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## MORE THAN \$32,000 WORTH OF LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AWARDED TO NASSAU COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla. – Continuing its mission of supporting hometown heroes, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will celebrate a life-saving equipment grant awarded to Nassau County Fire Rescue during a press event at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21 at the Firehouse Subs restaurant located at 1978 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Fernandina Beach, Fla. 32034.

"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 able to make a difference."

Nassau County Fire Rescue received a boat equipped with marine rescue items valued at \$32,847. The awarded boat and equipment will be used in water rescue missions, allowing first responders to reach victims easier and faster. Firefighters will have the equipment on display at the event for photos. Fernandina Beach 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.

"The Nassau County Fire Rescue Department is extremely excited to have received a grant for the purchase of a new rescue boat," said Nassau County Fire Rescue Fire Chief Brady Rigdon. "Our county is completely surrounded by water, and this new equipment will now give us the capability to provide assistance to boaters in need that we previously did not have. Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has once again proven that they are serious about providing life-saving equipment to first responders, and we are grateful to be a recipient of this much needed gift!"

Event attendees include: local firefighters, Nassau County Fire Rescue Fire Chief Brady Rigdon, Firehouse Subs and Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Founders

Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters and additional Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation staff.

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 \$29.5 million to hometown heroes in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$4.8 million in Florida.

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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