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**LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$497,645 THROUGH FEMA'S
FY 2007 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM**

(Columbus, Nebraska) –Friday, February 1st, 2008, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded a \$497,645 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to the Columbus Fire Department.

The grant is earmarked to purchase a Kidde Mobile FireTrainer ML-1000 is a state-of-the-art, 48-ft long fire training trailer that allows live-fire, gas-fueled training in a safe and environmentally sound manner. The realistic system produces intense heat and flames, and can replicate a class A, B or C fire scenario. The system even has a flashover-rollover effect that reinforces the need for cooling of ceiling gases. The trainer generates a non-polluting, simulated smoke that obscures vision, just like in real fire situations. The trainer will burn clean-burning propane and will alleviate concerns of air or water pollution that are created when burning class-A materials.

Nationally, the AFG awards, which will be distributed in phases, will ultimately provide approximately \$490 million to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations throughout the country.

AFG awards aim to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants enable local fire departments and emergency medical service organizations to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles.

“The Assistance to Firefighters Grants program has been instrumental in building capacity and providing needed resources for our nation's firefighters,” said FEMA Administrator R. David Paulison. “From the purchase of equipment to first responder training, the AFG program has helped improve response capabilities and saved lives and property in communities throughout the United States.”

Since 2004, AFG has provided almost \$3.1 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 full list of FY 2007 AFG recipients and other information is posted on the AFG website (www.firegrantsupport.com).

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.