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## Wheeling Fire Department receives \$1,000 grant

The Wheeling Fire Department has received a \$1,000 grant from First Responder Institute, Inc., which will be used to buy needed equipment for the department.

Specifically, the funds were used to purchase a pulse ox meter, an instrument which checks the oxygen level in the blood and gives a pulse reading. The remaining money was used to buy a portable radio for firefighter use and both items are now on the department's rescue truck and available for use.

Darin Fravel, fire chief, said that the department, which operates on a budget of about \$10,000 and holds two fund-raisers annually, is always looking for grants to help buy needed firefighting equipment, which is why Fravel went on-line looking for grants that the department might qualify for.

The department has had some success in the past in terms of winning grants.

In 2002, the department received a \$52,000 Firefighter Assistance Grant from the federal government, which was used to purchase firefighter gear and new raidos for trucks as well as self-contained breathing apparatuses and hose, nozzles and a portable pump for the department's tanker truck.

Fravel said finding grants to update the department's aging equipment is incredibly important for the department because it operates on a budget driven by membership dues.

"And everything (firefighter equipment) is extremely expensive," he noted, adding that the fire department just purchased a newer pumper truck, a 1983 model. . . .

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