



TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

FIRE DEPARTMENT



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On a beautiful Friday afternoon in August 1999, the Bridgewater Fire Department responded to a call that would forever change the way we respond to and perform rescue operations at scenes requiring technical rescue techniques.

The Bridgewater Fire Department lacked the training as well as the specialized equipment needed to safely and effectively carryout a trench rescue. We didn't even recognize an unsafe trench or realize the potential for a catastrophic event. Bridgewater is now a proactive department in construction site safety. Many job sites in our town have been shut down until safety conditions have been met.

After the loss of Jackie Moore, the Bridgewater Fire Department sought ways to better perform specialized rescue techniques. We now have members of our department that have received many hours of specialized training in Trench Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Structural Collapse Rescue and Underwater Search and Rescue. With help of the Jackie Moore Safety Fund, the Bridgewater Fire Department was able to purchase much needed equipment used in trench rescue. This equipment includes products used to secure temporary trench walls called spine boards during rescue situations, bringing a level of safety to rescue personnel not realized prior to August 1999.

Bridgewater Fire now maintains a Technical Rescue Team to ensure the safety of both the citizens and visitors to the town of Bridgewater. With capabilities extending "outside the norm", technicians are available to safeguard victims and provide aid to unusual rescue situations beyond the capability of an average fire department response. This application of skills, knowledge, and equipment safely resolves unique or complex rescue situations.

The Bridgewater Fire Department wishes to thank the Jackie Moore Safety Fund for helping us to educate, train and attain equipment in order to handle such tragedies as the one we faced in August 1999. We personally struggle with the loss of Jackie and know that because of this tragedy we will be ready for the many obstacles that we continue to be faced with.

George W. Rogers Jr.
Chief
Bridgewater Fire