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## **MORE THAN \$84,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO BIRMINGHAM AREA FIRST RESPONDERS**

HOMEWOOD, Ala. – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$84,235 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to four local first responder organizations during a press event at **2:30 p.m. on Tuesday March 7, 2017** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **808 Green Springs Highway, Homewood, Ala. 35209**.

The event will incorporate a donation ceremony, as well as live demonstrations from receiving departments, explaining the importance of the equipment and how it will be used to save lives. Residents and Firehouse Subs guests are invited to join the celebration and see firsthand how their generous contributions have come full circle to provide much-needed equipment in their community.

“Giving back to our first responders is the primary goal of the Foundation,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters. “We’re in a very fortunate position that allows us to work together with Firehouse Subs restaurants to raise funds that help provide life-saving equipment locally and throughout the country. Thanks to the generosity of so many people, we’re truly making a difference.”

**The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the March 7 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:**

- **Birmingham Fire & Rescue Service** received strut and mounting bracket sets worth \$18,200. The awarded equipment will be placed on ladder and engine companies and utilized for stabilization during motor vehicle accidents, allowing firefighters to safely extricate victims and provide life-saving assistance.

- **Morris Fire Department and Leeds Fire & Rescue** received extrication equipment worth a combined \$53,330. The awarded equipment will improve the departments' rescue capabilities for victims in motor vehicle accidents.
- **Mount Olive Fire & Rescue District** received a skid unit worth \$12,705, equipped with a water tank, fire pump and a hose reel with 200 feet of hose. The awarded vehicle will allow firefighters to provide fire suppression in areas impassable by traditional emergency vehicles.

"Life safety is our primary concern," said Birmingham Fire and Rescue Services Fire Captain Bryan Harrell. "The equipment will aid us in ensuring life safety for the citizens of Birmingham."

Event attendees include local first responders, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters, Firehouse Subs Area Representative and Franchisee David Conklin and Firehouse Subs Franchisees James Cain and Bradley Cain.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Firehouse Subs co-founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, traveled to Mississippi where they fed first responders and survivors. As they traveled back to Florida, they knew they could do more and Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was born with the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Since inception, the non-profit organization has given more than \$24 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$1.4 million in Alabama.

To raise money for the Foundation, Firehouse Subs restaurants participate in a number of fundraising efforts. Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon pickle buckets and sells them to guests for \$2. Donation canisters on register counters collect spare change, while the Round Up Program allows guests to "round up" their bill to the nearest dollar. Grant allocations are made possible thanks to the overwhelming support of Firehouse Subs restaurants and generous donors.

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