



Arlington Fire District

Fire Prevention Bureau

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For Emergencies

DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arlington FD Receives Federal Grant for Fire Investigation

POUGHKEEPSIE – The Arlington Fire District has been awarded a 2012 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant in the amount of \$47,200 from the US Department of Homeland Security. This grant will be used to purchase fire investigation equipment and to provide fire origin and cause training to the members of the district’s fire investigation team.

According to Captain William Steenbergh, who oversees the district’s fire investigation team, “New York State law requires the Fire Chief to determine the origin and cause of every fire within his jurisdiction. Fire investigation is a highly technical and very specialized field, but firefighters do not receive any advanced training in this area when they attend their probationary training. This grant will allow us to continue training our team members in the newest techniques of fire investigation; attain the necessary skills that will allow them to be both effective investigators at the fire scene and expert witnesses in the courtroom during the prosecution of these crimes. It will also allow us to update and modernize some of our investigative and evidence collection equipment.”

Chief Tory Gallante said, “The thorough investigation of every fire, and the prosecution of those responsible for intentionally setting fires sends a positive message to our community. Fires disrupt people’s lives, cause injuries and death to civilians, and result in increases in property insurance premiums. Those who might consider committing arson should take note of how seriously we take our investigative responsibilities, and how closely we work with the Town of Poughkeepsie Police, the Sheriff’s Office, the District Attorney’s Office and other agencies in pursuing these criminals.

So far this year, Arlington has received over \$350,000 in state and federal grants, and is a partner in another \$300,000 of state grant funding with the City of Poughkeepsie FD and LaGrange Fire District.