



Three Alarm News

Volume XIII, Issue I

Fall 2013

Executive Committee:

- Chief—Gerald Burnett
- President—Greg Cross
- Vice President—Trey Smith
- Secretary—Jeni Heath
- 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
- Captain—Nick Hickson
- Captain—David Dibello

Engineers:

- Engineer—John Mathews
- Engineer—Jeff Gore Sr
- Engineer—Josh Carter

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Precinct 3 has improved our ISO rating

Great news homeowners!

Precinct 3 has successfully reduced our ISO rating. ISO stands for Insurance Services Office, and one of the services they provide is to rate fire protection in communities across the country.



Generally, ISO rates fire protection on a scale from one to ten,

with one representing ideal protection, and ten represents minimal protection.

The aspects they score on are water supply, water system, station locations, equipment capability, staffing, training, fire codes, fire prevention, and public education. For well over a decade, precinct three had a split rating of either a 5 or a 9, (it was one or the other depending on where the property is located in relation to fire hydrants, as long as a property was inside a five mile radius of a fire station). In last year's newsletter we explained the process

we were undergoing to have our fire protection reassessed for insurance purposes. The results of that assessment improved our split rating to 4 and 8b. This change became effective July 1, 2013. The state fire marshal's report can be viewed on our website. Contact your insurance agent to find out how this may benefit you!

Needless to say, our volunteer force of firefighters, members, and commissioners could not have made such strides without your continued support.

Gerald Burnett,
Fire Chief



Emergency Notification System



The Brazos County Emergency Notification System was created to notify citizens of local emergencies that occur day or night. Until now the system was only able to reach out to businesses and residences with landlines. However, many people no longer have landlines in their

homes, choosing to rely on just their cell phones. The ability to register your cell phone is now possible with the new Self-Registration Portal website: brazos.onthealert.com. Register your cell phone and your email address at this website so that you can have more options to be notified in case of an emergency situation in Brazos

County. An email address is necessary for the system to contact you periodically to verify that your information is still correct. If you do not currently have an email address, one suggestion is to contact your internet provider to get one or register for a free email address with a service such as Yahoo or Google.

Booster 341 Replaced Due to Devastating Electrical Fire

On 11/1/2012, booster truck 341 caught fire due to an electrical short and was damaged beyond repair. A 2007 HD 3500 Chevy replacement chassis was found and work was started to rebuild a replacement. The replacement chassis required a new windshield and new tires along with some other

maintenance items. Most of the Skid unit that contains the water tank and pump were salvageable but needed repairs to the tank and paint. Other items needed were new emergency lights and siren, fire radio and mounting console, brush guard, suction hose, fire extinguishers, and other items lost in

the fire. Most of the work required to get the unit back in service was done by members in their spare time. Assistant Chief Greg Janda spearheaded the rebuild and replacing the truck would have not been possible without his dedicated work.

Cost of Inspecting and Servicing Equipment

Responding to emergencies requires a wide range of vehicles and equipment, all of which must operate correctly every time they are used. In order to ensure reliable performance, we conduct testing specified by various national standards.



All vehicles are serviced and inspected by qualified mechanics and fluids are changed per manufacturer's specifications. During inspections any problems or deficiencies are identified and corrected which pro-

vides for longer vehicle life and ensures vehicle safety.

In addition to the vehicles, most equipment used by firefighters is also required to be tested by national standards. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides standards for testing our equipment annually. Bunker Gear, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Ladders, Hoses, and pumps are all tested to national standards on an annual basis. In addition, other equipment such as positive-pressure fans, electrical generators,

hydraulic rescue tools, and multi-gas analyzers require annual servicing per the manufactures specifications.

Servicing vehicles and testing equipment to national standards every year ensures maximum reliability and enhances safety of department personnel. This allows us to respond to emergencies with the confidence that our vehicles will get us there and our equipment will perform as designed in a safe, efficient and effective operation.

Annual Physicals and SCBA Fit Testing Program

In addition to our program to maintain and test vehicles and equipment, we also ensure our personal are up to the job.

Each year qualified firefighters must complete a medical evaluation and physical. The purpose of the physical is to detect health problems that could interfere with the firefighter's ability to do their job. It also provides the individual the ability to

track and trend the firefighter's results from year to year. The basic physical includes blood work, physical assessment, heart & lung function, and body fat measurements. A more in-depth screening is performed on new firefighters and periodically thereafter based on age of the firefighter.



Firefighters are also required to do a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

fit test. This test checks to ensure the firefighter can obtain a proper fit for the SCBA face piece. A poor fitting SCBA face piece can allow toxic gasses to enter the face piece and endanger the firefighter.

The department's physical and SCBA fit testing program cost about \$2500 annually but is well worth it to protect the firefighters and ensure they are ready to perform safely, efficiently, and effectively when called upon.

Replacement Plans for Fire Station 1 Approved



The Brazos County ESD and the Precinct 3 VFD have approved the basic floor plan for a new fire station to replace the 30+ year old original station 1 on Mesco drive. It will

be located on previously purchased 1.2 acres of land next to the present station 1. The plans call for a 5-bay station with a common room and two restrooms. Phase one of this project is to pour the slab and erect the building with funds on hand. As

additional funds become available, Phase 2 will finish out the building and add concrete drives. By doing the construction in phases the need of procuring a loan at added expense to the department can be eliminated.

New Engineer Positions Appointed by Chief

This summer, the PCT 3 VFD decided to create a new rank within the fire department: Engineer. These new positions were filled by three firefighters who desire to excel and mentor within the department. Their responsibilities include the care and weekly maintenance for the different apparatus assigned to each station. One engineer is assigned to each of the three Precinct 3 stations to ensure that all apparatus are in a state of readiness. Not only do the engineers

drive the fire trucks to the emergency calls, but also each engineer must be capable of operating the engine efficiently once on scene. The engineer must also be capable of filling the roles and responsibilities of an officer in the event that they arrive on scene prior to the arrival of an officer. All active and certified firefighters were allowed to volunteer for the position, and a practical skills evaluation was conducted to not only narrow the field to three engineers, but also to ensure

that the engineers chosen were confident and efficient in their pumping skills. The three engineers chosen were: John Matthews, Jeff Gore, and Josh Carter.

“I think it is a good direction the department is moving in creating this position. It shows the younger firefighters that you don’t have to be an officer to take on responsibilities and become a leader within the department,” said Josh Carter.

Member Jason Loyd has 2nd Edition Book Published



Precinct 3 member Jason Loyd recently had his second edition of **Fundamentals of Fire and Emergency Services** book published. Loyd dedicated the new edition to Firefighter Dick Danes of the Brazos County Pct. 3 Volunteer Fire Department, who lost his life during a training exercise in

2012. The textbook has been adopted by more than 50 colleges and universities across the country. The new edition includes some color photos taken at Brayton Fire Training Field, including the cover photo of Prop 64 Gas Transport. To learn more about the textbook, visit Bradybooks.com. Loyd joined TEEEX Emergency Services Training Institute in 2007 as an industrial fire instructor,

before being tapped to serve as the subject matter expert for a new TEEEX Online Recruit Academy program developed in conjunction with Pennwell Corp. He currently is the training manager for the Online Recruit Academy at Brayton Fire Training Field. Excerpts taken from article at <http://teexnews.blogspot.com/2013/1/2nd-edition-of-loyds-fundamentals-of.html>



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Volunteer Fire Department
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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.