



Fireman's Fund Insurance Companies  
777 San Marin Drive  
Novato, California 94998  
T. 415.899.2000  
www.firemansfund.com

**Contact:**

**Atle Erlingsson**  
**Stephanie Johnson**

**T. 415.899.6073**  
**T. 469.426.6773**

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**For Immediate Release**

## **JACKSONVILLE FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT FOR NEW EQUIPMENT**

*Three Thermal Imaging Cameras, Other Gear Included in \$32,000 Donation*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Sept. 21, 2007) – Jacksonville firefighters will soon add three new thermal imaging cameras to their arsenal of fire rescue equipment, thanks to a major donation by two insurance companies.

Westrope and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company are giving the Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department \$32,000 to pay for the new gear.

The three thermal imaging cameras, which cost \$30,000, use updated technology to enable firefighters to "see" through smoke and darkness to quickly locate anyone trapped in a building during a fire. The devices can also play a major role in reducing property damage. With one in hand, firefighters can often locate hot spots inside walls and extinguish them before they spread. The department will use the remaining \$2,000 to purchase new rescue saw blades used to cut through steel and concrete to reach trapped victims.

"The addition of these new thermal imagers will have a huge impact on the way we search for and rescue people trapped in fires," said Fire Director Dan Kleman. "The ultimate goal is to have a camera on each fire engine in the city to ensure all responding firefighters have immediate access to one at all times."

A formal public presentation event will take place at Jacksonville Fire & Rescue with Director Kleman, Jacksonville firefighters, and representatives from Westrope and Fireman's Fund:

**Date & Time:**

**Monday, Sept. 24, 2007**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Location:**

**Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Dept.**  
**515 N. Julia St.**

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“We can’t think of a better way to help the community,” said Kevin Westrope, President/CEO and Founder of Westrope. “Our firefighters provide a tremendous service to the city and it’s important they have the most advanced equipment to work with.”

The grant package is part of a nationwide program called Fireman’s Fund Heritage<sup>SM</sup> which is funded by Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company. The program is designed to provide needed equipment, training and educational tools to local fire departments. Since 2004, Fireman’s Fund has issued grants to hundreds of different departments totaling more than \$14 million. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman’s Fund products are able to direct these grants to support fire stations in their communities. Westrope was instrumental in directing this specific donation to Jacksonville.

### **About Westrope**

Westrope is one of the top five privately-held wholesale insurance brokers in the United States. Founded in 1992, the company is now home to over 140 insurance professionals in seven offices across the country. Westrope’s brokers specialize in property, casualty, transportation, construction, executive & professional liability, agribusiness and workers' compensation. With strategic market relationships, Westrope is committed to providing superior service through innovative solutions. For more information, visit [www.westrope.com](http://www.westrope.com).

### **About Fireman’s Fund**

Founded in 1863, Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal, commercial and specialty insurance products nationwide. Fireman’s Fund is a member of the Allianz Group (NYSE: AZ), one of the world’s largest providers of insurance and other financial services. For more information, visit [www.firemansfund.com](http://www.firemansfund.com).

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