The San Simon Fire District was the recipient of a safety grant from the Arizona Governor’s Office of Highway Safety.

The total grant amount being awarded is $48,811.00. The grant will go towards purchasing new extrication and vehicle stabilization equipment, reflective vests and traffic cones.

The equipment will be placed on its mini rescue, which is the primary responding vehicle to all EMS and motor vehicle collision calls.

“The extrication and vehicle stabilization equipment provided to our fire district through the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety grant program will enhance the safety of our firefighters, and the public,” says Fire Chief John Novak.

This will give our firefighters the state-of-the-art equipment they need to safely rescue a person who is entrapped in a motor vehicle. This equipment will also enhance firefighter safety as it will maximize the efficiency of our limited staffing. Being able to utilize battery powered equipment means less equipment to lug down to the vehicle and assemble. This will allow our first responders to begin rescue efforts immediately.

San Simon’s part of Interstate 10 sees a lot of commercial vehicle traffic, in addition to passenger vehicles. When the two types of vehicles meet, it is a common occurrence that the passenger vehicle ends up being trapped beneath the semi-trailer. The high-pressure airbags provide our firefighters the means to lift the semi-trailer to be lifted up, allowing access to the patients.

Oftentimes during a collision on the interstate, a single lane is kept open. The reflective vests and traffic cones help to create a safer environment when working on the pavement, by highlighting personnel and creating a visual barrier which shows traffic where to drive.