

AJO CONNECTS: CPP HIGHLIGHTS Q3 2026



This newsletter provides updates from our recent Community Partnership Panel. It is part of our commitment to keeping the community informed about site activities and fostering open and ongoing dialogue.

Learn more about our commitment to communities:

[Freeport In My Community](#)

✓ IN THIS EDITION...

Operations: [Geophysical Survey](#), [Wastewater Lagoon Rehabilitation](#), [Electrical Reliability Project](#)

Environmental: [Stormwater Management Project](#)

Social Performance: [United Way Presentation](#)

SITE OPERATIONS UPDATE

Proudly Creating
Better Futures

Learn more about the wide range of career opportunities available at Freeport:
[FMJobs.com](https://www.fmjobs.com)

Site Updates

- **Ajo Trestle Removal Project**
 - The site is removing the trestle by marker 43 on Highway 85.
 - Project timing remains dependent on permit approvals and coordination with ADOT.

- The original target for completion is by the end of September, though the schedule may extend if approvals are delayed.
- **Exploration Program's Geophysical Survey ✓**
 - Initial geophysical survey tests conducted earlier in 2026 were successful but did not cover all the locations.
 - Equipment experienced overheating due to extreme Arizona summer temperatures and upgraded equipment has been tested and is expected to return to Ajo in December 2026 to complete the rest of the locations.
 - Survey Methodology
 - The technology transmits electrical current into the ground and measures the response of subsurface materials to help geologists better understand underground formations and resource potential.
 - Salt and water may be used in some locations to improve conductivity and data quality.
 - Community Safety and Restoration Commitments
 - Survey areas will utilize English and Spanish signage, high-visibility barriers, caution tape, and controlled access measures.
 - Temporary disturbances will be minimized, and the team aims to leave little or no visible evidence of the installations after work is complete.
 - Community members may see exploration crews operating in the area before the next CPP meeting.

Ajo Improvement Committee

- **Leadership Update**
 - Orlando Otero was introduced as Ajo Improvement Company's new Utility Administrator.
 - He brings 28 years of municipal utility experience, including leadership roles with the City of Mesa.
- **Wastewater Lagoon Rehabilitation ✓**
 - Sludge and sediment removal from the primary wastewater lagoon has been completed.
 - Liner inspections and repairs have been finalized and remaining work involves repairs to the floating curtain system.
 - The project has been completed without disruptions to customer wastewater services.
- **Electrical Reliability Project ✓**
 - AIC is planning replacement of the community's primary electrical breaker.
 - The breaker is approximately 30 years old and replacement is being pursued proactively to improve long-term reliability.

- A planned outage is anticipated during cooler months in early 2027.
 - Customers will receive advance notification to minimize impacts.
 - Engineering work and substation improvements are ongoing and the replacement unit has already been secured.
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SITE ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

- **Safety & Weather**
 - Community members were reminded to use caution during monsoon season and avoid driving through flooded washes due to ongoing storm activity.
 - **Stormwater Management Project ✓**
 - Stormwater management improvements at the mill tailings impoundment collection basins began in mid-July with completion anticipated in September 2026.
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SOCIAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Freeport's 2026 Grant Programs

Community Investment Fund

The Community Investment Fund is driven by three priority areas:



Education & Workforce Development

Resilient People

Early Education | K-12 | Higher Education | Workforce Development | STEM | Community Education & Support



Economic Opportunity

Resilient Economies

Health | Safety | Housing | Environmental | Small Business Support | Access to Food | Economic Development | Cultural Heritage & Arts | Community Infrastructure



Capacity & Leadership

Resilient Organizations & Systems

Training & Skill-Building | Community & Emergency Planning | Citizen Engagement & Participation | Organization Governance & Effectiveness

Application Opens:

May 13, 2026

Application Closes:

June 26, 2026

at 5 p.m. AZ time

Awards Announced:

Nov. 20, 2026

Mini-Grants for Education

Designed to support K-12 teachers and schools in communities where Freeport has an operational presence.

Application
Opens:

July 6, 2026

Application
Closes:

Sept. 4, 2026

at 5 p.m. AZ time

Awards
Announced:

Oct. 30, 2026

Women's Development Grants

Support organizations providing women and girls opportunities to advance educational attainment, create and expand businesses, and increase financial capability and employment through education and/or workforce skills training.

**Application
Opens:**

Sept. 2, 2026

**Application
Closes:**

Oct. 9, 2026

at 5 p.m. AZ time

**Awards
Announced:**

Dec. 4, 2026

Community Investment

- Funding supported the International Sonoran Desert Alliance's Moonshot Pitch Competition.
- Scholarships were provided to community members for participation in the Rural Policy Forum.
- Funding also supported the community Red & White Celebration.

United Way Presentation ✓

- United Way highlighted programs supporting early literacy, family services and financial stability in Ajo.
 - My Summer Library provided free books to 121 Ajo students to support reading and reduce summer learning loss.
 - The Dolly Parton Imagination Library continues delivering free monthly books to children from birth to age five.
 - The VITA tax assistance program completed 235 free tax returns for Ajo residents.
 - Through its partnership with Esperanza, emergency assistance was provided to 19 households, supporting rent and utility needs.
 - United Way is expanding Family Resource Center programming in Ajo with monthly parenting activities, STEM programming and family support services.
- United Way thanked Freeport for ongoing funding, volunteer support and partnership in delivering community programs.

Community Engagement

- **Museum Beautification Project**
 - Updates to land-use agreements have been finalized.
 - The project is moving to the next stage of implementation and funding is being secured.
- **Mine Overlook Enhancement Project**

- Significant upgrades are underway as part of the community resilience effort.
 - Improvements include interpretive displays, mining history exhibits, copper education materials and community storyboards.
 - The project is intended to enhance visitor experiences and encourage longer stays in Ajo.
 - A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned following project completion.
 - No timeline has been established yet for staffing or operational personnel at the overlook.

GRIEVANCE MANAGEMENT

Freeport maintains a formal Grievance Management System allowing community stakeholders to share concerns directly with company officials. Learn more about our Grievance Management process at FreeportInMyCommunity.com.

The topics of concern received included:

- **Overgrown brush**

Grievance Report

Q2 2026: 1

YTD Active: 0

YTD Closed: 1

Previous Year Active: 0

Community Information & Grievance Line

To share a grievance, ask a question, or request information, please call:

(877)629-2609

24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

COMPANY UPDATE



Freeport Reports Second-Quarter and Six-Month 2026 Results

[Read more](#)



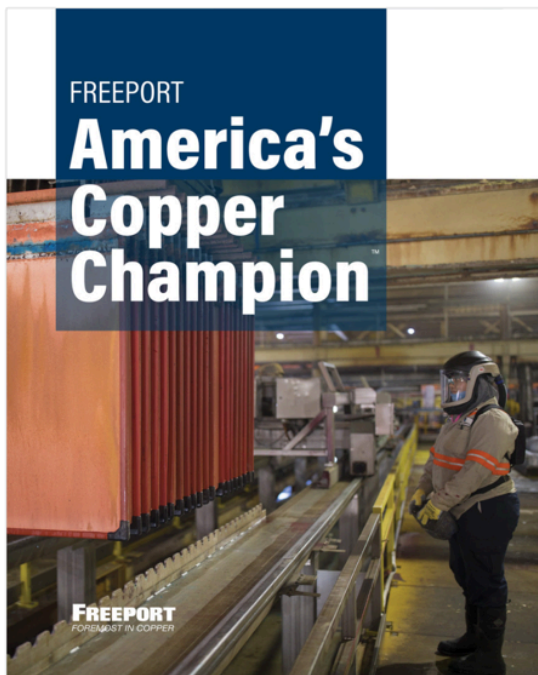
Learn more at [FCX.com](https://www.fcx.com)

Economic Impact

Freeport-McMoRan's Arizona mining operations and business activities generated approximately \$5.1 BILLION in economic benefits for the state of Arizona.

All economic impact numbers were produced by the L. William Seidman Research Institute, Arizona State University. Figures are approximate.

Freeport: America's Copper Champion[®] Brochure Now Available



Freeport: America's Copper Champion[®]

- The largest copper producer in the United States
- Freeport supplies approximately 70% of the refined copper produced domestically
- Total national economic impact of \$13.8 billion in 2025
- Estimated to support more than 100,000 U.S. jobs

The full America's Copper Champion[®] brochure is available on the [FCX.com](https://www.fcx.com) homepage.

Celebrating America's 250

As the U.S. celebrates 250 years, we're proud to build on nearly two centuries of supporting the country's growth and resilience. See how Freeport's North America operations observed the anniversary, [here](#).

We want to hear from you!

We value your feedback. Please share your thoughts on the CPP by completing this quick survey.

[CPP Feedback Survey](#)

Thanks for reading! Join us for the next CPP: **December 3, 2026.**



Freeport-McMoRan

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