



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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BISHOP HOLDS WORKSHOP TO HELP LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

More than 25 Firefighters Brave Snow to Learn about Grant Program

Riverhead— Snow was not enough to keep more than 25 firefighters from attending a grant writing workshop hosted by Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) on Tuesday night. At the workshop held at the Riverhead Fire Department, Bishop and representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administration presented information on the grant program and explained how to apply for funding.

"Firefighters have always put their lives on the line to protect our communities," Bishop said. "Yet since September 11th, we have placed additional burdens on our first responders as they are the first line of defense for our homeland security. I will fight in Congress to give our firefighters additional resources to face those burdens."

Departments in attendance included Riverhead, East Marion, Patchogue, Middle Island, Eastport, Flanders, Bellport, and Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Federal funding is available to fire departments for such purposes as health and safety programs, the purchase of new fire equipment, the enhancement of EMS programs, increasing the effectiveness of fire fighter operations and support of fire prevention and safety programs.

"We all appreciate the leadership Congressman Bishop has shown to help local firefighters," said Anthony Catania, Chairman, Board of Fire Commissioners, Middle Island Fire Department. "I'm happy to say that my department gained a lot of information at this meeting. We really had a lot of rapport one-on-one with the speakers from FEMA and Congressman Bishop. We believe in the grants system and we're going to work with Congressman Bishop's office to get the help we need."

Because of interest from other departments that were not able to attend, Bishop is currently putting together another meeting to help local firefighters. Those interested in attending or in learning more about the grants process should call the Congressman's District Office in Coram at 631-696-6500. Additional information about the fire grant program may be obtained through the Internet at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov> or by contacting FEMA/USFA at the toll free number (866) 274-0960.

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