FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department receives \$10,200 grant for rescue tools

ROBERT LEE, Texas – The use of rescue stabilization struts creates a safer emergency scene and helps save lives. Robert Lee Volunteer Fire Department recently received a grant from Texas A&M Forest Service to help enhance their rescue capabilities with the purchase of rescue struts.

"We are glad to have tools that will help us to be of greater assistance to the public. The tools can be used for auto stabilization and extrication, structural shoring and trench stabilization," said Fire Chief Ron Torres.

Stabilization is an important aspect for many rescue situations. It helps protect the rescuers and the victims from the shifting weight of unstable hazards. In the case of automobile extrications, the use of stabilization devices can improve scene safety.

"Safety is very important for the firefighter as well as the person involved in the accident," Torres said.

Highways 208 and 277 are the main thoroughfares that create the most demand for Robert Lee VFD's need for rescue tools. They get a number of calls for auto accidents.

"People drive too fast and don't pay close enough attention when passing other vehicles. We are glad to have the tools that will help us to be of greater assistance to the public." Torres states.

Since 1947, the Robert Lee VFD has provided a valuable service to the community and surrounding area. The service continues today as the department strives for safe operations on emergency scenes and participates in specialized training to enhance their skills.

Volunteer firefighters operate 85 percent of the fire departments in Texas. This year TFS will pass approximately \$24.3 million along to VFDs across the state. The grants aid in purchasing equipment and obtaining vital firefighter training, giving them greater capabilities to protect life and property in their communities.

"I think it is great that TFS offers grants to volunteer fire departments. We have received training to enhance our skills, bunker gear, wildland gear and much needed equipment to help improve our capabilities," says Torres.

To learn more about this program visit <u>texasfd.com</u>.

