



KITTITAS VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KVFR Awarded Federal Grant to Purchase SCBA's

Ellensburg, Washington, April 23, 2024- Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue (KVFR) took delivery of 71 new 3-M Scott self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and 142 air bottles units recently. This \$592,169.00 expenditure was made possible through a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) funded through FEMA.

SCBA's are respirator tools that enable firefighters to safely enter hazardous environments such as a house fire. They are a vital component of a firefighter's personal protective equipment and prevent them from inhaling toxic smoke, chemicals, and carcinogens. The masks have embedded radio equipment to keep communication possible for firefighters.

KVFR had aging SCBA equipment and needed to purchase updated equipment. Each SCBA unit has a life span of a maximum of fifteen years and cannot be utilized past its expiration date. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) makes AFG grants opportunities available to help fire departments and districts obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire, smoke, and related hazards.

I would like to thank the entire KVFR SCBA team (Captain Chris Moen, Firefighter Kyle Buchanan, Firefighter Michael Boardman, and Firefighter Joe Kelleher,) for their hard work in; creating an evaluation and selection criteria suited for our environment, getting the equipment tested, inventoried, developing training, and teaching the firefighters about the new equipment. I would also like to thank Financial Services Manager Manda Beckett and Captain Chris Moen for their hard work in submitting the grant.

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