

OOGEEP Recognizes New Concord Fire Chief Brent Gates with Pipeline Award

By Mark Bruce, Communications Director, OOGEEP

The Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP) recently awarded New Concord Fire Chief Brent L. Gates with the second annual "Pipeline Award," an honor given on behalf of Ohio's oil and gas industry, recognizing an individual, not employed in the oil and gas industry, who has made a positive impact on Ohio.

Chief Gates has served as one of the lead instructors of OOGEEP's firefighter training workshop since 2006. Working with OOGEEP and other first responders, Gates has been instrumental in helping to train more than a thousand firefighters about Ohio's oil and gas industry. His leadership helps firefighters learn the difference between a true emergency and normal oilfield operations.

Gates is particularly active in the hands-on portion of the workshops, bringing real-world experience and knowledge to the scenarios.

"I'm humbled to be recognized by Ohio's oil and gas industry and OOGEEP," said Gates. "As a Fire Chief, my mission is to ensure that each and every day, every firefighter goes home. My work with OOGEEP allows me to spread that message to men and women around the state and I couldn't be prouder to do so."

"Chief Gates is the embodiment of what a public servant should be," said Marty Miller, OOGEEP Vice-Chairman and Senior Vice President of Operations, Alliance Petroleum Corporation. "Brent brings his years of experience and incredible knowledge to each and every training and I truly believe lives are saved through his work."

"Ohio's oil and gas industry is fortunate to have someone like Chief Gates," said Rhonda Reda, OOGEEP Executive Director. "He has dedicated himself to learning accurate information about our industry and is working to make sure other first responders get the information and training they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. We are proud to call him a member of our OOGEEP team."

Gates has served as Fire Chief of the New Concord Fire Department since 1992. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association and holds various leadership positions with Ohio Society of Fire Services Instructors, Southeast Ohio Fire Chief's Association, Muskingum County Local Emergency Planning Committee and Muskingum County Planning Commission.

Along with his work at OOGEEP, Gates is an active and engaged instructor, working at the Mid East Ohio Vocational School and Ohio Fire Academy. He's also a member of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Ohio Township Association. Gates has been named the Ohio Fire Service Instructor of the Year and awarded the Public Service Award by the village of New Concord, among other commendations in his long career as a public servant.

The OOGEEP "Responding to Oilfield Emergencies Workshop" series is now in its 14th year and has trained more than 1,200 firefighters from all across Ohio. The courses provide an



overview of drilling and production activities; the difference between common practices and true emergencies; proper references and standards used when responding to a rare oilfield incident; and hands-on training relating to potential incidents. The curriculum is endorsed by the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors and the Ohio Fire and Emergency Services Foundation and is offered free of charge to first responders courtesy of Ohio's oil and gas producers.

About the Ohio Oil & Gas Energy Education Program... The Ohio Oil & Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP) is a nonprofit organization responsible for public outreach on behalf of Ohio's natural gas and crude oil industry. The mission of OOGEEP is to facilitate educational, scholarship and safety programs, and to promote public awareness about the industry and its positive impact on the economy. For more information, visit www.oogEEP.org. ♦