

## Stations receive donations after fires

*New Dominion LLC gives  
\$5,000 to replenish funds.*

**By Ann Weaver**  
Staff Writer

PRAGUE — Three rural fire departments Tuesday were given \$5,000 checks each from New Dominion LLC President David Chernicky to help replenish their coffers, drained after the recent rash of wildfires.

Prague, Arlington and Strother volunteer fire departments were given a total of \$15,000. Chernicky also donated \$5,000 to a fire relief fund set up to help families who lost their homes in Seminole County.

The independent oil and gas production company is based in Tulsa with offices in Prague and Oklahoma City.

Joe Johnson, a right-of-way agent for New Dominion, said Chernicky wanted to do something for the fire departments when he heard its volunteers were reaching into their own pockets to pay for gasoline to fill their fire trucks. He said none of New Dominion's property or well sites were in any danger from fires in recent weeks.

"Dave just really believes in being an asset to our communities," Johnson said. "He also believes strongly in helping those less fortunate than himself."

Prague City Manager Jim Thompson called Chernicky "a new breed of oil man" and the "T. Boone Pickens of Prague."

Thompson said New Dominion has given \$100,000 to the local library, \$1 million to the city for a water expansion project, \$25,000 in scholarships for Prague students and \$10,000 to the police department for a car.

Thompson said the company also is donating 20 new picnic tables, at \$800 each, to the city for its park.

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## Donate

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Chernicky also has held New Dominion Days in Prague for the past two years. The May festival at the park includes free food and activities for everyone in town. Last year, the company gave away more than 200 gifts to those who attended.

Chernicky, 52, of Tulsa, told *The Oklahoman* in a February 2005 interview that he was half Czechoslovakian and has a special fondness for Prague and its Czech roots. Chernicky said he felt that by helping secure the future of Prague he was preserving his heritage.

He could not be reached Tuesday for comment.

Ann Weaver: 475-4097,  
aweaver@oklahoman.com