



Photos by JUDY TRUESDELL/City of Wylie

**Bobby Swan** (right), owner of Invisible Fence of Greater Dallas, shows Wylie Fire Rescue Capt. Cory Clayborn and Firefighter Keith Boldroff one of the pet oxygen masks donated by his company to Wylie Fire.

# Fire Rescue receives pet oxygen mask donation

SUBMITTED STORY

Losing a home to fire is one of life's most heartbreaking tragedies. The loss of irreplaceable keepsakes and photographs, along with important financial records and other documents, is traumatic; the misery is compounded if a beloved family pet is lost due to smoke inhalation.

Wylie Fire Rescue has received a donation from Invisible Fence Brand of Greater Dallas that will help firefighters save the lives of four-legged family members. Part of its Project Breathe, Invisible Fence donated five pet oxygen mask kits, one each for the three fire stations and two ambulances, to the fire department.

Each kit includes a small, medium and large mask to accommodate different pet sizes. These masks are shaped to seal tightly around animals' muzzles, enabling firefighters to deliver life-saving oxygen and protecting them from an injured animal that may bite out of fear.

Bobby Swan and Erica Longbine of Invisible Fence visited Wylie's Fire Station 3 on May 12 to deliver the masks.

"When people lose their home, some of our most thankful moments are when we can resuscitate an animal overcome by smoke," Swan said. "Countless pets' lives have been saved by these masks, which is our mission. We're glad to be able to provide this equipment to Wylie firefighters."

Tens of thousands of pets die each year in fires. Through Project Breathe, more

than 4,000 kits, valued at approximately \$250 each, have been donated to fire departments throughout the U.S. and Canada.

"We are pleased to receive any tool that aids us in our efforts to keep the Wylie community safe," said Fire Chief Brent Parker. "Although preservation of human life is our top priority, we are grateful to Invisible Fence for this donation that will help us save the lives of family pets."

*Information provided by Judy Truesdell on behalf of the City of Wylie.*



**Swan** demonstrates a pet oxygen mask on his own dog Ben. Swan, a diabetic, gets a nudge from Ben if his own blood sugar dips to a dangerous level.