 7, 2009 **–**Today, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded \$95,779 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program to local fire departments and organizations in the state of Washington. Nationally, the fiscal year (FY) 2008 AFG awards will provide approximately \$500 million to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations throughout the country. This week's round of the national Assistance to Firefighters Grants amounts to \$21,048,139 and includes grants provided to the following fire departments in Washington State:

Lincoln County Rural Fire Protection District #8 in Almira received \$61,750

for self-contained breathing apparatus

The Elma Fire Department received \$34,039 for firefighting gear

"This direct funding is essential to train and equip our first responders who protect lives and property against all hazards in our communities each day," said U.S. Fire Administration Acting Administrator Glenn A. Gaines. "The USFA and FEMA will continue to remain steadfast in our commitment to support America's firefighters through these critical grant funds."

The Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program is an important component of the Administration's larger, coordinated effort to strengthen the Nation's overall level of preparedness. The AFG is designed to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants enable local fire departments and emergency medical services organizations to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles.

This grant program is administered cooperatively by two FEMA components: the Grant Programs Directorate and the United States Fire Administration. The full list of past and current recipients and other Assistance to Firefighter Grant program information is posted on the AFG website at (www.firegrantsupport.com).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.