

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Central Heights Appleby Volunteer Fire Department receives new rescue tools**

NACOGDOCHES, Texas — Thanks to a \$24,000 Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance grant, Central Heights Appleby Volunteer Fire Department purchased up-to-date rescue tools.

“The new cutter, spreader and ram, commonly called Jaws of Life, will allow for faster extrication of a victim after a vehicle accident,” said Fire Chief Jimmy Russell. “They are used to pry open a vehicle to rescue the occupant that is trapped inside.”

The Jaws of Life tool was originally developed in the 1960’s to rescue drivers at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. They have since been improved and adopted for use by rescue teams who use them to save lives.

“The stronger, smaller and lighter battery powered rescue tools are quicker, saving time when time is of the essence,” said Texas A&M Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator Ricky Holbrook. “They will be a real asset to the department and community.”

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>.

