

Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, has announced the beginning of the applications period for local fire and emergency agencies for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants program.

The applications period for SAFER Grants begins August 17 and ends on September 17 at 5 p.m. Eastern Time (4 p.m. Central).

Authorized by Congress, and administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), SAFER Grants assist local fire departments in complying with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Congress has appropriated \$420 million nationally to help fire and emergency response agencies in meeting the safety preparedness standards. Local fire and emergency response organizations have until September 17, 2010 to apply for SAFER Grants.

“Our local emergency responders are vital lifelines in times of fire and other disasters in our communities. The SAFER Grants program enhances their ability to safely perform their life-saving missions,” Congressman Bonner said.

“I encourage all our South Alabama fire and emergency response agencies to review the guidelines of the SAFER Grants program to determine if they meet the requirements for this funding.”

For more information regarding the SAFER Grants program, applicants can call 1-866-274-0960 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m (Eastern Time)., or email [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov)

The SAFER Grants e-applications can also be accessed on-line at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com)  
or  
[www.usfa.dhs.gov/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/)