

Fundraiser aimed at firefighting tools

SANTA BARBARA The nonprofit Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance is focusing its June 5 Fire Ball and future donation efforts on raising enough money to purchase a \$15,000 slip-on wildfire suppression pump and more than 400 Advancer V-12 goggles.

"We understand that, between shifts, during the battle against the Jesusita blaze, local firefighters were out buying eye goggles on their own dime," Rikki Emory, president of the alliance, said in a statement. "We are looking to the community's support to purchase this essential gear so that our local crews are protected in advance of the next fire."

The Advancer goggles have been approved by local fire departments for their patented ventilation system and high impact lenses, according to backers. County

hotshot crews requested the water pump because it can be used on smaller trucks in remote locations where full-size equipment can't go.

The Alliance is also going to purchase, at the request of local firefighters, Magellan Triton GPS units, Kestrel Weather Meters and Bendix King Radios.

Since its inception in 2004, the Santa Barbara Firefighters Alliance has purchased nearly \$700,000 worth of cutting-edge rescue equipment for city and county fire departments "that is unavailable through normal budgeting channels."

For more information, go to www.sbfirefightersalliance.org.

— Staff report