



NEWS

FROM THE FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD



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FANWOOD RESCUE SQUAD AWARDED HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

(Fanwood, NJ) – The Fanwood Rescue Squad has been awarded a grant of \$11,087 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, money that will be used to purchase new CPR training mannequins and computers for the squad's headquarters and ambulances.

The grant was awarded under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, established after 9/11/01 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help fire departments and EMS agencies purchase equipment and train members.

Last year, the Fanwood Rescue Squad was awarded an AFP grant for just under \$12,000. That money is currently being used to buy new personal protective gear for all responding members.

Of the \$11,087 award, 5%, or \$554 dollars, must come from the local municipal government.

"We are fortunate to live in a community which supports us through their generous donations year after year," remarked John Oatis, president of the squad. "But for big ticket items, these grants are extremely important. They help us preserve our operating budget which is donation-based and which we use to pay all our bills and operating expenses."

Under the terms of the grant, the money is to be used to buy 15 adult and 15 infant CPR mannequins to reduce or eliminate the need for students to share them (the squad recertifies its own members in CPR). The money is also to be used for a new PC for the squad's office and two Panasonic Toughbook portable computers, one for each ambulance.

"We hope to begin slowly moving towards a computer-based system of gathering patient information," said Jeffrey Downing, squad captain. "There is an effort underway to standardize EMS data on a national level, and we'll be on the ground floor of that effort."

The Fanwood Rescue Squad is a non-profit, all volunteer organization founded in 1948. The squad responds to an average of 520 calls for assistance a year.

Those interested in volunteering can see <http://visitfanwood.com/rescue>, or call (908) 322-9000.

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