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Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation donates Jaws Of Life

Chiefland Fire Rescue trains at night



Tom Winkler removes a tip from the spreader tool as he teaches firefighters about these Hurst machines that are known as the Jaws Of Life.

Story, Photos and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 21, 2018 at 3:38 p.m.

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CHIEFLAND -- Several Chiefland firefighters and one from the Levy County Department of Public Safety (LCDPS) enjoyed an opportunity to practice with a brand-new set of Hurst extrication tools (The Jaws Of Life) on Monday night (Nov. 19) thanks to the donation of \$30,037 worth of equipment from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

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Breaking Glass

<https://youtu.be/-PlUqXzOduc>

In this video, Tom Winkler shows the firefighters some finer points about the best methods to break window glass to avoid hurting the person trapped in the vehicle. The noise heard in the background is from the fire engine that had a giant boom light so that firefighters could see in the pitch-black darkness where they were working at the City Barn in the Industrial Park of Chiefland. The Hurst tools are very quiet. Fire Chief James Harris said CFR volunteer firefighters train at night because they have daytime jobs.

Best method for starting on window frame

https://youtu.be/_bRx3liYhDM

In This video Tom Winkler shows the firefighters some of the things he spoke about in class. The first point he shares here is about the physics of the window frame on the vehicle.

Pop Door Open

<https://youtu.be/5NaUjoMmlow>

In this video, Tom Winkler completes the process to open a door. The spreader did all of this work. The cutter, then is used to snip hinges and take the door away from the vehicle. The telescopic ram tool can push metal parts apart.



Tom Winkler shows how the ram extends and that the weight of the ram will shift so that it pulls down. All three Hurst extrication tools are extremely powerful. Care must be used when saving lives with the Jaws Of Life. Firefighters need practice with the tools to keep from becoming an accident victim.

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The telescoping ram is on the left. The cutter is on the bottom and the spreader is above it.



Laser etched on each donated tool -- Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

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Firefighters prepare to be trained to properly use the new tools.



The tools are placed just as they would be at an accident scene.



Tom Winkler (right) tells

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firefighters how to use Hurst tools to save lives. Chiefland Fire Chief James Harris said the training the CFR firefighters are given is to save the lives of mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters -- family, friends and any human beings who are in need of help.



Rest the tool here. Turn this knob. Let the tool work. Tom Winkler reminded firefighters they do not need to force things, because as much as they may think smashing a battery into the tool is the best method, it is not. If the battery is not going into the tool, it is because there is something in the way, like a piece of glass. It is best to store batteries in the tools or in the chargers, he said.

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The glowing bars on the firefighters' coats light up because the camera flash is reflected from them. It was dark where the men were training.



Two doors are opened on one of the two cars the firefighters practiced on. They also cut posts, and peeled metal from both cars as they should to safely remove trapped patients.

Chiefland Fire Chief James Harris, Deputy Fire Chief Gene Stockman, Assistant Chief A.D. Goodman and Chiefland City Commissioner Donald Lawrence were among the people learning about the new tools, and watching as the firefighters spread metal, cut metal and learned best methods for the most safe and efficient extrication of patients who are trapped in smashed vehicles.

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

Winkler spent hours of instructing and training the Chiefland firefighters with hands-

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on instruction, starting with about an hour and a half at the Chiefland Fire Station.

Just as the volunteers learning about how to properly use, store, transport and maintain Hurst tools, during Winkler's 27 years of active fire service, he 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.

Many of the Chiefland crew on Monday night were volunteers.

Winkler shared several funny stories while teaching the men about how to properly use and store the Hurst brand of spreader, cutter and twin-piston telescoping ram.

When transporting the tools, be certain they are properly put into the truck. Do not let them bounce around. There were straps provided with these tools, and Winkler said he saw the CFR had properly installed the straps for proper transportation of the Hurst tools.

A fire department in Brandon had a tool fall out of a truck. Even though it was attached to straps, the straps were not attached to the truck. The tool hit the road and was run over.

These tools are tough, rather than several thousands of dollars to replace it, the parts that were destroyed were able to be replaced for hundreds of dollars.

As for checking the tools, Winkler said the firefighters must first remove the tool from the truck. Firefighters in St. Petersburg and Jacksonville were conducting routine checks of the spreader too, and they did not remove it from its place on the truck. The powerful tool removed the door from the hatch where it was stored on trucks in those two big cities.

Firefighters who listened learned a great deal Monday night. They also had opportunities to spread, cut and move metal as they practiced with the tools.

These are Hurst brand e-hydraulic tools. The hydraulic tools are just like the Hurst brand that uses combustion engines to send air through hoses to move the hydraulics.

This more modern tool, however, uses a powerful battery that causes the hydraulics to be moved by an electric motor. Winkler reminded the men that this is not an electric tool. It is a hydraulic tool.

He showed the firefighters several ways to properly use the machines. The batteries that power these tools are amazing.

Tri-County Towing donated the two vehicles used by firefighters in the practice Monday night.

This Hurst extrication equipment replaces an older version of the same tools at the Chiefland Fire Rescue Department.

The new tools 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 eDrualic 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.

Winkler showed how each of the 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.

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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.

These sub shops are in Gainesville, Ocala, Lady Lake, Lake City, and they are elsewhere.

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

In the year 2000, firefighters Chris Sorensen and Robin Sorensen of Jacksonville were active in the fire service. Those two former firefighters now are in charge of more than 1,000 Firehouse Subs 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 was born with the mission of providing funding, life-saving equipment, and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations.

Another Donation

<https://youtu.be/Jtol2nXjvLE>

In this four-minute *HardisonInk.com* video from the daytime dedication program when Cedar Key Fire Rescue obtained its new Hurst tools from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation in 2017, 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.