

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that the Moravia Joint Fire District will receive \$41,525 through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for fire operations and safety.

"Local first responders put their lives on the line to protect our families and local businesses," **said Arcuri, a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus**

. "I am proud to announce this grant to make sure they have the best equipment available to continue to improve emergency response services in our community. Since taking office, I have consistently supported increased funding for this program to make sure local first responders have all the tools they need to keep our families safe - without increasing the local tax burden."

The Moravia Joint Fire District will use these funds to purchase new "jaws of life" tools for emergency extractions.

"The equipment we use now is over 20 years old," **said Fire Chief Scott Johnson**. "This grant is a big help to upgrade what we have right now."

Since taking office, Arcuri has announced over \$492,649 in Assistance to Firefighter Grants for emergency first responders in Cayuga County.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards grants to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of first responders and the citizens in their communities. AFGP grants provide resources for training, first responder health and safety programs, and response equipment and vehicles.

Since 2004, AFGP has provided a total of almost \$2.2 billion nationwide to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, and vehicles. In fiscal year 2007, AFGP will award approximately \$490 million directly to fire departments and EMS organizations to enhance their response capabilities.

Legislation cosponsored by Arcuri to provide tax assistance for volunteer emergency responders to help area fire departments retain and recruit volunteers was included in the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act (H.R. 3997) which passed the House of Representatives in November.

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