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MORE THAN \$36,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO MARYLAND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

SEVERNA PARK, Md. – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$36,469 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and Orchard Beach Volunteer Fire Department during a press event at **10:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 6** at the Severna Plaza Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **574 Ritchie Hwy. Severna Park, Md. 21146**.

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. Severna Park 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.

“It feels great to be able to give back to those who put their life on the line everyday to protect us,” said Firehouse Subs Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas. “First responders are truly our community’s heroes.”

The below encapsulates grant awards being celebrated at the Oct. 6 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.** received a digital fire extinguisher training system valued at \$16,865. The awarded training system will allow firefighters to train the community on the safe and proper use of fire extinguishers through hands-on instruction and demonstrations.
- **Orchard Beach Volunteer Fire Department** received an air lifting bag kit valued at \$19,604. With more than six major highways running through the department’s response area, the awarded equipment will help stabilize motor vehicles involved in accidents, allowing firefighters to safely reach victims and provide medical assistance quickly and effectively.

Event attendees include local firefighters, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Development Meghan Vargas, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Dan Lowe and the following Firehouse Subs franchisees: Dennis Atlas, Darrin Atlas, Ronald Pivarnik and Cassie Pivarnik.

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when Firehouse Subs co-founders, Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, traveled to Mississippi where they provided food to 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 its inception, the non-profit organization has granted more than \$28 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$378,000 in Maryland.

Each restaurant recycles leftover, five-gallon buckets, available to guests for a \$2 donation to the Foundation. 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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