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Upgraded equipment helps Groom VFD stay on top of rescuing efforts

GROOM, Texas – With a \$15,000 grant the Groom Volunteer Fire Department is now able to better serve citizens traveling along Interstate 40.

“We operate on a 24 mile stretch of the interstate, and are the primary rescuers for that area. Having an updated set of tools will greatly help us take care of the citizens,” said Gary Babcock, Groom VFD fire chief.

The grant provided through the Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Fire Department Assistance Program enabled Groom VFD to purchase a jaws of life. This new power cutter unit will allow the department to perform auto extrication in the event of a vehicle wreck.

“The automotive industry’s changing standards for making cars have made it harder for us to extricate victims from the wrecked vehicles,” said Babcock. “But with the funds TFS provides, we can now stay on top of what we do.”

Through this grant program TFS strives to help increase the capacity of VFDs since they respond to 90 percent of wildfires in Texas, and staffed primarily with volunteers who operate with little to no money.

The Groom VFD award is among the \$12.8 million passed through TFS to Texas volunteer fire departments each year.

To learn more about this program visit texasfd.com.

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