



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2022

Arlington Fire District Awarded \$166,144 Grant

The Arlington Fire District has been notified by Senator Schumer’s office that they have been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$166,144.00, under the Assistance to Firefighters grant program. These grant funds will be used for the training and certification of Arlington’s firefighters in the highly specialized area of Trench Rescue. Under this grant program, FEMA will provide \$151,040.00 towards the training costs, while the Fire District will contribute \$15,104.00

According to Fire Chief William Steenbergh, “Technical rescues, like trench collapses, are amongst the most challenging and dangerous incidents that our responders could ever be called upon to handle. It requires specialized training and equipment that are beyond the capacity of most agencies. While relatively infrequent, these incidents challenge 1st responders to stabilize the collapsed area, and successfully rescue those individuals who have become trapped inside of the trench. As the largest agency in the region providing technical rescue services, this grant will allow us to continue to maintain the highest possible training and readiness level for our firefighters. We are proud and honored to be able to provide this high level of serve to our community. This is in addition to our core missions of Fire and EMS protection. Our Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics stand ready to assist you in any potential emergency 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We offer our sincere thanks to Senators Schumer & Gillibrand, and Congressman Maloney, for their ongoing support of the FEMA AFG grant program, and the Fire Service in general.”

In addition to Trench Rescue, Arlington Fire District maintains fully operational technical rescue teams in the areas of Swiftwater Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Rope Rescue, Trench & Structural Collapse Rescue, through their Special Operations Team. Additionally, we are the largest participant in a Regional Special Operations Team with the City of Poughkeepsie FD, and LaGrange Fire District.

The funds provided in the grant will provide for a combination of both classroom and hands-on training in Trench Rescue, and lead to the certification of at least 45 members as Trench Rescue Technicians. This training will be conducted within the Fire District, thereby avoiding the costs associated with multi-day out of town travel to the NYS Academy, or other locations, where these courses are typically conducted. This allows for a substantially greater number of people to become trained and certified.