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Deer Creek Fire Department Receives New Turnout Gear Through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

DEER CREEK, IL October 30, 2007 – The Deer Creek Fire Protection District has received new turnout gear for all of its firefighters courtesy of FEMA. The new gear, which is the protective clothing worn by firefighters, replaces gear that in some cases was over twenty years old.

According to department personnel, the new protective clothing is lighter, better fitting, and safer than the old gear it replaces. In addition, the new gear meets the latest NFPA standards, which require safety features such as reflective striping and a built-in drag rescue device (DRD).

The new gear was purchased with funds obtained through the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant (AFG) program, which is administered by FEMA. Nationally, the AFG awards, which are distributed in phases, will ultimately provide approximately \$490 million to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations throughout the country. The Deer Creek Fire Department received over \$40,000 for turnout gear replacement through the AFG program, in addition to a 5% local cost-sharing requirement. Each set of protective clothing costs over \$2,000.

Since 2004, AFG has provided almost \$32.13 billion in grants to fire departments and first responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, vehicles and fire prevention activities. AFG is administered cooperatively by two FEMA components: the National Preparedness Directorate and the United States Fire Administration.

The Deer Creek Fire Department is an all-volunteer fire department that provides fire protection and EMS first response services to the Village of Deer Creek and surrounding portions of Tazewell and Woodford counties. For more information, visit www.deercreekfire.org on the web.

