

Munson Fire Department Partners with Rome Township Fire Department to Save Lives

In 2024 the Munson Fire Department was the recipient of a state grant that enabled the purchase of a new state of the art extrication unit (aka “Jaws of Life”).

An extrication unit is a hydraulic rescue tool used by emergency responders to free individuals trapped in vehicles or other hazardous situations. These tools are known for their ability to cut through metal, spread objects, and exert powerful force to create escape routes for victims. While primarily used to free victims from vehicles after accidents, they can also be used in other rescue scenarios like building collapses or industrial accidents.

After this purchase was completed, the existing extrication unit, while more than twenty years old, was still in excellent working order and still valuable for use in rescue situations. Enter Doug Riedel, Fire Inspector for the Munson Fire Department. Leveraging his relationships from over fifty years in the Fire Services, Doug contacted Ed Koziol, Fire Chief in nearby Rome Township in Ashtabula County. As it turned out, the Rome Fire Department had a need for an additional extrication unit for one of their rescue vehicles. In late April of this year, Doug visited the Rome Fire Department and presented Chief Koziol with Munson’s older extrication unit at no cost.

This partnership between the Munson and Rome Township Fire Departments will hopefully have a positive impact in terms of future rescue activities for the communities that each serve.



Rome Township Fire Chief Ed Koziol (left) with Munson Township Fire Inspector Doug Riedel (right), as Doug presents Ed with an extrication unit formerly used by the Munson Fire Department.