



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BISHOP TO HOLD FIREFIGHTER GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP** *Pledges to Fight for More Funding for First Responders*

**Brookhaven**— Following up on a series of successful firefighter grant-writing workshops last year, Congressman Tim Bishop will host a workshop on Tuesday, February 17 with officials from the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) and the US Fire Administration (USFA). Personnel from all the fire departments in New York's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District are invited to attend the event to be held at the Brookhaven Fire Department located at 2486 Montauk Highway at 7pm. Bishop also pressed for greater funding for first responders.

"I want to get as many grants for Long Island's first responders as possible," Bishop said. "I urge our first responders to attend and get vital tips that really make a difference in our communities."

The workshop has proven critical to obtaining funding under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Last year, 4 of the 8 fire departments that attended the workshop and submitted a grant proposal were successful. In contrast, just one of the 14 departments who did not attend and submitted a proposal was successful.

Bishop also vowed to fight to restore funding for the important program for first responders. Last year, it was funded at \$750 million. However, in the budget recently submitted by President Bush, the program was cut by \$250 million, a 33% cut for aid to first responders.

"Our first responders are on the frontline of our Homeland Security efforts, and we need to give them the resources they need to protect our communities," Bishop said. "I will work together with other leaders in Congress and make sure we properly support our first responders."

Bishop also criticized the proposed budget for major cuts to other first responder programs. The budget eliminated the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, which gives anti-violence, anti-drug and crime prevention grants. The budget also eliminates the US Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which gives grants to police departments.

At the workshop, representatives from the Office of Domestic Preparedness and the U.S. Fire Administration will present information on the grant program and explain how to apply for funding. They will also offer general assistance in writing a competitive narrative for a grant application. Bishop worked hard to schedule the workshop, currently the only one on Long Island that will have officials from ODP and USFA.

Those interested in attending should pre-register by calling the Congressman's Southampton Office at 259-8450. Additional information about the program may be obtained at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov> or by contacting USFA at the toll free number (866) 274-0960.

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