

Application period begins Monday, grant helps hire, recruit firefighters

UTICA, N.Y. – U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna today announced an upcoming grant opportunity for local fire departments to improve their ability to respond to emergencies.

Hanna will attend the 2012 Oneida County Fire Services Breakfast tomorrow, Saturday, January, 28, 2012 at the Deerfield Volunteer Fire Department and will have information on federal fire grants, including the: "Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response" (SAFER) grant program.

The SAFER grant program is operated through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). SAFER grants provide funding to local fire departments to assist with staffing and deployment capabilities, improving departments' ability to respond to emergencies, and assuring communities a quick response to fire and fire-related hazards.

FEMA will award approximately \$380 million in SAFER grants to support the efforts of fire departments in two categories:

- To hire new firefighters

- To recruit and retain volunteer firefighters

The application period opens at 8 a.m. on Monday, January 30, 2012 and will close at 5 p.m. on February 24, 2012. Application materials and "Get Ready Guides" are available at: www.fema.gov/firegrants.

While the application period begins Monday, Jan. 30, the grant announcement, application

materials, and "Get Ready Guides" are available today at www.fema.gov/firegrants.

For further information or assistance, please contact **Hanna's Utica office at 315-724-9740**.