

Elwood Volunteer Fire/Rescue Department Receives Grant from the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District for Ice Rescue Equipment

The Elwood Volunteer Fire/Rescue Department (EVFD) is pleased to announce it has received a grant from the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) for ice rescue equipment totaling \$2,814.80.

Last year, the EVFD identified a shortfall in its cold-weather rescue capability. The EVFD's area of responsibility includes heavily-trafficked bodies of water such as Johnson Lake and the Elwood Reservoir, as well as other nearby lakes, rivers, and streams. According to Visit Nebraska's annual attraction attendance reports, Johnson Lake alone hosted almost 95,000 visitors in 2017. While most lake traffic occurs during the summer months, there are still many who visit during the colder months for fishing, ice fishing, eagle watching, etc., and there are many residents who live at the lake year-round.

Last summer, the EVFD conducted research to determine how to better provide cold-weather rescue capabilities at these sites. CNPPID was approached with a grant proposal to fund the purchase of the needed ice rescue equipment. The grant was approved by the CNPPID Board of Directors in September of 2017, and EVFD began the process of acquiring the ice rescue equipment.

The acquisition includes 2 Mustang Ice Commander rescue suits, 1 Hydrus 3L Swift Entry dry suit, 2 Pick-of-Life ice awls, a 24-inch ring buoy with a 100-foot tether, 2 75-foot rescue ropes with throw bags, and accessories. This equipment will allow the EVFD to provide a higher level of capability and improved protection/safety for its members during cold-water and ice rescues.



Pictured to the left: EVFD President, Kenny Townsend, and Training/Equipment Officer, Mark Weissert, try on the Department's newly-purchased Mustang Ice Commander rescue suits.