Recently, at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSC), Georgia Fire Academy (GFA) instructors proudly took delivery of a new training simulator that is sure to enhance the level of live fire training across Georgia. The high tech training unit will augment the Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP) serving fire departments with volunteer firefighters, combination departments with both volunteer and career firefighters, as well as other training programs delivered on and off the campuses of GPSTC. The Falcon Car passenger vehicle fire prop is equipped with Fireblast Quickburner™ Technology, a residential gas meter, a flammable liquid pan, and a trailer to transport the prop and related training equipment. The purchase of this prop was made possible by the award of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of $101,000.00.

After extensive research of the leading vehicle fire training simulators, the GFA personnel worked closely to devise the ideal specifications for the unit and to complete the AFG application in hopes of getting the much needed Portable Live Fire Vehicle Simulator. Equipped with programmable control features, the Falcon DX Car Trainer is a scenario based training unit, with variable fire controls designed to create unmatched levels of training in a safe and controlled environment. It produces high-level training with capabilities including fire suppression techniques as it relates to vehicle fires as well as flammable liquid fires. It also will give students the opportunity to address strategies and tactics based on the how we configure the prop.

Georgia’s Fire Service, with a specific focus on Volunteer Firefighters, will now have a greater opportunity to experience hands-on, realistic live fire training. Realistic training enhances the proficiency level of skills and techniques needed to safely extinguish the ever-changing potential dangers of vehicle fires and other types of volatile fires that firefighters may encounter. “This prop brings the capability to bring more basic and advanced training to the rural fire departments that due to the predominantly volunteer nature, of rural fire defense, makes it difficult for them to attend training at the Training Center,” stated Instructor/Coordinator for the VIP, Mark Milliron. Volunteer firefighters are seldom able to attend training outside of their jurisdiction. Portable live fire training equipment immensely expands the experience and effectiveness of the volunteer’s basic firefighter live fire evolution training, required by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

Although, the primary focus for the portable training prop was the VIP, it will also be invaluable to the enhancement of other programs such as: the Basic Firefighter course, the Live Fire Instructor course, and other scenario based training courses. Sixty percent of the GFA training is conducted off campus across the state, so a portable training prop, of this caliber, will be a significant component in the training and development of Georgia’s firefighters.

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To honorably represent the state of Georgia through devoted dedication to the Public service of our citizens, committing to improving the level of professionalism in the public Safety community by offering state of the art Training and distinguishing ourselves as the Nation’s premiere Center for learning and growth.