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News Release

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Marlin Volunteer Fire Department purchases specialized washing machine

MARLIN, Texas — The Marlin Volunteer Fire Department has purchased a specialized washing machine that is designed to remove carcinogens and other contaminants from personal protective equipment worn by firefighters. The purchase was made possible with a \$20,000 grant from the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program. The department also used the grant to purchase dual-purpose gear.

In recent years, fire agencies have become increasingly aware of the hazards associated with wearing contaminated gear. Marlin VFD wanted to take steps to ensure the safety of its firefighters and took advantage of the opportunity to address the important issue through the grant.

Previously, the department had to outsource its cleaning to make sure the gear was safe. The new washer will save the department time and money.

The new gear allows the department to respond to both grass fires and wrecks, while also allowing the department to retire expired personal protective equipment. The gear was used on multiple grassfires and vehicle accidents.

Marlin VFD would like to thank Texas A&M Forest Service. “We’ve been able to use the new equipment on the scenes of grassfires one day, and vehicle wrecks the next. Without this grant, we wouldn’t have been able to do that,” said Tanner Bethke, Marlin VFD Lieutenant.

The department is always looking for new members. Interested parties can call (254) 749-5843.

As a member agency of the Texas A&M University System, Texas A&M Forest Service administers the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program and is committed to protecting lives, property and natural resources. The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program is funded by the Texas Legislature and provides cost-share 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, visit texasfd.com.

