



## **City of McKinney Press Release**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **McKinney Fire Department Receives Grant for Safety Equipment** *New Equipment to Enhance Road Safety*

McKINNEY, Texas (Oct. 22, 2009) – Today, the USRisk Brokers Insurance Services, Inc. and Fireman’s Fund presented a \$9,135 grant award to the McKinney Fire Department to pay for essential equipment to strengthen public safety.

The grant funds have been earmarked to purchase six vehicle-mounted video event recorders and all support services needed to operate the system. These vehicle-mounted systems will be used to enhance safe driving for the department and public. Feedback and video coverage will be used to train operators to mitigate risk and improve driver behavior to avoid collisions.

This grant allows the Fire Department to complete installation of the safety devices in the entire fleet of first-responder vehicles like engines and ambulances. Without the funding, only some safety vehicles would benefit from the camera system.

“McKinney residents rely greatly on the services of our department, and this new equipment will allow us to provide essential driver training and feedback to enhance safe driving for our department and community,” said Chief Mark Wallace. “Constantly improving the way we serve our community is always a priority and helps us keep McKinney one of the safest cities in the country.”

Fire Chief Mark Wallace was joined by firefighters and executives from USRisk Brokers, Texans Insurance Agency and Fireman’s Fund, to receive the grant package to the McKinney Fire Department. The department’s need was identified by Texans Insurance Agency, which then recommended the McKinney Fire Department to USRisk as a potential award recipient.

“It is a great feeling to help support our courageous fire-fighting community during these economically trying times,” said Connie Fox of USRisk Brokers. “Sharing this opportunity with our valued client, Texans Insurance Brokers, makes it particularly meaningful.”

The grant package is part of a nationwide philanthropic program funded by Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company. The program is designed to provide needed equipment, training and educational tools to local fire departments. Since 2004, Fireman’s Fund has issued grants to over 1,400 different departments totaling more than \$23 million. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman’s Fund products are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

# # #

### **About McKinney**

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of 122,000. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments, and it was recently ranked as one of the Top 10 Best Places to Move by Forbes Magazine. Visit the city's Web site at [www.mckinneytexas.org](http://www.mckinneytexas.org).

### **About USRisk Brokers Insurance Services, Inc.**

**U.S. Risk Insurance Group, Inc.** is one of the largest managing general agencies and surplus lines wholesalers in the United States. Since its 1985 founding, the company has grown steadily through strategic planning and acquisitions, and its current premium business is now over \$400 million. USRisk Brokers Insurance Services, Inc., a California division, specializes in underwriting programs as well as placements for casualty, automobile, umbrella, and risk management products and services. Please visit [www.usrisk.com/califbrokerage.htm](http://www.usrisk.com/califbrokerage.htm) for further information about this branch.

### **About Fireman's Fund**

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal and commercial insurance products nationwide. It is rated 'AA-' by Standard & Poor's Rating Services. Founded in 1863 with a mission to support firefighters, Fireman's Fund continues this effort today through its national philanthropic work. Fireman's Fund is a member of the Allianz Group (NYSE: AZ), one of the world's largest providers of insurance and other financial services. For more information, visit [www.firemansfund.com](http://www.firemansfund.com).

**Media Contact:** Anna Folmsbee, [afolmsb@mckinneytexas.org](mailto:afolmsb@mckinneytexas.org), 972-547-7525