

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WOODBINE RECEIVES FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

**Woodbine**—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Woodbine Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded \$10,527 from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2008 Rural Fire Assistance program. These funds will be used to purchase communications equipment that will begin to establish an emergency management operations center, which will be located in the former Ambulance Squad Building. This will enable the Fire Department to communicate with other emergency services organizations.

The Woodbine Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection service for an eight-square-mile area of Northern Cape May County, including portions of the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge and Belleplain State Forest. The Volunteer Fire Department also has reciprocal agreements with neighboring Dennis Township, Upper Township, etc. to insure adequate "coverage" in the event of fire emergencies and other natural disasters. The Borough of Woodbine is located along the Emergency Evacuation Route for Coastal Communities in Cape May County. In addition, the County is working with the Borough and the Port Authority in establishing an Emergency Staging Area in light of the Borough's strategic location and elevation (highest in the County) and the fact that the Borough has an Airport and Rail Service linking the entire Northeast Region.

Efforts by the Woodbine Fire Department to confront rural fire situations make it easier for the New Jersey Forest Fire Service to minimize damage done by fire to forest habitats and to guarantee that such fires do not spread to the urbanized sections of the Borough. With communication being a vital concern, the Fire Department's purchase of ten sets of portable and two sets of truck mounted communications equipment will enhance this cooperative effort.

"We would like to thank Congressman LoBiondo and our two United States Senators for their strong support of Woodbine's application," added Mayor Pikolycky. "This was a very competitive process, and without their support these funds may not have become available to us. It is programs such as this that make it possible to provide our volunteers with state-of-the-art equipment without a burden upon our local tax base."