



Three Alarm News

Volume XI, Issue I

Fall 2011

Executive Committee Officers:

- Chief—Gerald Burnett
- President—Greg Cross
- Vice President—Trey Smith
- Secretary—Nick Hickson
- 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

Delivery of New Pumper/Tender

Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department took delivery of a new pumper/tender in August of this year. It has a 1250 gallon per minute Hale pump and carries 1000 gallons of water. It can be operated as a traditional pumper or it can also function as a water tender. The apparatus was manufactured by Pierce Manufacturing Inc. in Bradenton, Florida. We have given the unit

amount of \$155,000.

Created by the 77th Texas Legislature (HB 2604), the Rural VFD Assistance Program provides \$7 million per year in grants for equipment and training. The Texas Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program is a cost-share program funded by the Texas State Legislature. It provides funding to rural volunteer fire departments for the acquisition of firefighting

approved. The remaining requests remain on file until funded.

Since the inception of this program, Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD has received a Computer (\$899.36), Fire Equipment (\$5,312.00), Rescue Equipment (\$13,200.00), Slip On wildfire Unit (\$12,600.00), Structural Gear (\$7,000.00), Training Library (\$8,000.00), Training Tuition (\$40,515.28), and most recently the pumper/tender described above (\$155,000.00).

The Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department greatly appreciates the support of the Texas Forest Service.



Incident Run Totals

2011 YTD as of 9/30/11

FIRE	149
EMS	174
TOTAL	323

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the designation of "Engine 323". It is housed at our fire station #3 at 4450 Roans Chapel Road. Its primary response area is the Hwy 30 corridor and surrounding neighborhoods.

The new apparatus was partially funded by a grant from the Texas Forest Service's Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program (HB2604) in the

vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, county fire radio system components, dry-hydrants, computer systems and firefighter training.

Since 2002, the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program has received request totaling over \$334 million dollars. Grants totaling over \$154 million dollars have been



We would like to publicly acknowledge and thank the Texas Forest Service for the tremendous impact the Rural VFD Assistance Program has had in building the capacity of local volunteer fire departments.



1981 American LaFrance Donated to TFS

With the arrival of our new pumper/tender, we no longer had a need for or space for the 1981 American LaFrance pumper. The American LaFrance pumper was in good condition, so it was donated to the Texas Forest Service Helping Hands program.



Created by the 75th Texas Legislature (HB 680), the Helping Hands Program provides liability relief to industry, business, cities and others to donate surplus fire and emergency equipment to Texas Forest Service. Donated equipment can then

be distributed by Texas Forest Service to fire departments around the state.

Prior to passage of House Bill 680 companies routinely destroyed surplus fire equipment because they could not afford the liability exposure involved with anyone continuing to use these items. Pressure bottles for breathing apparatus were cut in half and regulators buried.

Protective gear and hose were cut apart and fire trucks were dismantled and sold for scrap. Most of this equipment had many years of good use left in it. The risk of litigation for those wanting to make donations to volunteer fire departments was just too great.

Now, equipment and apparatus can be donated to the Texas Forest Service helping hands program. Fire Departments in need can submit applications for specific equipment or apparatus needed. Requests are filled as equipment becomes available. All equipment assigned will become the property of the volunteer fire department.

Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department has received thousands of dollars' worth of equipment from the helping hands program in the past. We felt fortunate to be able to give back by donating the American LaFrance apparatus to the program.

The 1981 American LaFrance pumper went to the Cisco Fire Department in Cisco, Texas (Eastland County). Established in 1881, Cisco is a combination department comprised of 3 paid and 30 volunteers. Cisco is located 45 miles east of Abilene on Interstate 20.



Precinct 3 Participates in National Night Out

The Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department participated in several events for National Night Out 2011. On Saturday, October 1st, we were at Target Supercenter on Briarcrest drive in Bryan for the "National Night Out Kick-off celebration. Precinct 3 and District 2 volunteer fire departments conducted a water shuttle / drafting (pumping) demonstration. Members of both volunteer fire departments, along with members of TEEEX Recruit Fire Academy class 136, demonstrated flowing water from various attack lines. Several other local agencies had activities at the event including, Bryan Fire

Department, Bryan Fire Marshal's Office, Bryan Police Department, Brazos County Sheriff's Office, Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU), Brazos County Emergency Communications District, and PHI Air Med 12.



On Tuesday evening, October 4th,

we hosted National Night Out events at our fire stations, in addition to sending fire apparatus to block parties in our response area.

National Night Out is a unique crime / drug prevention event involving citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. Texas celebrates the event each October.

Wildland Firefighting Training Completed



Firefighters with the Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department recently completed the "Fire in the Field" basic Wildland Firefighter training program. The training was conducted thru the Texas Forest Service and is equivalent to National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) I-100, S-190, and S-130 courses. These courses are

the recognized national standards for wildland firefighter training. All of our active firefighters completed the course.

The Fire in the Field program is a self-paced computer based program, followed by a closed book written exam and skills demonstration. This format allowed our members to complete the program as they had time and

was much more convenient than the traditional 4 day course offered by the Texas Forest Service.

We would like to thank the Texas Forest Service for providing the Fire in the Field Training Program. Our Firefighters are better trained to deal with wildland events because of this training.

Into the flames By: Madeline Burns - *The Battalion*

In many ways, junior agricultural leadership and development major Katlene Lee appears to be just a typical student. However, there is one big exception: when wildfires broke out across Texas, she worked to contain the blazes.



Lee, who serves in the Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department, is both basic accredited and wild land certified.

"I did go out with the Brazos County Task Force to the tri-county fire," Lee said. "We were there for about 15-16 hours the night I was there, but our county was there everyday for about four days."

Unlike conventional structure fires, this year's Texas wildfires covered thousands of acres and grew in area as winds spread the flames.

Lee said trying to contain these massive fires poses new and unconventional difficulties for firefighters.

"Wild land fires are a different world," Lee said.

Despite the challenges, Lee said the benefits she receives from being involved in such a program have far outweighed the difficulties. She considers fighting fires to be one of her passions.

"My department is like a big family, and no matter what one of us needs, we are all there to help," Lee said. "It has taught me a lot about working as a team, and taking what I learn in a practice or classroom setting and putting it into action. It has also helped me with my social skills."

Jason Ware, assistant fire chief with the Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department and president of the Brazos County Firefighter's Association, emphasized the importance of the personality traits Lee brings to the team.

"Katlene joined our fire department and brought a unique set of skills with her," Ware said. "She brought an 'I'm just as good if not better than anyone' attitude, and immediately stepped in and started being a leader."

Ware, who accompanied Lee fighting the tri-county fire, said that Lee's resilient nature and problem-solving attitude were important assets to the task force, and contributed the group's success.

"Katlene and I were sent to Grimes-Montgomery-Waller counties as a part of a Wild Land Firefighting Task Force from Brazos County," Ware said. "As a team leader for the Task Force, I was very pleased with Katlene. She worked in a dangerous environment without hesitation and pulled her weight and others'."

Ware also said that Lee's solid track record has been acknowledged before, when she was named Rookie of the Year.

"Katlene was named our Rookie Firefighter of the Year for 2010 for her hard work and dedication to our department," Ware said. "Katlene has earned the trust of not only me, but the rest of the firefighters in Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department, therefore making her someone who can be trusted to go into any type of situation without concern."



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.