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Grant Helps Pay for Live Fire Simulator

Grass Valley, CA - After nearly a year in the making, Nevada County Consolidated Fire District (NCCFD) received its Symtron Systems Live Fire Simulator. Last year the District's grant writing efforts paid off in a big way. It applied for a \$179,490 grant for training from a congressionally approved fund called the Fire Act. The District is responsible for 10% matching funds or \$17,949. The District had carefully evaluated what it could most benefit from. Training was selected as the top priority.

Structure firefighting is the highest risk, but least frequent incident the District responds to (by 2002 yearend, there were 78 structure fires out of our 3,068 incidents.). In the past, it was common to use abandoned structures that needed to be demolished as Live Fire Training grounds. The seasoned firefighters would hone their skills and the rookies would experience what happens in a real scenario. The drawbacks are that such structures are hard to come by, create toxic smoke, and are logistically difficult. Though nothing can replace the actual feel of a real structure fire, this unit will come close.

The true values of this unit are include:

- It has firefighter-safety overrides built into it.
- Departments can use it as many times as they want without harming the environment because it runs on propane so there is no toxic smoke or run-off.
- It has a non-toxic smoke generator built into it so you can make it appear like the real thing.
- There is a hatch to insert replaceable plywood panels on the roof to simulate roof ventilation.
- It has interior panels that can be reconfigured to change the layout of the rooms.

The District placed the unit at a centrally located station. The department plans to allow its use by all the Nevada County Fire Service Agencies as well as cadets who come out of the Sierra College Recruit Academy.

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