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Alabama Department of
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COMMISSIONER

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News Release

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Bibb County resident volunteers with first responders who saved his life

GREEN POND, ALA. – A Bibb County man is gaining work experience by volunteering to work at the fire department who saved his life in a horrific car crash two-and-a-half years ago.

Dustin Rowe, 37, was ejected from the sunroof of his vehicle and thrown into a ravine when his car was side-swiped on Bibb County Road 13 on Jan. 10, 2015. In the crash, Rowe broke both clavicles, his neck, several ribs, and sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) worked extensively with Rowe to provide cognitive remediation, rebuild his confidence, and prepare him to re-enter the workforce.

He is currently volunteering at Green Pond Fire & Rescue, where he works five-hour days, two or three times a week, performing tasks ranging from checking and maintaining the trucks to washing and cleaning around the fire station. Rowe's work experience at the station is a vital step of his rehabilitation journey of again obtaining permanent employment.

"There is something really sweet and special about seeing him work side-by-side with the same people who rescued him," said Tammy Lovell, a TBI coordinator with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Service, a program of ADRS, who worked with Rowe.

Rowe said he appreciates Lovell and ADRS for working with him to meet his vocational needs.

"I love Miss Tammy to death," Rowe said of Lovell. "She's helped me out in so many ways. With her help – with VR's help – I know I'm on the right path."

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

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SERVING ALABAMA'S CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES