



# *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  
Cell: 845-514-5182

### **Local Fire Departments Receive NYS Grant**

The NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) has awarded a grant to the Arlington Fire District in the amount of \$134,525 to promote the continued development of a regional technical rescue team in the Poughkeepsie area. 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, through the utilization of federal FEMA funds. Through this grant, Arlington, the City of Poughkeepsie FD and LaGrange Fire District will continue to expand their capabilities in the area of structural collapse rescue.

In the last 4 years, these departments have received more than \$815,000 in NYS Technical Rescue grants. The regional team currently has received equipment and training in Swiftwater Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Rope Rescue, and Structural Collapse Rescue. Team development and training is on-going in all of these areas.

“The grants provide 100% of the funding necessary for both equipment purchases and training in these specialized fields, including such things as social security and pension costs”, according to Captain William Steenbergh, the author of the grant applications.

According to Arlington Chief Tory Gallante, “By working jointly with Poughkeepsie and LaGrange, we are able to fill a void for specialized response teams that simply don’t exist anywhere else in our region. It makes much more sense to work cooperatively with our neighbors to form a regional team than to try and do this type of work alone. The goal of this team is to have sufficient equipment and trained responders available 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 either Albany or Westchester County/NYC 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,”