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### **BLACK HILLS ENERGY SPONSORS NATURAL GAS FIRE SAFETY TRAINING SESSION IN MANCHESTER**

MANCHESTER, Iowa, Sept. 3, 2009 – Black Hills Energy sponsored a natural gas fire safety training session on Tuesday hosted by the Manchester Fire Department and attended by 11 other community fire departments.

Nearly 80 area volunteer firefighters participated in the natural gas education and safety training session led by Black Hills Energy’s professional and experienced employees. The training session provided firefighters the opportunity to practice techniques to effectively contain and extinguish actual natural gas fires under controlled circumstances, using both portable fire extinguishers and hose streams.

“Although natural gas is a safe fuel, and fires are rare, experience is the best way to learn how to fight this type of fire, and it’s much better to gain that experience during a training exercise instead of during an actual emergency,” said Dick Devine, gas operations trainer for Black Hills Energy. “This training is a partnership between Black Hills Energy and the local fire departments in a joint effort to help protect the public. These sessions provide firefighters with the experience they need to effectively extinguish these types of fires if one should ever occur,” continued Devine.

The Manchester training session was one of a series of fire safety seminars that Black Hills Energy has presented to firefighters throughout Iowa for a number of years. Fire training sessions provide hands-on experience and instruction for firefighters on natural gas releases and fires. These sessions also educate firefighters on the various characteristics of natural gas so they can safely and effectively manage potential natural gas incidents in the future.

In one exercise, firefighters used hose streams and chemical extinguishers to put out ignited natural gas fueled by an open gas pipe underneath an old automobile. In another, they practiced additional techniques to safely contain and extinguish different types of natural gas fires, including simulated pipeline punctures and natural gas fires involving stored flammable liquids.

Firefighters from 13 surrounding communities were invited to participate, including those from Anamosa, Colesburg, Delaware, Delhi, Dundee, Dyersville, Earlville, Edgewood, Greeley, Hopkinton, Masonville, Monticello and Ryan.

Black Hills Energy serves 149,500 natural gas customers in 130 Iowa communities. Black Hills Energy is part of Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) — a diversified energy company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice — is based in Rapid City, S.D., with corporate offices in Golden, Colo., and Omaha, Neb. The company serves 759,000 utility customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company's non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity, produce natural gas, oil and coal, and market energy. Black Hills employees partner to produce results that improve life with energy. More information is available at [www.blackhillscorp.com](http://www.blackhillscorp.com).

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