

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 24, 2015

Jourdanton Volunteer Fire Department seizes opportunity to enhance rescue capabilities

JOURDANTON, Texas – A \$15,000 grant from Texas A&M Forest Service helped the Jourdanton Volunteer Fire Department retire their 20-year-old rescue equipment. This update will be a great benefit for their community and surrounding area, and help to increase the safety of the firefighters.

“The new jaws of life has greater technology, is lighter weight and produces greater pressure. The older unit weighed 72 pounds, it was a safety risk just lifting the spreaders,” said Chief David Prasifka. “The safety of our volunteers is a priority in our department.”

Jourdanton VFD’s service area sits atop the Eagle Ford Shale and 18-wheeler trucks transport oil from this area. The increase in the truck traffic, increases the potential for an accident. The new, more powerful, unit will prove beneficial in this area.

“Transporting oil from the area creates a greater risk for truck accidents,” said Chief Prasifka. “The larger trucks mean a bigger challenge in extrication from those big rigs, but the power of the new tool means quicker rescue with fewer cuts.”

Rescue tools such as these can be used for automobile extrication and other emergencies.

“Atascosa County recently dispatched our department to a tornado scene,” said Chief Prasifka. “It was feared that students were trapped in a collapsed gym, fortunately none were. We were thankful to have our new equipment in service if it had been needed.”

Volunteer firefighters operate 85 percent of the fire departments in Texas. This year TFS will pass approximately \$24.3 million along to VFDs across the state. The grants aid them in purchasing equipment and obtaining vital firefighter training, giving them greater capabilities to protect life and property in their communities.

“The opportunity for training and updated equipment has contributed to our departments having the ability to serve our community in a greater way while maintaining a safe environment during emergencies,” said Prasifka.

To learn more about this program visit texasfd.com



Front Row: Samantha Chapa, Margaret Gallegos, Edward Reid, RFC, Garry Barney, President, Tom Poensch, Fire Chief, David Prasifka, Tabitha Brady, Amy Martinez, Jerry Brady, Oscar Munoz
Back Row: Assistant Chief, Jay Fojtik, Molly Stuart, James Huddleston, ACRFC, Guy Duncan, Charlie Abshier, Rolan Jaiminez, Renaldo DeLeon, Jerry Brady and Oscar Munoz