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JACQUELINE FAERMAN • IVETTE FAULKNER

THE ZIMMERMAN AGENCY

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

MORE THAN \$123,000 WORTH OF LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT GRANTS AWARDED TO HOUSTON FIRST RESPONDERS

HOUSTON – Following Hurricane Harvey, one of the most damaging U.S. natural disasters on record, Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation is committed to ensuring Houston first responders are prepared for the next time disaster strikes. The Houston Fire Department, Village of Pleak Volunteer Fire Department, Rosenberg Fire Department, Needville Fire Department, and Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department will be celebrating lifesaving equipment grants valued at \$123,317 during a **10:30 a.m. press conference on Wednesday, Aug. 21** at the Firehouse Subs restaurant, located at 170 Meyerland Plaza, Houston, TX 77096.

“Having the right tools at the right time can make all the difference, especially in the event of a devastating natural disaster,” said Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters. “Thanks to our generous donors, our Foundation can help ensure first responders are prepared to keep their communities safe and save lives when they’re needed most.”

The event will incorporate a donation ceremony, as well as live demonstrations from receiving organizations, 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.

The below encapsulates each grant award being celebrated at the Aug. 21 event, including a brief description of equipment use and value:

- **Houston Fire Department** received a high water vehicle valued at \$32,940. The awarded high water vehicle will be used in rescue missions during flood emergencies, such as those caused during Hurricane Harvey, and will allow first responders to reach victims safely. The area

surrounding the fire department is prone to flooding, and the possession of this vehicle will allow for better responsiveness in the event of future natural disasters.

- **Village of Pleak Volunteer Fire Department** received a rescue boat valued at \$26,637. Currently, Pleak Volunteer Fire Department has to wait on other departments in the county to assist in emergency response, which creates a delay. The equipment awarded will improve the safety and efficiency of the department's water rescue capabilities and allow for quicker response time.
- **Rosenburg Fire Department** received a rescue boat with a trailer, motor and accessories valued at \$25,000. The boat and accompanying supplies will assist in recovery and rescue operations, allowing for better visibility and a stable rescue and recovery platform, as well as more room to accommodate victims.
- **Needville Fire Department** received vehicle extrication equipment, valued at \$20,960. The rescue tools will be used to help improve lifesaving extrication methods for victims in auto, aero and structural accidents, thus cutting down on response time, operator fatigue and injury.
- **Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department** received eight sets of turnout gear valued at \$17,780. The new gear will replace outdated equipment to provide volunteers the best protection when in the field.

“Our firefighters must have the tools and resources necessary to meet the ever-evolving demands of their jobs,” said Rosenberg Fire Chief Darrell Himly. “This generous grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will provide the Rosenberg Fire Department a rescue boat, trailer and accessories, which is a critical need for our department especially with the city's close proximity to the Brazos River. We appreciate Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation's involvement in our community and them helping us keep the residents of Rosenberg safe.”

Event attendees include representatives from each receiving department, as well as Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Executive Director Robin Peters, Firehouse Subs Area Representative Mike McCown, and Firehouse Subs franchisees: Jeff Lepow and Ronald Lepow.

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, lifesaving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Since inception, the non-profit organization has granted more than \$44 million to hometown heroes in 49 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, including more than \$2.9 million in Texas.

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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