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MORE THAN \$67,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO FOUR NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY FIRE DEPARTMENTS

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$67,301 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to four local fire departments during a press event at **10 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8** at the Plaza at Columbia Turnpike Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **176 Columbia Turnpike, Florham Park, N.J. 07932**.

The event will feature live demonstrations from benefitting departments, explaining the importance of the equipment and how it will be used to save lives. Florham Park residents and Firehouse Subs guests are invited to join the celebration and see firsthand how their generous contributions have come full circle to provide much needed equipment in their community.

“Our Foundation is dedicated to giving back to our first responders,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters. “We’re in a very fortunate position that allows us to work together with Firehouse Subs restaurants to raise funds that help provide life-saving equipment locally and throughout the country. Thanks to the generosity of so many people, we’re able to make a difference.”

The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the Nov. 8 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Edgewater Volunteer Fire Department** received three portable radios valued at \$22,280. The awarded radios will replace out-of-date technology, improving communication between Bergen County dispatchers and the department, as well as with other agencies operating within the New York Captain of the Port (COPT) Zone. Since the department responds to emergencies throughout the entire COPT, having access to updated communications equipment will allow the

department to safely and efficiently serve the entire Northern New York metropolitan area.

- **Belleville Fire Department** received two thermal imaging cameras valued at \$18,384. The awarded cameras will replace old units plagued by screen and battery issues and will be used to detect body heat and hot spots in burning buildings, as well as during rescue missions, allowing first responders to quickly locate victims and provide life-saving assistance.
- **Springfield Fire Department** received extrication equipment valued at \$11,008. The awarded equipment will replace obsolete extrication tools, improving the department's rescue capabilities for victims in motor vehicle accidents by allowing first responders to cut through materials used in modern manufacturing and quickly reach victims in need of medical attention.
- **Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department** received six sets of lightweight turnout gear valued at \$15,629. The awarded gear will replace old, damaged gear, allowing firefighters to provide safe and efficient services to their community.

Event attendees include local firefighters, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Ever Santana and Firehouse Subs Franchisees James Fabris and Ashesh Patel.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when Firehouse Subs co-founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, traveled to Mississippi where they provided food to first responders and survivors. As they traveled back to Florida, they knew they could do more and Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was born with the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Since its inception, the non-profit organization has granted **more than \$29.5 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$340,000 in New Jersey.**

Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon buckets, available to guests for a \$2 donation to the Foundation. Donation canisters on register counters collect spare change, while the Round Up Program allows guests to "round up" their bill to the nearest dollar. Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors.

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