



Three Alarm News

Volume VI, Issue I

Summer 2006

Executive Committee Officers:

- Chief—Gerald Burnett
- President—Andrea Blackmon
- Vice President—Greg Cross
- Secretary—Matt Sharp
- 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
- Lieutenant—Andrea Blackmon
- Lieutenant—Greg Cross

Incident Run Totals

2006 YTD

FIRE	107
EMS	53
TOTAL	160

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1981 American LaFrance Pumper Joins Our Fleet

In January of this year, our 1976 Ford F-750 Fire Engine saw its last day as a pumper. During a training evolution, the engine threw two rods and was inoperable. Repairs to the unit were not deemed to be cost effective and a decision was made to replace the unit. We ordered a new fire engine as a replacement, but the delivery date was June of this year. That would have left us with one fire engine to cover the 105 square miles of our fire district. That was an unacceptable level of protec-

tion for the citizens of our precinct. As a stop gap measure, we purchased a 1981 American LaFrance Engine from the Navasota Fire department. The truck seats 4 firefighters, carries 500 gallons of water, and can pump 1000 gallons per minute of water. The truck has a Detroit in-line 6 cylinder, 239 hp, diesel engine and came equipped with



Engine 323 at Station 2 on Elmo Weedon Road

hoses, ladders, tools, and other miscellaneous equipment. When the new engine arrives, this unit will be used as a reserve truck until a new station is built.

Precinct 3 Conducts Live Fire Training at TEEX

Precinct 3 Firefighters recently completed several days of live fire training at the world famous Brayton Fire training field in College Station. This was accomplished through participation in the Harris County Firefighters Association weekend school, the Robertson County weekend school, as well as our own burn day on the fire field. A total of 40 hours

of live structural fire-fighting on four different structures was completed. Training included structure entry, fire attack, search & rescue, ventilation, and salvage & overhaul. Live structural fire-fighting is important to help firefighters maintain and improve their fire-fighting skills, so we can better serve the community.



Pct. 3 Firefighters Rescue a Dummy Victim From a Burning Building

One of the Worst Wildfire Seasons on Record

Texas Forest Service - College Station, TX

Texas is experiencing one of its worst wildfire seasons on record this year, with 19 lives lost since last fall, and Texas Forest Service responding to 1,873 fires for 1,343,914 acres since December 1, 2005. State fire officials are concerned about the increasing threat of wildfires due to the continued extreme dryness in the state.

"Some areas of the state have grasses turning green where rain has

occurred," said Tom Spencer, fire risk assessment coordinator with Texas Forest Service. "However, we are also seeing the transition of the green grasses turning into heat-stressed dry vegetation due to the higher temperatures and lack of rainfall in many regions."

"With these conditions, outdoor burning is going to become more

risky.

We could see an increasing frequency of other accidental starts along

the roadsides, as well as those due to escaped debris burning and equipment use are increasing in frequency," Spencer added.

Protect Your Home from Wild-land Fire:

LPG tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep area around the tank clear of flammable vegetation.

All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic tables, boats, stacked lumber, etc. should be kept away from structures.

Clear roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid build-up of flammable materials such as leaves and other debris.

Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet or more.

Clear a fuel break of at least 3 times the fuel length around all structures.

Have fire tools handy such as: ladder long enough to reach your roof, shovel, rake, and a bucket or two for water.

Place connected garden hoses at all sides of your home for emergency use.

Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your home and neighborhood.

If you burn, clear a large area on the ground of any combustible material, such as grass, leaves, and scrap wood, burn only what you want to burn. Avoid burning on dry, windy days. Do not leave your burn pile unattended and have a hose at the ready.

Have Land and Looking For a Fire Station in Your Area?

The Brazos Country Precinct 3 VFD is in need of tracts of land (at least one acre in size) in the Highway 30 corridor area and also in the Reliance area to locate fire department substations. The Brazos County Health Department requires a one acre minimum to install a septic system. The plan is to erect a 50 ft by 45 ft metal building at each location and supply it with an Engine, Grass Truck, and in the future, a

water tender.

Benefits to those living in these areas include quicker response times and lower insurance rates due to better ISO PPC ratings.

If you, or someone you know has a tract of land in one of these areas and/or a building of similar size that you or they are willing to sell, lease, or best of all, donate, Please contact Jerry Merker at 979-777-

2910 or 979-774-4605.

Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD is a 501(c)4 exempt entity, making any donation eligible for charitable deduction status. Consult your Tax professional for details.

Spending less for physical facilities results in more of our budget being available for training, apparatus, and gear to serve you better.

BRAZOS COUNTY IS CURRENTLY UNDER A BURN BAN

DETAILS AT WWW.PCT3VFD.COM

Vehicle Extrication Training at L&G Wrecker Service

For the second year in a row, L&G Wrecker Service on Highway 30 opened their facilities to us for auto extraction training. Our firefighters spent 5 hours at the L&G Wrecker

facility participating in auto extrication training on April 22nd. The training included scene size-up, vehicle stabilization, and various ways of gaining access to and re-

moving patients. This training is indispensable when dealing with auto accidents. Thank you L&G Wrecker for the use of your facilities and the donation of the vehicles.

Controlled Burning Guidelines

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulates outdoor burning in Texas. The following are guidelines on outdoor burning, as taken from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality guidebook to Outdoor Burning:

PLEASE notify Brazos County 911 Dispatch in advance of your burn by calling (979)-361-3888. You must call each day that you burn. This number is not for reporting emergencies; **to report a fire or other emergency, dial 911. Likewise, 911 is not to be used for reporting controlled burn information.**

You may burn brush, leaves, untreated lumber, or any other natural product on the land from which it was cleared. You **MAY NOT** burn insulation (electrical or otherwise), treated or painted lumber, plastics, sheetrock, shingles, carpet, rubber products, paints, oils, or **any material brought onto the site from elsewhere**, including brush cleared from another location. You may burn household garbage in a burn barrel in areas where a rural trash pickup service is not available.

You may not burn on windy days or during dry periods. The wind speed **MUST be greater than 6 miles per hour**, but **no more than 22 miles per hour**. During dry periods, the Brazos County Commissioner's Court may enact a "burn ban" in which **NO OUTDOOR BURNING IS PERMITTED**, including burn barrels. Local radio and TV stations will broadcast information on burn bans, and you may call Brazos County 911 Dispatch (non-emergency number) to request the wind speed and to find out if a burn ban is in effect.

Burning hours are from **one hour AFTER sunrise** to **one hour BEFORE sunset**. No additional material may be added to the fire that would cause burning to extend past this time

Campfires, cooking fires, and bonfires are allowed to burn after dark, as long as the materials are those listed above as legal to burn. During periods of a burn ban, **these types of fires may not be burned**. Other than burn bans, and legal materials listed above, the general rules on allowable outdoor burning do not apply to fires covered by this exception.

Your fire must be downwind of or at least three hundred feet from the nearest property with any type of structure. The immediate area of the fire should be clear of brush, overhanging limbs, and other combustibles. You should have a shovel, rake, and a hose connected to a reliable water source nearby to prevent the spread of the fire. **The fire must be tended at all times until it is completely out.**

If wind carries smoke across any public roadway, you must post someone on the road to flag traffic in accordance with Texas Department of Public Safety regulations.

We are excited to announce that our annual "Fall Festival" has been scheduled for October 7th this year. Complete information will be mailed in early September. Mark your calendar and watch your mail for more information. See you in October!



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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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.