

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cheek VFD increases safety of community and travelers with new rescue equipment

July 19, 2016 — BEAUMONT, Texas — Cheek Volunteer Fire Department recently received a \$12,354 grant for rescue equipment through Texas A&M Forest Service’s Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

Among the new equipment purchased through the cost-share program were Jaws of Life, a spreader and a ram; all of which are a first for the department.

Cheek VFD Chief Kenneth Duhon said that the department, which is only two miles from Interstate 10, has never been able to respond to auto accidents before, since they did not have the proper equipment. “Now we’re able to rescue individuals pinned in vehicles,” Duhon said.

The department has put the equipment into service, and trained members on proper use. They are standing ready when called upon.

Cheek VFD serves a population of approximately 3,500 people over 28 square miles of area that could use some more community support, according to Duhon. “This is a fairly low income area. Without Texas A&M Forest Service’s grant, we would not be able to afford this equipment.”

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 the Texas State Legislature and administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. This program provides funding to rural VFDs for the acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, dry-hydrants, computer systems and firefighter training.

To learn more about the fire department assistance programs offered by Texas A&M Forest Service, visit <http://texasfd.com>.

