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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Forsyth County, Georgia – The ambulances providing Forsyth County’s emergency medical services will now be equipped with cutting-edge intubation technology, thanks to a grant the Forsyth County Fire Department received from the Georgia Trauma Commission.

The grant provided to the county nine video laryngoscopes, which are designed to make it easier to open and maintain a patient’s airway in an emergency. One of the devices will equip each of the seven ambulances that serve Forsyth County through Central EMS – the county’s contracted emergency medical services provider. The other two units will be used for training and by the Fire Department.

“We were certainly pleased to receive this grant from the Georgia Trauma Commission which enabled us to bring this state-of-the-art technology to Forsyth County,” said Forsyth County Fire Department Division Chief Jason Shivers. “This equipment will allow paramedics and EMTs to more efficiently and effectively intubate – or open the airway – of patients who are having difficulty breathing.”

The Intubrite device improves upon manual intubation, which has been a standard medical practice for decades. In the manual procedure, the paramedic must view the tracheal tube from between 18 inches to two feet above the patient to place a flexible plastic tube into the windpipe to maintain an open airway. The video laryngoscope eliminates this distance, bringing the visual to eye level.

Getting a clear view of the trachea can be a challenge for first responders working on the scene of a medical emergency. The paramedics often have to intubate in a variety of adverse locations and environments including a moving ambulance, during chest compressions, in cramped spaces or amid poor weather conditions. The video laryngoscope minimizes the risk of missed intubation.

In most patients, intubation is routine with a clear view of the trachea, but direct view can be obscured because of a patient’s size, large or short neck or possible head and neck injuries. The video laryngoscope helps with difficult situations, allowing the paramedic a clear visual field for successful intubation on the first attempt.

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The Intubrite video laryngoscope uses high-quality LED digital-display technology to magnify the airway and project it on a screen at the paramedic's eye level. The portion of the device that is inserted into the airway to introduce the tube for breathing has an attached camera lens. The image taken from the camera is relayed to a screen on the handle of the device. This allows for faster, more accurate placement of breathing tubes to maintain an open airway.

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