

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Thornton Volunteer Fire Department replaces vital piece of firefighting equipment**

THORNTON, Texas – Thornton Volunteer Fire Department received a cost share grant through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program administered by Texas A&M Forest Service. The grant helped to purchase a slip-on unit that was installed onto a truck that the department owned.

“We have a lot of grass fires because our area is rural with farms and ranches,” said Thornton VFD Fire Chief Paul Miller. “We occasionally have a farm equipment fire as well so this unit will be a great benefit in several areas.”

The slip-on unit has a 250-gallon water tank and a 10-gallon foam tank.

“Having the option of using foam when fighting a fire means the difference in having 250 gallons of straight water or adding foam and increasing the wetting power to about 2,800 gallons of firefighting substance,” said Miller.

The department members received training on the new slip-on unit and are prepared to respond to wildland fires in their immediate area and in mutual aid.

“Thornton Volunteer Fire Department received a slip-on unit that will be a big asset to them by increasing their potential for quicker fire suppression,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Matthew Schlaefel.

The department has open enrollment for volunteers. An application may be submitted any third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the station located at 1001 North Marshall Street in Thornton.

“We appreciate Texas A&M Forest Service for having the grant program available to help with the purchase of firefighting equipment and also for local banking support that helped to make this purchase possible,” said Miller.

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>.

