



BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Bluffton Township Fire District Upgrades SCBA Equipment to Enhance Firefighter Safety

Bluffton, SC (April 10, 2024) - Bluffton Township Fire District announces the acquisition of state-of-the-art Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment, the Scott Air-Pak™ X3 Pro system, replacing equipment that was reaching the end of its service life. The equipment upgrade ensures ongoing compliance with the current National Fire Prevention Association guidelines. This significant investment underscores the district's commitment to enhancing firefighter safety and operational efficiency.

The Scott X3 Pro system represents a leap forward in firefighter protection and performance, offering several key advancements over the previous equipment:

- Improved Communication Capabilities:** The new SCBA equipment features enhanced communication systems, enabling clearer and more reliable communication among firefighters during critical operations. This ensures better coordination and situational awareness, ultimately leading to safer and more effective responses to emergencies.
- Greater Cancer-Reduction Features:** The Air-Pak™ X3 Pro system is equipped with washable straps designed to reduce exposure to carcinogens, a major concern in firefighting environments. By minimizing contact with harmful substances, the equipment helps mitigate the risk of long-term health complications for firefighters.
- Enhanced Firefighter Monitoring:** The new SCBA equipment includes advanced monitoring technology that provides real-time data on cylinder pressure and respiration rate as well as bi-directional communication between the firefighter and incident command. This allows for better monitoring of firefighters' well-being during rescue operations, ensuring prompt intervention in case of emergencies.

Chief Paul Boulware commented, "The acquisition of the Scott Air-Pak™ X3 Pro system marks a significant milestone for our department. Ensuring the safety and well-being of our firefighters is our top priority, and this new equipment provides our personnel with the latest technologies to perform their duties safely and effectively."

The Bluffton Township Fire District acknowledges the support of the local community and government in funding a bond for this crucial upgrade, demonstrating a collective commitment to firefighter safety and public service excellence.

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The Bluffton Township Fire District, established in 1978, has 178 employees. One hundred forty-seven firefighters work from 9 stations on 3 shifts. Led by Chief Paul Boulware, the department serves a 246 square-mile area in southern Beaufort County, SC and responded to over 10,600 calls last year.