



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 7, 2007

[www.house.gov/shuster](http://www.house.gov/shuster)

Contact: Jeff Urbanchuk, Press Secretary  
(202) 225-2431  
(202) 593-1040 cell  
(202) 225-2486 fax  
[jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov](mailto:jg.urbanchuk@mail.house.gov)

## ***Shuster Announces DHS Grant to Black Lick Volunteer Fire Company***

Washington, D.C. - **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the Black Lick Volunteer Fire Company in Indiana County has been awarded an Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

The federal grant for \$86,925 was approved under the Operations and Safety program, which directs funding to training activities, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness activities, and health and safety modifications to stations and facilities.

The Black Lick Volunteer Fire Company will use the AFG grant to update safety equipment for the Company. The grant will cover the cost of new protective turnout gear and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), which provides breathable air to firefighters in immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environments.

“This grant is essential to providing our volunteer fire fighters with important safety training and equipment,” Shuster said. “Our volunteers put themselves at risk in order to help others. It is important we continue to support them and provide assistance in order to protect them as much as possible.”

“Both paid and volunteer fire services spend countless hours training and providing an irreplaceable benefit to the public that goes sometimes unnoticed until that emergency suddenly happens,” Chief Tim Stipcak said. “It is with great gratitude that the members of the Black Lick Volunteer Fire Company accept this grant to provide some much needed personal protection equipment to the extraordinary individual fire fighters that respond to emergencies day in and day out to help the public that we serve.”

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards one-year grants directly to fire departments and rescue personnel to support the nation’s first responders and the services they deliver. The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

###