

WASHINGTON, DC –“ Congressman Joe Courtney announced today that five Second Congressional District fire departments have been awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) funding. The AFG program is a competitive federal grant program administered by the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). This is round two of the Fiscal Year 2009 program.

The following fire departments received funding: Quaker Hill Volunteer Fire Company, \$167,561; North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., \$7,125; Union Volunteer Fire Department Inc., \$34,122; Mohegan Fire Company, Inc., \$51,034; and Suffield Fire Department, \$48,647.

“Each of these departments has taken the proactive step to improve the operations and safety of their stations for their firefighters by applying for these federal funds,” stated Courtney. “I applaud their effort and their commitment to serving our communities.”

On Friday, Congressman Courtney visited the Shaker Pines Fire Station to announce that the Enfield department had received \$50,075 to replace the station’s vehicle exhaust system. Shaker Pines Fire Station received the funding during the first round announced in January.

[Click here for a photo from the Friday announcement in Enfield.](#)

Photo reference: (L-R: Chief Charlie Macsata, Rep. Joe Courtney, Deputy Chief Jim Nolan, and Fire Commission Chairman Raymond Aiken)

The AFG program strengthens the nation’s and local municipalities’ overall level of preparedness and ability to respond to fire and related hazards. Since 2001, the AFG has provided approximately \$4 billion in grants to first-responder organizations to obtain much-needed emergency response equipment, personal protective equipment, firefighting and emergency vehicles, and training.

During Fiscal Year 2009, the AFG will award \$565 million to first-responder organizations that need support to improve their capability to respond to fires and emergencies of all types.