



Forsyth County
Department of Communications
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNTY EARNS GRANT TO ADDRESS
FIRE SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

Grant provides a fire safety robot for Fire Department

FORSYTH COUNTY, Georgia – The Forsyth County Fire Department has received a \$12,083 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). AFG awards aim to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and other hazards.

Forsyth County’s grant funding was used to purchase a fire safety robot, a trailer to transport and store the robot, and fire safety promotional items. The new fire safety robot will be used as part of the department’s program for toddler and preschool-aged children, which is presented at special events, schools, Head Start programs, day cares and preschools. The focus of the program will include home fire safety, fire escape planning, match and lighter safety, and injury prevention. A key component of the program will be to teach young children not to fear firefighters wearing full gear.

“Forsyth County takes fire prevention education very seriously,” Fire Chief Danny Bowman said. “It’s imperative to teach children at a young age that firefighters are there to help them. The tools acquired thanks to this grant will help us to do just that.”

The robot is a fully animated fireman and fire engine complete with sirens and flashing lights, water squirter, DVD player and LCD screen. The interactive robot will serve as an

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excellent tool for teaching preschoolers about dangers of fire as well as fire safety precautions.

“Forsyth County has over 11,500 residents age five and under,” Grants Administrator Nancy Smallwood said. “We are certainly appreciative of this grant that will allow us to reach out to these preschoolers and educate them about fire safety. We are also very appreciative of Senator Johnny Isakson’s support of this grant.”

Since 2004, AFG has provided almost \$3.1 billion in grants to fire departments and first responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, vehicles and fire prevention activities. AFG is administered cooperatively by two FEMA components: the National Preparedness Directorate and the United States Fire Administration.

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