# Lehigh County  Awards Grant for Regional Fire Training Facility

### Area Firefighters Can hone Skills at Emmaus Fire Department Training Facility

Area fire fighters have a new building to practice their skills at Emmaus Fire Department's training facility on Klines Road, thanks to a $470,000 grant from Lehigh County.

"This is another example of the county's dedication to public safety and emergency preparedness," said Lehigh County Don Cunningham. "This facility will afford Lehigh County firefighters countless training options that simulate real-world situations so they can better protect our residents."

The building includes a 4-story fire tower attached to a two-story residential structure that is attached to a one-story burn room, where firefighters can battle actual blazes.

The Emmaus training facility has roof and attic simulators, confined space containers and a drafting area where firefighters can practice pumping water

Lehigh County is home to three fire training facilities, including one in Whitehall Township and one in the city of Allentown. Lehigh County has given more than $1 million to the three facilities over the past three years to improve training.

"Most fire departments don't have a fire tower or other building in their back-yard so it's important to provide firefighters opportunities to put out a car fire or a crawl through a confined space" to get to the flames, said Victoria Schadler, an employee of Emmaus Fire Department.

The training facility is also used to conduct tests, certify firefighters to standards established by the state and train new recruits. It takes 200 hours of training to become a volunteer firefighter.

"Having a local training facility eliminates the need for firefighters to travel to other training facilities and improves the expertise of our volunteers," said Cunningham.