



## News Release

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### **Dakota County Fire Officials Unveil Minnesota's First Car Fire Simulator**

**Rosemount, Minn.** – The Dakota County Fire Chiefs Association today unveiled Minnesota's first car fire simulator at a live demonstration at Flint Hills Resources' Pine Bend refinery in Rosemount. The \$50,000 simulator and trailer, which were donated by Flint Hills Resources, will allow firefighters in Dakota County to practice putting out car fires in a way that is safe, controlled, and environmentally responsible. There are 17 car fires every hour in the United States, and hundreds per year in Dakota County alone.

“Practicing putting out car fires has long been a challenge for firefighters because burning real cars is unsafe and harmful to the environment,” said Eric Bergum, assistant fire chief for the Inver Grove Heights Fire Department. “We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of Flint Hills Resources. This state-of-the-art simulator will allow firefighters across Dakota County to be better prepared to protect the public.”

The simulator will be shared by all fire departments in Dakota County. Flint Hills Resources donated it as part of its long tradition of supporting first responders.

“When we heard about the need for a safe and environmentally responsible way for firefighters to practice putting out car fires, we knew just what to do,” said Ed Steele, fire chief at Flint Hills Resources' Pine Bend refinery. “We are proud of our longstanding partnership with our neighboring fire departments, and are excited about what this simulator means for the safety of our community.”

Flint Hills Resources' Pine Bend refinery hosts free training sessions for law enforcement from across the state at its training facility, grants annual scholarships to local firefighters to attend industrial fire training programs, and provides free fire response training to its mutual aid fire departments in Rosemount, Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, and Hastings. In 2014, Flint Hills donated a kitchen fire prevention trailer to the Dakota County Fire Chiefs Association, which firefighters use to educate the public on the proper way to put out a kitchen fire.

“We at Flint Hills recognize the tremendous service that firefighters provide to their communities, and we want to do everything we can to enable these firefighters to continue to serve their communities,” said Geoff Glasrud, vice president and manufacturing manager at Flint Hills Resources’ Pine Bend refinery.

[Click here](#) to download photos from today’s live demonstration.

### **About Flint Hills Resources**

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery produces transportation fuels used throughout the Midwest, including most of Minnesota’s gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, as well as other products people rely on such as propane and asphalt. Located 17 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Pine Bend has a capacity of 339,000 barrels per day and is among the cleanest, most efficient, and safest oil refineries in the country. Flint Hills Resources directly and indirectly supports more than 4,000 Minnesota jobs and has invested nearly \$1.7 billion on upgrades and improvements to its Minnesota facilities since 2010. With 1,300 full-time employees, the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery is one of the largest employers in Dakota County. More information about the company is available at [pinebendrefinery.com](http://pinebendrefinery.com).

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