

Flood Announces State Grants for Local Emergency Responders

By Jordan Garrett

HARRISBURG – Fifteen fire and emergency medical services (EMS) companies in the 138th Legislative District were awarded more than \$178,000 in funding support through the 2021-22 Pennsylvania Fire Company and Emergency Medical Service Grant Program, Rep. Ann Flood (R-Northampton) announced today.

“These hard-working and dedicated volunteers answer the call whenever an emergency strikes in our communities, and we are grateful for their service,” said Flood. “I am pleased so many organizations in our area continue to apply for this state assistance, which helps to offset their costs at a time when fundraising has proven to be difficult.”

Following is a list of fire and EMS organizations in the 138th Legislative District that received grants and the amount of the awards:

Bath Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Corps Inc. – \$13,165.
Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company Inc. – \$15,000.
Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company Inc. (EMS) – \$8,325.
Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$15,000.
Bushkill Township Volunteer Fire Company (EMS) – \$8,325.
East Allen Township Fire Department – \$10,000.
East Allen Township Volunteer Ambulance Corps – \$8,325.
Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$15,000.
Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Company (EMS) – \$8,325.
Hecktown Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 – \$15,000.
Klecknersville Rangers Volunteer Fire Company – \$15,000.
Klecknersville Rangers Volunteer Fire Company (EMS) – \$8,325.
Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company – \$15,000.
Wind Gap Ambulance Corps Inc. – \$8,325.
Wind Gap Fire Company – \$15,000.



Projects eligible for funding include construction or renovation of a fire or ambulance company facility, purchase or repair of equipment, training and education, recruitment and retention, or debt reduction. Funds may also be used to supplement operational expenses incurred by the lack of fundraising opportunities resulting from the pandemic.

The ongoing funding program was created by the General Assembly. All grants are generated from slot machine gaming proceeds, and not General Fund tax revenue. The program is administered by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency with the application process handled through the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

You Can Heat Your Home with Jet Fuel

Everyone is familiar with gasoline and no matter what octane rating you are talking about, cars and lawn mowers will run on it just fine. But what about jet fuel, kerosene, heating oil, on-road diesel and off-road diesel? What are all of these things and what happens if you substitute one for another? Well, it's not like you would accidentally get jet fuel when you wanted something else because that is usually transported in bulk and found at the airport but I wanted to mention it because jet A is really just kerosene. From this point on any product that does not contain red dye will have road taxes added to it and that add about 74 cents per gallon. Many years ago the taxes were collected by the distributor so they could sell heating oil and diesel fuel from the same truck because they were exactly the same product. But there was a lot of cheating and the government hates competition so they moved the tax collection to the wholesale level and to distinguish between heating oil and diesel fuel, they added red dye to the heating oil. This way if the fuel in a diesel truck is checked by the DOT and red color is visible, there is a hefty fine for using fuel that has not had road tax collected on it. There is a difference in sulphur content between heating oil and diesel today but home heating systems don't care too much about that. A home heating system will burn kerosene, heating oil, on-road diesel or off-road diesel with no adjustments or any adverse effects at all. New diesel vehicles require a low sulphur product because of their design so heating oil would damage their pollution control system. A home heating system actually performs better on a low sulphur product and it is better for storage in steel tanks. When moisture meets sulphur, it becomes acidic and sulphuric acid is battery acid and will dissolve steel. The low sulphur product costs about 10 cents more than the high sulphur product and right now that 10 cents makes low sulphur heating oil cost over \$3.50 per gallon. So when you run out and need to add a can of fuel to your heating oil tank you can use kerosene or diesel of any kind but a dyed product will be less expensive it's just not as easy to find at a station.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

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