



St. George Fire Protection District

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MEDIA RELEASE

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The Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced the latest round of grant awards on February 3rd. Among those announced from the Fiscal Year 2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program was a \$196,748 award to the St. George Fire Protection District for the development and acquisition of a driver training simulator.

Today's modern driving simulators feature multiple truck simulations. This allows real-time simulations that incorporate the actions of other participating drivers into the scenario. The cab can be designed to duplicate the cab instrumentation, controls and field of vision of actual St. George vehicles. The simulators also generate three dimensional motion, like modern flight training simulators, to add a greater sense of realism by providing physical feedback or "feel" to the experience.

The purpose of the project is to make the emergency response experience a safer one for the public as well as for our employees by subjecting our drivers to potential accident or "near miss" situations in a controlled learning environment. As with all our training, the more realistic it can be made, while maintaining safety as the first priority, the more potentially beneficial the training becomes.

Since 2001, AFG has awarded approximately \$5 billion to fire departments and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and other hazards.

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