



Media Advisory

Clark County Fire Department ■ 575 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89119

Contact: **Robert Leinbach**
Public Information Officer

Phone: **455-7338**



For Immediate Release

February 1, 2005

Congressman Gibbons to Test New Driving Simulator

When: 2:00 PM Friday, February 4, 2005

**Where: Training Center, W. Tropicana Ave. and Arville St.
(enter off Arville)**

Nevada Congressman James Gibbons will be sitting behind the wheel of a CCFD fire engine while driving “Code 3” without leaving the training center. He will have the opportunity to utilize a new, sophisticated electronic device that helps fire department personnel hone their emergency driving skills.

“*The 3 L Driving Simulator* provides extremely realistic scenarios that are really beneficial for the engineers who drive fire and rescue apparatus”, states Troy Jepson, Fire Department Engineer.

The \$122,000 cost for the unit was paid for in part by the Fire Act Grant that was established three years ago by Congress to assist local fire and emergency agencies obtain resources from the federal government with homeland security efforts. Thus far, CCFD has obtained approximately \$900, 000 of which the department had to provide 30% matching funds.

This simulator is the first of its kind in the country to be used by an emergency response agency and is getting rave reviews. “We are very impressed with the feed back we get from the personnel who have used it,” Jepson remarks. A complex computer program runs the simulator that gives the driver a view through the front windshield, both side windows, and mirrors on each side. Training specialists are able to program everything that the driver sees, hears, and feels which they would encounter in route to an emergency. The driver must respond correctly to each situation, including other drivers who ignore emergency lights and sirens, drunk drivers, traffic congestion, equipment malfunctions, etc.

“We can even change the weather and time of day”, says Jepson. “We can have them drive in snow at night or fog in daytime, or any combination of weather conditions.”

As the engineers are put through their paces, their actions are recorded on the computer hard drive and can be replayed from several different angles.

The system was designed to match vehicles used by the CCFD. Drivers can choose either to drive a fire engine or a rescue unit. The system then replicates the particular vehicle in the dashboard configuration, driving characteristics, noise levels, and seat feedback.

In addition to helping driver’s skills, it also saves the department training time and wear and tear on emergency apparatus. In addition to Congressman Gibbons’ participation, a representative from the simulator manufacturer will on hand.

###

News release also available on the Internet at www.accessclarkcounty.com

Clark County Board of Commissioners

Rory Reid, Chairman ■ Myrna Williams, Vice-Chair ■ Tom Collins ■ Yvonne Atkinson Gates ■ Chip Maxfield ■ Lynette Boggs McDonald ■ Bruce L. Woodbury / Thom Reilly, County Manager

