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New Richmond Fire & Rescue Receives \$144,550 SAFER Grant

The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department has been awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency with a \$144,550 SAFER grant over the next three years. The award is part of the fiscal year 2016 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) through FEMA.

The grant funds will be used towards personal protective equipment (PPE), educational training, uniforms, physicals and other items for new recruits and explorers. The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department is the first department in the state of Wisconsin to receive a SAFER grant so far this year.

"Our firefighters and the New Richmond community will benefit greatly from this grant," said Fire Chief Jim VanderWyst. "Providing a solid foundation of training and quality equipment will ensure that our new firefighters are well-protected and that we continue to provide high quality emergency response services for our growing community."

The grant funds will also be used towards a recently launched Explorer program, which is designed for young adults 15-21 years of age who are interested in learning more about becoming a firefighter. Explorers have the opportunity to participate in training, community outreach activities, and the annual Explorers Competition held at the Minnesota State Fair.

SAFER was created to provide funding directly to fire departments to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response, and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association.

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