



New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness **NEWS**

Jon S. Corzine, *Governor*

Richard L. Cañas, *Director*

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**State Awards Homeland Security Grant to Atlantic City to Enhance Emergency Response
-City to Purchase Rescue and Recovery Equipment to Benefit Region-**

ATLANTIC CITY — New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Director Richard L. Cañas announced today that Atlantic City has been awarded \$1 million in state homeland security funds to expand the emergency response capabilities of its first responders and emergency personnel.

The city is being awarded these funds under the competitive State Aid Regional Grant Program administered by OHSP through its Capital Account for Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure, funded in the state's annual budget and appropriations act.

Cañas said the funds will be used to purchase equipment to enhance the city's response and recovery capabilities to a man-made emergency or natural disaster. The city will purchase a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) incident response vehicle to expand the existing response efforts of the city's CBRNE Regional Assistance Team.

The city's CBRNE Team currently provides limited response to surrounding towns and communities in the region. The city will also purchase a heavy rescue vehicle that can be used during any emergency requiring collapse rescue, heavy lifting operations and victim extraction. The vehicle will complement the Atlantic City Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team, which responds to limited rescue operations but does not maintain a full fleet of rescue equipment.

"Public safety and emergency preparedness remains a top priority for the State of New Jersey," Governor Jon Corzine said. "We will continue to make strategic investments around the state - investments that provide emergency response personnel with the resources to undertake critical missions if and when tragedy strikes."

"This equipment will greatly enhance the response and recovery efforts of multiple emergency management agencies in this vital part of South Jersey," Cañas said. "I thank the Governor and the Legislature for making these funds available, which enable us to make regional investments that further our mission of working to protect the people and property of New Jersey."

"When you're face to face with an emergency, you realize the true value of being prepared. The equipment purchased with these funds should allow the residents of this region to rest easier,"



said Lieutenant Colonel Jerome Hatfield, Deputy Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, which serves as the state's Office of Emergency Management.

"We thank the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for awarding these funds," said Atlantic City Mayor Scott K. Evans. "With more than 30 million visitors coming to our city each year, Atlantic City continues to thrive as an international destination. Upgrading our emergency equipment significantly improves the city's and the region's response and recovery abilities."

Governor Corzine created the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) after taking office in 2006. OHSP is responsible for leading the state's counter-terrorism and preparedness efforts. OHSP oversees and distributes discretionary state and federal homeland security and preparedness funds on behalf of the State of New Jersey.

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