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NB Fire Department Team Receives Honors at Texas Rescue Competition

New Braunfels, TX –Members of the City of New Braunfels Fire Department special operations rescue team competed in the 35th annual Texas Rescue Competition last weekend at Garner State Park. The team garnered first place honors in one scenario and the third place award in another in only their second year of participation in the event. The Texas Rescue Competition is open to teams world-wide.

“The event consists of teams competing for the best performance of a rescue scenario,” said John Robinson, Fire Chief. “Typically the judges locate a challenging location to place a ‘patient’ – such as on the face of a cliff over 300 feet in the air, or in caves so tight it is hard to have room to take a full breathe – and then judge the team’s rescue on a number of criteria.”

Criteria include: Evaluation of Site/Situation; Leader’s Command; Scene Stabilization and Safety; Personnel Safety; Rescuers Assessment, Care and Handling of the ‘Patient;’ Equipment Care; Knowledge of Equipment; Use of Anchors and Haul and Lowering Systems; and Belay System or its Alternative.

The 2013 team members include: Ethan Lindner, Lee Barker, Kai Walderman, Nathan Dekens, Larry Evans, James Pierce, Tyler Hindman, Bo Montague, Garrick Herbert, Justin Kinnamon, Mitchell Halbaldier and John Sippel, Jr.

“Participation and preparation prior to the contest provides training opportunities in technical rope rescue and wilderness emergency response,” Chief Robinson said. “I am proud of the achievements of our team last weekend and of their on-going dedication to preparedness.”

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