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The Department is encouraged to consider the need for mass evacuation planning and pre-positioning of equipment for mass evacuations in allocating first responder funds.

FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Appropriations, 2007	\$662,000,000
Budget estimate, 2008	300,000,000
Committee recommendation	700,000,000

Firefighter assistance grants, as authorized by section 33 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229), assist local firefighting departments for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of the public and fire fighting personnel, including volunteers and emergency medical service personnel, against fire and fire-related hazards.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$700,000,000 for firefighter assistance grants, \$400,000,000 above the request, including \$560,000,000 of firefighter assistance grants, which remains available until September 30, 2009, and \$140,000,000 for firefighter staffing grants, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

The Committee directs the Department to continue the present practice of funding applications according to local priorities and those established by the United States Fire Administration; and to make \$3,000,000 available for implementation of section 205(c) of Public Law 108-169 to the same grant applicants as in fiscal year 2007 (Requested by: Stevens).

The Committee further directs the Department to continue direct funding to fire departments and the peer review process. Not to exceed 5 percent of grant funds may be for program administration.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANTS

Appropriations, 2007 ¹	\$200,000,000
Budget estimate, 2008 ²	200,000,000
Committee recommendation	300,000,000

¹ Excludes \$50,000,000 in emergency appropriations pursuant to Public Law 110-28.

² Budget proposes \$200,000,000 under State and local programs, displayed for comparability.

Funding requested in this account provides support to the Nation's all-hazards emergency management system and helps to build State and local emergency management capability.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$300,000,000 for emergency management performance grants [EMPG], an increase of \$100,000,000 over the budget request.

EMPG is an essential source of funding for State and local emergency management. State and local governments currently have productive relationships with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's regional emergency managers that are critical to maintain an all-hazards response capability. The Committee expects these relationships to continue.

The Committee directs FEMA to retain EMPG as a separate grant program, and not to combine its funding with any other