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New rescue tools impact Whiteface Volunteer Fire Department

WHITEFACE, Texas — Whiteface Volunteer Fire Department has new rescue tools that are designed for quick extrication from entrapment. The tools include Jaws of Life, an impact grinder, cutting torch, saws and lighting.

“Our department serves an area that is very rural and with that comes the demand for response to farm equipment accidents as well as vehicle accidents,” said Fire Chief Bruce Heflin. “Accidents involving farm equipment usually entail dismantling the farm equipment in order to rescue the victim so this new torch, grinder and Jaws is essential for those type of rescues.”

The purchase of the up-to-date tools was made possible thanks to a \$15,800 cost share grant through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program administered by Texas A&M Forest Service.

“The battery operated tools will make for a more efficient rescue since there are no hoses or compressor to set up,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Paige Purvis. “Having a shorter set-up time is important when time is critical.”

The department members received training on the proper use of the equipment and plan to share their knowledge with surrounding mutual aid departments.

Whiteface Volunteer Fire Department has been serving their community since 1965.

“We currently have open enrollment for adult volunteers and high school students,” said Heflin. “Anyone 14-18 years of age may apply to participate in our Explorer Program. Currently two program participants plan to enter emergency services to train as a firefighter and EMT after high school graduation.”

According to Heflin the Explorer Program encourages participants to gear up on regular training nights and learn proper technique and the safety aspects of the profession.

For information on volunteering or enrolling in the Explorer Program please call the fire department at (806) 891-4572.

Texas A&M Forest Service is committed to protecting lives and property through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program, a cost share program funded by Texas State Legislature and administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. This program provides funding to rural Volunteer Fire Departments for the acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, dry-hydrants, computer systems and firefighter training.

For more information on programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, please visit <http://texasfd.com>.

