

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keene Fire Rescue receives \$9,200 grant for essential rescue equipment

April 18, 2017 — Keene, Texas — Keene Fire Rescue received a grant through the Texas A&M Forest Service's Rural Volunteer Fire Assistance Program. To help fill an equipment need crucial when responding to emergencies.

The department received a variety of rescue equipment including a thermal imaging camera and telescope lighting.

The thermal imaging camera detects heat given off by an object or person. It is useful in detecting hot spots in structures or in search and rescue for a lost child or individual. The telescope lighting gives the department the ability to light a scene during any kind of emergency. The increased illumination allows the firefighters greater visibility for rescue efforts after a vehicle accident or mop-up after a fire.

"The equipment has gone into service and has been used on emergency response," said Keene Fire Rescue Fire Chief Matthew Gillin. "This type of equipment helps to increase the department's capacity to better serve the community. It allows faster, safer ways to detect hot spots that could be undetectable until it has advanced to a more serious event and telescope lighting allows for a more detailed view of the emergency incident scene."

Keene Fire Rescue has been serving the community since 1955. The department's mission is to "save lives and protect property by providing excellence and leadership in fire, rescue, emergency medical response, fire prevention, and public education." They currently have three positions open for volunteers. Anyone wanting to commit time and be trained as a firefighter can apply at keenetx.com.

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 VFDs 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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