

State Farm Insurance® Provides Vehicles for Rescue Training

Arapahoe County-- During the week of May 15, Cunningham Fire Rescue will be conducting auto extrication training to refine the skills and knowledge necessary to accessing and freeing occupants of automobiles that have been damaged in traffic accidents.

Many times rapid access is vital to providing life-saving medical treatment and stabilization to people in the vehicle, however, due to damage the vehicles sustain from the impact of an accident, accessing the occupants may be difficult if not impossible. In such cases, the use of hydraulic rescue tools becomes necessary to remove body panels and displaced vehicle components in order to provide access to the occupants to provide medical treatment and remove them from the vehicle.

Because automotive design and technology rapidly changes and includes features such as collapse zones; lightweight high strength metals; and supplemental restraint systems; having opportunities to use relatively newer vehicles that firefighters and rescue personnel are likely to encounter allows them to practice rescue techniques and experience challenges they may face with these automobiles. To assist with keeping up with the design features and rescue challenges of late model vehicles, State Farm Insurance® has provided 12 vehicles for Cunningham Firefighters to use during their extrication training. Three of the vehicles will include hybrid drive systems, which pose unique challenges because of the power systems used for the drive train. The vehicles State Farm is donating are salvage vehicles that are still in a condition to provide a realistic training prop for firefighters to practice extrication techniques.

Other businesses that have assisted with this training include Klode Salvage Distribution Center by transporting the vehicles; and John Elway Toyota, Burt Kuni Honda and Burt Ford who are providing new model hybrid vehicles for familiarization of component location and design.

Media are invited to observe the training session on May 17, 2006 between the hours of 10:00am and 11:30am at the Joint Services Facility located at 17801 E. Plaza Drive in Parker. Contact Kevin Ferry- Deputy Fire Marshal/PIO at (303) 338-4222 or Captain Doug Schneider at (303) 338-4221 for more information.

Cunningham Fire Rescue is a Fire Protection District that provides fire and Emergency Medical Services to portions of Unincorporated Arapahoe County and portions of the City of Centennial.

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