

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### McGregor Volunteer Fire Department receives \$20,000 grant to help improve safety

McGregor, Texas — The McGregor Volunteer Fire Department added a number of rescue and safety items to their cache, thanks to a cost share grant through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program administered by Texas A&M Forest Service.

“The addition of a vehicle stabilization kit which includes struts and air bags will help increase the capacity of our department when used to steady or raise a vehicle after an accident,” said Fire Chief Marty Dominguez. “The equipment will allow for a safer extrication of a victim.”

The extrication process may involve removal of a car roof, window or door and calls for a very delicate but extreme technique. Proper stabilization allows the first responder quicker access to the individual, minimizing the likelihood of the vehicle shifting during the process and lessening the chance of further injury to the victim.

“More people and companies are moving into our response area, Highway 84 has expanded and there is an increase in 18-wheeler traffic,” said Dominguez. “The new tools will be a tremendous benefit to our community.”

The department also received a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) filling station that will safely recharge two bottles at a time. The SCBA are very important to firefighters because the bottles allow them to have breathable air in an immediately dangerous to life or health atmosphere.

“Safety is priority with our department so receiving this grant was very valuable to us,” said Dominguez. “Whether rescuing individuals from a smoke filled structure or an extrication after a vehicle accident, when it is all over, we want all of our volunteers to be able to go home. This new equipment will help to ensure that.”

The department has two fund raisers a year and sells bar-b-q at the Founders Day Festival. The proceeds go towards training expenses and updating or replacing worn equipment. The volunteers appreciate the community supporting these events.

McGregor VFD has been serving their area since 1924. They have open enrollment for anyone wishing to give back to the community by volunteering. To apply come by the fire station located at 302 South Madison in McGregor any Tuesday night at 7 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>.

