



**PRESS RELEASE – Sept. 12, 2014**

**Communications: 972-624-3156**

## **Non-profit donates high-tech radar to Fire Department**

THE COLONY, Texas — In service to a lakeside community, one of the necessary duties of The Colony Fire Department is to respond to emergency incidents that occur in the waters of Lewisville Lake. Unfortunately, those incidents often include drownings, during which fire department personnel are called in to search for victims underwater.

Thanks to a generous donation, those efforts will now be greatly enhanced by the use of a new image scanning radar device soon to be on board TCFD Boat 476. The device, a Humminbird 1199 valued at about \$3,000, is being donated by the BMF Project, a non-profit organization that supports search and rescue agencies and promotes water safety.

Unlike traditional sonar, the new image scanning radar will provide a detailed, nearly three-dimensional view of the underwater environment beneath the boat that will make it dramatically easier to distinguish various objects. With older sonar technology, personnel could distinguish between large and small objects but not between a victim's body and other common debris, such as tree stumps.

The new Humminbird device also comes with a GPS antenna, allowing emergency personnel to ping a specific location on their path enabling quick returns to specific spots.

“We’re very grateful to the BMF Project for their donation of this equipment which will greatly improve our search and rescue capabilities on the lake,” Fire Chief Scott Thompson said. “The quicker we can locate a victim, the sooner it will ease the anxiety of family and friends.”

Representatives from the BMF Project will be on hand to present the donation to The Colony Fire Department at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Central Fire Station, 4900 Blair Oaks Drive.

According to its website, [www.thebmfproject.org](http://www.thebmfproject.org), the BMF Project for Search and Rescue was started to honor the memory of Brandon Michael Fugate, who at 18 years of age, drowned in Lake Ray Hubbard on Nov. 29, 2008.

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