

Donation to boost safety at ponds

Fishers, Carmel, Fortville fire departments look to WARN of water dangers.

Staff report

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Posing with a symbolic check are Jerry Richert, Ron Lipps, Scott Bowers, Paul Bailey and Jerry Neal.

INDIANAPOLIS -- Home-building firm C.P. Morgan has committed to contribute a total of \$45,000 over the next three years in support of the Water Awareness in Residential Neighborhoods Program.

A news release from Fishers Fire Department said the donation represents the single largest donation to the program known by the acronym WARN since its creation in 2000.

In addition to the three-year commitment announced last week, C.P. Morgan has already donated more than \$12,000 in support of the program, the news release said.

On Indianapolis' north side, Carmel and Fortville fire departments also participate in the program.

Scott Bowers, the building firm's director of governmental and community affairs, said, "C.P. Morgan is pleased to be a charter sponsor of the WARN Program. This important educational program is already impacting communities throughout Central Indiana and is receiving national attention from numerous fire departments. It is C.P. Morgan's hope that our additional commitment will ensure that the full potential of the WARN Program is fulfilled in future years."

Sgt. Jerry Richert of the Franklin Township Fire Department said, "We are very appreciative of C.P. Morgan for their generous support of the WARN Program.."

The WARN program is a set of tools that helps fire departments and other public safety organizations educate their residents about common water hazards in their own area.

Ron Lipps, deputy fire marshal for the Fishers Fire Department, said, "While the original focus of the program was retention ponds, it goes farther to identify hazards associated with pools, bathtubs, toilets, ice and other seemingly harmless bodies of water. We have seen WARN adopted by fire departments not only in Indiana, but in other parts of the country as well, which is incredible. The continued support from C.P. Morgan will help perpetuate the growth of the WARN Program, and we are excited about the future."

The WARN Program touts itself as Indiana's premier water-safety awareness program.

Developed by Franklin Township and Fishers fire departments, WARN lists its purpose as a public education effort, taking a proactive approach to water safety.

The program is described as applicable to parents and children. It includes a live-action video, PowerPoint presentations, information brochures, children's activity booklets, and a Web site, www.warnonline.org

The program has been adopted by about 25 fire departments in five different states and Indianapolis-area YMCAs.
