



# Three Alarm News

Volume XVI, Issue I

Fall 2016

## 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

## 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.



**2015 Firefighter of the Year  
Jason Ware**



**2015 First Responder of the Year  
Josh Moore**



**2015 Rookie of the Year  
John Ringhauser**

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## National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual event that brings out the community



servants from the Brazos Valley to meet and greet with the public. This year on

October 4<sup>th</sup>, members from Precinct 3 VFD took the “big red truck” (BRT) out to Wixon Valley along with other police and fire crews and had a great time. Free food from Ruffino’s Meats and sodas from Boots beverages were served. Game Wardens, the Sheriff’s Office, PHI Air Medical helicopter, local tow companies, and two bounce houses made for tons of fun and

education for the public. Kids got a chance to climb on and explore the “BRT” and the police department gave a K-9 demonstration. Different organizations sponsored booths, gave out information & swag, and answered questions. The Texas Forest Service, Wixon Valley Mayor’s Office, and the Brazos County Department of Health were all represented. We look forward to this event every year as local agencies and public officials gather to increase public education, safety, and give locals the chance to meet and greet with each other.

Emily Magnotta

## Texas A&M Forest Service Grant

Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD was recently awarded a rescue equipment grant from the Texas A&M Forest Service to purchase a new Thermal Imaging Camera .



The grant was provided through the RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HB 2604). The Texas Rural VFD Assistance Program provides

funding to rural VFDs for the acquisition of firefighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, dry-hydrants, computer systems and firefighter training. It is a cost-share program funded by the Texas State Legislature. The grant paid 75% of the cost of the \$9,000 Thermal imager.

The BULLARD T4X combines advanced features and the industry's largest widescreen display with the newest state-of-the-art infrared engine technology for the ultimate in thermal imaging performance.

The T4X uses infrared engine technology running at an ultra-fast 60 Hertz image update rate and incorporates Image Contrast Enhancement (ICE™) technology for the ultimate image performance in fire

conditions. Loaded standard with advanced features in a 320 x 240 ultra-high resolution, the T4X gives fire departments everything needed in a high-performance thermal imager.

LCD display greatly increases brightness and improves contrast, enabling firefighters to see more clearly in thick smoke and direct sunlight. The 4.3" widescreen format is the largest in the market.

The T4X is loaded standard with advanced features, including Bullard's exclusive Electronic Thermal Throttle®, which enables firefighters to optimize scenes with the touch of a button; Super Red Hot colorization that alerts firefighters to areas of intense heat; temperature measurement in numeric and relative heat indicator formats; and 2x and 4x digital zoom.

All X Factor Thermal Imagers come standard with a five-year, best in class, full service warranty on parts and labor.

Thermal Imaging Cameras are used to locate victims in structure fires and other emergencies.

Greg Cross

## EMS First Responder Update

The Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department is always looking for ways to improve our EMS First Responders. This year we revamped our training system for new responders. The training now includes more testing as well as a mentorship/field training process. This new system will allow for better trained and better prepared first responders. We have also begun to look at and purchase new EMS equipment to better serve the citizens of Brazos County. Our First Responders will work in a uniform manner to provide patient care and support the paramedics on the ambulances. Precinct 3 will be working more closely with the Bryan Fire Department and College Station Fire Department for cross-training and familiarization between the department's apparatus and equipment. We have also begun the process to establish a continuing education program recognized by the Texas Department of State Health Services. This program

will allow the certified EMS instructors to hold classes for our first re-



sponders to continue their training and provide documentation for their EMS certification renewals. We will be extending these classes to all four Volunteer departments in the Brazos County, as well as any Bryan or Col-

lege Station Firefighter that wishes to attend. Finally, the Brazos County Firefighter's Association (BCFA) is currently working on an ALS First Responder status. This will allow paramedics who work for a local paid agency to be able to perform paramedic-level skills on the ambulances while responding as a volunteer at the discretion of the attending paramedic. BCFA is working with all the VFDs and the city departments as well as their Medical Directors. This will allow for better use of VFD resources and provide valuable assistance in providing quality patient care for the paramedics who respond from the cities. Any who wish to become involved in EMS or Firefighting need only apply. We are working constantly to train and respond for the needs of our community.

Joshua L Moore

## A Shared History

Bryan Fire Department was established in 1871, evolving from two volunteer fire companies. Their transition from volunteer to a paid department began in 1928, with one hire. Their last volunteers served through the early 1960's.

College Station Fire Department actually began in 1970 when the city hired its first fire chief. The first full time paid firefighter was hired in July of that year. Previously, fire protection for the community was provided by volunteer employees from Texas A&M University.

The Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD story begins in the 1970's as the cities began to grow in population, call volume, and mission within their own cities. This population growth and political development necessitated more response capability in the county, and

gave rise to the formation of Brazos County Volunteer Fire Departments. Precinct 3 and then 4 were the initial companies, with five total forming shortly in the following areas:

Steephollow (Pct 3)

Smetana (Pct 4)

Kurten (Pct 2)

Wellborn (Pct 1)

Millican (Pct 5)

Precincts 1 and 5 eventually combined into South Brazos County VFD.

The formation of the Brazos County volunteers brought an end to the cities being responsible for rural fire protection in the late 70's.

Eventually, mutual aid agreements were established to allow the separate departments to assist one another when needed. Now, history has come full circle as the Brazos County Firefighters Association (BCFA) now includes all Fire

Departments in Brazos County, including paid and volunteer departments, as well as the City of Navasota, whose boundaries now extend into Brazos County. BCFA is partnered in training, response, and development of a common vision for the safety and service of citizens in and around Brazos County.

If you would like to be a part of this rich local fire service history, please contact us here at Brazos County Precinct 3, or a fire department near you to find out how you, too, can serve.



Gerald Burnett,  
Fire Chief

## Hear the **BEEP** where you **SLEEP**

### Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.



Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.



Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.



When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



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.*