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October 23, 2024

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NEW MEXICO GAS COMPANY ANNOUNCES PROGRAM TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDERS

ALBUQUERQUE – New Mexico Gas Company is launching Helping Heroes, a program to provide financial assistance to volunteer first responder organizations in communities served by NMGC across New Mexico.

According to the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, nearly 60% of fire departments in the state are volunteer based. With more than 30% of New Mexicans living in rural areas, volunteer first responders are often the first line of defense in emergencies, providing vital services to thousands of people.

New Mexico Gas Company is committing \$425,000 to the program this year to enhance operational capacity of volunteer first responders, improve response times and ultimately save lives.

"We recognize the vital role of volunteer first responders who dedicate their time and energy to protect our communities," New Mexico Gas Company President Ryan Shell said. "Their public safety commitment is aligned with our front-line employees, and our Helping Heroes program will support their work."

The program will accept applications to provide financial support in several areas:

- Safety equipment
- Professional training
- Safety education
- Recruitment efforts
- Behavioral Health support

For information about eligibility and application procedures, volunteer first responder organizations can visit https://www.nmgco.com/en/in_your_community. The first program grants will occur later this year.

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About New Mexico Gas Company

As the largest natural gas distribution utility in the state, New Mexico Gas Company provides service to more than 545,000 homes and businesses throughout New Mexico. The Company has about 740 employees in 26 offices, who are responsible for safely and reliably operating more than 12,000 miles of pipelines. New Mexico Gas Company is a subsidiary of Emera Inc., an expert team of utility and energy services companies serving 2.5 million customers in the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean. For more information about New Mexico Gas Company, visit www.nmgco.com.