

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced \$73,601 for the Smyrna Fire Company through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program for operations and safety enhancements.

"All homeland security begins with our local fire departments," said Arcuri, a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus

. "That is why I am pleased to announce this federal grant to help the Smyrna Fire Company perform the important work they do so well."

The Smyrna Fire Company will use these funds for operations and safety upgrades and purchases. Since taking office, Arcuri has announced over \$863,700 in AFG program grants for fire departments in Chenango County.

The AFG program provides funds to fire departments, emergency response personnel and first responders to protect the health and safety of workers and local citizens. Since 2004, the program has granted nearly \$2.75 billion nationwide.

This week, Arcuri also announced that at his request the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will host a Fire Grant Workshop in Cortland, NY to help emergency first responders in Chenango, Cortland and Broome Counties apply for grants through the AFG Program.

Local fire departments interested in applying for AFG program grants are encouraged to call Arcuri's office toll-free in NYS at 1-800-235-2525.

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