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Press Release

International Fire Relief Mission Toned Out for Chile

IFRM engages its donor network and collection expertise to assist Rosenbauer's efforts provide emergency equipment to Chilean fire, rescue and EMS workers.

When its sponsoring partner Rosenbauer asked for help collecting donated gear to aid Chilean emergency responders dealing with that country's 8.8-magnitude earthquake, the International Fire Relief Mission (IFRM) responded.

"Typically, IFRM provides fire and EMS equipment and training to fire departments with chronic deficiencies in a slower, more deliberate manner," says Ron Gruening, IFRM president. "However, we're firefighters trying to help other firefighters; and if that means mobilizing on a moment's notice, that's what we'll do."

Gruening and IFRM volunteer Barry Mossbarger are setting out this weekend in a sweep across the Midwest to collect used gear. From there, they will return to the IFRM headquarters outside St. Paul, Minn., where they will sort and crate the items, and prepare the customs documents necessary for shipping. To assist IFRM in traveling across the country to collect donated gear, U-Haul is making use of a 26-foot moving truck available at no charge.

In addition, Task Force Tips came through with donated nozzles, wyes and adaptors. Likewise, IFRM sponsor GearGrid contributed to this effort.

"Rosenbauer has been such a tremendous supporter of IFRM activities that we are more than happy to kick our organization into high gear," Gruening says. "The situation in Chile is heart-wrenching, IFRM is proud to help that country's firefighters in any way we can."

IFRM has had good initial response to its call for equipment, but more help is needed. The gear IFRM collects will be shipped to Chile on March 12. Any fire departments with gear to donate should contact Ron Gruening at 612-669-8500.

About the International Fire Relief Mission

IFRM is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose mission is to collect donated new and used fire and EMS equipment, deliver it to fire departments in developing nations and educate members of those fire departments on the equipment's safe and proper use. IFRM is a nonreligious, nonpolitical group dedicated

to saving firefighter and civilian lives. IFRM members do not draw a salary and all of the money raised is used to fulfilling the group's mission. IFRM was formed in 2007 by retired emergency-response professionals. For more information, visit its website at www.ifrm2007.com.