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New Jaws Of Life donated; *Cedar Key firefighters practice*



(from left) Cedar Key Fire Chief Robert Robinson watches as John Montgomery of Municipal Emergency Services and Lawmen Supply Co. of Pinellas Park speaks about the new equipment donated by the Firehouse Sub Public Safety Foundation. Tom Winkler, rescue tool specialist, of Municipal Emergency Services of Pinellas Park is in the right of this photo. Montgomery and Winkler are instrumental in helping Chief Robinson and the volunteers being awarded these new tools -- seen on the ground on the tarp in front of them. The top benefactors are former Jacksonville firefighters Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen of Jacksonville, who started a submarine sandwich shop that grew into a thriving franchise. They started a foundation to help other firefighters and first responders.

Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 28, 2017 at 10:47 p.m.

CEDAR KEY -- Eight Cedar Key firefighters and a few Levy County Department of Public Safety (LCDPS) firefighters enjoyed an opportunity to practice with a brand new set of Hurst extrication tools (The Jaws Of Life) on Saturday morning (Jan. 28) thanks to a donation of that \$30,037 worth of equipment from the Firehouse Sub Public Safety Foundation.

Cedar Key Fire Chief Robert Robinson said he is thrilled and extremely grateful for this donation to the city's volunteer fire department.

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VIDEOS CAN BE SEEN THROUGH LINK ON MAIN JANUARY PAGE

In this four-minute video, Cedar Key Fire Chief Robert Robinson shows the difference between the noise of the 1985 version of an air compressor needed to power a Hurst tool versus the new electronic version. Then there are points where John Montgomery is teaching and the firefighters are using the tools. In the final two segments, first Levy County Department of Public Safety Firefighter-Paramedic Katy Yanok cuts through the bottom of a post on the driver side of the vehicle. Then this video concludes with Cedar Key Volunteer Fire Department Firefighter James 'Jamie' McCain Jr. as he cuts through the top part of that post and removes that piece of the car – with the Jaws Of Life, the Hurst extrication tool used to cut.

The firefighters present for the dedication ceremony and practice with the tools are Cedar Key Fire Chief Robert Robinson; Cedar Key Volunteer Fire Rescue Department (CKFR) Assistant Chief James McCain Sr.; CKFR Capt. Kenny McCain; CKFR Lt. Ken Daniel; CKFR Firefighter James “Jamie” McCain Jr.; CKFR Firefighter John Andrek; CKFR Firefighter Tommy Pavao; CKFR Firefighter Matthew Adams; LCDPS Firefighter-Paramedic Katy Yanok; LCDPS Firefighter-Paramedic Harry Sparks; LCDPS Firefighter-EMT Jimmie Jones; and LCDPS EMT Bob Sorrell.

Cedar Key City Commissioner Sue Colson was present and spoke highly of the volunteer firefighters in Cedar Key. There were 20 to 30 men, women and children from Cedar Key who came to see the dedication ceremony and to watch the tools in use.

Everyone was awestruck at the power of the tools as they spread metal, cut metal and pushed whole sections of the car apart.

The donor vehicle was a 1989 Mitsubishi Summit hatchback that had a sliding door on the rear passenger compartment. It offered opportunities for instructors to show cutting and spreading points for different types of doors on vehicles.

The vehicle was very much cut apart.



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Firefighters prepare to start practicing and learning with the new equipment, The two-story Cedar Key Firehouse is in the background.



Firefighters listen carefully as their instructor takes time to show them best methods for efficiently cutting and removing metal to extricate a crash victim trapped in a vehicle. Repeated training will help firefighters know instinctively how to use the Jaws Of Life.



Assistant Chief James McCain Sr. holds a Hurst spreader tool as

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Firefighter Jamie McCain holds the cutter. One lesson of the many shared that day is to take care and not damage one tool with another tool when they are being applied to metal in close proximity.



The spreader creates a "V" shape in the top of the passenger window, just as it is supposed to do. Notice the broken glass on the ground. Windows are broken before the metal is spread or cut, because it is going to break. By

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controlling that process - including covering the patient with a cloth to protect them from flying glass - that safety factor is applied.



Firefighters practice on the passenger door after learning methods on the driver side door. This vehicle also had a hatchback and a sliding side door, which provided other lessons for best methods to enter a vehicle to rescue a trapped victim.



Work is under way on the rear entrance to the vehicle. Notice the Chiles-MacKay bumper sticker. That was for the 1990 election of former Gov. Lawton Chiles and Lt. Gov. Kenneth Hood "Buddy" MacKay Jr. MacKay

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was briefly the 42nd governor of Florida, too, after the death of Gov. Chiles on Dec. 12, 1998.



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LCDPS Firefighter-Paramedic Katy Yanok cuts the bottom part of the driver side post near the center of the car. Cedar Key Firefighter Jamie McCain cut the top part after that and removed this post. Firefighters found ample opportunities to cut the metal, spread the metal and use the ram to move whole sections of the car. These tools are excellent for safely and quickly

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extricating people from vehicles if they are trapped in them after a crash.



This little car was cut up even more after this point in its sacrificial end-of-life function.

It had bunches of pine straw, indicating it had been stored for some period of time before being put to use as an instruction tool. When asked about the relocation of squirrels from the possible nests, one teacher said no animals were hurt during the process to secure the vehicle.

This Hurst extrication equipment replaces an older version of the same tools that were donated to Cedar Key Volunteer Fire Department in 1985 by the Levy County Board of County Commissioners.

That other set of tools, now more than 30 years old, still works. The new tools, however, are lighter, quieter, faster to put to use, easier to maneuver, more environmentally friendly -- and brand new.

The chief and firefighters accepted the new Hurst cutter, spreader, ram, and the necessary batteries and chargers required for use. In addition, this award includes a Hurst eDraulic bank charger, power supply, and three mounting brackets.

Hurst (Jaws Of Life) has been around since 1971, but the new equipment that is free from an air-compressor, has been around only since about 2010.

Before the start of the dedication program Saturday, John Montgomery, a sales representative of Municipal Emergency Services and Lawmen Supply Co. of Pinellas Park, showed how each of the three big Hurst tools -- the cutter, the ram and the spreader, had a small laser-etched symbol of the Firehouse Sub Public Safety Foundation's logo near the Hurst name.

This goodwill gift comes from a company that does not have a submarine sandwich store in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties.

There are three of these sub shops in Gainesville; two in Ocala; one in Lady Lake; one in Lake City; one in Macclenny; and they are elsewhere.

After Chief Robinson opened the dedication program, Montgomery was the first to speak.

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Montgomery was in the firefighting profession for 40 years. Now he is a Northern Florida sales representative for Municipal Emergency Services and Lawmen Supply Co.

In the year 2000, Montgomery was working with the father of firefighters Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen of Jacksonville. Those two former firefighters are in charge of more than 1,000 Firehouse Sub franchises – after they started that chain.

Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in late August of 2005. At least 1,245 people died in the hurricane and subsequent floods, making it the deadliest United States hurricane since the 1928 Okeechobee hurricane.

During the recovery period from Hurricane Katrina, the Sorenson brothers loaded trucks in Jacksonville and brought food to first responders and survivors in Mississippi.

As they traveled back to Florida exhausted and exhilarated, they knew they could do more and the 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, this non-profit organization has given more than \$24 million to hometown heroes in 46 states plus Puerto Rico and Canada.

Montgomery said volunteer firefighters give of their time with hundreds of hours of training, and then they respond to save lives and property as a volunteer.

Tom Winkler, retired after 27 years in fire service in Pinellas County. He is a Technical Rescue Specialist with Hurst Jaws of Life. He is responsible for sales and service of Hurst tools all over Florida.

Montgomery and Winkler spent more than an hour training the firefighters with hands-on instruction. Montgomery had to leave after the first hour or so, because one of his granddaughters was having a birthday and he had committed to being there.

During his 40 years in service, just as in Winkler's 27 years, they had to surrender weekends, holidays, nights and plenty of other family time. Volunteers, just like paid professional firefighters and other emergency responders, have families who give of their time with their loved ones, too, so that the lives and property of strangers can be protected and saved.

Marked Donation

This Hurst tool shows a logo (near the top of the photo) that is laser-etched to show it was donated by the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.



This foundation donated more than \$30,000 in life-saving extrication equipment to the Cedar Key Volunteer Fire Rescue Department. *Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 28, 2017 at 10:57 p.m. All Stories, Photos and Videos of Original Creation By HardisonInk.com have All Copyrights Reserved. (Get your own video TV-20.)*