



Arlington Fire District

Fire Prevention Bureau

11 Burnett Boulevard
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
www.afd.org

Business: (845) 486-6309
Fax: (845) 486-6326
WSteenbergh@afd.org

For Emergencies

DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

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MEDIA RELEASE

For additional information contact:
Captain William A. Steenbergh, CFPS
Cell: 845-797-3291

Local Fire Departments Receive NYS Grants

The NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) has announced \$226,440 in local grants to promote the development of regional technical rescue teams in the Poughkeepsie area. 2 grants have been awarded to the City of Poughkeepsie FD and the Arlington Fire District. The competitive grant program, administered through the Office of Fire Prevention & Control, supports the efforts of local agencies to develop capabilities in the highly specialized field of technical rescue. In both grants, the City of Poughkeepsie FD, the Arlington Fire District and LaGrange Fire District will work jointly in the areas of Structural Collapse Rescue and Swiftwater Rescue. In the last 2 years, these departments have received more than \$525,000 in NYS Technical Rescue grants.

“Last year we received grant funding from the state to provide critical training and equipment for our Swiftwater Rescue team. This year’s grant funds will allow us to continue this process, further expanding our capabilities. By working jointly with Poughkeepsie and LaGrange, we are able to fill a void for a response team that simply doesn’t exist anywhere else in our region. Because of the highly specialized nature of these operations, it makes much more sense to work cooperatively with our neighbors to form regional teams, than to try and do this type of work alone. This regional team approach will allow the 3 departments to offer a much higher level of service to the community, at a significant cost savings to the taxpayers”

“A building collapse presents extreme and unique challenges for rescuers,” Said City of Poughkeepsie Mayor John Tkazyik. “Specialized training is required for our firefighters to be able to safely shore up these structures, search for trapped occupants and then remove them from the building. Without this type of grant program, we would likely not be able to afford this training. We are proud to be partnering with Arlington and LaGrange to provide this important rescue service.”

The goal of this grant program is to have sufficient equipment and trained responders on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week between the 3 agencies to be able to immediately respond to these emergencies, when they occur. Without this regional team approach, rescue teams would have to be called in from other parts of the state for these situations, resulting in a delay of several hours or more. In many situations that delay could result in serious injury or death to the victims.