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# Nonprofit Gives Grants to Injured Volunteer Firefighters

*Fort Worth, Texas April 8, 2008* — WPI Firefighters' Fund granted $10,000.00 and $3,000.00 to injured firefighters Drew Franklin and James Sons, respectively, of the Lakeside Volunteer Fire Department. Both men sustained injuries on February 25, 2008, while responding to a large grass fire near Archer City, TX, on Falls County Road and Highway 79.

Firefighters Franklin and Sons attempted to escape from a sudden shift in the path of the fire, when, surrounded by intensely dense smoke, their fire truck accidentally collided into an Archer City fire truck. Both men receive medical coverage through the Lakeside Volunteer Fire Department, but are unable to generate a livable income due to their injuries.

Positioned on the front of the truck, Franklin, 29, husband and father, was pinned between the two vehicles. He tore his ACL muscle in both legs and sustained three separate bone fractures affecting both legs. Doctors estimate he will require a 6 month recovery period. He is currently in a wheelchair.

Driving the truck, Sons, 49, husband and father, sustained severe bruising all over his body and shoulder numbness. He also suffers from post-traumatic headaches, cold sweats, and sleep deprivation. He is currently receiving treatment for his injuries.

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The WPI Firefighters' Fund is a registered 501(c)(3) founded in 1999 to assist the firefighters who protect our families, homes, and communities. The organization provides financial assistance to the families of firefighters killed or injured in the line of duty, and to volunteer fire departments for much-needed equipment. The WPI Firefighters' Fund corporate sponsor pays all administrative costs, allowing every dollar in donations to help firefighters and their families. The WPI Firefighters' Fund has granted more than **$660,000** and continues to support the nation's firefighter community. For additional information on the WPI Firefighters' Fund, visit www.wpiff.org.

For more information regarding this story, contact Robin Williams at 817.870.8006 or robin.williams@williams-pyro.com.

Mission

- Provide grants to the families of firemen killed or injured acting in the line of duty
- Support fire department personnel within the United States for equipment needs not furnished by the budgets of fire departments

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