

For Immediate Release

Contact: Fire Chief Peter Polarek ppolarek@cityofsycamore.com

Sycamore Fire Department is receiving a \$10,000 Bayer Fund grant for the purchase of specialized equipment to enhance the Sycamore Fire Department's capability to effectively respond to emergency incidents involving workers trapped in farm or industrial equipment.

Sycamore, IL (May 24, 2019) – Employees from Bayer Soybean Manufacturing Facility in Ashton, IL recommended the Sycamore Fire Department receive a \$10,000 grant from Bayer Fund. Funds from the grant will be used to purchase specialized equipment to enhance the Fire Department's capability to effectively rescue agriculture worker trapped in farm equipment.

"This grant is intended to improve the Sycamore Fire Department's response capability to emergency incidents involving workers that become trapped in farm or industrial equipment. We believe that this enhancement to our emergency response capability will allow rescue workers to safely and efficiently remove the worker from farm or industrial equipment, thus lessening pain and suffering and improving patient outcomes" said Peter Polarek, Fire Chief for the Sycamore Fire Department.

The Sycamore Fire Department previously received a Bayer Fund grant in 2015 that was used to purchase a grain bin entrapment rescue tube. The grain rescue tube serves as a cofferdam which is built around a victim trapped in grain. The rescue tube is lowered into the grain surrounding the victim which will enable grain removal from his immediate surroundings allowing for the safe removal of the victim without continuing grain collapse.

"The Sycamore Fire Department's agricultural worker rescue equipment not only will help to save local farmers trapped in farm equipment but will also help to deliver on the Bayer Fund's mission of strengthening the communities where our Bayer customers and employees live," said Sarah Gillam, Site Lead, at the Ashton Bayer Soybean Manufacturing facility. "We're honored to support the Sycamore Fire Department with this Bayer Fund grant."

In 2019, Bayer Fund awarded more than \$1.4 million through this program to nonprofit organizations in rural communities to help address essential needs in Food & Nutrition, STEM Education, and Community Development. Nonprofit organizations across the U.S. have received more than \$7 million through this program over the last five years.

About the Sycamore Fire Department

The Sycamore Fire Department provides Fire Suppression, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials First Responder, Fire Prevention, and Public Education services to approximately 20,000 citizens. This service area includes the City of Sycamore (18,519) and the Sycamore Fire Protection District (approximately 2,500). Overall, we service an area of approximately 62 ½ square miles (City of Sycamore - 9.74 square miles).

The Sycamore Fire Department is a combination fire department providing 24-hour emergency response, operating out of two fire stations with 36 sworn and 1 civilian employee. The Department is divided into two divisions; an administrative division and an operations division. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) 2016 rating for the City of Sycamore is a Class 4 and the ISO rating for the Sycamore Fire Protection District (unincorporated area outside the city) is a Class 8B.

About Bayer Fund

Bayer Fund 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.



Photo identification:

Deputy Chief Todd Turner, Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Young, Fire Chief Peter Polarek, Sarah Gillam - Site Lead, Bayer U.S. – Crop Science, Al Bauer – Production Manager, Bayer U.S. – Crop Science, Deputy Chief Art Zern, Lieutenant Tal Hickey