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Fort Thomas Fire receives equipment grants

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Contributed Article

Fire Chief McCoy Hawkins announced that the Fort Thomas Fire District was awarded a Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant for 2008. The grant was to replace extrication equipment that is aging and not capable of cutting steel that cars are made of today.

The Fire District was awarded a new Jaws of Life cutter, spreader, new power unit and a Rescue 42 vehicle stabilization kit. The new equipment was put into service Sept. 29. Hawkins said it will allow the volunteer firemen to perform their duties in a safe and rapid manner. Earlier this year, the firemen attended a training course in preparation for the new equipment. The district was also awarded a safety stipend grant from the 100 Club of Arizona for scene lighting. The 3,000-lumens light will be mounted on a firetruck and can be remotely controlled. The lighting equipment will improve safety during nighttime incidents as the Fire Department receives the majority of its calls between 5 p.m. and 2 a.m., Hawkins said.

Fifteen volunteers serve the Fort Thomas Fire District, which is the largest fire district in Graham County, covering 280 square miles. Seventy-five percent of the calls in the last three years have been emergency medical service calls.

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