

## Castle Announces Two Key Grants for Volunteer Firefighter Assistance - November 10, 2006

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today announced two key grants for volunteer firefighter assistance totaling \$268,900. The first award of \$134,950 will go to the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. This award is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. The second grant of \$133,950 goes to the Townsend Fire Company for Operations and Safety.

"These grants prove once again that we are bringing home dollars to Delaware to help the brave volunteer firefighters who deserve our unwavering support. This support in the form of federal funding will ensure that important recruitment and training programs can be carried out and the needed operations and safety equipment can be purchased. As we begin the 110th Congress, I pledge to once again fight for continued funding for our firefighters here in Delaware," Castle said.

The funding awarded through the SAFER program will be used for Strategic Planning in the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter Association's Recruitment and Retention programs which marks the first part of a proposed four-year plan.

The Townsend Fire Company will use their funding for various pieces of protective clothing to be used during a fire or rescue that will outfit 50 firefighters and EMS personnel. This clothing includes gear to protect firefighters from blood born pathogens and any bio-hazard materials, gloves and headgear for protection from the heat and protective boots.