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SC Fire Academy Receives Federal Fire Act Grant

The South Carolina Fire Academy (SCFA) is receiving an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program award of \$391,238 that will fund the purchase 88 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with face pieces and extra cylinders, and nine thermal imaging cameras.

This grant, awarded by the Grants Programs Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is specifically available to fire training academies across the country.

This is the first year this type of funding has been available to states. The state match for the grant is \$69,042, for a total investment in the Fire Academy of \$460,280.

“This is an exciting day for South Carolina’s Fire Academy,” Chief Shane Ray, State Fire Marshal and Fire Academy Superintendent, said. “This grant funding will provide key protective equipment that will enable us to do a better job of keeping our firefighters and industrial fire brigade members safe as they train and serve South Carolina.”

The South Carolina Fire Academy, located in Columbia, annually trains 8,278 firefighters and 1,574 industrial fire brigade members on its campus. These 88 SCBAs will replace older units and begin the process of replacement on a scheduled basis. The SCFA has 266 SCBAs in use.

“Since this is the first year state fire academies have been eligible to compete in the AFG Program, this is a great example of a federal and state partnership that helps local fire departments, business and industry,” Chief Ray said.

The SCFA is one of the premier fire training academies in the United States. The Academy provides emergency services training to the municipal fire service, both paid and volunteers, airport crash rescue departments, industrial fire brigades and emergency teams from around the state and the world. The Fire Academy is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

The Fire Academy, the Fire Marshal’s Office, and the South Carolina Emergency Response Task Force make up the Division of Fire and Life Safety, which is a division of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR).