



# Kansas Insurance Department

**Sandy Praeger**

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PRAEGER DISTRIBUTES 2003 FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF FUND**

### *\$7.4 Million Allotment Benefits 581 Associations*

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger announced today that more than \$7.4 million dollars is being distributed to the Firefighters Relief Fund this year, representing an increase of more than a million dollars over last year's allotment. "This fund is crucial to assist firefighters and their families when an accident happens in the line of duty," said Praeger. "Kansas firefighters put their lives on the line every time they respond to an emergency. I am proud to administer this important benefit."

The Firefighters Relief Fund is generated by a two percent tax on fire and lightning insurance premiums paid in Kansas for the previous calendar year. The annual fund is administered by the Kansas Insurance Department. Money from the Firefighters Relief Fund supports the families and firefighters who are injured, disabled or killed on the job.

"This fund includes an educational component that helps provide important training programs—which in turn translates into better service to every Kansan," said Praeger. This year more than \$225,000 has been allotted to the Kansas State Firefighters' Association and is earmarked specifically for educational purposes and research on fire prevention and extinguishments.

Last year, one Kansas firefighter was killed in the line of duty, while 144 firefighters were injured as a result of a fire and 84 firefighters were injured in other job-related accidents. A total of 151,000 fire alarms were sounded in Kansas in 2002.

"I am proud to play a small role in providing these well-deserved benefits to Firefighters Relief Associations throughout the state," Praeger said. "This fund represents financial security to the thousands of active and retired Kansas firefighters and their families. I want to commend the efforts of the 581 firefighters associations in Kansas and thank them for their continued dedication to public safety."

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