



FOR MORE MEDIA INFORMATION

ALYSSA AUGER • TORI ANDREWS

**THE ZIMMERMAN AGENCY**

(850) 668-2222 • FIREHOUSESUBS@ZIMMERMAN.COM

## **MORE THAN \$68,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO BEXAR COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate \$68,431 worth of life-saving equipment grants awarded to three local first responder organizations during a press event at **2 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 18** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at **11600 Bandera Road, San Antonio, Texas 78250**.

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. San Antonio 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.

“Recognizing and responding to needs in the community is a priority for Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Programs Jackie Gubbins. “Through our Foundation, we’re able to provide much-needed equipment to organizations and first responders in need. It’s such a privilege knowing we’re helping save lives.”

**The below encapsulates grant awards being celebrated at the Oct. 18 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:**

- **City of Helotes Fire Department** received \$19,050 worth of equipment and training, including: two multi-trauma packs, 16 hours of training and certification in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC), Rescue Task Force Training for 25 and 10 Rescue Task Force (RFT) packages, which include tactical helmets, vests, eye protection, gloves, lights and individual first aid kits. The awarded resources will allow the Rescue Task Force, in cooperation with local law enforcement, to quickly gain access to patients and render medical care during

hostile multi-patient traumatic injury incidents, significantly improving patient's chances of survival.

- **Harmony Volunteer Fire Department** received a thermal imaging camera and a variety firefighting equipment from nozzles and hose adapters to scene lighting and turnout gear storage racks, worth a combined \$24,381. The awarded thermal imaging camera will be used to detect body heat and hotspots in burning buildings, as well as during rescue missions in large rural areas of the community, allowing firefighters to quickly locate victims and provide life-saving assistance. The firefighting equipment will replace outdated tools, improving the department's life-saving capabilities.
- **Bexar County Emergency Services District #7** received 11 sets of ballistic protective equipment, which includes vests and plate carriers, helmets, eye protection and carry bags valued at \$25,000. The awarded gear will protect fire and EMS personnel in the line of duty during hostile emergency situations. This becomes increasingly important as a 2016 report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) revealed the number of "active shooter" incidents in the U.S. is rising.

Event attendees include local first responders, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Senior Manager of Foundation Programs Jackie Gubbins, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Bill Krassner and Firehouse Subs Franchisees Tim Armstrong, Jayme Armstrong and Robert Gorena.

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 \$1.9 million in Texas.

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.

###

**Connect:**

Facebook: [Facebook.com/FirehouseSubsFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/FirehouseSubsFoundation)

Twitter: @savinglives

Website: [www.firehousesubsfoundation.org](http://www.firehousesubsfoundation.org)