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**Fredericksburg VFD increases capacity to save lives through rescue equipment grant**

**FREDERICKSBURG, Texas** — With a \$15,000 grant through Texas A&M Forest Service’s Rural VFD Assistance Program, now has new rescue equipment.

“Eleven years ago I submitted our department’s first application for Texas A&M Forest Service’s Rural VFD Assistance grant for rescue equipment including road gear,” Fire Chief Myron Fiedler said. “The equipment we received only lasts about ten years; so we reapplied for the grant hoping to replace and update the equipment purchased with the prior grant.”

Receiving the grant helped the department purchase a Multi-Purpose Device Rope Rescue System. Fredericksburg VFD can now look forward to accumulating additional capabilities with the latest technology that is increasingly functional.

“The MPD is an asset in rope rescue, swift water rescue- and extrications,” Fiedler said. “We plan to utilize it anytime we build a haul or lowering system. When it comes to ropes, imagination is your only limit and your greatest asset.”

Garry Barney, regional field coordinator with Texas A&M Forest Service states, “Fredericksburg VFD’s response area includes the ancient dome of granite, Enchanted Rock. It is a beautiful place but campers and climbers sometimes get into a position where they need help. The updated equipment that Fredericksburg VFD received will allow them the ability to rescue individuals who find themselves in trouble.”

Fredericksburg VFD serves 2,400 people throughout Gillespie County. According to Fiedler, they take pride in being prepared to assist in whatever emergency they may be called to, which is largely assisted by Texas A&M Forest Service grants.

In Texas, more than 85 percent of fire departments are entirely or primarily run through the goodwill of volunteers. TFS grants upwards of \$12.8 million to volunteer fire departments spanning the state each year, assisting them in the securing of new and up-to-date equipment to enhance their capability to protect lives and property.

“This grant is an incredible opportunity,” Fiedler said. “There are five other much smaller departments in our county that rely almost exclusively on fundraising to stay afloat. Grants from Texas A&M Forest Service are their life-line.”

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

Rescue Equipment

