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Media Release

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Joliet Fire Department Calls on Community Support to Win \$10,000 Funding Grant from Liberty Mutual Insurance
Your vote counts at www.BeFireSmart.com

Joliet, IL –The Joliet Fire Department is calling on supporters and community members to help vote online through a one minute fire safety quiz at www.BeFireSmart.com and cast your vote for to help the Joliet Fire Department win a \$10,000 Fire Safety Grant from Liberty Mutual Insurance by October 31, 2011.

The Joliet Fire Department has participated in the Be Fire Smart program for three years, working in conjunction with local Liberty Mutual Agent Cally Larson to campaign for the regional grant award. The Be Fire Smart Fire Safety Pledge Program is designed to help America's fire houses with new equipment or fire prevention program resources. Last year, Liberty Mutual awarded a combined \$100,000 to these ten winning communities' fire departments: College Park, Md.; Hutto, Texas; Merrimac, Mass.; Midwest City, Okla.; Mooresville, N.C.; Richmond, Va.; Tampa, Fla.; Tittabawassee Township, Mich.; Whitman, Mass.; and Wilmington, Mass.

“Struggling cities and towns across the country are discontinuing community fire prevention education programs or are making even more drastic decisions like cutting back on personnel; all due to budgetary constraints. This is an opportunity for our own residents to avoid that fate by uniting in support of our fire service men and women who tirelessly work to keep us safe and secure,” said Cally Larson, the local Liberty Mutual Insurance Agent. “At the same time, the short quiz and tour through the interactive site

will provide residents with valuable information about protecting their families and homes from the devastation of a fire.”

From now through October 31, 2011, supporters of the Joliet Fire Department can help reach the goal of maximizing votes by taking the online “Burning Questions” quiz at www.BeFireSmart.com to demonstrate their fire safety knowledge. The quiz asks true/false questions about where fires start and how to prevent and extinguish them. Those who complete the quiz, by answering ten questions correctly, pledge that they are “fire smart” and earn a credit for the Joliet Fire Department by selecting the department as their region.

We are also asking supporters to utilize e-mail, social media and networking to spread the word and encourage friends and contacts to make the same pledge. To ensure the grant process is fair and represents real community support for our participating fire departments, one computer/IP address and a verified email address will account for one “credit”. The ten fire departments that accumulate the greatest number of credits based on the size of their community will each receive a \$10,000 donation for their station.

The Liberty Mutual Be Fire Smart Fire Safety Pledge donations will be awarded to fire departments based on the size of the communities they serve – small (less than 10,000 residents), medium (between 10,000 and 100,000 residents) and large (greater than 100,000 residents). Questions about this grant can be directed at the local sponsoring agent, Cally Larson at Cally.Larson@LibertyMutual.com or by calling 815-436-6827.

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago’s Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.visitjoliet.org or call 815.724.4000.

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