



Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings

March 2024

BFD Receives Plains Pipeline Funding for Drone Program



The Billings Fire Department received \$10,000 in funding toward equipment to continue building their incident response drone program.

The City of Billings Fire Department received a \$10,000 grant from Plains All American Pipeline company (Plains First Responder Grant Program) to fund the equipment needed to continue building their hazardous materials/major event response drone program.

More About This Project

The drone program:

- The BFD Hazmat Team is one of six regional teams in Montana, and provides technician level services in hazardous materials and technical rescue to all of eastern Montana.
- The team includes six FAA Part 107 certified drone pilots and a DJI Matrice 300 drone with advanced optical and infrared cameras.
- Funds from the grant will be used to retrofit an existing department vehicle with audiovisual and networking technology to provide real time drone video feeds, allowing those on site the capability to not only view live video from the drone but to share it with stakeholders who are not on the scene.
- Funds will also be used to add a payload drop system to deliver tools to technicians working in the hot zone, reducing contamination from those who come in and out of the zone for tools and supplies.

The grant maker:

- Plains All American Pipeline, headquartered in Houston, Texas, provides infrastructure and logistics for the transportation of crude oil, natural gas liquids, and natural gas.
- The Plains First Responder Grant Program funds improvements in nonprofit and public safety organizations that provide a direct benefit to the safety or preparedness of response organizations and their communities.

To learn more about this grant-funded project, contact:

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