Duke Energy donates $100K to firefighters

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — The Duke Energy Foundation announced a donation of $100,000 last week to go toward response efforts to battle devastating wildfires in western North Carolina and South Carolina.

"Firefighters have been working around the clock for weeks to save lives, protect homes and defend Duke Energy infrastructure from the flames," Duke Energy Foundation president Shawn Heath said. "These men and women are on the front lines protecting our communities. We are glad to make this contribution to aid their ongoing efforts."

In North Carolina, Duke Energy is donating $75,000 to the Western North Carolina Firefighters Association to help fire departments replace equipment and supplies depleted through wildfire response. A review committee will be created to determine the allocation of funds to fire departments in the region.

"On behalf of the Western North Carolina Association of Firefighters, we are honored and humbled by the donation provided to the association by Duke Energy," Western North Carolina Firefighters Association president Curt Deaton said. "The firefighters that serve the western part of our great state have had some long and sleepless days and nights due to the wildfires that have affected several counties in our district. Working side by side with emergency management and Duke Energy, our association is committed to assisting our membership with this donation."

In South Carolina, the company is donating $25,000 to the South Carolina State Firefighters' Foundation — a nonprofit organization under the umbrella of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association — to help those fire agencies that have been responding to fires in South Carolina. They will also establish a committee to determine allocation of funds to help fire agencies replace equipment and supplies.

"The Duke Energy team reached out early to the agencies involved in fighting the fire on Pinnacle Mountain to ask, 'What can we do?'" South Carolina State Firefighters Foundation director of development Phil Leventis said. "This kind of support from our community partners is always instrumental in helping the men and women dedicated to protecting our communities do their critically important jobs."