



Louisville Fire Protection District

895 W. Via Appia
Louisville, CO 80027
Office: 303-666-6595 Fax: 303-666-7659
www.louisvillefire.com
"Our Family Serving Your Family"

CONTACTS: Tim Parker

Fire Chief

303-666-6595

tparker@louisvillefire.com

Shawn Stark

Public Information Officer

303-918-4413

sstark@louisvillefire.com

Firefighters win AFG grant for thermal imagers

LOUISVILLE, CO, Jan. 14, 2008...The Louisville Fire Department has been awarded an \$18,000 federal grant to purchase thermal imagers for use by firefighters on emergency calls involving fires, alarms, rescues and hazardous materials.

The LFD will buy two thermal imagers with the grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of its 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

"Again this year the Assistance to Firefighters Grant has allowed us the opportunity to improve our firefighter safety systems and programs," said Chief Tim Parker. "The addition of this new equipment will help us be more effective finding hidden fires and heat sources that are not seen by the eye. I think it's always great when we can put some federal tax dollars to work in our community."

A significant portion of LFD responses calls for use of a thermal imaging device, a hand-held tool that detects heat differences on objects. Louisville firefighters take thermal imagers on calls involving fires and fire alarms, but the devices also make sense on calls that require locating ejected victims of motor vehicle accidents, on hazardous materials incidents suspected of involving thermal energy, and on requests to locate potential victims – a missing child in a field, for example.

The most important function of a thermal imager directly affects firefighter safety in a structure fire, where the device can be used to locate the seat of the fire, to gauge the potential for flashover conditions and to uncover hidden areas of burning. Thermal imagers can be vitally important in helping firefighters locate unconscious victims and find their way to potential exits when conditions get too hazardous.

Few pieces of equipment possess such a clear and dramatic effect on firefighter safety at such a relatively low cost.

As of Jan. 14, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded 357 Fiscal Year 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grants totaling more than \$31 million to fire departments throughout the United States.

The Louisville Fire Department provides fire suppression and prevention, rescue and emergency medical services to 25,000 people in Louisville and unincorporated Boulder County. For more information, call 303-666-6595 or visit <http://www.louisvillefire.com>.