



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PETS WILL BREATHE EASIER, THANKS TO NEW KITS

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 9/17/15) – The Temple Terrace Fire Department has received a donation of oxygen-mask kits specially designed to save the lives of dogs, cats and other small pets.

The department received the kits from Invisible Fence, the Knoxville, Tenn. pet-products company that has donated more than 4,000 of the life-saving kits to fire departments across America through its Project Breathe program.

The kits will be carried on City firetrucks to be used as needed, said Temple Terrace Assistant Fire Chief Ian Kemp. Although the number of pets killed in fires is not an official statistic kept by the U.S. Fire Administration, estimates range anywhere from 40,000 to 150,000 annually, mostly from smoke inhalation.

After having experienced a number of animal rescues in recent years, from chimney to storm drain rescues, Temple Terrace Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 3582 contacted Invisible Fence about Project Breathe, and was approved for three kits.

Each kit includes a small, medium and large mask to accommodate different pet sizes, said Fire Capt. Roger Chewning, president of the IAFF Local 3582. The masks are shaped to seal tightly around an animal's muzzle, enabling firefighters to deliver life-saving oxygen while protecting them from potential injury from an animal that may bite out of fear.

"While the safety of people is our No. 1 priority, we are grateful to have the tools to help save the lives of our citizens' animal companions," Chewning said. "We know how important people's pets are to them. In fact, we have a few firefighters with veterinary experience. They're able to assist and train our first responders in pet CPR and the proper techniques for using these masks."

Chewning said the kits also provide another tool for ensuring the safety of the department's disaster-victim search dog, River. Trained by Firefighter/Paramedic Tom Loughlin, River works alongside the City's first responders in dangerous environments, and participates in specialized training in simulated structure collapses, rubble piles and more.

"We are extremely grateful to the Invisible Fence Company for this gracious donation," Chewning said.

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