



# Town of Canton

## Fire and EMS Department



### PRESS RELEASE *For Immediate Distribution*

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### ***Utility Truck Added to Fire & EMS Fleet*** *Donation Brings Unique Capabilities to First Responders*

***Canton, CT January 3, 2006***.... “Utility 8,” a 2005, 4x4, Chevy Silverado pick-up, recently donated by the Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (CVFD), went on-line at the Town of Canton Fire & EMS Department at 7:00 p.m., January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Then it started to snow.

“Today’s Nor’easter is a perfect example of why Utility 8 is an invaluable resource; uniquely able to support the fire & emergency medical needs of the Town,” observed Craig Robbins, Collinsville Fire Station Captain who championed the donation on behalf of the Department. “Many roads & driveways were made impassable due to the volume of snow, low lying trees and fallen power lines. Utility 8 was on the road today at 4:00 a.m. maneuvering roads & driveways inaccessible to traditional emergency vehicles.”

“In addition, it played a critical role as a reconnaissance vehicle reporting back on changing road conditions & hazards all over Town. It also served as a transport vehicle for needed equipment between stations during the increased volume of emergency calls made during the storm. Not a bad first day,” noted Robbins.

At a meeting this Fall, the Board of Selectmen formally accepted the donation of the new, fire-engine red, utility truck which is custom outfitted with radios, sirens, lights & identification. The donation from CVFD is valued at over \$37, 000.00. Utility 8 will be available for response by all divisions of the Town of Canton’s Fire & EMS Department.

Chief Rich Hutchings expects the Department to get the same multi-purpose usage from Utility 8 during Spring’s brush fires, Fall’s flooding dangers & year-round land/water search & rescue. “In addition to saving wear & tear on the larger, more expensive emergency vehicles, we’ll be able to respond & transport equipment & supplies with greater speed, access & maneuverability by the river, in the woods or on the mountain.”

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With better access & information from remote spots that can't be safely reached or maneuvered with traditional apparatus, Utility 8 improves the Department's ability to identify risks/benefits to firefighters, EMS personnel, residents, victims & property. "With the difficult, changing weather patterns we have experienced over the past year, this generous donation is truly a life safety enhancement for the Department & the Town, Hutchings said. "We'll be able to get in & more important we'll be able to get back out."

The donation of Utility 8 was made possible because of CVFD's fundraising activities during the year, highlighted by the annual Jamboree in June. CVFD's Chairman of the Board, Vincent Monsonis believes "the type of professional response that we have come to expect from the volunteers in Fire & EMS demands that they have the proper equipment for the times."

"Utility 8 was a critical missing link in the Department's fleet of response vehicles. Fire & EMS response is so complex and multi-faceted today. It is critical to have the capabilities needed to enhance first responder's safety & abilities, so they can do the job Town residents benefit from - every single day. That's something to consider next time you buy a raffle ticket at the Jamboree."

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