

Freeport LNG money pays for training pit

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By Nathaniel Lukefahr

FREEPORT — Freeport Fire and EMS has expanded its fire prevention capabilities after receiving a \$12,000 donation from Freeport LNG to buy a fire extinguisher training pit.

The 4-foot by 4-foot pit uses a combination of propane and water to fuel fires that first responders can use to strengthen their operation of fire extinguishers.

“This allows us to do public demonstrations and deliver fire extinguisher training so that they can handle a small emergency or protect themselves so they can exit out of a building,” Interim Freeport Fire Chief Chris Motley said.

The pit generates flames higher than 9 feet tall and allows the instructor to switch between pressurized vapor fires and liquid surface fires from the handheld controller, Motley said.

Freeport LNG Terminal Manager Robert Pate said the pit will make the community safer.

“This is a good partnership that we have with the local agencies, and it’s something that we decided to do because it is a good safety need that all of us can use,” Pate said. “To me, it’s good community cooperation among the agencies.”

Freeport fire officials plan to use the pit to teach fire extinguisher training to the public at city events, including Riverfest, its open houses and tours of area businesses and schools, Motley said. The pit is equipped with wheels and can be transported by trailer.

“I’m able to offload it and turn it on right there,” Motley said. “The employee or student does not have to leave the jobsite or campus.”

Freeport LNG operates a liquefied natural gas receiving and regasification terminal on Quintana Island.