



MONROE FIRE DISTRICT #3

163 Village Court • Monroe, WA 98272

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monroe Fire Department Receives Federal Grant to learn Spanish

Monroe, WA — Monroe Fire District # 3 will soon be teaching Spanish to its firefighters thanks to a \$136,951 grant award from the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate.

About \$62,000 will be used to hire a Spanish-speaking educator for one year to not only teach Spanish to firefighters, but also to conduct outreach education to Monroe's Latino community. Monroe's Latino community is estimated to comprise 14% of the city's population.

The remainder of the funds will be utilized to purchase interactive educational props to support the fire district's existing community education programs. The fire district will provide \$15,217 as local matching funds to support these grant projects, making the total cost of the grant around \$152,000.

"The consequences of unpreparedness do not discriminate between races or native languages," Monroe Fire Marshal Michael Fitzgerald says. "Our valuable community education programs historically have been taught only in English. This grant will help us provide equal opportunities to learn about fire and injury prevention to our second-most predominant language community."

FEMA's grant programs have supported fire departments nationwide since 2002. This is the second Fire Prevention and Safety grant award that Monroe Fire District # 3 has received.

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