

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Rescue tools bring greater capacity for Gun Barrel City Fire Department**

GUN BARRELL CITY, Texas — Thanks to the support of the community during the department’s boot drive and a cost share grant through Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program, Gun Barrel City Fire Department purchased a new Jaws-of-life rescue system, air bags and chocks.

“The new rescue tools are an upgrade, replacing older hydraulic tools that took more time and man power to set up and use,” said Fire Chief Joseph Lindaman. “Most people are familiar with what the Jaws System does to help free individuals from wrecked vehicles but the air bags and chocks are also a much needed safety feature for both the volunteer working at the scene and the person involved in the accident.”

The airbags allow for safe lifting of a vehicle when there is entrapment, while the chocks support the vehicle giving more stabilization during the extrication process.

“The new lifesaving tools are battery operated and lighter which helps reduce firefighter fatigue,” said Lindaman. “Overall they produce a better working environment for everyone.”

The advanced tools can also be used for farm equipment accidents or forcible entry of a structure.

“The combination of the Jaws-of-life system and the support tools will help expedite rescue operations in the hands of the department’s dedicated responders,” said Josh Bardwell, Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator. “That is important in times when seconds count.”

These tools are in service and have already been used on two calls, mutual aid for a vehicle accident and a house fire.

Gun Barrel City Fire Department has been serving their community since 1969. They currently have open enrollment for individuals who would like to volunteer. An application may be picked up at the Gun Barrel City Hall, 1716 West Main Street, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

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>.

