



# Three Alarm News

Volume MMXIX, Issue I

Fall 2019

## *Executive Committee:*

- Chief — Jason Ware
- President — Greg Cross
- Vice President — Josh Moore
- Secretary — Jesse Eddy
- Treasurer — David Dibello

## *Fireground Officers:*

- Fire Chief — Jason Ware
- Deputy Chief — Greg Janda
- Asst. Chief — Gerald Burnett
- Asst. Chief — Greg Cross
- Captain — Steven Kehlenbrink
- Captain — Jerry Merker
- Captain — Trey Smith
- Captain — Nick Hickson
- Captain — David Dibello
- Captain — Jeff Gore, Sr.
- Lieutenant — Josh Moore

## Recognition and Awards



Each year, the Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department holds an awards banquet to highlight the accomplishments of our volunteers. At the banquet, we recognize a Firefighter of the Year, a First Responder of the Year, and a Rookie of the Year. Additionally, we recognize those members who have reached a milestone of service time with the department, as well as those who contributed to the saving of a life in the performance of their duties.



**2018 First Responder  
of the Year  
Matt Drennan**



**20 Year Service Award  
Assistant Chief  
Gerald Burnett**



**2018 Firefighter  
of the Year  
Sam Crow**



**Life Saving  
Commendation  
Adrian Sanchez**



**2018 Rookie  
of the Year  
Jason Bone**

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## Training through 2019!



## The SCBA Project

The Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire department worked on several projects throughout 2019 in our continued effort to keep current with national standards set for the fire service. One of these projects was to replace our SCBAs (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus). The SCBA is arguably the most important piece of equipment available to firefighters, as they give us safe, breathable air to protect us from the smoke, ash, and superheated gases found in a fire environment. Early concepts of breathing devices appeared as early as the mid 1800's, and today's "SCBA" was introduced in the 1940's by Scott Manufacturing. Today, SCBAs are regulated by many standards, one of which is a service lifetime of 15 years, which ours recently reached. As a department, we tested several brands of SCBAs, and after a few months of research and testing, we unanimously chose to purchase the MSA (Mine Safety Apparatus) model G1 SCBAs. These air packs increase flexibility and comfort as well as offering several other features to streamline the operation and care of the equipment. These SCBAs will be going into service by the end of January 2020. The replacement of these critical components of our equipment will help keep our personnel safer, while making it easier to perform our duties.

- Josh Moore, Lieutenant/EMS Coordinator/Vice President



## Department Recruitment: Igniting the Spark

A critical element of any functioning volunteer fire department are the individuals who are ready to respond when the alarm sounds. Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD has maintained and grown its cadre of responders through word of mouth for many years, and recently has expanded to using more modern methods to reach potential volunteers.

Since this summer, Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD has turned to social media to help recruit new members by showing the community exactly what it is like to be a volunteer first responder, a member of the department, and a member of the fire family. Previously, Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD has relied on recruiting and public relations events to help build the department. Although this has worked in the past, since turning to social media, the response from the community in recruiting volunteers has been astounding. The influx of new members with an interest in both the fire response and EMS first responder missions of our department have been at an all time high, and continue to grow by the week.

The perspective from social media give the public a snippet of Precinct 3 VFD's "behind the scenes", including what happens after a fire call, what goes on during weekly trainings and live fire trainings. This new venture has helped to ignite the spark in many new members and will continue to be a successful new avenue to building the department.

- Jessica Eddy, Firefighter/EMT-B

## “The Volunteer Firefighter”

It is around 2:30 in the morning, on one of the coldest nights of the year. You are in that deep sleep, with the covers pulled up to your neck... so warm. The silence in the room is suddenly ruined when the fire pager sounds, alerting you to an emergency for your department. You jump out of bed, with your heart pounding, trying to find your clothes and shoes while listening to the dispatcher's voice give call details of a “Box Alarm, Structure Fire”. You cascade down the steps quickly to your vehicle and advise the dispatcher that you are responding.

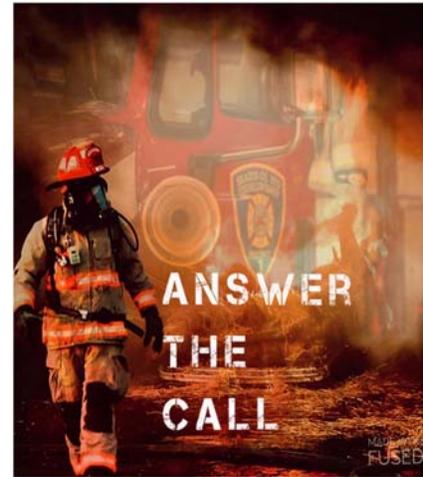
While responding to the call, you are recalling the training that you have gained during the weekly drills at the firehouse, and other training that you have attended. You get to the firehouse and respond with the rest of the firefighters on an engine with the equipment to fight this fire. Other responders from your department bring the water tender. You listen to the dispatcher on the radio when she advises that they have a Sheriff's Deputy on scene, who reports there are smoke and flames showing, and it appears everyone made it out safely.

You arrive on scene and go straight to work, pulling the hoseline as the chief makes a walk around the house. He reports that the fire appears to be at the back of the house and says, “Go get it”. With a gentle pat on the back from the chief, inside you go. Once inside, it is dark, and you hear the faint sound of the fire crackling and popping. You hear the breathing apparatus as your partner takes a breath directly behind you. There is an overwhelming silence for a moment as you take in the fear that you are experiencing and shove it down into your gut. You trust your instincts, your training, and push on. You arrive to where the fire is. It is hot in the room. You open the hoseline and begin spraying water. Your mask fogs over due to the steam created by the water extinguishing the fire. The fire has been extinguished. The crackling and popping go away and are replaced with sounds of steam and water dripping. You come out of the structure and the chief greets you and says, “Good knockdown, go rehab”.

After everything is complete on scene, you go back to the firehouse. You clean the hose, tools used, replace air cylinders, clean the truck and put the engine back to bed. You tell all your fellow firefighters, “See you on the next one” and leave.

You get back home, it is still early. You jump in the shower and wash away the smell of smoke and soot. You climb back into bed, trying to combat the adrenaline that is still flowing through your veins, trying to catch a short nap before you have to be at work. You put the pager back on its charger, so it can again break the silence in the room when someone else needs your help.

That is the life of a Volunteer Firefighter. It comes with the reward of being in the right place, at the right time, to help those who need it the most. “If you don't do it, who will?”



- Jason Ware, Fire Chief



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

Visit our website at [www.pct3vfd.com](http://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 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

Do you need a sign post/stake to attach the sign to?  Yes  No

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