

MOBILE - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, today announced the opening of the United States Department of Homeland Security's grant application period for the FY 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The application period for this program begins on March 7, 2005, and applications will be accepted until April 8, 2005.

The grants, administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), assist local fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical services providers with the acquisition of equipment, vehicles, and training.

"I would encourage any department in the First District interested in this grant program to submit an application," Bonner said. "The men and women who work for our professional and volunteer fire departments in south Alabama put their lives on the line every day to protect and support their neighbors and communities, and they certainly deserve all the support we can provide.

This program will enable successful applicants to equip their departments with the latest training and firefighting equipment to continue doing their jobs safely, effectively and with the greatest benefit for their cities and towns."

The program application and additional guidance can be found at www.firegrantsupport.com. Fire departments and other eligible organizations with further questions or in need of additional assistance can also reach Grant Program staff at 866-274-0960.