

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Station #2 Headquarters

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TO PREVENT AND COMBAT FIRES, PROVIDE PRE-HOSPITAL CARE AND COMFORTING THOSE IN NEED WHILE SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORS.

PRESS RELEASE

Federal Assistance to Firefighter Grant Award

September 13, 2021

The Springfield Township Fire Department was recently awarded \$156,500 by the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This grant funding is for the Springfield Township Fire Department to purchase Diesel Exhaust removal systems for our two stations.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently undertook two extensive studies focused on firefighter cancer and concluded that firefighters face a 9% increase in cancer diagnoses, and a 14% increase in cancer-related deaths, compared to the general population in the U.S. According to the International Association of Firefighters, cancer has surpassed heart disease as the leading cause of death among firefighters.

Between January 1, 2002 and March 31, 2017, 61% of career firefighter line-of-duty deaths occurred due to cancer, compared to 18 % from heart disease in the same time frame. Cancer research drove the push to try and protect our members from any hazards that we could in the station.

This award is the first federal (AFG) grant received in the history of the department. The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments. The (AFG) program has been in place since 2001.

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Springfield Township Fire Department was established in 1948. Today we operate full-time from Two Fire/EMS Stations. Covering 50.6 square miles, including the City of Ontario, Springfield, and Sandusky Townships. The department protects over 12,068 residents and thousands of visitors daily to our many shopping, entertainment, service, and restaurant establishments in the City of Ontario.

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Visit us on the web at: **www.springfieldwprc.org**