National Volunteer Fire Council members (individual or through their squad) are eligible for a $250 stipend. See information below.

Hurricane Sandy ripped through the East Coast last week, leaving millions without electricity, almost 115 dead, and lower Manhattan underwater. Counties in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut have been federally declared disaster areas. As citizens in these areas look to their local firefighters and EMTs for assistance, those same first responders are dealing with loss of power, damaged homes and vehicles, and other difficulties of their own.

The National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund is designed to help volunteer firefighters who are impacted by large-scale disasters such as this. The Fund provides a stipend of $250 to volunteer fire and EMS personnel affected by state- or federally-declared disasters to help them meet basic needs in the aftermath of the disaster.

To receive a stipend, you must be:

1. An active volunteer firefighter, rescue worker, or EMS provider;
2. Be from an NVFC member state as an individual or department member of the NVFC state association;
3. Live (or have housing) in a state- or federally-declared disaster area;
4. And have incurred an uninsurable loss in excess of $5,000.

If you are an eligible active volunteer first responder who has been impacted by a disaster, go to http://www.nvfc.org/about-us/support-the-nvfc/volunteer-firefighter-support-fund/#apply to apply for a disaster relief stipend.