



**Speech as Written for Delivery By
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**Maryland State HMEP Grant Announcement
Baltimore County Fire Department
10017 Falls Road
Lutherville, MD**

Thursday, October 14, 2010

Thank you Director Preis for that very kind introduction and for hosting our grant announcement today.

I would also like to thank

- Director Richard Muth, Maryland Emergency Management Agency,
- Councilman Kevin Kamenetz, Baltimore County Council, and
- Chief John Hohman, Baltimore County Fire Chief
for participating in today's event.

I am here today because I heard great things about the outstanding first responder team here in Baltimore County.

You and your fellow firefighters are the unsung heroes who ensure the safety of Baltimore County citizens by responding to incidents involving hazardous materials.

On behalf of the Obama Administration, and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, we greatly appreciate the dedication of the first responder community for risking your lives every day.

One way the Department helps local firefighters is through our annual grants. I am here today to announce the Fiscal Year 2010 DOT Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant to the State of Maryland in the amount of \$318,230 dollars.

This grant will fund hazardous materials emergency preparedness planning and training activities for first responders at the state, county and local level.

This year, working closely with the Baltimore County Local Emergency Planning Committee, the firefighters of Baltimore County used HMEP funding to exercise their Emergency Operations Plan.

Across the State of Maryland, approximately 2,500 emergency responders used HMEP funding to obtain Hazmat Awareness, Operations and Technician training from the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute.

This is exactly what the HMEP Grants Program was established to do..., to provide funding for hazmat training and preparedness.

At this time, I would like to call Chief Hohman forward to receive a token of appreciation from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Chief Hohman, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Transportation, I would like to present to the Baltimore County Fire Department, and its wonderful team of brave hazmat emergency responders, the 2010 PHMSA Safety Award.

This Award recognizes your outstanding hazardous materials emergency preparedness safety, training and community planning efforts in safely responding to transportation related incidents involving hazardous materials.

Congratulations Chief Hohman and the entire Baltimore County Fire Department!

I would also like to thank Governor O'Malley, for his strong State leadership and support of all emergency first responders, to include the firefighters here today.

Safety and security of hazmat in transportation is a big job, and the Federal government cannot do it alone. We rely heavily on the trained and fearless group of professional firefighters, police, and other first responders found in local fire departments, like the one here in Lutherville.

Our hope is that the HEMP Grant we provide to Maryland will continue to trickle down to the county and local community emergency preparedness units that need the hazmat training and planning the most.

Together with the help of your State and county representatives, and the brave men and women on the front lines of emergency response, we can advance the safety and security of our national transportation systems.

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