

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney announced that the New London Fire Department has been awarded a \$466,678 federal SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant to help hire new personnel.

Due to budget pressures, the department recently laid off four firefighters. [Click here to read Congressman Courtney's letter of support for the SAFER Grant application.](#)

“As the recent devastating fire in New London proved, it is critical that our local fire departments are adequately staffed to meet the challenges posed by each unique emergency. This grant will help the New London Fire Department continue to do their jobs safely and effectively and with the personnel it needs,” stated Courtney.

The SAFER program was enacted in the 108th Congress in the Fiscal Year 2004 National Defense Authorization Act. They are administered by FEMA. The goal of the program is to provide direct grant money for hiring, retention and recruitment of personnel

Funding for the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant program increased from \$210 million in 2009 to \$420 million in 2010.

In January, Congressman Courtney joined New London firefighters to announce the award of another competitive fire grant for \$159,840 to purchase new gear. Those funds were awarded through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. [Click here to learn more](#) .