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Wilson Co. ESD #1 Fire and Rescue receives grant to update rescue tools

LA VERNIA, Texas — Wilson County ESD #1 Fire and Rescue received a \$10,000 Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance cost share grant. The department purchased rescue tools that will be used to assist in the extrication of victims involved in a vehicle crash and other rescues from small spaces where forcible entry is needed.

“The funding that we received allowed our department to replace an older set of rescue tools,” said Fire Chief Chris Thompson. “The new equipment is battery operated so it allows for a much quicker deployment and it is also stronger.”

According to Thompson U.S. Highway 87 is very heavily traveled. It is the main highway between Stockdale and San Antonio and keeps the department very busy with response to vehicle accidents. The new tools are in service and have already been used a number of times.

The rescue tools purchased include a cutter, spreader and ram, commonly known as the jaws-of-life.

Wilson County ESD #1 Fire and Rescue has been serving their community since 1918. The department has open enrollment for volunteers. To inquire about an application call (830) 779-2438.

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>.

