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Flint Hills Resources Training Facility Holds Record Number of Training Sessions in 2010

ROSEMOUNT, Minn. – Flint Hills Resources’ Pine Bend refinery hosted 200 training sessions for law enforcement and public safety officers at its training facility in Rosemount in 2010. This set a facility record for the number of training sessions held in one year.

Fifty local, state and federal agencies sent thousands of their officers and canines there in 2010 to be trained in mock situations ranging from bomb threats to hazardous materials to search and rescue. For more than a decade, Flint Hills Resources has provided use of the comprehensive training center at no charge to law enforcement, fire, rescue, military, and government agencies.

Volunteer Harry Wickhorst, a Flint Hills Resources employee and former law enforcement officer, established the training program utilizing buildings and grounds on the site of the Pine Bend refinery. On his own time, Wickhorst has made indoor and outdoor improvements to the facility. Recent upgrades include an obstacle course, canine course, and mock duplex and apartment units. Flint Hills has provided funds to help make continued improvements and ensure that the facility remains free of charge. In 2010, free use of the facility amounted to an estimated \$100,000 in savings in rental fees alone for the visiting agencies.

The versatility of the Flint Hills Resources Training Facility enables a wide variety of agencies to train there. Some of the regular local users include the Eagan, Apple Valley, Saint Paul, and Minneapolis police departments; the Dakota, Rice and Goodhue county sheriff’s offices; and the Eagan Fire Department. A few of the other agencies training at the facility in 2010 were the FBI, U.S. Civil Air Patrol, and Minnesota State Patrol.

“The facility offers the ideal environment for us to train because we are able to set up different types of scenarios within one building,” said Minneapolis Police Sergeant Dave Clifford. “By providing these first-rate facilities to us, Flint Hills is truly making the community a better and safer place.”

About Flint Hills Resources Training Facility

The training facility opened in 1997 utilizing buildings and grounds at Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery. Harry Wickhorst, a Flint Hills Resources employee and former law enforcement officer, operates and maintains the facility on his own time. Flint Hills Resources offers the facility for use free of charge. Wickhorst provides meals, refreshments, and training equipment at his own expense, and also coordinates and teaches a variety of classes.

While the facility is open to any interested law enforcement and public safety agencies, it is the home training center for the Dakota County Mutual Aid Assistance Group (MAAG). MAAG includes the Dakota County Sheriff's Office and police departments from Apple Valley, Farmington, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, and Northfield. The group is called to respond to high-risk situations, including high-risk drug search warrants, high-risk arrest warrants, and barricaded suspects.

About Flint Hills Resources

Flint Hills Resources is a leading provider of transportation fuels used in the Upper Midwest. Based in Wichita, Kansas, Flint Hills Resources owns and operates refineries and chemical plants in Minnesota, Alaska, Illinois, Michigan and Texas, as well as four ethanol plants in Iowa. The company also owns a system of refined products and asphalt terminals that serve Texas and the Midwest. It markets products such as gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, ethanol, olefins, polymers and intermediate chemicals, base oils, and asphalt.

Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery in Rosemount, Minn., has a crude oil processing capacity of about 320,000 barrels per day. Pine Bend employs about 900 people full-time; an additional 200-2,000 union contractors work at the refinery daily on construction projects. More information about the company is available at www.fhr.com.

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