

Office of Representative James E. Vallee
State House, Room 238

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CONTACT:

Dick O'Connor

(617) 722- 2380

**REP. VALLEE ANNOUNCES RECENT STATE GRANTS
AWARDED TO FRANKLIN AND MEDWAY**

(Boston) – Rep. James E. Vallee (D- Franklin) is pleased to announce the towns of Franklin and Medway have both been awarded state grants for Firefighting Equipment and Student Awareness of Fire Education Program. The announcement was made jointly with Representative Vallee, Secretary of Public Safety Kevin Burke and State Fire Marshall Steven Coan. Franklin will receive \$7,792 for upgrading and purchasing new firefighting equipment and \$4,464 for the SAFE program. Medway will receive \$5,296 for equipment and \$3,664 for the SAFE program.

The SAFE program was established in 1996 in an effort to educate school students about the fire and health hazards of smoking-related materials. The program provides students with the knowledge to recognize the dangers of fire, including the hazards that smoking related materials pose.

Representative Vallee emphasized the importance of fire safety training. He said, “The SAFE program trains our children to react responsibly during emergencies, it gives them the opportunity to speak with fire safety officials, police officers and school personnel to make their school a safer place. The program has been very successful in teaching children how to react in real life emergencies. Over 200 children have actually put to use the lessons they have learned through the SAFE program,” Vallee concluded.

Franklin Fire Chief Gary McGarrahar, “The SAFE funds are a real integral part of getting the message out to the citizens of Franklin both young and old alike and we are very pleased to receive the assistance from Rep. Vallee and the state.”

Medway Interim Fire Chief Paul Trufant, "We appreciate the grants very much and the money will be used to replace hoses and nozzles to equip our new truck which will arrive in the spring, upgrade our communication capabilities with portable radios and support equipment, batteries/chargers. The SAFE grant will be used to continue our education programs in the Medway schools. I certainly appreciate the assistance from the state and Rep. Vallee."

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