

## NEWS RELEASE

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OHIO OIL & GAS ENERGY EDUCATION PROGRAM



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS TAKE PART IN SPECIALIZED  
OHIO OILFIELD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING**  
*Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program hosted the two-day program*

**Granville, Ohio.** Emergency responders from around Ohio recently took part in the Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program's (OOGEEP) *Responding to Oilfield Emergencies* Training Workshop.

Firefighters who attended represent the following departments:

**Brown Township Fire Department:** Jonathon Cline and Willis Cline, Malvern, Ohio

**Coal Grove Fire Department:** Brian Sherman and John Huckworth, Coal Grove, Ohio

**Garrettsville Freedom Nelson Fire Department:** Tom Canitia, Dennis Stewart, Seth Thompson, and Ricky Thompson, Garrettsville, Ohio

**Hamilton Township Fire Department:** Charles McFarland, Jr. and Stacey Ruggles, Ironton, Ohio

**Jeromesville Fire Department:** Brad Nelson, Jeromesville, Ohio

**Marlboro Fire Company:** Tim Schafer and Joseph Hagan, Alliance, Ohio; Randy Monroe of Hartville, Ohio

**Randolph Fire Department:** Adam Lang, Randolph, Ohio

**Sterling Fire Department:** Josh Glessner and Brittany Ruefner, Sterling, Ohio

**Washington Township Volunteer Fire Department:** Jim Scott, Alliance, Ohio

Ohio took the lead in the U.S. by creating and implementing the nation's first Oilfield Emergency Response Training Program. OOGEEP's permanent training facility is located within the Wayne County Fire & Rescue Regional Fire School, in Applecreek, Ohio. To date, over 525 Ohio Fire Departments, from 33 Ohio Counties, and 7 other states have participated in OOGEEP's unique training program. The program and training facilities have been funded 100% by Ohio's natural gas and crude industry.

"We believe it is also our responsibility to help educate Ohio's firefighters especially in areas where crude oil and natural gas development may be somewhat new to their area. In Ohio, we have drilled over 273,000 wells, and advanced technology will continue to make these operations safer and environmentally sound, while helping Ohio produce more of our own energy needs," notes Rhonda Reda, OOGEEP executive director. In 2010, Ohio celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first commercial oil and gas well drilled in the state.

The Oilfield Emergency Response Training Program presents background information and practical guidelines to assist responders in communicating at the emergency site, evaluating the emergency, and responding to both drilling and production emergencies. The hands-on training portion includes "live burns" utilizing both crude oil and natural gas props. "Ohio citizens should be honored that many other energy producing regions have looked to Ohio as a model to set up similar programs in their respective states," adds Reda.

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management, there are over 64,000 producing crude oil and natural gas wells in the state. Last year, Ohio's operators produced over 88 billion cubic feet of natural gas, and drilled an additional 556 new wells statewide.

"It's really a service we are providing to the emergency responders, but it also significantly benefits local communities. We want the public to feel good about having domestic energy produced in their communities, and feel confident that both the industry and emergency responders are well trained. It's been a great partnership and allows our industry to continue to be responsible corporate, community and environmental stewards," explains Eric Smith, a natural gas and crude oil producer, and Chairman of the OOGEEP Emergency Response Training Program.

Ms. Reda adds "Ohio has always taken the lead in developing safety programs. While there has been very few crude oil and natural gas emergencies in Ohio, often times fire departments also have to respond to non-emergency incidents simply because there is a lack of knowledge or unfamiliarity of equipment, standard practices and advanced technologies used by Ohio's crude oil and natural gas industry. The fact is not all incidents reported are emergencies, and we are hopeful that this program will also mitigate those types of reported incidents that could tie up community resources that may be needed elsewhere," concludes Reda.

*The Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program is a non-profit statewide public outreach program. The mission of OOGEEP is to facilitate educational, scholarship, safety and training programs; to promote public awareness about the industry; and to demonstrate to the general public the environmental, energy and economic benefits of Ohio's independent natural gas and crude oil producers. OOGEEP is not funded with any tax payer dollars.*

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