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Chevron donates over \$100,000 to Colorado emergency management agencies

One of the largest integrated oil and gas companies

provides funding to local first responders

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO – Chevron announced more than \$100,000 in investments in four Colorado emergency management agencies, including De Beque Fire Protection, Garfield County, Mesa County and the Town of Rangely, to assist after the devastation of the Pine Gulch Fire and other local emergencies.

The Pine Gulch Fire was declared 100% contained on Wednesday, September 23, 2020. Drought stressed vegetation, unseasonably hot weather and steep terrain allowed the fire to char 139,007 acres in Western Colorado, enabling it to become one of the largest wildland fires in Colorado history. Local emergency management agencies that assisted with battling the flames all identified a common safety issue: the lack of updated communications equipment.

“We were moved and amazed by the work of the emergency management teams from Mesa County, De Beque and Garfield County during the Pine Gulch Fire. We also work closely with the town of Rangely as a primary source of emergency response at locations and facilities in that area,” said Andrew Olson, Chevron’s Colorado Operations Superintendent. “By reaching out to all four agencies we learned of specific needs to update and upgrade communication equipment and are delighted to be able to help them make these essential improvements,” he explained.

Mike Harvey, Fire Chief for the De Beque Fire Protection District, will be utilizing the funds to purchase handheld radios for firefighters and to update mobile radios in fire vehicles allowing the department to communicate with federal resources. “The radio communications donation from Chevron comes at a critical time for the fire district. Reliable radio communications will improve our firefighters’ safety while battling these extreme fires.”

Mesa County Emergency Services Director, Andy Martsolf, adds, “The ability to communicate effectively during a wildfire is critical in keeping our firefighters safe. This generous donation by Chevron will allow us to replace outdated radios immediately instead of over multiple years. The new radio technology will ensure the Mesa County Wildland Fire Team is fully prepared and equipped for the next fire season.”

Garfield County Emergency Operations Commander, Chris Bornholdt, echoes the statements. “This allows us to upgrade our VHF radios and increase our ability to communicate with our federal partners during wildfires. This donation is the only way we would be able to get these new radios we need this soon to implement the newest technology for the greatest safety of our residents. We extend our deepest thanks for this critical equipment and appreciate the vision Chevron has for assisting in improving our response operations with this gift.”

In addition to the Pine Gulch Fire, these Colorado agencies assist in emergency management for small- and large-scale events. “Our 911 Dispatch Center is vital to our area in the event of a catastrophic emergency to maintain the safety and wellbeing of our citizens and the surrounding oil & gas fields,” said Lisa Piering, Rangely Town Manager. “Chevron’s generous gift will allow us to replace our current 15-year-old system.”

“Chevron has operated in Colorado for many years, and we are excited to grow our partnerships in the state with the recent acquisition of Noble Energy,” stated Olson. “Our relationships with De Beque Fire Protection, Garfield County, Mesa County and the Town of Rangely are deeply valued and we hope our support will allow these first responders to continue fulfilling their mission of protecting the public and local natural resources.”

Additional information about the Colorado agencies can be found at <http://debequefire.org/>, <https://www.garfield-county.com/>, <https://www.mesacounty.us/> and <https://townofrangely.colorado.gov/>. Additional information about Chevron is available at www.chevron.com.

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