

Greenwood VFD Presented a Thermal Imager by Homeland Security

Firefighters at Greenwood Rural VFD recently learned that they will soon be receiving a new Thermal Imager courtesy of Homeland Security's Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). CEDAP helps meet the equipment needs of smaller jurisdictions by providing communications interoperability, information sharing, chemical detection, sensors, personal protective equipment, technology, and training in using the equipment, devices, and technology. Awards are made to law enforcement and emergency responder agencies not currently eligible for funding through the Department's Urban Areas Security Initiative grant program. CEDAP has awarded more than \$35.2 million dollars worth of equipment and training to local law enforcement and fire departments. Greenwood is one of about sixty agencies in Texas to be awarded equipment through the CEDAP program in 2006.

Greenwood's Lieutenant Jeff Bergt will be flying to Orlando, Florida to receive training on the device in mid-August and the department will be presented their Bullard T3-Max Thermal Imaging Camera shortly thereafter. Bergt said that the device will be very helpful in preventing further damage to homes which have been burned. In the past, when firefighters were fighting fires in residences, after the fire was knocked down, they often had to pull down sheetrock to see if there was any residual fire in the walls. Now, they will be able to use the thermal imager to find any hidden fire and minimize the secondary damage. Bergt also stated that Greenwood will also use the camera in search and rescue operations and in wildfire mop-up.

Assistant Chief Chuck Tingle said "I don't know what departments like ours would do without the federal and state programs like CEDAP. Without these programs the volunteer fire service could not do its job effectively."

For more information about the CEDAP program read the fact sheet on their website at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/CEDAP_factsheet_W.pdf