



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

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CITY RECEIVES GRANT FUNDING TO IMPROVE FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY

Funding Will Be Used to Mark Buildings that Could Pose Additional Hazards During a Fire

CHICAGO- The City Council today passed an ordinance introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and 50th Ward Alderman Debra Silverstein that allows the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) to mark buildings that have compromised structural stability to ensure the safety of fire responders. CFD received \$675,000 from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters-Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to implement the new program.

"While the first priority of the Chicago Fire Department is saving lives, we must do all we can to protect firefighters, paramedics and those we are helping from harm," said Fire Commissioner Jose A. Santiago. "Making sure we properly identify and mark dangerous buildings supports our goal of having all of our members go home safely at the end of each shift."

CFD, in conjunction with the Department of Buildings, will identify structural conditions on buildings that could create collapse danger for crews responding to fires. These conditions include weak truss or other roofing systems, missing mortar, rotted or damaged timbers and other structural issues. Private contractors, paid for by the grant, will supply and install the markers, which are highly-visible reflective emblems, 24 inches square, and feature a large red X.

"These markers will serve as an early warning system for our first responders and I am proud to stand with the City Council in support of a new, smart policy to protect the brave men and women who serve our communities," Alderman Silverstein said.

"Chicago's first responders so often put their own well-being on the line for the lives of others," said Department of Buildings Commissioner Michael Merchant. "Identifying and clearly marking buildings that could pose an additional hazard to our emergency responders is an important piece in keeping them safe."



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