



## Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department *Fire & EMS News*

*September, 2004*

The members of Precinct 3 would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Festival in November 2003 such a great success, and we hope to have a large turnout again this year.



### **New Trucks!**

As you may or may not know, we have had a lot of changes this past year with in our department, including the purchase of a few new trucks. That's right! We have finally taken the opportunity to upgrade some of our older apparatus. Some of these changes include our old tanker (330) has now been upgraded with a new chassis. Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD was the recipient of a \$35,000 grant through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This grant money was used to put a second tanker (331) in service, so that we now have the capability to move more water to a fire scene in an efficient manner. We have purchased two booster trucks, 1999 and a 2004 Chevrolet pickups. The booster trucks are vital to our ability to fight grass and brush fires. We would like to extend a special thanks to Greg Janda and Steven Kehlenbrink for their long hours spent getting trucks in service.



**We have had a few changes  
in our Officers:**

### **Fireground Officers:**

Chief	Gerald Burnett
Assistant Chief	Greg Janda
Assistant Chief	Jason Ware
Captain	Cary Roccaforte
Captain	Steven Kehlenbrink

### **Executive Officers:**

President	Jason Ware
Vice President	Benjamin Miller
Secretary	Andrea Ferrell
Treasurer	David Dibello

### ***Remember:***

Anytime you are burning brush, remember to call Brazos County Fire Dispatch (non-emergency) at (979)-361-3888.

Logging your controlled burns with dispatch helps us to serve you better, and reduces the number of false calls we receive for someone who is burning brush safely. All controlled burns should have someone monitoring them until they are completely out.

## Want to Join? Here's How!



If you are interested in joining an organization that helps people at a moment's notice, then let us tell you about what you can do to help. The volunteer fire departments in Brazos County are actual first response 911 service fire departments with plenty of opportunity for training and real live experience in emergency situations. Once properly trained, you will be able to respond on vehicle accidents, vehicle fires, structural fires, brush or wild land fire, oil well fires, and/or emergency medical calls. The Brazos County Pct 3



VFD is asking anybody interested in being a volunteer firefighter or EMS first responder to please give us a call at (979) 776-6430 and leave us a message on the answering machine or speak directly to one of our fire fighters about how to join. You can also contact our Membership Committee Chairperson, David Dibello at (979)-774-3019. Please remember if leaving a message to leave your contact information so we can get in touch with you.



### Just a Reminder...

With all the extra rain this year, we have seen water levels get higher than usual and flood some roadways. So if you see water flowing over a roadway do NOT attempt to cross it, instead choose an alternate route to your destination.

## Fall Festival 2004



The members of Precinct Three Volunteer Fire Department would like to invite you and all of your family and friends to our 6<sup>th</sup> annual fall festival on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2004 from 11:00am to 5:00pm at our Station #2 on Elmo Weedon Road. This year we are planning our best fundraiser yet. The day will be filled with fun and games for the kids along with a BBQ lunch served throughout the day. We will be holding raffles for a gas grill and an outside patio swing. Contact any Precinct 3 Volunteer or call (979)-776-6430 to purchase tickets. Tickets (both meal and raffle) will be also available at the door. Entertainment will include a Junior Fire Fighter challenge for the kids, a cake walk, and many other fun games. We will also feature special performances by the Aggie Wranglers and Texas A&M University's Percussion Studio. The Central Texas Search and Rescue Team will be coming out to do a demonstration with their dogs on how they find lost victims in the wilderness. We will also demonstrate how patients are extricated from a vehicle after an automobile accident. This demonstration will involve cooperation with Bryan Fire Department and Stat-Air Helicopter Medical Services.



## When Minutes Count - What to do in an Medical Emergency

What do you do when you are faced with a medical emergency? Every minute counts. What you do in an emergency before EMS arrives can make a significant difference to an injured or ill person. When you call 911, you access the emergency care system and its personnel, available by telephone everywhere in Texas 24 hours a day. These emergency response personnel provide medical care to injured or ill people at the scene and while transporting them to hospitals. An injured person may be taken to a trauma center, one of 189 specialized facilities across Texas, where injuries are assessed and treated, or the patient may be transferred to another hospital for more advanced care, according to Kathy Perkins, chief of the Bureau of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Health (TDH).

 Recognizing an emergency is the first step in getting emergency help for ill or injured people. Car crashes, chest pains, obvious broken bones and serious burns are considered emergencies by most people. But not all emergency situations are so obvious. Call 911 immediately if any of these conditions are present:

- Serious bleeding
- Unconsciousness
- Neck or spine injuries
- Signs of a heart attack, including crushing chest pain, profuse sweating, arm, neck, and jaw pain
- Unexplained paralysis
- Burns
- Absence of breath

- Choking
- Broken bones
- Head, chest or abdominal injuries

 Common sense and knowing the victim also are important to assessing an emergency. “Factors such as a pre-existing medical condition or abnormal behavior may also signal that an emergency situation exists for an individual,” Perkins said.

 How you make the call to 911 also is important. Stay calm or have someone else make the call. Give the 911 communication specialist whatever information is requested. This information usually includes the address or location of the emergency, your name and the telephone number at your location, the name of the injured or ill person and information about the illness or injury. Stay on the phone with the 911 center until they tell you to hang up. If possible, send someone else to wait near the street or in the parking lot to direct the ambulance to the victim. Remember not to move the injured or ill person unless the person is in immediate danger. Do not allow them to eat or drink anything or to smoke. Keep the person calm and still.

 “While we can be proud of the emergency medical services and trauma system in Texas,” Perkins said, “prevention is still the best thing you can do.” Healthy lifestyle habits include:

- Wearing seat belts and buckling children into child safety seats
- Keeping immunizations current

