NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE PROVIDES THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS TO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

SUFFOLK, VA (June 25, 2015) As part of a phased purchase of 20 new thermal imaging cameras, the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department is providing a camera to each of the four Volunteer Fire Departments which partner to provide service to the City of Suffolk. The ISG X380 cameras were purchased in two phases utilizing Assistance to Localities funding provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia at a cost of $8,900 each.

Suffolk Fire & Rescue values the relationship with each of the volunteer agencies in our City and this purchase enhances our partnership by providing state-of-the-art equipment with the associated training, thus improving service delivery in our City.

After presenting a camera to the Whaleyville Volunteer Fire Department on Thursday, June 25, 2015, Suffolk Fire & Rescue Chief Cedric Scott said, “The Whaleyville Volunteer Fire Department has been a valuable resource and an important partner in providing emergency services to the Whaleyville Community for many years. I am very happy that we were able to provide them with this important piece of equipment.”

Whaleyville Volunteer Fire Department Chief Charles Brothers noted, “The partnership and relationship between the Whaleyville Volunteer Fire Department and Suffolk Fire & Rescue continues with the acquisition of this vital piece of firefighting equipment. We are proud to accept this thermal imaging camera and use it to provide the best service to our community and citizens."

In addition to supplying the cameras to the Volunteer Departments, Suffolk Fire & Rescue has placed units on their front-line fire apparatus to include 10 fire engines, 3 aerial ladder trucks, a heavy rescue unit, and 2 Command vehicles.

A thermal imaging camera (colloquially known as a TIC) is a type of thermographic camera used in firefighting. By rendering infrared radiation as visible light, these cameras allow firefighters to see areas of heat through smoke, darkness, or heat-permeable barriers. Thermal imaging cameras are typically handheld but may be helmet-mounted. They are constructed using heat- and water-resistant housings, and ruggedized to withstand the hazards of fire ground operations.

Since thermal imaging cameras can "see" through darkness or smoke, they allow firefighters to quickly find the seat of a structure fire, or see the heat signature of visually obscured victims. They can be used to search for victims outdoors on a cool night, spot smoldering fires inside a wall, or detect overheating electrical wiring.

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