

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Fire Department Receives Grant and Makes New Appointments

Michigan City, IN (January 26, 2004) – Fire Chief Ralph Martin announced that the Michigan City Fire Department has received a grant for fire operations and firefighter safety. He also announced appointments and reassignments in the Michigan City Fire Department which were made to provide more efficient and effective delivery of fire services to the community.

The Department of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (FEMA) has awarded \$86,482.00 dollars for Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety to the Michigan City Fire Department. The goal of the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant program is to provide assistance to state, regional, national or local organizations to address the issues of fire prevention and firefighter safety. These funds will be used in Michigan City to upgrade radio communications.

Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, announced another 121 grants to fire departments last week in round thirty of the fiscal year 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. Since June of 2003, over 8000 fire departments have received over \$632 million to support their role as first responders in the neighborhoods and communities they serve as firefighters.

"Our first responders provide an invaluable service to our nation on a daily basis by answering the call to protect lives and property against all threats," said Brown. "President Bush, Secretary Ridge and I continue our commitment to support America's firefighters with the distribution of these critical funds."

Chief Martin said, "This grant enables us to purchase the equipment we need to improve our ability to communicate with each other during an emergency. By providing updated communications equipment to our firefighters, we help to ensure our team's safety and their efficiency in bringing fires under control quickly while protecting lives."

Chief Martin also announced that Captain Chuck Greis has been appointed to the duties of Chief Officer of the Michigan City Fire Department Training Division and Public Education. The new training officer is a 24-year veteran of the Michigan City Fire Department and has an Associates Degree in Applied Fire Science. He is certified by the State of Indiana as a Fire Instructor, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Investigator and Hazardous Materials Technician. Greis also holds an Indiana State Master Firefighter rating in Strategy and Tactics. He has served as the Michigan City Fire Department's Public Education Officer for the past four years.

"I believe Chuck Greis will bring an abundance of enthusiasm, dedication and expertise to the Training Officer's position," said Chief Martin, "as he has consistently shown throughout his firefighting career."

Captain Greis will replace Mike Osborn who served eight years as the Training Officer for the Michigan City Fire Department.

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