



Avra Valley Fire District Receives \$5,000 Bayer Fund Grant

District donation will provide specialized wildland firefighter protective clothing/safety equipment

(Tucson, Ariz.) May 8, 2021– The Avra Valley Fire District (AVFD) received a \$5,000 grant from Bayer Fund which will be used to purchase new wildland fire protective clothing/safety equipment. This new clothing will be used by the District’s firefighters and it will benefit the District’s residents, visitors, local travelers and automatic/mutual aid partners.

“Wildland fire protective clothing and safety equipment is governed by the National Fire Protection Association and will greatly aid our firefighters, especially since so much of our District is rural,” said Chief Ray Klein. “Arizona and California were significantly impacted in 2020 by an increase in wildfires that destroyed homes, property, wildlife, and damaged the environment. Experts are predicting that 2021 will see an additional increase in wildfires throughout Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, and New Mexico. This grant will assist the Avra Valley Fire District in helping meet the increased need for assistance by expanding our capabilities.”

The new clothing and equipment are part of the National Fire Protection Association’s safety standards and is part of the Avra Valley Fire District’s steps to maintain the organization’s criteria. More than 2,200 calls are received annually for emergency medical assistance, hazardous material releases, wildland fires, lost or injured hikers, and vehicle crashes.

In addition to their emergency services, AVFD staff lead community education safety classes, including CPR, and offer school courses in fire protection education using the 911 system, “stop, drop and roll,” and exit drills in the home and at school. The Avra Valley Fire District was established in 1977 to expand community safety for the region. Employing firefighters, EMTs and paramedics, the District’s four stations provide a 260 square mile radius for fire protection and a 325 square mile radius for ambulance service in Pima and Pinal counties.

“Throughout the years, the grants given through Bayer Fund have helped strengthen our communities across the United States,” said Al Mitchell, President of Bayer Fund. “We’re proud to be able to provide support to develop programs that help combat challenges such as food insecurity, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education and support services to patients and families managing an illness or disease.”

In 2020, Bayer Fund awarded more than \$17 million to over 3,400 charitable and nonprofit organizations to help address essential needs in food and nutrition, STEM education and community development. Over the last five years, nonprofit organizations across the U.S. have received more than \$80 million.

To learn more about Avra Valley Fire District visit <https://avfire.org/>

To learn more about Bayer Fund visit www.fund.bayer.us.

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About Bayer Fund

Bayer Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects.

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