

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### New Equipment increases Hubbard Volunteer Fire Department capacity

HUBBARD, Texas – Volunteer Fire Departments often receive training to learn current firefighter response strategies. Hubbard VFD has participated in various training schools to further their knowledge of firefighting and increase awareness of firefighter safety. Having the right equipment is another aspect of a successful response. The department received an equipment cost share grant through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program to help purchase radios, Jaws-of-Life, fire hose and a computer.

“Communication on a fire scene is vital for the safety of firefighters and reinforces ground observations concerning the condition of the fire,” said Department President/Treasurer Will Geltmeier. “We are glad to have the new radios to help us keep well-informed of the situation while in response.”

The city of Hubbard serves as a crossroads with State Highways 31 and 171 running through it, giving travelers access to Interstate 35 and I-45.

“The new Jaws-of-Life extrication tools that we received will not only benefit our community but travelers as well,” said Geltmeier. “The new set of jaws have already been used in response to four vehicle accidents.”

The extrication tools are battery operated and much lighter.

“Having the up-to-date tools that are faster and easier to implement is important,” said Geltmeier. “They are easier to set up and can save time in a situation when time is of the essence.”

Hubbard Volunteer Fire Department has been serving their community since 1928 and currently has open enrollment for volunteers. An application can be picked up at the department located at 116 North Magnolia Avenue in Hubbard the second or fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

Volunteer Fire Department support comes from fund raisers and community support.

“Our community has always been supportive,” said Geltmeier. “We appreciate their backing which helps to meet daily operational needs of the department.”

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>.

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**Editor’s Note:** Pictured--President/Treasurer Will Geltmeier and Assistant Fire Chief Kenneth Baldwin  
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