



Three Alarm News

Volume IX, Issue I

Fall 2009

Executive Committee Officers:

- Chief—Gerald Burnett
- President—Greg Cross
- Vice President—Trey Smith
- Secretary—Brock Street
- Treasurer—David Dibello

Fireground Officers:

- Fire Chief—Gerald Burnett
- Asst. Chief—Greg Janda
- Asst. Chief—Jason Ware
- Captain—Cary Roccaforte
- Captain—Steven Kehlenbrink
- Captain—Jerry Merker
- Captain—Trey Smith
- Captain—Greg Cross
- Lieutenant—Nick Hickson
- Wildland Coordinator—Jeff Gore Sr

New Burn Ban Signs Installed

Precinct 3 VFD in cooperation with Emergency Management and Brazos County Road and Bridge recently installed new burn ban warning signs to alert residents if the county is under a burn ban. Please notify Brazos County Dispatch before burning by calling (979) 361-3888



Assistant Chief Greg Janda posts Burn Ban sign to alert residents during the last Burning Ban

Pct-3 Burn Ban Sign Locations

1. Old Reliance Rd. @ Messina Hof
2. FM 1179 @ City Limits
3. Precinct 3 Station 2 - Elmo Weedon
4. Precinct 3 Station 3 - Roans Chapel
5. Democrat Rd. @ Navasota River
6. Long Trussel Rd. @ Navasota River
7. SH 30 @ Navasota River
8. SH 30 @ Hardy Weedon Rd.
9. SH 30 @ Elmo Weedon Rd.
10. FM 1179 @ S FM 2038

Incident Run Totals

2009 YTD as of 10/23/09

FIRE	181
EMS	168
TOTAL	349

Inside this issue:

First Responder Program Continuation	2
Rural Fire Safety	2
Thermal Imager & Gas Detector	3
Cooking Safety	3
911 Sign/Donation	4



Precinct 3 First Responder Program



While most citizens are frequently exposed to firefighting operations through local media sources; many other aspects of fire department operations are commonly overlooked. One function of the fire department that is rarely seen involves treating citizens with life-threatening medical

conditions. To ensure that those who need medical attention receive help as soon as possible, Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD operates a First Responder Program.

When a medical related emergency call is placed, a 9-1-1 dispatcher will answer the call and will dispatch the closest available ambulance and fire department. In addition, the dispatcher will give over-the-phone instructions to ensure that immediate life-threatening conditions are treated while emergency

responders are en route.

Once notified, Precinct 3 emergency responders and a city ambulance respond to the scene. These responders are certified at the Emergency Care Attendant (ECA) through Paramedic levels.

Precinct 3 equips their responders with basic life support equipment



including oxygen, airway maintenance equipment, a variety of bandages, assessment devices, and many other useful pieces of equipment.

Recently, Precinct 3 has implemented several changes to the first responder program to ensure that our citizens receive the best care possible.

We recently issued blood glucose meters (glucometers) to our responders. Glucometers allow



Glucometer

emergency responders to rapidly assess a patient's blood glucose level allowing for better treatment of diabetic emergencies.

Additionally, Precinct 3 recently obtained a Continuing Education Provider License. Courses are frequently taught that cover a

variety of topics related to emergency medical scenarios.

These courses allow emergency responders to maintain an up to date knowledge of the most recent changes in emergency medicine. By continually training to improve the quality of our care, we can ensure that our citizens receive the best treatment possible.

For more information on the first responder program, please contact Brock Street at bstreet@pct3vfd.com.

Rural Fire Safety Life-Saving Tips



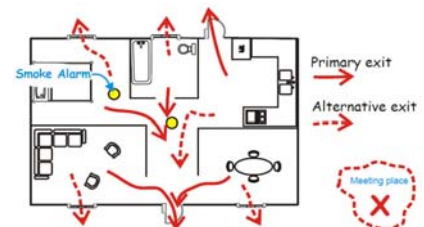
Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in structures.
- Heating is the leading cause of residential fires in rural areas.
- Deaths due to fires in rural areas are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half.

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase survival rates dramatically.

- * Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.
- * When building a home or addition, use fire-resistant roofing materials. Avoid using wood materials that offer the least fire protection. Also use fire-resistant siding such as stucco, brick, stone, etc.
- * Let your landscape defend your property. Create defensible space by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet of your home.
- * Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home and other structures.
- * Store flammable materials, liquids, and solvents in metal containers outside the home, at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.
- * Burning yard waste is a fire hazard. Check with Brazos County Dispatch before burning by calling (979) 361-3888
- * Have your chimney inspected and cleaned regularly by a certified specialist.
- * Provide emergency vehicle access with properly constructed driveways and roadways, at least 12 feet wide with adequate turnaround space.
- * Post home address signs that are clearly visible from the road.
- * Develop and practice fire escape and evacuation plans with your family.



Pct. 3 Acquires Thermal Imager and Gas Detector

The Brazos County Precinct 3 Fire Department recently received a Bullard T3MAX thermal imaging camera and two QRAE Plus multi gas analyzers. The new equipment was purchased with Homeland Security grant funds thru Brazos County Emergency Management.

The thermal imager detects differences in heat. It is very useful to locate victims and fires in smoke filled buildings. This allows us to



Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera

rescue victims and extinguish fires much faster, resulting in improved victim survivability and reduced



Detection of Infrared Radiation

property loss. The thermal imager is also useful in other applications, such as searching for ejected patients at automobile accidents.

The QRAE Plus samples the atmosphere, analyzing Oxygen, Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen Sulfide, and

Combustible gases. This allows us to ensure the area has adequate oxygen to breathe and detect the presence of dangerous gases.

The QRAE Plus is useful



QRAE Plus Gas Detector

anytime the quality of the air is in question, such as confined spaces, after interior fires are extinguished, smell of gas, and suspected Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

Cooking Safety



Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

Keep things that can catch fire — potholders, oven mitts, paper or plastic bags, curtains — away from your stovetop.

Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose

clothing can dangle onto stove burners and can catch fire if it comes in contact with a gas flame or electric burner.

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.



Keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan.

To keep the fire from restarting leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.

In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing. After a fire, the oven should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.

If you have a stove fire, when in doubt, just get out and call the fire department.

Treat a burn right away, putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for three to five minutes.

Cover with a clean, dry cloth. If the burn is bigger than your fist, or if you have any questions, get medical help right away.



Brazos County Precinct 3
Volunteer Fire Department
P.O. Box 5453
Bryan, TX 77805

Visit our website at www.pct3vfd.com for information regarding membership, current burn bans, and other details about our department.

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

I would like to make a donation of \$_____. Please make checks payable to Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD. **We greatly appreciate your donation!**

I would like to receive information about becoming a member of Precinct 3 VFD.

I would like to purchase a reflective address placard to assist emergency vehicles in locating my residence. I would like a quantity of _____ @ \$15.00 each for a total cost of \$_____.

Please make checks payable to Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD.

Please send this form to the Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD, P.O. Box 5453, Bryan, TX, 77805.