

## **NRFEMS Receives Federal Grant**

New Richmond Fire and EMS Department was recently awarded \$ 115,076 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. Since 2001, similar grants have helped fire departments across the country obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

It was required that the department be specific about equipment needed when it applied for funding in March 2008. A need for foam firefighting improvements to two fire trucks, additional two-way radios, a heavy-duty laundry washer, and emergency electric generator for the Hamilton Street fire station were identified.

“The equipment positively affects the safety of our firefighters and residents and allows us to meet the standards of today’s fire service,” according to Fire and EMS Chief Mark Baird. “For example, during a disaster the fire station must operate normally when everything else in the community is not. Having electric instantly available is a huge step toward normal so I am especially pleased to clear this hurdle in our emergency preparedness.”

The Village will contribute \$ 6,056 toward the total project cost. It is the first time the Village has received a federal AFG grant since the program began.