

# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**

*Governor*

For immediate release  
12/17/03

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### **Governor Bill Richardson Announces Award of \$356,000 in equipment for First Responders in Otero County**

*Alamogordo* -- Governor Richardson today announced major Homeland Security awards totaling \$356,000 for Otero County first responders. This money will allow the state to purchase an Incident Command Vehicle and a Thermal Imaging Camera for Otero County and a Mass Decontamination Unit for the Alamogordo Fire Department HazMat Team.

“The equipment we are purchasing today will greatly increase local first responders’ ability to assist their citizens in an emergency,” Governor Richardson said. “I am working to ensure that every first responder has the equipment and training they need.”

The Command Vehicle will allow a countywide response, as well as regional response capability, to any type of natural or man-made incident. This type of vehicle is the first of its kind for the county. Currently, the county is using an old ambulance. Now, first responders will be able to better coordinate the activities of law enforcement, fire fighters and other emergency response personnel by managing the entire incident’s operations from one location.

In addition, the thermal imaging camera will enable the Alamogordo HazMat Team personnel to remotely detect the presence of chemical, biological explosive or nuclear materials before sending first responders into harms way. The Mass Decontamination Unit for the Alamogordo HazMat Team will allow personnel to respond to events where potential Weapons of Mass destruction events are involved.

The Governor has also placed great emphasis on improving border security while facilitating the free flow of commerce between New Mexico and Mexico. As part of the State’s Domestic Preparedness Plan, the Office of Homeland Security is developing a Border Security Infrastructure Plan. In addition, the Departments of Health and Agriculture and the New Mexico Livestock Board are implementing programs to detect any potential terrorist threats to our agriculture.

Already, the state has worked with all 33 counties to complete a needs assessment that will identify equipment and training needed by first responders in the State. Eighty percent of

Homeland Security Funds are to be spent on training, equipment and support for local community emergency response; 10% is to be given to state agencies for equipment and training in support of homeland security efforts and the remaining 10% will be used by the State to purchase specialty equipment for regional response teams.