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First Responder community encouraged to apply for free federal equipment

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Gov. Matt Blunt has urged Missouri's law enforcement, fire and other emergency responders community to apply for free equipment through the Federal FY'08 Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP).

"Public safety agencies should capitalize on this opportunity to receive state-of-the-art new equipment to enhance capabilities in responding to disasters," Gov. Blunt said. "Missouri has responded to 17 federally declared disasters over the past three years with the tireless dedication and compassion of our first responders."

Last year, responders were able to apply for Personal Protective Equipment, Thermal Imaging, Night Vision, Video Surveillance, Chemical and Biological Detection, Information Technology and Risk Management Tools, and Interoperable Communications Equipment/Technology.

This competitive program is a direct assistance program, not a grant program, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide the equipment and technical assistance directly to the selected jurisdictions. Under federal guidelines, eligible applicants include law enforcement agencies, fire, and other emergency responders who demonstrate that the equipment will be used to improve their ability and capacity to respond to a major critical incident or work with other first responders.

Applications may be downloaded and submitted via the Responder Knowledge Base (www.rkb.us) between 9 a.m. May 30 and 5 p.m. June 30 (EST). Questions regarding the CEDAP sample application should be referred to the Centralized Scheduling & Information Desk (CSID) at 800-368-6498. The SEMA point of contact is Tom Mohr, 573-526-9245.