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For Immediate Release

## **PLANO FIRE DEPARTMENT DONATES SMOKE DETECTORS TO LOCAL HOTEL TO BENEFIT THE HEARING IMPAIRED**

### *Swift Water Rescue Motor and Safety Equipment Part of \$23,000 Grant Package*

PLANO, TX. (August 11, 2008) – CRC Insurance Services of Dallas and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company are teaming up to award a \$23,000 grant to the Plano Fire Department for the purchase of smoke detectors for the hearing impaired as well as several pieces of safety equipment to include a swift water rescue motor.

The department is introducing a program to lend transportable smoke detectors to the Southfork Hotel for the hearing impaired which will alert occupants to an audible smoke alarm using vibration in case of fire. In addition to the alarm, the department has purchased a Yamaha F40 MCH Motor with a six gallon fuel tank which will complete an earlier purchase of a swift water rescue boat making the boat accessible for water rescues.

The grant also allowed the department to purchase 125 reflective safety vests which are used by workers in higher traffic areas. As part of the grant package, extended radio microphones were purchased which will allow fire personnel to keep both hands free for hands-on tasks while safely pinning the extended microphone to a coat or jacket lapel.

"Oftentimes, fire departments don't have the luxury of purchasing new equipment, tools and gear," said Plano Fire Chief Hugo Esparza. "This grant from CRC and Fireman's Fund provides the Plano Fire Department with specific equipment needed for protecting the citizens of Plano and surrounding communities."

Lastly, specialized urban search and rescue helmets used for teams deploying to a building collapse or disaster as well as rescue helmets with LED lights for use in confined spaces were purchased for use during emergencies.

"We are committed to giving back to the community, and what better way to accomplish this goal than to support a fire department," said Blake Bartnick, of CRC Insurance Services of Dallas.

Chief Esparza, Plano firefighters, local dignitaries, and executives from CRC and Fireman's Fund will come together for a special public event where the grant package will be presented:

**Date/Time:**

**Tuesday, August 12, 2008  
2:00 p.m.**

**Location:**

**Plano Fire Department  
1901 Avenue K  
Plano, TX**

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The grant package is part of a nationwide program called Fireman's Fund Heritage<sup>®</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 over 1,000 different departments nationwide totaling more than \$19 million. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman's Fund products are able to direct these grants to support fire stations in their communities.

### **About CRC Insurance Services, Inc.**

Founded in 1982, CRC Insurance Services is the largest property and casualty wholesale broker in North America. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of BB&T Corporation, the nation's 14<sup>th</sup> largest financial holding company, CRC Insurance Services has specialized departments that focus on a number of products, including casualty, property and professional. For more information, visit [www.crcins.com](http://www.crcins.com).

### **About Fireman's Fund**

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal, commercial and specialty insurance products nationwide. Founded in 1863 with a mission to support firefighters, Fireman's Fund continues this mission today through the Fireman's Fund Heritage program. 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. It is rated 'A+' by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. Allianz ranks as the most sustainable insurer in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index based on its economic, social and environmental performance. For more information, visit [www.firemansfund.com](http://www.firemansfund.com).

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