



Fireman's Fund Insurance Companies  
777 San Marin Drive  
Novato, California 94998  
T. 415.899.2000  
www.firemansfund.com

**Contacts: Atle Erlingsson (Fireman's Fund)**  
**Michael Purcaro (Town of Vernon)**

**T. 415.899.6073**  
**T. 860.234.2143**

---

For Immediate Release

## **TOWN OF VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES CRITICAL, NEW COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

*New Portable Radios, Pagers Part of \$28,500 Grant Package*

**VERNON, Conn. (March 9, 2007)** – Fireman's Fund Insurance Company will award Connecticut's largest volunteer fire department, Town of Vernon, with a \$28,500 grant to purchase new portable radios and upgrade the department's aging radio dispatch system.

According to Michael J. Purcaro, Director of Emergency Management for the Town of Vernon, "This grant award will allow our firefighters to do their job more safely and effectively and will ultimately work to save lives."

Vernon Fire Chief Robert Kelley said his department's officers who lead crews on emergency calls, do not have their own portable radios to carry off the engines. The grant money will enable the department to purchase new radios for each of them.

"It is absolutely critical that our crews are able to communicate with each other whenever and wherever they are, no matter what type of emergency they're at," said Chief Kelley. "Our fire personnel will now be better equipped to respond, which is why this grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company will have such a big impact."

The grant package will also be used to upgrade the department's aging radio dispatch system which includes a collection of tone and voice pagers used to notify volunteers of an emergency call. Currently, many pagers carried by the town's fire personnel are more than 30 years old. Chief Kelley said his department is struggling to find replacement parts for them because they're so old. He now hopes to purchase dozens of new, top-of-line replacement pagers and will be able to update the radio dispatch equipment needed to reliably activate them.

Chief Kelley, Director Purcaro, Vernon firefighters, state and local dignitaries, and Fireman's Fund employees invite the public to a special recognition event where the grant package will be presented:

**Date / Time:**  
**Thursday, March 15, 2007**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Location:**  
**Vernon Public Safety Building**  
**280 West St.**

**-MORE-**

The equipment is being paid for by Fireman's Fund, which provides grants to fire departments through its Fireman's Fund Heritage<sup>SM</sup> program. As part of this initiative, every employee is able to nominate a fire department for a grant. A special regional task force of employees and agents then reviews the nominations and selects winners. Donna Uboldi, whose father used to be chief of the department and brother is currently a captain, nominated the Town of Vernon.

"I grew up in Vernon watching the great work these volunteers do each and every day," said Uboldi. "It's so important for them to have the best high-tech equipment available and I'm proud to be able to help in such a meaningful way."

Webster Insurance, an independent agent of Fireman's Fund with a regional office in Vernon for over 35 years, was instrumental in supporting Uboldi with this grant nomination.

### **About Fireman's Fund**

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal, commercial and specialty insurance products nationwide. Founded in 1863 with a mission to support firefighters, Fireman's Fund continues this mission today through the Fireman's Fund Heritage program. Fireman's Fund employees and its network of independent agents award grants and provide volunteer support to local and national fire service and burn prevention organizations. Fireman's Fund is a member of the Allianz Group (NYSE: AZ), one of the world's largest providers of insurance and other financial services. For more information, visit [www.firemansfund.com](http://www.firemansfund.com).

###