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# PENCE HAILS GRANT FOR RUSHVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Washington, Jul 21, 2004** - WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence today announced that the Rushville Fire Department in Rushville, Indiana, was awarded $71,367 for fire operations and firefighter safety programs. The grant was administered through the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness in cooperation with the United States Fire Administration.

"Our local fire departments are the first responders when tragedy strikes, yet often they are the most in need when it comes to funding," said Pence. "I am pleased to see the Department of Homeland Security supporting our firefighting personnel in Rushville by making this grant available."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards one-year grants directly to fire departments to support the nation's firefighters and the services they deliver. For the 2004 program, Congress appropriated, and President Bush signed into law, $750 million in direct assistance to firefighters to improve the effectiveness of firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, and to establish or expand fire prevention programs throughout the United States.

The grant will specifically be used for operations and firefighting safety, which includes training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

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