

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ogden City Enhances Emergency Response for Residents with Mobility Issues Using Grant Award

Ogden, UT— Ogden City Fire and Police Departments are teaming up with the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation to provide enhanced emergency services for Ogden’s elderly, chronically ill and homebound residents. Through the Secure Opening System (SOS) Program, the city’s emergency services hope to provide quick, damage-free access to residents’ homes. The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation awarded enough funds for Ogden City emergency services to purchase 10 Knox HomeBox secure key storage units. Ogden City is the first in Utah to provide these lockboxes directly to its most vulnerable residents at no cost.

In 2023, the Ogden City Fire Department responded to 18,873 emergency medical calls, many involving repeat visits to assist residents who could not open their doors. This issue led to delays or forced entry, causing broken doors, door frames, locks, or sidelight windows. Knowing every second counts, Ogden City Fire sought a solution for this on-going problem in our community. The SOS Program can prevent these issues by equipping those with limited mobility with Knox HomeBox, a weather-resistant, tamper-proof key storage unit. Only Ogden’s first responders have access to the lockbox, allowing for immediate entry.

“We don’t want people to hesitate to call during an emergency. They shouldn’t have to worry about a broken door or window. We’re here to help and we don’t want to cause any harm, even if it’s just financial,” says Ogden City Fire Marshal, Kevin Brown.

With the homeowner’s or caregiver’s consent, this key lockbox should be mounted over the point of entry, providing easy access for first responders. Once services are completed, resuming home security is quick, responders just return the key and close the lockbox. These ten lockboxes purchased through the SOS Program are transferable to other Ogden homes as needed. Locations are determined by calls for service and recommendations from firefighters or police officers although Ogden Fire will also consider recommendations by residents, just give them a call 801-629-8069.

Ogden City fire hopes to have the lockboxes purchased and ready for installation at qualifying homes by the end of June. OFD and OPD will be presented with a check for these lockboxes by Kirk Nigro, Weber and Davis Counties Regional Business Manager for Rocky Mountain Power, **on March 27th at 10am inside the Francom Public Safety Building** (2186 Lincoln Ave.).

“The Ogden City Fire and Police Department is committed to protecting and improving the well-being of the community, and this grant funding will support the Secure Opening System (SOS) Program,” said Kirk Nigro, Grant Champions Advisory Committee member, Rocky Mountain Power Foundation and Regional Business Manager, Rocky Mountain Power. “The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation is grateful to partner with Ogden City to assist some of its most vulnerable citizens.”

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The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation is part of the PacifiCorp Foundation, one of the largest utility-endowed foundations in the United States. The foundation was created by PacifiCorp, an energy company that serves over 2 million customers across a diverse six-state region as Rocky Mountain Power (Utah, Wyoming and Idaho) and Pacific Power (Oregon, Washington and California). The foundation's mission, through charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Rocky Mountain Power and Pacific Power. Since it started in 1988, the foundation has awarded more than \$60 million to nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit www.rockymountainpower.net/foundation or www.pacificpower.net/foundation.

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