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DONATION FOR LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARCATA FIRE DISTRICT

McKinleyville, CA—Arcata Fire District Chief Justin McDonald and Arcata Volunteer Firefighter's Association (AVFA) President, Firefighter Rob Cannon, applauded the announcement of the purchase of three thermal imaging cameras for the Fire District.

The purchase was made through the collaboration of the Arcata Volunteer Firefighters Association, with the generous support of Coast Central Credit Union, Pacific Gas & Electric, Farmers Insurance, Fit Norcal, and Six Rivers Brewery. The new cameras will keep people in the district safer and will better prepare our first responders for the dangerous and lifesaving work they so ably do." Cannon added.

Ensuring that first responders have necessary equipment is crucial to protecting not only the public, but also our firefighters. "We saw the need to replace old units and chose to dedicate fundraising to the project. In all, \$17,000 was raised by our efforts. In these lean budget times, it is important that we all do what we can," Cannon said.

Thermal imaging allows users to visualize heat energy in order to see in total darkness, low visibility weather conditions and even through smoke. In many scenarios, the technology can be lifesaving. Many families know all too well how quickly fires can spread throughout their home and how critical it is for firefighters to have the necessary equipment to save anyone who might be inside a burning structure.

Arcata Fire Chief Justin McDonald stressed the importance of the donation in improving the District's ability to conduct rescues. "We have replaced three obsolete thermal imaging cameras that were purchased more than a decade ago. These new cameras will allow our firefighters to see through smoke and use heat signatures to find and rescue trapped occupants in a structure fire, as well as in outdoor environments such as marshes and rivers."

We are extremely thankful to our local community for giving us the means to continue improving our department's operations and supporting our mission to protect the lives, environment and property of the communities we serve." said McDonald.

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Attached photo: Chief McDonald holding one of the new Thermal Imaging Cameras. Also present are Talia Nachshon (Six Rivers Brewery), Alison Talbott (Pacific Gas & Electric Company), Bob Moore, Kristen Blair, James Sessa, and Fatima Giacomini (Coast Central Credit Union), all contributing donors to the equipment.

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Photo Credit Heather Vina - McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce

