

Fireman's Fund Heritage:

A Chief Tells His Story

BY SANTA BARBARA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT BATTALION CHIEF JOHN AHLMAN

Recently, one of our firefighters brought us some great news. His wife worked for a local insurance agency, **TWIW Insurance**, and they wanted to direct a grant to our department. After visiting with the other battalion chiefs, we decided what would benefit the department and the citizens of Santa Barbara.

Thanks to a grant of \$15,000, the **Santa Barbara City Fire Department** purchased a **thermal imaging camera**. This camera uses infrared sensor technology that will help our firefighters "see" through smoke and darkness to help find victims or locate the source of a fire quickly. With a thermal imaging camera in hand, our firefighters can often locate and extinguish the source of a fire before it spreads.

Funding challenges across the state have left many fire departments without adequate resources. First on the scene of any emergency, firefighters must be prepared to respond to natural disasters, accidents, medical emergencies and terrorist attacks — as well as fires — despite increasingly limited resources.

This grant was made through the Fireman's Fund HeritageSM program, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company's

philanthropic mission to support firefighters for safer communities. Under the program, agents across the country who carry Fireman's Fund[®] products have the opportunity to direct grants to their local fire departments. Fire departments can use these grants for the purchase of new equipment, firefighter training, fire safety education or community preparedness.

Since we generally rely on funding from the government, we were thrilled to learn about this new grant opportunity.

Grants like these are truly significant for fire departments. Funding shortages have become a



Members of the Santa Barbara City Fire Department accept the Heritage Rewards grant from TWIW and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company

nationwide issue for fire departments. Despite limited resources, fire departments are being asked to do more with less. And our fire department is no exception.

Our mission is to protect the lives and property of our 90,000 residents. The City of

Santa Barbara City Fire Department covers more than 23 square miles of the city proper and some outlying areas surrounding the city.

Thank you to TWIW Insurance and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company for this grant and for making our community safer.



Fireman's Fund
HERITAGE

Supporting Firefighters for Safer Communities.



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