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## **For Immediate Release**

### **TIBURON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT RECEIVES NEW STATE OF THE ART TRAINING MANIKIN**

*Training Manikin / Simulator Included in \$10,400 Grant Package*

TIBURON, Calif.(Aug. 31, 2009) – Like most fire departments across the country, the Tiburon Fire Protection District operates on a limited budget, yet the cost for updating and purchasing new equipment continues to rise. Now, thanks to a \$10,400 grant, the fire district will be able to purchase a state of the art training manikin and simulator kit.

San Rafael-based Costello & Sons Insurance is partnering with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company to award the grant to purchase the manikin / simulator for use in training and education programs for both Tiburon firefighters and those in neighboring agencies. A recent national study on the economic impact to fire departments across the country, sponsored by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, found that replacing worn or outdated equipment was one of the top three concerns for fire departments in the United States.

"Supporting Safer Communities: A National Firefighter Survey" found that the top three challenges facing fire departments today are:

1. Lack of budget
2. Old or outdated equipment, gear or apparatus
3. Staffing, recruiting and retaining qualified staff

"Medical responses account for 75 percent of our fire service responses," said Fire Chief Richard Pearce. "This device provides realistic, interactive, and hands-on training. Thanks to this grant, our firefighters will be able to respond more efficiently and effectively to emergencies, and ultimately help keep our community safer."

Chief Pearce, local firefighters, and representatives from Costello & Sons Insurance and Fireman's Fund will come together for a special public event where the grant package will be presented:

**Date & Time:**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**Location:**  
**Tiburon Fire Protection District**  
**1679 Tiburon Blvd.**  
**Tiburon, CA**

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“With everything firefighters do to keep people safe, it’s important that the community work together to help the fire department get the proper training it needs,” said Bryan Costello with Costello & Sons Insurance. “In tough economic times like these, when we see critical emergency services being affected by state and local budgets, it is very rewarding to be associated with organizations that have community concerns such a integral part of their corporate philosophy.”

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

### **About Costello & Sons Insurance**

Costello & Sons Insurance (CSI) is an insurance brokerage that currently writes about \$40 million in insurance premiums with four offices throughout California. CSI specializes in providing quality home and auto insurance programs for individuals and families. For more information, visit [www.costelloandsons.com](http://www.costelloandsons.com).

### **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. Fireman’s Fund is a member of the Allianz Group (NYSE: AZ), one of the world’s largest providers of insurance and financial services. For additional information, visit [www.firemansfund.com](http://www.firemansfund.com).

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