

WASHINGTON- Congressman Spencer Bachus is very pleased to announce that several Fire Departments in the 6th Congressional district will be receiving badly needed funds through the Federal Emergency Management Association's grant program.

The departments and amount received are as follows:

- Hoover Fire Department, \$164,500- Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety
- Green Pond Volunteer Fire Department,

\$95,196-

Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety

For the 2003 program, Congress appropriated, and President Bush signed into law, \$750 million in direct assistance in support of the nation's firefighters and the services they deliver. This year FEMA received approximately 19,950 applications for

the 2003 grant program. The application period closed in early April 2003 and the total request of all departments, including the non-federal share, totaled approximately \$2.5 billion.

Funding priorities for each of the activities were established based on recommendations from nine major national fire service organizations. The applications

most closely conforming to program priorities were reviewed and scored by peer review panels, which began in mid April and were completed in early May. Awards will be announced on a weekly basis beginning in June 2003, with the competitive funds obligated by the end of September 2004.

The Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States. These funds are used by the nation's firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, firefighter health

and safety programs, new fire apparatus, emergency medical service programs, and fire prevention and safety programs.

Congressman Bachus congratulates all of these Fire departments for their

hard work in securing these grants because they will further provide the citizens of the 6th district with added fire and medical response capabilities.