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For Immediate Release

KNOXVILLE VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD RECEIVES \$35,000 DONATION

New Extrication Gear, Upgraded Equipment Included in Grant Package

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (July 6, 2007) – For nearly 50 years, it has responded to some of the worst vehicle crashes in Knox County. It even helps local fire departments with complicated rescues in confined spaces, collapsed buildings, and in steep ravines. The Knoxville Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad is the designated provider of technical and emergency rescues in the area, but suddenly, its needs a little help itself as some of its equipment is aging and becoming outdated.

Now, Lighthouse Underwriters and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company are giving the rescue squad a \$35,000 grant to purchase new extrication gear and other equipment.

The squad's main purchase will be for new vehicle extrication tools, which will enhance the rescuers' abilities to cut through a vehicle to save a victim in a car crash. This modernized cutting equipment is critical to the squad's effort because newer vehicles have rollover reinforcement made of case-hardened steel. Its current cutters are unable to cut through that steel, which limits the rescuers' ability to quickly free victims. These new cutters are the most powerful available today.

"As rescuers, it is imperative we help local fire departments reach injured crash victims as quickly as possible," said Leigh Ann Cate, executive director of the rescue squad. "This new equipment allows us to respond to emergency situations knowing we have the best tools to provide the highest quality of service."

The rescue squad will also purchase a new illuminate system to light up emergency scenes at night to ensure a safe work environment. The remaining money will be added to a fund to purchase a new chassis for the first out rescue truck, which currently has 189,000 miles and is in need of replacement.

County Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Rural/Metro Fire Chief Jerry Harnish, local dignitaries, and employees of Lighthouse Underwriters and Fireman's Fund will come together for a special public event where the grant package will be presented:

Date / Time:
Tuesday, June 10, 2007
10:15 a.m.

Location:
512 N. Chilhowee Dr.
Knoxville, TN

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“The rescue squad saves an untold number of lives each year and we’re proud to support them knowing so many other people will benefit from this new equipment,” said Jeff Darling, vice president of Lighthouse Underwriters. “They provide an invaluable service to this community and it’s important they receive the money and help they need.”

The grant package is part of a nationwide program called Fireman’s Fund HeritageSM which is funded by Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company. The program is designed to provide needed equipment, training and educational tools to local fire departments. Since 2004, Fireman’s Fund has issued grants to hundreds of different departments totaling more than \$13 million. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman’s Fund products are able to direct these grants to support fire stations in their communities. Lighthouse Underwriters was instrumental in directing this specific grant to the rescue squad.

Nathan Kerr, with Knoxville-based Scott Insurance, assisted in helping identify the need. He said: “The rescue squad is a unique unit that needs state-of-the-art tools to perform its job. Budget constraints often prevent local rescuers from buying everything they need, so this grant money will hopefully ease some of the pressure.”

About Lighthouse Underwriters, LLC

Lighthouse Underwriters, LLC is a program underwriting company working with specific industry groups. Lighthouse creates superior products and makes them available through independent agents and brokers. Creative, thoughtful, visionary, entrepreneurial, and charged with a sense of urgency, Lighthouse continues to be one of the fastest growing specialty program administrators. For more information, visit: www.lighthouseunderwriters.com.

About Fireman’s Fund

Founded in 1863, Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal, commercial and specialty insurance products nationwide. Fireman’s Fund is a member of the Allianz Group (NYSE: AZ), one of the world’s largest providers of insurance and other financial services. For more information, visit www.firemansfund.com.

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