



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO Donates \$20,000 to Lake County Sheriff's Department for Emergency Response Improvements

Merrillville, Ind. — The Lake County Sheriff's Department is pleased to announce a \$20,000 donation from NIPSCO for repairs, recertification and training to benefit its helicopter rescue hoist.

Adding the capability of a helicopter hoist to search and rescue plans will allow the Lake County Sheriff's Aviation Unit to rescue survivors in areas where a helicopter cannot land, and traditional rescue techniques will have prolonged response and rescue time.

"We'll be able to respond, provide care, and remove a survivor in a quick and safe manner," said Lake County Sheriff's Department Crew Chief Mechanic Jamie Hicks. "With this equipment and training we'll be able to further assist our officers during critical incidents."

Currently the Aviation Unit is the only department to provide air support for all agencies throughout Northwest Indiana.

"We're very grateful for NIPSCO's donation," said Lake County Sheriff John Buncich. "This is just one more lifesaving technique that we are going to be able to provide to go above and beyond to serve our communities."

About the Lake County Sheriff's Department

The Lake County Sheriff's Department is composed of over 500 employees who make up a number of different divisions. These divisions include County Police, Corrections, Court Security and Animal Control. Lake County Police maintain many specialty units, such as Traffic, K-9, Warrants, Crime Lab, Gangs, Narcotics and Tactical (SWAT), among others. The Police Department also operates the only Aviation Unit in Northwest Indiana and provides a fulltime Marine Unit on Lake Michigan.

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About NIPSCO: Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., has proudly served the energy needs of northern Indiana for more than 100 years. As Indiana's largest natural gas distribution company, and the second-largest electric distribution company, NIPSCO serves approximately 810,000 natural gas and 460,000 electric customers across 32 counties. NIPSCO is part of NiSource's (NYSE: NI) seven regulated utility companies. NiSource is one of the largest fully regulated utility companies in the United States, serving approximately 4 million natural gas and electric customers through its local Columbia Gas and NIPSCO brands. More information about NIPSCO and NiSource is available at NIPSCO.com and www.nisource.com.

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