



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

**Contact: Atle Erlingsson**

**T. 415.899.6073**

---

**For Immediate Release**

## **TWO ORANGE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS RECEIVE NEW HIGH-TECH BREATHING EQUIPMENT**

*Huntington Beach & Newport Beach Receive Grants Totaling Nearly  
\$33,000.00*

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (Oct. 2, 2007) – Westrope and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company will donate a total of \$32,720 to Huntington Beach and Newport Beach to help upgrade the breathing equipment at each fire department.

Huntington Beach Fire Department's grant, totaling \$16,360, will help replace old and outdated air bottles. An air bottle is part of the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) worn by each firefighter while working in a contaminated environment with smoke, fire, or other hazardous materials. All together, 90 bottles will be purchased to replace the air tanks that reached the end of their service life and were discarded as mandated by federal law.

"These new air bottles are top of the line and will ensure our firefighters are protected when working the scene of an emergency," said Huntington Beach Fire Chief Duane Olson.

Newport Beach Fire Department will receive \$16,360 for a new high-tech "test bench," a machine that tests SCBAs after repairs are made to ensure safe operation. The department's current test machine does not meet National Fire Protection Association standards.

"This new machine does everything we need to make sure our SCBAs are kept in the best working condition possible," said Newport Beach Fire Chief Dave Mais. "Without this grant, it would have been tough to find money in our budget to purchase this type of expensive device."

Chiefs Olson and Mais, firefighters from each department, local dignitaries, and executives from Westrope and Fireman's Fund will come together for a special public event where the grant package will be presented:

**Date / Time:**  
**Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**Location:**  
**Huntington Beach Pier**  
**400 Pacific Coast Highway**  
**Huntington Beach, CA**

**-MORE-**

*Page 2: (Fire Department Grants)*

"Limited funding often makes it challenging for local fire departments to purchase all of the new equipment and gear they need," said Kevin Westrope, president/CEO and founder of Westrope. "These firefighters provide a tremendous service to their communities 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 these specific donations to Huntington Beach and Newport Beach.

### **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).

###