

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 21, 2015

### Essential extrication tools enhance the capabilities of Steele Creek Acres Volunteer Fire Department

**Morgan, Texas** – Built to cut through steel, the Jaws of Life extrication tool helps firefighters free people from mangled cars and burning or collapsed buildings. Steele Creek Acres Volunteer Fire Department received a \$9,000 grant from Texas A&M Forest Service. The grant has improved the department’s ability to purchase key rescue tools needed for auto and confined space rescues.

TFS Regional Fire Coordinator Matthew Schlaefter said, “The Jaws of Life and stabilization struts will give Steele Creek Acres VFD the capability to begin emergency extrications instead of relying on their neighboring VFDs. The reduced response time will be a great benefit to the community.”

Mastering these tools allows responders to safely and successfully perform timely automobile extrications. The tools are crucial for saving lives when time and efficiency matter most.

“Having the rescue equipment on hand will reduce precious minutes that it takes to extricate a person who is trapped in a vehicle,” said Fire Chief Jesse Bailey. “The stabilization struts, Jaws of Life and its power source will also be beneficial in structural rescues or when there are collapsed concrete or steel structures.”

The Steele Creek Acres VFD service area includes sections of U.S. Highways 22, 174 and 6. These are all areas of concern for emergency responses to vehicle accidents.

“Hopefully we won’t need to use these tools too often but they are ready for service when that call comes,” Chief Bailey said.

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 grant funding aids them in purchasing equipment and obtaining vital firefighter training, giving them greater capabilities to protect life and property in their communities.

“It is important that TFS offers equipment grants to the volunteer fire departments. With them, the departments are able to have up- to-date and reliable equipment, which will be very helpful when responding to calls in the communities,” says Chief Bailey.

To learn more about this program visit [texasfd.com](http://texasfd.com).

