



West Valley Fire-Rescue

Yakima County Fire District 12

****Press Release****

FR: Deputy Chief Nathan Craig
RE: FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant
Date: January 20, 2012

The sixth round of Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant awards were announced today January 20, 2012. West Valley Fire Department was awarded a grant of \$343,648.00 for the purchase of high pressure Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Firefighter Rescue Packs, a new stationary air fill station and upgrading our mobile air truck to fill high pressure air bottles. The total cost of the program is \$361,734.00 of which the District is responsible for \$18,086.00 which is our match of 5%.

Currently our SCBA are low pressure and a different brand than every other fire department in Yakima County, with these grant funds we will increase firefighter safety by replacing out dated equipment utilizing the latest innovations in SCBA firefighter safety and allowing our SCBA's to be compatible with other fire departments we respond mutual and automatic aid with. Compatibility is important should a firefighter become trapped or run out of air and a rescue team needs to use a firefighter rescue pack to provide breathing air to the downed firefighter, by having the same equipment with matching fittings.

This grant includes the purchase of 44 SCBA each with a spare air bottle and a mask, an additional 59 masks, 4 firefighter rescue packs, replacement of our stationary breathing air compressor and retrofitting our mobile air supply to be compatible with the new SCBA. The Districts portion of the funds will come out of our 2012 general budget.

In accordance to National Fire Protection Association standards SCBA bottles must be replaced every 15 years, the District has a number of bottles that will be 15 years old this year as well as the majority by 2014. Because of this deadline we built a budget for replacement, saving some money in our capital fund each year to replace expired bottles, however without this grant it would not have been possible to transition to a different type of SCBA for compatibility with other agencies due to the cost of full replacement.

This grant is the second grant FEMA has awarded West Valley Fire Department in the past year; the Department received \$29,783 in September to install smoke detectors for property owners within the District's boundaries, smoke detectors are still available, residents can request an install by phoning our administrative offices at 966-3111.

For further information contact West Valley Deputy Chief Nathan Craig (509) 728-0770.