

February 13, 2006

Chief William Nelson
Troy Fire Department
500 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48084

Dear Chief Nelson:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate you for your department's participation in the January 31, 2006 Southfield Downs Trailer Park Urban Search and Rescue Deployment Exercise. As you are well aware, technical rescue is a critical component to an effective response for any incident involving collapse, trench, confined space, or high angle rope rescue. I applaud the level of training that your department has achieved for technical rescue.

More importantly, the level of cooperation and collaboration between the Oakland County Fire Departments that participated in this exercise is to be highly commended. I recognize that this is the first time an exercise for deployment of the newly created Urban Search and Rescue teams in Oakland County has been attempted at any level. Teamwork, cooperation and regular joint training are essential for coordination during an actual event. I cannot emphasize how impressive and meaningful the collaborative effort demonstrated by the participating Oakland County Fire Departments is to the citizens of Oakland County.

I understand that many of the participating firefighters did not receive any compensation for the time and energy expended to take part in this urban search and rescue response exercise. The level of commitment demonstrated by all participating agencies and personnel in this exercise cannot and should not be understated. Please know that I am aware of how fortunate we are in Oakland County to live in an area with such dedicated and highly competent firefighters and special response teams.

Respectfully,



L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive