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## News Release

Nov. 26, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Pacific Power Foundation, local families donate \$15,000 to Gearhart Volunteer Fire Dept.**

GEARHART, Ore. — The Pacific Power Foundation and two families with long-time ties to the north coast have joined together to help the Gearhart Volunteer Fire Department purchase high tech equipment that will assist rescue efforts after fires and other incidents.

The \$15,000 donation will purchase special infrared devices that will allow department volunteers to see if there are survivors in building rubble. Besides the Pacific Power Foundation, other donors include, Pat Reiten, president of Pacific Power; Dick Reiten, a retired utility executive who now heads the NW Natural Reiten Leadership Foundation; and the James and Michelle Fitzhenry family.

The donations are being made in the aftermath of the tragic crash of a small plane into a home in Gearhart over the summer that claimed five lives. The Reitens and FitzHenrys both have summer homes near where the tragedy took place. Fitzhenry is executive vice president of Schmitt Industries, Inc. and was formerly an executive with FLIR Systems, Inc., the maker of the infrared devices.

“We are very grateful to the two foundations, the Reitens and the FitzHenrys,” said Bill Eddy, Gearhart Fire Chief. “As a small, volunteer fire department these special devices would normally be beyond our ability to purchase. Now we will be able use them when needed to assist in rescue efforts.”

Eddy received a ceremonial check from the donors today in Gearhart. The equipment will be purchased by the end of the year.

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