



# Three Alarm News

Volume XV, Issue I

Fall 2015

## 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—Greg Cross
- Captain—Steven Kehlenbrink
- Captain—Jerry Merker
- Captain—Trey Smith
- Captain—Nick Hickson
- Captain—David Dibello
- Captain—Jeff Gore Sr

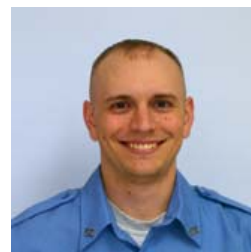
## Engineers:

- Engineer—John Mathews
- Engineer—Josh Carter

## Recognition and Awards



Each January, the Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department holds an awards banquet to show appreciation to our volunteers. Every year, we recognize a firefighter of the Year, First Responder of the Year, and a Rookie of the Year.



**2014 Firefighter of the Year  
Brayton Lee**



**2014 First Responder of the Year  
Brayton Lee**



**2014 Rookie of the Year  
Perry Eckert**

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## Improved Rehab for Firefighter Safety



Firefighter Rehab packets were specifically designed to be ready-to-consume packets that promote the quickest and most effective nutrient replenishment on-scene. By having them available on scene, personnel can return to work quicker and work more effectively. They contain the

proper combination of fluids and foods, that together, amount to an ideal range of calories, carbohydrates, proteins, amino acids, and fats. Water alone is not sufficient to maintain prolonged performance and fast foods are not acceptable and should NEVER be the go to food on-scene.



## New Fire Station #1 Construction Begins #

#In May 2011, the ESD purchased 1.29 Acres of open land next to the existing fire station #1 located on Mesco drive off of FM 1179 and started formalizing plans to build a new fire station to meet the needs of the fire department for the next 20 years. The original fire station was built in 1984 on donated land by members on nights and weekends. The original fire station was recently sold to help finance the new station and an agreement was made with the new owner to lease the station back to the department until phase 1 of the new station could be completed. Phase 1 will allow the Fire Department to be able to use the truck bays

and equipment storage areas.

Once additional funds are raised, Phase 2 will complete the training room, bathrooms, break area, a rear drive, and parking areas.

In August of 2015, construction began with *Kelly Burt Dozer* building a pad for the new building. In early September, work began on a 5,900 sq. ft. slab using 209 cubic yds. of concrete. At the

end of September, *Mueller, Inc.* delivered 41,000 lbs. of steel which was bolted together by *Champco Inc.* Overhead doors have been installed by *Aggieland Garage Door Co.*, and an additional 3,000 sq. ft. concrete apron was poured in front of the bay doors. BTU has installed electrical service to the building and *Kotrla Electric* has wired the building. *Robinson Plumbing* is plumbing the building and *D. H. Guyton*

*Construction* is framing out the training room, bathrooms, breakroom and equipment storage areas. *Climate Doctors* has begun installing the HVAC system.



## Training is Essential for Safe and Effective Operations

Training is a never ending process at the Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department. In addition to our regular

Thursday night training, we conducted several special training in 2015.



ground ladders and advancing

In April, the fire Department spent an evening at the Bryan Fire Department Drill Tower, practicing deploying

hose lines. We appreciate the Bryan Fire Department allowing us to use their facility.



In September, we conducted Auto Extrication Training at our fire station on Elmo Weedon Road. Evolutions included stabilizing vehicles and the use of hydraulic rescue tools to dis-

assemble vehicles to gain access to patients.

In October, the fire department spent a Saturday at TEEX's Brayton Fire Training Field, practicing structural fire fighting. Evolutions included size-up, entry, rescue of victims, fire extinguishment, ventilation, and overhaul.

In December, we returned to TEEX's Brayton Fire Training Field to with portable fire extinguishers. Evolutions included the use of Dry Chemical and CO<sub>2</sub> fire Extinguishers.



## Our Mission is Preserving Life and Property

It is been yet another of many busy years for the Texas fire service, and it is only getting busier every year.

As we prepare to start another busy year, I felt it would be good to discuss the mission of the fire service. This is the preservation of life and property.

This is done through three major efforts: evacuation, prevention, and suppression. First, you cannot survive a fire that you sleep through. This is where timely evacuation comes in. Please, *please, please* install smoke detectors in every bedroom and outside of every sleeping area in your home. It is state law that rental homes have these smoke detectors, and it is common sense no matter who owns your home, yet I find smoke detectors missing, dead, or never installed nearly every day. A fire can make room conditions not survivable in two minutes. We have proven this over and over with test burns, and continue to see it in our community. This situation is made worse during the holidays when people put up Christmas decorations, and wake up their old heaters. Smoke detectors are there to help save your life.

Let's not be mistaken however, a smoke detector will not prevent a fire in your home. Only good old fashioned fire prevention will PREVENT fire.

This means eliminating unmonitored, unmaintained, or unprotected heat sources. It means not overloading electrical circuits. It means not using damaged or worn out electrical or gas appliances. It means having your home heating and mechanical systems inspected regularly. It means keeping combustibles away from heat sources. It means restricting fire use by children. It means not

lighting any fire you have no way to control or extinguish, and never expecting your fire to extinguish itself.

Again, it sounds like common sense, but the most common sense becomes common by being the most common cause.

You may be able to rebuild, but you cannot undo the damage done by fire.

Even once you do everything reasonable to prevent fire, you still have neighbors, guests, and nature to help introduce ignition sources to your home.

If you wish to increase the odds of your home, business, or even grandmas photo album surviving a fire, you need to plan for timely suppression. This is the absolute least effective of the three to rely on for survival or property conservation, but it is the last chance when other prevention has failed.

The fastest option for fire suppression is installing fire sprinklers. This keeps conditions survivable for occupants and allows your home and belongings to not become ashes.

The second fastest is living next to a fire station. In a volunteer fire district, the money that is saved on staffing is the time you sacrifice while volunteers drive to the fire station. So early notification of the fire department is important. Don't wait to call while you try to fight your own fire. If that's still not fast enough for you, then installing monitored fire alarm systems can give you another time advantage.

But alarms or notification can still be futile if we don't design for success.

This means providing an address sign and access to your building for fire apparatus. This should be a driveway that is still capable of holding a large truck when the ground is wet,

and has no low overhanging trees or cables.

This also means keeping 30 feet of space around your building clear of combustible vegetation. We cannot stick firefighters between your house and a burning tree line if there is no space to do so safely. Then, you cannot forget adequate water supply.

Accessible hydrants within a thousand feet of your property make a huge difference.

Where hydrants are not possible, installing fixed standing water supplies such as pools or ponds with a drivable surface leading up to them can be of assistance.

If you feel like evacuation, prevention, and suppression planning for your own property is not enough, then help educate your neighbors and family. There are also additional options. Precinct 3 VFD is accepting applications for members, and is always happy to accept donations. We are an all-volunteer force, and we fund all buildings, equipment, and training through ESD and County taxes, grants, and donations. People and funding are the keys to supporting our life and property conservation mission, and we appreciate your support.



Gerald Burnett,  
Fire Chief

## Compliance Testing and New 3" Supply Hose



Earlier this year, we completed our annual required service testing. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards require annual test of equipment to ensure it will perform as designed when required. Fire Hose and Ladder testing was performed by Sharp



Testing Services. Fire Pump Testing was performed by Fire Pump Specialty. Our gas analyzers were serviced by Farrwest Environmental Supply.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) testing was performed by MES of Texas.



We also added Large Diameter Hose (LDH) to all of our fire engines. Each of our 3 fire engines now carries 500 feet of 5" supply hose and 500 feet of 3" supply hose. The larger 5" supply hose will allow us to take better advantage of the

increasing number of fire hydrants in our fire district. The 5" hose will supply more water than the 3" hose. We still carry 3" hose for other fire operations.



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

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Visit our website at [www.pct3vfd.com](http://www.pct3vfd.com) for information regarding membership, current burn bans, and other details about our 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 volunteer with 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.

☐ Horizontal ☐ Vertical

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