



SALEM FIRE-EMS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – January 13, 2011

SALEM FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT RECEIVES PET OXYGEN MASKS

The City of Salem Fire & E.M.S Department is proud to announce a partnership with Invisible Fence Brand of Virginia to help reduce the number of pets killed or injured in house fires each year. It is estimated that between 40,000 to 150,000 pets die each year in fires.

A new donation of pet oxygen masks will provide a breath of fresh air for our four-legged furry friends in the City of Salem and surrounding communities. Pet owners should take comfort knowing that Salem now will be equipped with pet oxygen mask kits on all three fire engines and an EMS supervisor vehicle. This means a kit will be available for any fire that may occur in the city.

When firefighters arrive at the scene of a fire their first priorities are to assure the life safety of the occupants and ensure that everyone has exited safely. When given the opportunity, many rescue personnel would like to help pets, but haven't had the proper equipment to do so. In the past, firefighters have tried adapting human oxygen masks to fit an animal, but human masks don't fit properly on the nose of dogs and cats, thus they fail to provide the necessary supply of oxygen.

The plastic cup-shaped animal resuscitation masks, which come in three sizes, were originally developed for use by veterinarians. They seal around the muzzle of an animal tighter than a human mask. This helps firefighters deliver the right amount of oxygen to the pet and it also protects firefighters from an injured animal that may try to bite out of fear.

Company officials from Invisible Fence Brand of Virginia presented four pet oxygen mask kits to Chief Pat Counts of the City of Salem Fire and EMS Department on Thursday, January 13, 2011, at Salem Fire Station 1.

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