



The Magazine for Emergency Professionals

TEXAS FIREMEN

October 2010 | Volume 45



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SFFMA Planning Conference

January 28 - 29, 2011 • Mesquite

Tentative Agenda

Friday, January 28, 2011 • Hampton Inn & Suites

1 pm – 5 pm SFFMA Executive Board Meeting .. SALON C

Saturday, January 29, 2011 • Hampton Inn & Suites

8:30 am – Noon Certification BoardSALON D

Finance SALON A

Constitution & Bylaws.....PELHAM

Pumper Race..... RIATA B

TFA Meeting.....SALON E

International (8:30-10:30am).....RIATA A

10:30 am – Noon Poster..... LATIGO

Exhibits..... EXHIBIT HALL

MemorialCAYUSE

Driving ContestRIATA A

EMS SALON C

11 am T*Flag Meeting.....SALON B

12 pm – 1pm **Lunch..... ON YOUR OWN**

1 pm – 2 pm District OfficersSALON B

2 pm – 4 pm Review of June Conf. Schedule.....SALON B

4 pm Site Selection.....SALON B

All meetings adjourn on Saturday.
No meetings scheduled for Sunday.

Space is limited, make your
reservations today!



Hampton Inn & Suites

1700 Rodeo Drive

Mesquite, TX 75149

Phone: 972-329-3100

Rate: \$90 standard room/

\$110 suite per night plus tax

Group code: SFFMA

Cut off date: January 14, 2011

Register for the Planning Conference at

www.sffma.org

beginning November 15, 2010.

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State Firemen's and Fire

SFFMA Staff

Chris Barron

Executive Director

W: 512/454-3473 ext. 901

Email: cbarron@sffma.org

Gabi Glass

Event Coordinator

W: 512/454-3473 ext. 902

Email: gglass@sffma.org

Kevin Creamer

*Certification Administrator/
Industrial Coordinator*

W: 512/454-3473 ext. 903

Email: kcreamers@sffma.org

Joyce Stein

Certification Assistant

W: 512/454-3473 ext. 904

Email: jstein@sffma.org

Julie Beauchamp

Sales Manager

W: 512/454-3473 ext. 905

Email: jbeauchamp@sffma.org

Diana Cardona

*Membership Administrator/
International Coordinator*

W: 512/454-3473 ext. 906

Email: dcardona@sffma.org

Elva Martinez

*Creative Designer/
Administrative Specialist*

W: 512/454-3473 ext. 908

Email: emartinez@sffma.org



PRESIDENT'S FORUM

If something sensible comes out regarding an exemption on budget cuts for small agencies, we need to support it as this would impact Pension Commission and Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

This is not the year to get aggressive, especially for things that cost money. Your Legislature is going to be concerned about an 18 billion dollar shortfall and redistricting, and not necessarily in that order. We need to be cautious so that at the end of the session we haven't lost anything, especially 2604 funding and/or the old Commission grant funding that transferred to TFS. We will possibly try to assist in the clean up language for the black fire hydrant bill.

The Certification Board will be meeting this month and possibly November to continue work on the Certification Program changes. More information will be coming out on the website and E*InfoFire newsletters

The SFFMA Online program and all of the paper forms have been updated to track/report by objectives. Fire departments will, in the long run, find this system easier because it provides a clear report of which specific items their firefighters need to cover for their next level of certification. If you have questions, contact your Certification Coordinator in your department or if you need further assistance contact your Certification Zone Representative. If you are not sure which zone you are in, you can go to the web page and find your zone, if all else fails contact Kevin Creamer at the Austin office.

Your Executive Board has made all the Fall District meetings this year with one to five board members at each meeting, and we are excited to make your upcoming 2011 Spring meetings to bring you hopefully good and exciting news for the Fire Service. At one of the meetings' I was asked in a one-on-one conversation how many miles I have traveled. I told them I did not want to think about it because I enjoyed all the meetings and sometimes it takes 8-9 hours to get there, but when I am there it is well worth the trip to see families. I would like to encourage all members to go to your District Meetings and stay on top of what is going on in your area. Also make plans to make the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association 135th Annual Training Conference and Convention in Mesquite, Texas June 17-22, 2011.

Bryan Rickert
SFFMA President

Good day to all. As I stated in many meetings, a lot of information is at your finger tips. Just go to the Web Page and start surfing, www.sffma.org. As new information becomes available make sure you are receiving the E*InfoFire newsletter e-mail! That way when something is published, it will come to your e-mail. Be sure and read through this magazine and see some new benefits that are available to you as members of this association. I would like to remind all, Fire Service personal members or not, to send the State office names of any firefighter or auxiliary, who have passed away since last year, to be recognized at our June Annual Memorial Service in Mesquite. Please include department name, member name, date of death and active or retired to memorial@sffma.org. This information needs to be in by May 13th to be printed in the Memorial Service program.

Legislative Session is just around the corner again. We will closely watch any attempt at regulation. We're obviously going to support Larry Taylor's bill on probate fee exemptions for LODDs. We also have to closely watch Sunset on the Texas Forest Service and The Department of Insurance which includes the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Texas Firemen, issued in the Fall of each year, is the official publication of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas. Any person interested in the fire service may become an individual member of this Association by the payment of annual dues in the amount of \$20 per annual year (January - December) which includes individual membership and allows for eligibility of benefits, including a subscription to this magazine. Editorial and advertising offices are at 4450 Frontier Trail, Austin, Texas 78745, telephone: 512/454-3473, fax: 512/453-1876. Advertising rates are available upon request or may be found online at www.sffma.org.

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Marshals' Association of Texas

Do you ever wonder when the "busy times" will slow down or come to an end? For the staff at the SFFMA office, we do that quite often. We have our "cycles" of more busy times than others but for the most part, there always appears to be a project, schedule, or deadline to meet.

Our summer at the association office was yet another busy one. Between our conference, Spanish school sales, municipal school sales/exhibits and legislative day, we always seemed to have something going on. Recently we made some great improvements to our website and the online certification reporting program.

We also upgraded our database to a newer version which will allow for more customized reports for our staff, board and membership when there is a need. Our online committee listings now show live data directly from our database! Now, when a committee member makes a change to his or her contact info, the change is immediately visible in the committee listing that person is a member of.

As we go into the fall season, I look forward to the colder weather but the travels across the state pick back up. Between district meetings, area schools, board meetings, and various conferences, quite a few road miles will be put on the association vehicles.

Please remember, SFFMA has several outreach services available to you, your department, your district, county fire association, etc. We are available to come to your area fire school and exhibit or sell training materials or logoed items, we offer the recruitment and retention education program and also the SFFMA member benefit program. If your department is considering joining SFFMA or utilizing our certification program, please give us an opportunity to come to your facility, make a visit and show you all the benefits we have to offer!

One of the most beneficial and rewarding projects for the summer was helping coordinate the legislative trip to College Station on July 28th. As we boarded the bus with 34 legislative staffers, offices, etc, we began what I would consider a historic and rewarding trip for SFFMA and the legislative offices. We took those representatives to the Texas

Forest Service headquarters where they heard briefings and updates from Director Tom Boggus of TFS, Director Gary Sera of



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

TEEX, and Chief Les Bunte of ESTI. Visitors got to see equipment purchased with HB2604 funds and a dozer and grader purchased with wildfire protection program funds. From there, we took the group to the fire school, bunkered those who wanted to fight fire and put them on a project. To end off the trip we identified constituents from each of the representative's area, and each were able to visit with those departments that were represented along with getting a personalized tour of the fire field. This great day could not

have happened without the help of our lobbyist Trey Blocker, TFlag Chairman Steve Perdue, Texas Forest Service and TEEX staff!

The certification board continues to update the certification program to accommodate new standards aimed at increasing the safety of firefighters in Texas. Please continue to monitor the SFFMA website and read the newsletters to be aware of the changes coming down the road. There are many myths and rumors about the program's intentions so if you hear of something that just doesn't sound right, PLEASE contact our office so that we may put the right information out.

We are here to serve you and offer programs in which you can benefit from as an individual and department. Two new member benefit programs we are offering is a cooperative purchasing group to purchase your medical supplies and some fire equipment through North Central EMS Cooperative (www.ncemsc.org) and discounted home and auto insurance for SFFMA members through California Casualty. More information on both of these programs can be found in this magazine.

Be safe!

Chris Barron
Executive Director

PRESIDENT Bryan Rickert
142 County Road 2791
Carthage, TX 75633
W: 903/693-0119
C: 903/754-0403
Email: brickett@sffma.org

1st VICE PRESIDENT Rex Kleesel
3537 County Road 326
Alvin, TX 77511
W: 281/331-7688
C: 281/387-9967
Email: rklesel@sffma.org

2nd VICE PRESIDENT David Wade
3018 Eileen St.
Deer Park, TX 77536
W: 281/478-7281
C: 713/545-9299
Email: dwade@sffma.org

3rd VICE PRESIDENT Bill Gardner
PO Box 319
Leander, TX 78646
W: 512/528-1664
C: 512/845-9689
Email: bgardner@sffma.org

4th VICE PRESIDENT Rusty Kattner
680 Fountain View Ln.
League City, TX 77573
W: 409/925-7331
C: 832/221-9533
Email: rkattner@sffma.org

SECRETARY Joe Ondrasek
5572 Caroline Dr.
Bryan, TX 77807
W: 979/775-0194
C: 979/820-1038
Email: jondrasek@sffma.org

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. Jim White
304 E. Mundy St.
Overton, TX 75684
H: 903/834-3457
Email: jwhite@sffma.org

CHAPLAIN Ben Kennedy
PO Box 11859
College Station, TX 77842
W: 979/862-7420
C: 979/229-1263
Email: bkennedy@sffma.org

PAST PRESIDENT Kent Watts, Jr.
303 E Bowie St.
Luling, TX 78648
W: 830/875-9239
C: 830/445-1585
Email: kwatts@sffma.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Chris Barron
4450 Frontier Trl.
Austin, TX 78745
W: 512/454-3473
F: 512/453-1876
Email: cbarron@sffma.org

MASCOT Bryce Rickert
142 County Road 2791
Carthage, TX 75633
H: 903/693-4855
Email: brickettmascot@sffma.org

BOARD PARLIAMENTARIAN Rayford W. Gibson
PO Box 774
Tatum, TX 75691
W: 903/947-2217
H: 903/947-2831
Email: rgibson@sffma.org

If we can be of better service to you or look at additional benefits, please let us know by sending an email to membership@sffma.org or call us at (800) 580-7336.

SAVE THE DATE!

135th SFFMA Annual Conference and Convention

Come celebrate Father's Day in style!

June 17 - 22, 2011



I want to personally welcome you to Mesquite, Texas. We are very excited to be chosen as the 2011 host of the 135th State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas Annual Conference to be held June 17 to 22, 2011, at the Hampton Inn and Suites. We are located just east of Dallas, and if you want to see an authentic Texas town, you have found it here in Mesquite.

and Mesquite the new. We are the home of the world famous Mesquite Championship Rodeo, where you can experience the excitement of the Old West in air-conditioned comfort on Friday and Saturday nights from June to August watching cowboys and cowgirls compete in thrilling rodeo events. A short distance away, you can take in a theater production or observe an art exhibit at the Mesquite Arts Center, or you may enjoy one of our live country music shows around the old Town Square. If you're longing for something good to eat or drink, you can satisfy any type of food craving with Mesquite's more than 150 outstanding restaurants. You can shop 'til you drop at our mall or one of our many shopping centers, or for something more exhilarating, you may want to visit Devil's Bowl Speedway, where you can see spine-tingling Sprint car racing on a dirt track on Friday and Saturday evenings. You may prefer to engage in a round of golf at our Mesquite Golf Club or tour one of our old historic homes. If that's not enough for you, downtown Dallas is only 15 minutes away, and Ft. Worth is only 40 minutes more to the west.

You won't find more friendly place than Mesquite, Texas, and we trust that we will be able to provide the perfect environment for you to enjoy the SFFMA Training Workshops, Exhibits and Games. We hope you will leave here with many new friends and wonderful memories of a great conference in our town.

Sincerely,

Mark Kerby
Fire Chief

Remember to budget
\$ 150 per person for
2011 Conference Registration

HOST HOTEL

Hampton Inn & Suites

1700 Rodeo Drive

Mesquite, TX 75149

Ph: 972-529-3100

Rate: \$90 standard room/

\$110 suite

Group Name: SFFMA

ALTERNATE HOTELS

Courtyard by Marriott

Dallas/ Mesquite

2300 Interstate 30

Mesquite, TX 75150

Ph: 972-681-3300

Rate: \$90 + tax

Group Name: SFFMA

Holiday Inn Express

21850 IH 635

Mesquite, TX 75149

Ph: 972-288-9900

Rate: \$90 + tax

Group name: SFFMA

We look forward to sharing our Real. Texas. Hospitality. with such a wonderful group whose dedication to service is an inspiration.

Mesquite CVB



A R E A MESQUITE

Photos © Mesquite CVB

MESQUITE CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

1818 Rodeo Drive
Mesquite, TX 75149
P: 972-285-8777



For more than 50 years, the Mesquite Championship Rodeo has entertained families with thrilling rodeo events such as saddle bronc riding, bull riding, barrel racing and more. Exciting changes for this year include jumbo video boards to highlight all of the action, a private club and more children's activities. Kids will continue to enjoy the petting zoo and pony rides, along with the Dash for Cash, and Mutton Bustin. Enjoy home-cooked barbecue at Sonny Bryan's restaurant, and shop for that perfect souvenir at Wild Bill's Rodeo Shop. Performances are every Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. from June through August, in air-conditioned Resistol Arena.

DEVIS'S BOWL SPEEDWAY



1711 Lawson Road
Mesquite, TX 75181
P: 972-222-2421

The Devil's Bowl Speedway offers explosive race-car action on its half-mile, outdoor dirt track. Here all types of vehicles race in action packed competitions, including the O'Reilly Spring and Winter Nationals. The season runs from March to mid-October, Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. Call for ticket information.

A T T R A C T I O N S

MESQUITE ARTS CENTER



1527 N. Galloway
Mesquite, TX 75149
P: 972-216-6444

From symphony to drama to art exhibits, a wide variety of cultural activities can be found at the Mesquite Arts Center. The Concert Hall is home to the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra and the Mesquite Symphonic Band; the Black Box Theater houses the Mesquite Community Theater, and artists display their talents in the Main and Chamber Galleries. See the website for Calendar of Events and details.

RODEO CITY MUSIC HALL

214 W. Davis
Mesquite, TX 75149
P: 972-285-9343



If you are a "little bit country, a little bit rock 'n roll, or a little bit gospel", then Rodeo City Music Hall is the place for you! Every Saturday night at 7:30 pm the stage is packed with musical talent that will have your foot tapping and your hands clapping – you may even find yourself singing along!



an overview of TFS, the Emergency Operations Center and TEEX. After lunch, the bus took everyone over to the fire field where the Staff and the Legislators were given the opportunity to suit up and participate in a live fire exercise while at the fire field. At the conclusion of the live fire training, each of the offices were allowed time to be given a tour of the field and meet with their constituents while there.



Legislative Day at Brayton Fire Field

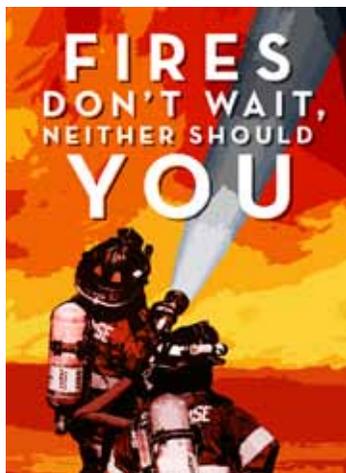
On July 28, 2010, SFFMA invited all Texas Legislators to participate in a field trip to become better informed about the operations of the Texas Forest Service and the Texas Engineering Extension Service. Representatives from US Senator John Cornyn and Senator Hutchinson's office along with approximately 40 State Representative's and Senator's offices were represented during this historic event.

The trip started with a bus ride to College Station then a trip to the Texas Forest Service headquarters where they were given

Pictures of the 2010 Municipal School and Legislative Day may be found at

www.sffma.org

Thank you to all who participated!



Recruitment and Retention Program

SFFMA is leading an effort to recruit and retain more volunteer firefighters in local fire departments. Through a grant received from the Department of Homeland Security, SFFMA has built a recruitment and retention program to assist Texas fire departments to get

more firefighters and keep the firefighters in each department. Since February 1st, 2010 SFFMA is providing:

- A two hour workshop
- All materials, Public Service Announcements, Posters

What we need is a hosting department or location, a convenient time/date, and for as many local fire departments to attend the seminar as possible.

To schedule a visit please email recruitment@sffma.org

*** For those departments who have implemented the program, don't forget to submit your semi-annual reports!**

SFFMA presents a plaque to Representative Jim McReynolds



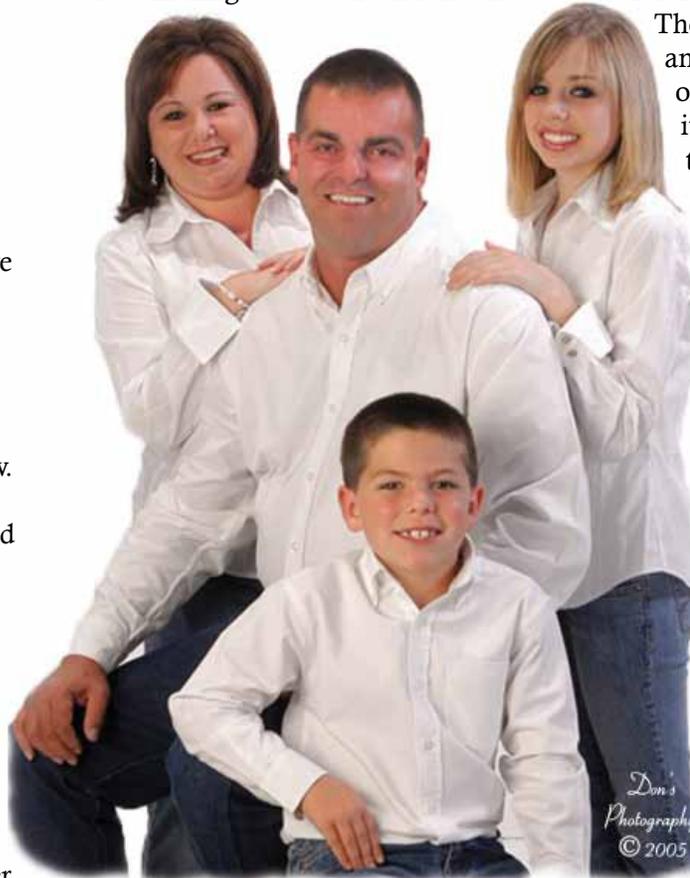
SFFMA President Bryan Rickert presented a plaque of appreciation to State Representative Jim McReynolds during a dinner honoring TEEX Municipal School Instructors on July 28, 2010 in College Station.

WHERE I AM TODAY

When I was a child I can remember I wanted to be a Fireman (like any child) and a Motorcycle Cop. I was born in Chester, Pennsylvania November 13, 1960. Yea that's right I am a dam yankee one that won't go home, anyway, my Mother and Father, older brother and sister, and twin sister moved to Chicago, Illinois, Bradenton, Florida, and then called home Carthage, Texas in 1970. At the age of 20 I started work for the City of Carthage July 27, 1981 as a Mechanic, I will never forget when I received my first pay check from the city, they had deducted retirement and I went straight to the city pay roll department and told them they made a mistake that I did not approve them to deduct for retirement and she told me that it was mandatory, I then told her to make a record of that I did not approve of this. Well I hope she did not record it because retirement looks better every day now. As I had to work on all city vehicles when I got to drive the police cars and fire trucks to the maintenance shop I enjoyed turning on the lights and sirens, never got caught except for one time I told my boss that I had to make sure everything worked. One day I got called to a fire scene of a fire truck problem after fixing the truck I watched the firemen at work and said I can do that. I joined the Carthage Fire Department September 1986. Receive my Reserve Law Enforcement license 1988. Was voted Fireman of the Year 1992. November 4, 1995 I married Jennifer with her 5 year old daughter Valerie and Bryce came 3-14-98 they all have been the best things in my life and I love them very much. My first District meeting was in Carthage. I was approached by my Fire Chief and a Fireman as I was setting up the ladder truck and they asked me if I would be interested in running for Northeast District

Office. Sure I'll try anything once, at that meeting I was voted in by the District members as I preformed the duties of office I have learned a lot about SFFMA, ever since I joined the Fire Department I received a SFFMA membership card yearly and put it in my wallet not to see it till the next year when I replaced it with a new one. After becoming a District Officer I started making State Conventions and

state business for the good of state firefighters, In Corpus Christi 2004 I asked my District how they would feel about me running for 4th Vice President and the were very excited. When I returned home I asked the City and Fire Department and they were behind me 100% so in Wichita Falls 2005 at the close of Convention I announced that I would be running for 4th Vice President in Waco.



Though it has been expensive and time consuming and a lot of traveling I would not trade it for anything, I would like to thank the City of Carthage, Carthage Fire Department, Northeast Texas District, and especially my wife and family for letting me serve in this position.

As I elevated to President in Corpus Christi it was a great and very proud time for me and Jennifer as our son Bryce was voted in as SFFMA State Mascot.

I would encourage every one to get involved with your District funtions as I have had unforgettable experiences with the pumper races, great food and fellowship, and as I have been making other District

I looked back and could not believe the fun and experiences I have missed through the years of my fire service. The Exhibit show with the latest and newest fire equipment available, great training, activities, golfing, pumper races, free food and drinks, and especially the friends I have made, and the level of the Memorial Service is outstanding. During the convention meetings I would sit there and watch the executive board thru the years elevate and conduct

meetings through out the State in the past 6 years all the 16 District have something different and exciting that they do, if you are able please try to make other District meetings.

Bryan Rickert
SFFMA President



SFFMA Certification Program Updates

Transfer to Objective-Based Tracking

In order to make tracking and reporting of training easier and more clear, the Certification Board recently revised the Program to use individual objective completion in place of training “hours”. The use of hours could be arbitrary, and the same class could be reported differently depending on the interpretation of the program. Reports could be confusing (and monotonous) requiring totaling of hours and then subtraction from the requirements, often leading to confusion, mistakes and delays in Progress Report closure and issuance of certifications.

The SFFMA Online program and all of the paper forms are updated to track/report by objectives. Fire departments will, in the long run, find this an easier system of tracking and reporting training. In place of the math used in the old format, the new format reports whether trainees completed specific objectives. Yes or No, these are the only choices.

Certification for Introductory Fire Fighting is still available. There is no longer a separate section on the forms for completion of Introductory, because these objectives are a portion of those required for Basic Firefighter certification. Introductory objectives are part of the Basic section and have an asterisk (*) next to them on the new forms.

For more information, contact your Zone Representative or Kevin Creamer at the Austin office.

“Online” Certification Workshop Now Available

Are you overdue for your Certification Workshop and cannot find one in your area? Do you have applications or reports on hold due to workshop attendance? We have good news for you!

The Certification Board recently approved use of an “online” workshop option. Although specifically designed for Coordinators overdue on workshop attendance to meet participation requirements, the online option is available to anyone wanting to learn more about the Certification Program.

Through review of a PowerPoint presentation and completion of an online quiz, Coordinators can meet their attendance participation requirement without driving across the state. The Board does emphasize the importance of the face-to-face interaction with other Coordinators, Chiefs, and your Zone Representative at in-person workshops, so the online option is only for occasional use. Coordinators are still required to make their next workshop attendance in person.

To request the online workshop option, contact Kevin Creamer at the Austin office.

Progress Reports are due January 31st

Here’s a little reminder that your department’s annual training summary (Progress Report) is due by January 31st, 2011 covering all training earned through the end of 2010. The form is a little different this year, so please take a look at it early. You may find the task to be easier than in previous years, but if you have any questions, please contact Joyce Stein at the Austin office.

Certification Department

contact information

Kevin Creamer

Phone: 512-454-3473 ext. 903

Email: kcreamer@sffma.org

Joyce Stein

Phone: 512-454-3473 ext. 904

Email: jstein@sffma.org

Conferencia Internacional 2011
Laredo, TX
13 - 15 de enero del 2011




2ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN LAREDO

Date: January 13 - 15, 2011
Location: Embassy Suites Laredo
110 Calle Del Norte
Laredo, TX 78041
Phone: 956-723-9100

Training classes offered in spanish: Haz Mat Awareness and Operations; Confined Space Rescue; Driver Simulator; NIMS 100/200; National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer Class; ACLS

For more information contact
Diana Cardona at international@sffma.org

Members!

It has been a pretty busy year, and it's gone by quickly! We are nearing the end of 2010, and the next year is approaching. We hope you like what we have in store for you! First of all, we've been working on getting a lot of our system and materials updated so that it's easier and faster for you to use.

The new look for our membership card is finally finished!

I'm including a picture so you can take a look at the new and improved design. Soon we will be accepting 2011 dues, so be sure to get your 2011 renewals in starting November 1st.

I also want to mention that there has been an increase in departments using SFFMA Online for the membership process. This program allows you to control the status if your members and generate new invoices/ rosters.

If your department hasn't used SFFMA Online please email membership@sffma.org for a step-by-step guide on how to use it and update your department information.

With our new system updates, it has become increasingly important that members that need online access have a functioning e-mail address. Please be sure to have your e-mail information on record. It is the way we communicate important alerts and association information. Legislative session is approaching and we just want to remind you to get involved

and remain informed on the important issues that can affect the Texas Fire Service.

In case you haven't heard, there are some new benefits being offered, so check those out!

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of SFFMA!


Membership Administrator



Are you tired of paying catalog prices?

If so, the NCEMSC can help you!

The NCEMSC assists members in providing cost-effective, quality service by negotiating discounted contracts for the following equipment and supplies. As an SFFMA member, you have the opportunity to share in these discounts.



NCEMSC
A Cooperative built with you!



= Saving\$

**[A NETWORK OF EMERGENCY SERVICE
PROVIDERS UNITED TO SAVE MONEY!]**

-  Ambulances
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-  Continuing Education
-  Dashboard/Analysis/Alerting Software
-  **Defibrillators/ AEDs & ALS Monitors**
-  Electronic Patient Care Reporting
-  **EMS Legal Services & Seminars**
-  Fire Fighting Equipment and Supplies
-  Fleet Fuel Cards
-  **Medical Supplies & Equipment**
-  **Mobile Gateway**
-  Patient Safety Straps
-  Patient & Customer Satisfaction Surveys
-  Promotional Clothing & Items

Inquire Today!

North Central EMS Cooperative

www.ncemsc.org

888.603.4426

office@ncemsc.org

**[EMS PROVIDERS SAVING THOUSANDS
OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR!]**

The NCEMSC is affiliated with the SFFMA...therefore, if you are part of SFFMA, you are part of the NCEMSC!
SFFMA elects to pay your annual NCEMSC membership dues (\$75 value)!



TEXAS ENGINEERING
EXTENSION SERVICE
emergency services training institute

For More Information:

www.teex.org/leadership

www.facebook.com/teexleadership

January 10-12, 2011

TEEX Leadership Symposium
"Standards of Excellence, Raising the Bar"
Have you marked your calendar yet?
January 10-12, 2011



Updates

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THE TEXAS FOREST SERVICE WILL IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE HB 2604 GRANT PROGRAM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2010:

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Cost-share assistance for Structural PPE will increase. The new reimbursement rate will be 90% of the actual cost not to exceed \$8,400.
- Cost-share assistance for Wildland PPE will change. The new reimbursement rate will be 90% of the actual cost not to exceed \$8,400.

TRAINING TUITION

- Cost-share assistance for Training Tuition grants will be capped at a maximum of \$12,000 per department per fiscal year (September 1 through August 31). Training Tuition grants are capped at a maximum of \$85 per trainee per day, a maximum of \$595 per trainee per school, and a maximum of \$6,000 per school per department.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOR RECEIVING HB 2604 GRANT MONEY (4th meeting 08/10)

Brazos Point/ Eulogy VFD
Canyon VFD
Cash FD Association, Inc.
Center Point VFD
Childress VFD
Chisholm Trails Fire Rescue
Cottonwood Vol. Fire Control Group
El Cenizo VFD, Inc.
Glen Cove VFD
Gray VFD
Happy VFD
Heart of the Pines VFD

Hoover VFD
Kelton VFD
Kemah VFD
Kingsbury VFD
Kinney County Fire Rescue
Kleberg County VFR
Lake Ivie VFD
Loving VFD
Lueders VFD
McNair VFD
Ovilla VFD
Placid Community VFD
Potet VFD
Progreso VFD, Inc.
Quitaque VFD
Ralls VFD
Reagan Wells VFD
Roosevelt VFD
Sagerton VFD
Santa Rose VFD
Shamrock Shores VFD
South Newton CO ESD #1
Stoneburg VFD
Taylor VFD
Throckmorton County
Tulia VFD
Woods VFD
Woodson VFD



e-INFO FIRE NEWSLETTER

State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

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www.sffma.org

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If not, email your contact information to newsletter@sffma.org



State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

To submit an article or content for the e-Infofire, please send an email to newsletter@sffma.org

4450 Frontier Trail • Austin, TX 78745

www.sffma.org

ph.512.454.3473

1.512.453.1876



Workers' Compensation Purchasing Group Earns Dividends from Texas Mutual

The Workers' Compensation Emergency Service Organization (ESO) Purchasing Group sponsored by VFIS of Texas/Regnier & Associates and endorsed by SFFMA has earned a \$65,456 group dividend from Texas Mutual Insurance Company. Dividend checks were recently mailed out to individual policyholders for their portion of the dividend.

This dividend is based largely on the group's premium volume and loss ratio. Since the group's inception in

1999, more than \$580,000 in group dividends has been paid out to group members. By committing to workplace safety and helping injured workers return to productive employment, purchase group members improve their chances of qualifying for future dividends.* In addition to potential dividends, members get a group discount on their workers' compensation premium. They also have access to free industry-specific safety materials, including online videos, pamphlets, DVDs and a written safety plan. This group dividend is separate from the \$100 million in general dividends that Texas Mutual recently mailed out to individual policyholders. Many purchasing group members qualified for dividends under both plans.



*Past dividends are not a guarantee of future dividends. The Texas Department of Insurance must approve all dividends.

VFIS of Texas Celebrates 25-Year Anniversary

VFIS of Texas is thrilled to announce the celebration of our 25th Anniversary of providing specialty insurance coverages to Texas emergency service organizations. We have experienced a tremendous amount of growth in our 25 years, becoming known as the industry leader in taking care of our customers' needs. The credit for our success goes to our ever-growing number of loyal customers for their continued confidence and support.

On October 25, 1985, Cynthia Regnier became the Regional Director for VFIS for the state of Texas. VFIS is a subsidiary of Glatfelter Insurance Group in York PA and is the largest provider of insurance, education and consulting services to emergency service organizations. With over 15,000 clients in the United States and Canada, VFIS has a long history of helping the Emergency Service Community to protect their assets and manage the many risks that they face. We look forward to the next 25 years and continue our promise of service, trust, and value. It has been our special privilege to be your chosen provider of insurance products and services. Thank you!

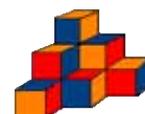


State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO YOU!!

Reasons to be a SFFMA Member:

- Membership with 21,000 other Texas Fire Fighters, EMS & Fire Service Professionals
- Certification Programs available in Fire Suppression, Investigation, Inspection, and Prevention, Driver/Operator, Wildland Firefighter, Rescue, Officer, and Instructor
- SFFMA Online – Web-based Online Training Reporting Tool
- The Fire Service's Legislative Voice at the State and Federal Level
- Sponsorship of Texas Fire Training School at Texas A&M University
- \$3000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy for all SFFMA Members
- Discounts on IFSTA, Delmar, Jones & Bartlett, McGraw Hill, International Code Council, Action Training Systems, PennWell & Brady Materials
- Monthly E* InfoFire Email based Newsletter, InfoFire *Conference Edition*, and Annual Texas Firemen Magazine
- Annual Training Conference & Convention discounts
- Receive special discount rate with La Quinta Inn and La Quinta Inn & Suites by using promotional code "SFFMA10"
prices may vary depending on locations
- Industrial Fire Services Support through TIESB
- The SFFMA Website at www.sffma.org for up to date information concerning the fire service
- Credit Card Discount Program – SFFMA / Bank of America Credit Card
- Cellular Phone Service/Equipment Discounts : 11% off AT&T, 23% off Sprint/Nextel, and 10% off T*Mobile
- Bereavement program and discounts available through Dignity Memorial
- Discounts on Security Alarm Monitoring through Monitronics
- Discounts on home and auto insurance through California Casualty
- Discounts on EMS equipment and supplies through North Central EMS Co-Operative affiliates. www.ncemsc.org
- Travel, Retail and Insurance benefits through Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)
For a complete list of AMBA benefits, please visit www.sffmabenefits.org

Contact: membership@sffma.org or 1.800.580.7336



New!

www.SFFMAbenefits.org

Learn more about your member benefits on our special website!



Member Benefits

- ✔ Dental & Vision Plans
- ✔ Whole Life Insurance Policy
- ✔ First Diagnosis Heart Attack & First Major Heart Surgery Policy
- ✔ First Diagnosis Cancer Policy
- ✔ Long Term Care Policy
- ✔ Medicare Supplement Plans

Benefits made available by



Visit www.SFFMAbenefits.com or call AMBA at 800.258.7041 to learn more

The advertisement for Texas Rope Rescue features a large, dark background image of a person being hoisted by a rope. The text "INDUSTRIAL RESCUE TRAINING" is written in large, bold, white letters on the left side. In the center, the "TEXAS ROPE RESCUE" logo is displayed, consisting of a white outline of the state of Texas with a silhouette of a person climbing a rope on the right side. Below the logo, the phone number "361-938-7080" and the website "WWW.TEXASROPERESCUE.COM" are listed. On the right side, there is a small logo for OSHA, MSHA, and NFPA compliance. The bottom of the advertisement is decorated with a row of six small, square images showing various industrial rescue scenarios, including workers on ladders, people using ropes, and rescue equipment.

INDUSTRIAL RESCUE TRAINING



361-938-7080

WWW.TEXASROPERESCUE.COM

OSHA
MSHA
NFPA
Compliant



SFFMA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR OFFICIAL RULES

(Revised September 1, 2010)

Nominee's department **MUST** be a member of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominee **MUST** hold current individual membership with SFFMA.

Each nominee will be considered on a Point System to determine the three finalists. The areas to be considered are:

- 1) Leadership abilities including:
 - *Leadership positions held*
 - *Work knowledge*
 - *Communications*
 - *Creativity and Innovation*
 - *Attitude*
 - *Interaction with others*
- 2) Dedication to training and/or introduction of new and innovative training methods
- 3) Involvement in SFFMA, both state and district level
- 4) Community involvement, both church and civic
- 5) Acts of heroism in a fire-related act or act of bravery
- 6) Accomplishments/awards received
- 7) Certifications held
- 8) Letters of Recommendation
(no more than 4 please)
- 9) Pictures may be submitted
(No more than 4 please)

All nominations must be submitted to local Districts by a fire department on or before the District's Spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from fire department and signed by Fire Chief, Assistant Chief or President.

One nominee from each District should be submitted in a sealed envelope to state SFFMA office no later than the 4th Monday in May. Submissions must be received with a letter from District and signed by the District President or Secretary.

The state SFFMA office will log in the submissions as received and will leave the submissions unopened. The FFOY committee will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists based on the above criteria. The nominees will be notified of the results.

The three finalists will be interviewed by the FFOY committee on Saturday morning at the state convention. All nominees will be recognized and the winner will be announced on Sunday at the 1st Business Meeting. All submissions will be returned to the Districts after the state convention.

CONGRATULATIONS !!



RICHARD DREWRY
2010 Firefighter of the Year

2010 FFOY SPONSORS



*Providing Protection for those Who Protect Us
since 1950*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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Association of Texas
Friend: Sffma Austin

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Did you know you can get up to three sets
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All you have to do is submit your application together with your basic
certification to SFFMA.

For more information, visit our website at

www.sffma.org or call 512-454-3473

REMINDER

Injured Firefighters Assistance

Fund Available

Through a grant received from the Department of Homeland Security, SFFMA is able to make available \$20,000 each year to assist injured/disabled volunteer firefighters who may need financial assistance in paying medical bills or lost wages.

The program is being made available to those firefighters who may not have been covered by a workers compensation policy or health insurance.

An injured firefighter just needs to fill out the application form which may be found at <http://www.sffma.org/pdfdocs/miscpdfs/SFFMAFirefighterInjury-DisabilityClaimForm.pdf> and submit it to the SFFMA Office along with any required documentation, incident reports, etc.

SFFMA will review the application and decide to what level the firefighter will receive assistance. Assistance is limited to \$5000 per applicant and will only be given to applicants involved in emergency operations at the time of the injury.

FF Fire Fighter TOOL SUPPLY

Distributors of the **Best** Fire & Rescue Equipment

Nozzles
Fire Hose
Extrication Tools
Class A & B Foam
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firefightertool.com

281-631-0588

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VOTE



Paul Hamilton

4th Vice President

Mesquite 2011

In the spotlight.....

PennWell

Fire Engineering's Handbook for Firefighter I and II

ISBN: 1593701352

List price - \$95.00
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Fire Engineering's Handbook for Firefighter I and II, and its ancillary products compose a totally new approach to training Firefighter I and II.



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List price - \$195.00
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2-DVD Set (Combined run time: approx. 7 hours).

COMING SOON!

Drawn by Fire by Paul Combs
ISBN: 1593702434

List price - \$29.00
Member price - \$24.65

The powerful messages delivered in this collection of 156 fire service editorial cartoons by Paul Combs.



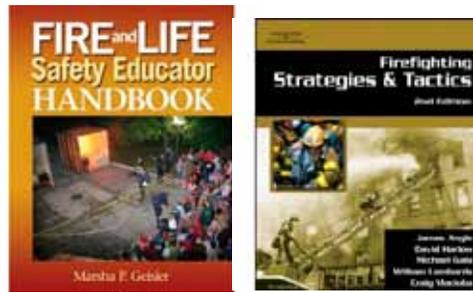
DELMAR
CENGAGE Learning

Delmar's Fire and Life Safety Educator

ISBN: 1428305416

List price - \$59.95
Member price - \$50.97

Based on the 2010 Edition of NFPA Standard 1035, Fire and Life Safety Educator is a comprehensive and reader-friendly guide for those who are involved in public education for the fire service.



Firefighting Strategies and Tactics, 2E

ISBN: 1418048933

List Price: \$98.95
Member Price: \$84.10

This comprehensive text is an ideal building block for aspiring fire officers and an essential review for experienced command officers.

Case Studies for the Emergency Responder

ISBN: 1418053597

List Price: \$28.95
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Case Studies for the Emergency Responder.



ActionTraining
SYSTEMS

Industrial Fire Brigade series

List price - \$4,690.00*
Member price - \$4,135.00*

This series of 12 programs for the industrial sector is designed for training fire brigade members to the incipient level, which provides the capability to extinguish incipient-stage fires while wearing normal work clothing. This basic training is a prerequisite for advanced exterior and/or interior structural level fire brigades.



* Price includes 12 DVD series only. Additional items sold separately.

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List Price: ILMS V2- \$750
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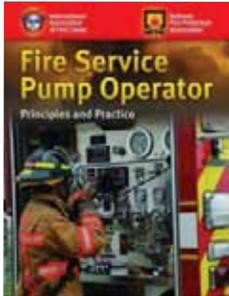


For more information or to purchase these materials contact Julie Beauchamp at 512-454-3473 ext. 905

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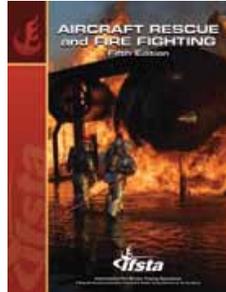


**Fire Service Pump Operator:
Principles and Practice**

Item #0763739081

List price - \$71.95

Member Cost - \$57.56

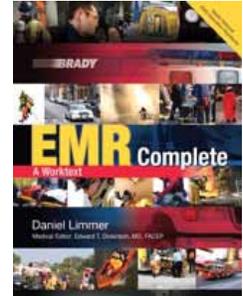


**Aircraft Rescue and
Fire Fighting, 5E**

Item #36741

List price - \$58.00

Member Cost - \$49.30



EMR Complete: A Worktext

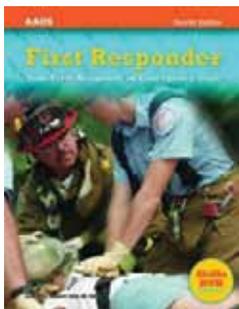
Item #0135037719

*Check out this new First Responder/
ECA text based on the new National
EMS Standards.*

List price - \$86.6

Member Cost - \$73.66

BLOW OUT SALE !



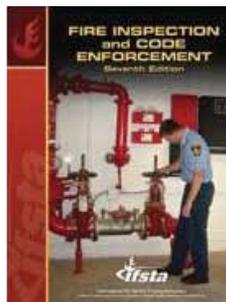
**First Responder: Your First
Response in Emergency Care, 4E**

Item #0763740314

SAVE 25%

List price - \$79.95

Member Cost - \$59.96



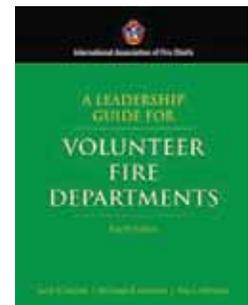
**Fire Inspection and
Code Enforcement, 7E**

Item #36741

THAT'S 20% OFF!

List price - \$84.00

Member Cost \$67.20



**A Leadership Guide for
Volunteer Fire Departments, 4E**

Item #0763742074

*This text is an update to
recruiting, training and maintaining
VFDs and a great addition to any
VFD training library*

List price - \$83.95

Member Cost - \$67.16

Visit the SFFMA e-Store at www.sffma.org for updates and a wider selection of books and related materials

In Memoriam

In Line of Duty

July 4, 2010

Thomas Araguz III
Wharton FD

Tracy Renee Chambers and
Sharon Elaine Korhuniak Falkner
Air Medical Service

September 26, 2010

Edward Mosely
Steele Creek Acres VFD

Non-Line of Duty

June 8, 2010

Les Collins
El Campo FD

June 9, 2010

John "Johnny" Ray, Jr.
Rockport VFD

June 12, 2010

Joseph W. Holler
Brazos County Pct. 4 VFD

July 3, 2010

Marvin Dewayne Brewer
Levelland FD

July 19, 2010

William Moser
Hitchcock VFD

September 1, 2010

Larry Clutts
Mineral Wells FD

September 12, 2010

Bonnie Meneely
West Harris County EMS

September 18, 2010

Alfred E. "Freddy" Gerik
West FD

September 19, 2010

Dr. Fred Lee Chambers
North Texas FFMA

September 26, 2010

Wilburn Harold Brodt
Seguin FD



TIPS FOR SECURING FINANCING IN TODAY'S LENDING ENVIRONMENT

Is your department or ESD planning a new station or apparatus purchase? If so, there are several things you can do in advance which will make the process easier and save your department time and money.

Due to the financial crisis of 2008 and the resulting changes in banking laws and regulations, the availability of credit has seriously tightened. For those departments or ESDs that have borrowed money in the past year for stations or apparatus, you may have noticed the tougher credit and underwriting standards as compared to years past. The reason is that Volunteer Fire Departments and ESDs access the same capital markets which the states, cities, counties and public schools access, and some drastic changes have occurred in that market over the last couple of years. These more demanding underwriting guidelines have resulted in some departments being unable to secure the financing they need for their station or apparatus acquisitions. Here are some tips to help your department be prepared so delays and higher interest costs are avoided:

First, you will need to have at least three years of financial records available. Typically the ESDs will have audited financial statements and the VFDs have unaudited financial statements. The financial statements consist of a Balance Sheet and Income & Expense statement for each year. If the request for financing is made more than six (6) months after the fiscal year, interim statements for the part of the current year to date will be needed

as well. In addition, if the request for financing is within sixty days of the fiscal year end, a budget for the next year may also be needed.-

A large number of departments use Quick Books to keep their records which has the ability to print out the required statements for each fiscal year. If you do not have access to Quick Books, you may want to consider purchasing it or a similar software product for your department. Good financial record-keeping for the department is as important as training of its fire fighters.

In addition to financial statements, an ESD will need copies of the executed documentation that evidences the election and formation of the ESD. A VFD will need a copy of its Articles of Incorporation, 501-C3 letter and current Fire Service Agreement. This documentation is required to support the tax-exempt borrowing ability of the department and are required under IRS Code 150-E3. Compliance with these provisions substantially reduces the cost of the Volunteer Fire Departments' borrowing.

Knowing what your Department can afford to borrow under the current economic conditions and interest rates will assist you in your budgeting and planning for equipment acquisitions or planning for a new station.

Despite the more stringent underwriting guidelines resulting from the financial crisis, ESDs and VFDs are actively accessing the credit markets these days. Interest rates are at unusually low levels and proactive and financially prepared ESDs and VFDs are taking advantage of low interest rate credit facilities by acquiring stations and apparatus for their growing areas.

Wayne Walker

Senior Credit Analyst
Government Capital Corporation



Texas
Fire Facilities Fund™

EXCLUSIVE FINANCING
FOR SFFMA MEMBERS



Grand Opening February 2010

Kyle VFD - Fire Station, Training Facilities & Offices, Kyle, Texas



Comal County ESD #5



Red Springs VFD

Financing Services:

- Expert financial planning
- Debt structuring & analysis
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- Benefits all SFFMA members



Signs of Growth

Financing available for:

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- Stations & Facilities
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- Apparatus of all kinds
- Refinancing existing debt

WE HAVE CAPITAL READY TO LEND!

Call (866) 582-FIRE (3473)
www.texasfirefund.com
info@texasfirefund.com



Thank you, Richard.....

As I sat down to write a thank you to Richard Van Winkle I had to wonder where to start. He and I have been friends and comrades for many years. Our cities are about 20 miles apart and about the same size. Richard and I were on the North Texas Board together in the late 80's and he then went on to become Secretary of SFFMA. When I decided to run for 4th VP for SFFMA Richard was one of the first people that I contacted for his thoughts. One thing for sure, don't ask him if you don't want a straight forward and honest answer. He said he would support me, and that was a big step toward my decision to run and ultimately be elected. Over the next seven years we traveled thousands of miles for the SFFMA, sometimes going to the same meetings and sometimes not. Richard usually arrived before me and was able to get the last hotel room in town, leaving me to travel a few miles out of the way. We worked together as a team then just as we do in everyday life.

When the SFFMA Board met, within two hours the preliminary minutes were in your email inbox. When decisions had to

be made Richard would analyze and then give you the RVW decision; if you liked it, fine, if you didn't, that was fine too. So, Richard, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for all you did and will continue to do for this great organization.

It would not be fair unless I also thanked Pam Van Winkle for her support of Richard in all of those thousand mile weekend trips to visit Districts around the State. Thank you, Pam, also, for always making sure that my tie was straight and my collar was turned down. What great people and wonderful friends you both are.

.....When decisions had to be made Richard would analyze and then give you the RVW decision; if you liked it, **fine, if you didn't, that was fine too.**

Thanks again!

Donnie Pickard
SFFMA Past President



OVER \$125,000

IN GIVEAWAYS

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HONORING THE TEXAS FIRE SERVICE

NEW! SFFMA Current Member Department Listing NEW!

as of September 20, 2010

- 2604 VFD**
Chief: Robert Palasota
Phone: (254) 694-4511
Email: vfd_2604@hotmail.com
- 287 R/C Fire & Rescue**
Chief: Joseph A. 'Gunny' Williams
Phone: (903) 874-2746
Email: 287rcfire@gmail.com
- 3-N-1 VFD**
Chief: Dana J. Diamond
Phone: (512) 237-2893
Email: chief@3n1vfd.org
- 5 Points VFD**
Chief: Kevin Gieselhart
Phone: (512) 321-0706
Email: fivepointsvfd@gmail.com
- Abbott VFD**
Chief: Roger Kaska
Phone: (254) 582-5808
- Ables Springs VFD**
Chief: Edward 'Buddy' Mann
Phone: (972) 563-9557
Email: buddy.mann@nexbank.com
- Adell-Whitt FD**
Chief: Curtis Goen
Phone: (940) 798-3055
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe FD**
Chief: William 'Will'o' Sylestine
Phone: (936) 563-1100
Email: acfd@actribe.org
- Alamo FD**
Chief: Rolando Espinoza
Phone: (956) 781-2004
Email: jefe1601@yahoo.com
- Alba FD**
Chief: Tony Spatola
Phone: (903) 765-3170
- Albany VFD**
Chief: Jimmy T. Brooks, Jr.
Phone: (325) 762-3819
Email: unit67avfd@aol.com
- Aldine Fire & Rescue**
Chief: Olan Scott Turrentine
Phone: (281) 442-0883
Email: aldinetraining@gmail.com
- Aledo VFD**
Chief: Scott Mitchell
Phone: (817) 441-7284
Email: firechief@aledofd.com
- Alto FD**
Chief: Terry Black
Phone: (936) 858-2252
Email: altovfd@consolidated.net
- Alvarado FD**
Chief: Richard Van Winkle
Phone: (817) 790-8884
Email: firechief@alvaradofire.org
- Alvin FD**
Chief: Rex W. Klesel
Phone: (281) 331-7688
Email: khunting@cityhall.cityofalvin.com
- Alvord FD**
Chief: Monty Nivens
Phone: (940) 427-3361
Email: alvordfire@hotmail.com
- Amarillo FD**
Chief: Steve Ross
Phone: (806) 378-9360
- Amherst FD**
Chief: Bob Mills
Phone: (806) 246-3421
- Anahuac FD**
Chief: Bruce Corner
Phone: (409) 267-6620
- Andrews FD**
Chief: Joe Harper
Phone: (432) 523-3833
Email: mcook@co.andrews.tx.us
- Angelina River FD**
Chief: Jim McCallie
Phone: (409) 384-4439
Email: arvfd1@yahoo.com
- Anna FD**
Chief: Larry Bridges
Phone: (972) 924-3380
Email: lb.annafire@sbcglobal.net
- Annville FD**
Chief: Michael Clack
Phone: (361) 241-1372
Email: chief@annvillevfd.com
- Anson FD**
Chief: Perry Thomson, Jr.
Phone: (325) 823-2256
- Antelope VFD**
Chief: Will Aston
Phone: (940) 378-2494
Email: astonwj@hotmail.com
- Apple Springs VFD**
Chief: Brett Selman
Phone: (936) 831-3711
Email: applespringsvfd@consolidated.net
- Appleby FD**
Chief: Timothy Duane Hooper
Phone: (936) 559-5166
Email: Crawford.David@etx.sysco.com
- Aransas Pass FD**
Chief: Rickie Kilgore - Interim
Phone: (361) 758-2086
Email: eborrego@aransaspasstx.gov
- Archer City FD**
Chief: George 'Scott' Burkett
Phone: (940) 574-4545
Email: archercityvfd@gmail.com
- Arp FD**
Chief: Lester 'Mack' Arnold
Phone: (903) 859-5232
Email: jstark824@gmail.com;
- Arrowhead Ranch Estates FD**
Chief: Jim McDaniel
Phone: (940) 767-2709
Email: are_vfd@yahoo.com
- Ata-Bexar County Line VFD**
Chief: Jose Farinacci
Phone: (210) 626-1324
- Atascocita FD**
Chief: William 'Bill' Bivens
Phone: (281) 913-4830
Email: ebezdek@avfd.com
- Athens FD**
Chief: John McQueary
Phone: (903) 615-5131
- Atlanta FD**
Chief: Robin Betts
Phone: (903) 799-4062
Email: Rickyafd@aol.com
- Aubrey FD**
Chief: Michael Starr
Phone: (940) 365-9785
Email: chiefms@aol.com
- Austin FD/Training & Ed Ser**
Chief: Rhoda Mae Kerr
Phone: (512) 974-0130
Email: RhodaMae.Kerr@ci.austin.tx.us
- Austwell VFD**
Chief: David Cann
Phone: (866) 617-8306
- Avalon VFD**
Chief: Jimmy Brown
Phone: (972) 841-9935
Email: avalonfirerescue@yahoo.com
- Avery Community VFD**
Chief: Josh Faulkner
Phone: (903) 684-3361
- Avinger FD**
Chief: Brandon 'Kyle' Downs
Phone: (903) 562-1900
Email: avingerfiredept@yahoo.com
- Azle FD**
Chief: Thomas Scott
Phone: (817) 444-3224
- Bacliff FD**
Chief: James Wistinghausen
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- Bailey VFD**
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Phone: (903) 583-7392
Email: baileyvfd@hotmail.com
- Baird FD**
Chief: Russell Robbins
Phone: (325) 854-1212
- Ballinger FD**
Chief: Clyde R. Kresta
Phone: (325) 365-5137
Email: bfd.ballinger@verizon.net
- Bandera Fire & Rescue**
Chief: Max Konz
Phone: (830) 796-3456
- Bangs FD**
Chief: Dennis G. Lilly
Phone: (325) 642-5605
Email: bangsfiredpt@verizon.net
- Bartlett FD**
Chief: Duane J. Kurtin
Phone: (254) 527-4133
Email: texasfirefighter68@yahoo.com
- Bastrop FD**
Chief: Henry L. Perry
Phone: (512) 321-5550
Email: hperry@cityofbastrop.org
- Baxter VFD**
Chief: James C. Brown
Phone: (903) 677-5534
Email: BaxterFireRescue@aol.com
- Bay City FD**
Chief: Randy Frontz
Phone: (979) 245-8314
Email: jsvetlikjr@sbcglobal.net
- Bayou Vista FD**
Chief: Thomas J. Lyke
Phone: (409) 356-3382
Email: tjlyke@msn.com
- Bayside FD**
Chief: Robert Cramer
Phone: (361) 529-6520
Email: bcramer6553@att.net
- Beach City VFD**
Chief: Weston Davis
Phone: (281) 573-1196
Email: chief@beachcityvfd.com
- Bear Creek VFD**
Chief: Bobby Matthews
Phone: (281) 432-2862
- Beasley FD**
Chief: Dale Lindemann
Phone: (979) 387-2412
- Beaumont Fire/Rescue Services**
Chief: Anne Huff
Phone: (409) 880-3901
- Beaver Creek FD**
Chief: Lee Hall
Phone: (979) 272-9195
- Beckville FD**
Chief: Robert Fite
Phone: (903) 678-3500
- Beeville FD**
Chief: Donald C. Morris
Phone: (361) 362-7609
- Bellaire FD**
Chief: Darryl Anderson
Phone: (713) 662-8202
Email: dtittel@ci.bellaire.tx.us
- Bellevue FD**
Chief: Mark Hanson
Phone: (940) 928-2125
Email: bellevuevfd@sbcglobal.net
- Bellmead FD**
Chief: James Karl
Phone: (254) 799-9922
Email: jkarl@bellmead.com
- Bellville FD**
Chief: Anthony Rolater
Phone: (979) 865-3136
Email: bvfd@att.net
- Belton FD**
Chief: Roy Harmon
Phone: (254) 933-5881
Email: rharmon@ci.belton.tx.us
- Ben Wheeler FD**
Chief: Tony Lee Ammons
Phone: (903) 833-5505
Email: big59fire@yahoo.com
- Benbrook FD**
Chief: Tommy Davis
Phone: (817) 249-6081
Email: moconnor@cityofbenbrook.com
- Bennette Estates VFD**
Chief: Clayton Brown
Phone: (281) 572-1194
Email: chief@bennettefire.org
- Bergheim VFD**
Chief: Jeff Hoffstadt
Phone: (830) 336-3241
Email: jhoffstadt@epco.com
- Bertram VFD, Inc.**
Chief: John W. Mandigo
Phone: (512) 355-2717
- Bethel-Cayuga FD**
Chief: James Edmond, Fire Chief
Phone: (903) 499-2115
Email: edmondjirj@yahoo.com
- Bettie VFD**
Chief: Henry Michael Kuza, II
Phone: (903) 762-6418
Email: bettievfd@gmail.com
- Beverly Hills FD**
Chief: Debra S. Bruce
Phone: (254) 752-2584
Email: bevhillspolice@grandecom.net
- Bexar County ESD 5 Fire & Rescue**
Chief: James 'Mike' Nolen
Phone: 210-854-0904
Email: tachessher@yahoo.com
- Bexar-Bulverde FD**
Chief: Sam Dibrell, Jr.
Phone: (830) 980-4733
Email: chief@bexarbulverdevfd.org
- Birdstown Community VFD**
Chief: Spencer Eppler
Phone: (903) 249-1235
- Big Lake FD**
Chief: Alan Garner
Phone: (325) 884-3650
Email: biglakefd@hotmail.com
- Bishop FD**
Chief: Cody Scheible
Phone: (361) 584-6828
Email: bishopfirestation@stx.rr.com
- Black Jack VFD**
Chief: Arlie Carson
Phone: (512) 446-7156
Email: blackjackvfd@hotmail.com
- Blackjack FD**
Chief: Gary L. Payne
Phone: (979) 279-5881
Email: blackjack@txcyber.com
- Blanco FD**
Chief: David Hotz
Phone: (830) 833-5009
- Blanket VFD**
Chief: Chris Furry
Phone: (325) 748-3171
- Bleiberville VFD**
Chief: Shane Siptak
Phone: (979) 830-5744
Email: scsweld@industryinet.com
- Bloomburg VFD**
Chief: Dakota Roy Huddleston
Phone: (903) 826-1395
Email: dannyhurt@netzero.com
- Blooming Grove VFD**
Chief: Richard 'Glynn' Saunders
Phone: (903) 695-2900
Email: bgfire@valornet.com
- Blue Branch VFD**
Chief: Ben Berg
Phone: (512) 273-2484
Email: benjwberg@gmail.com
- Blue Mound FD**
Chief: Shawn Fannan
Phone: (817) 847-5208
Email: sfannan@bluemoundtexas.us
- Blue Ridge VFD**
Chief: John A. Bowers
Phone: (972) 752-4027
Email: brchief@verizon.net
- Blue Water Oaks VFD Inc.**
Chief: Heath DeHart
Phone: (817) 783-3163
Email: bwovfd@gmail.com
- Bluebonnet FD**
Chief: Everett 'Buddy' Burrow
Phone: (512) 321-6744
Email: chief@bbvfd.com
- Bluegrove VFD**
Chief: Ernest Seigler
Phone: (940) 476-2346
- Bluff Dale VFD**
Chief: George McCormick
Phone: (254) 728-3473
- Blum VFD**
Chief: Troy G. Prine
Phone: (254) 874-5553
Email: blumvfd@windstream.net
- Boerne FD**
Chief: Douglas Meckel
Phone: (830) 249-3644

Department Listing - continued

Bogata Fire & Rescue

Chief: Jerry Hutson
Phone: (903) 632-5234
Email: bogatavfd@valornet.com

Boling FD

Chief: Leon Sanchez Jr.
Phone: (979) 657-3473
Email: bolingfire@wcnet.net

Bon Wier VFD

Chief: Jim DuBose
Phone: (409) 397-9970

Bonham FD

Chief: Bill Palya
Phone: (903) 640-4191
Email: bnichols@bonhamfirerescue.org

Bono FD

Chief: Ralph Vaquera
Phone: (817) 645-0082
Email: chief@bonovfd.org

Booker FD

Chief: Kevin Hill
Phone: (806) 658-4479

Boonsville-Balsora FD

Chief: Darr Spencer
Phone: (940) 748-2532
Email: bbvfd@wccs.net

Bootleg FD

Chief: Robert 'Bobby' Hammock
Phone: (806) 289-5853

Bovina FD

Chief: Cesar Marquez
Phone: (806) 251-1116

Bowie FD

Chief: Douglas Page
Phone: (940) 872-2122
Email: bowiefire@cityofbowietx.com

Bowman Community VFD Inc.

Chief: Scott Welch
Phone: (940) 636-8305
Email: bowmanfire@txwre.com

Bracken FD

Chief: Donald Zipp
Phone: (210) 651-5762
Email: brackenvfd@sbcglobal.net

Brady VFD

Chief: Carlton E. Sayles
Phone: (325) 597-2311
Email: bfd@cebridge.net

Brazoria FD

Chief: Marcus Rabren
Phone: (979) 798-2277
Email: marcus@brazoriafire.org

Brazos County Pct #3 VFD

Chief: Gerald L. Burnett
Phone: (979) 776-6430
Email: training@pct3vfd.com

Brazos County Pct #4 FD

Chief: Joe Ondrasek
Phone: (979) 775-0194
Email: joeondrasek@gmail.com

Bremond VFD

Chief: Kevin Jefferson
Phone: (254) 746-7701
Email: bremondvfd@live.com

Brenham FD

Chief: Ricky Boeker
Phone: (979) 337-7300
Email: bscheffer@ci.brenham.tx.us

Briar FD

Chief: Larry Reed
Phone: (817) 444-4521

Briar Oaks FD

Chief: Bryan Jamison
Phone: (817) 295-9539
Email: fireemt177@msn.com

Bridge City Fire & Rescue

Chief: Charles Uzzle
Phone: (409) 735-2419
Email: bcfirerescue@gtbizclass.com

Bridgeport FD

Chief: Michael McComis
Phone: (940) 683-3446
Email: bridgeportfd@cityofbridgeport.net

Briggs VFD Inc.

Chief: Melinda Wessels
Phone: (512) 489-2342
Email: mwessels@ci.marble-falls.tx.us

Briscoe FD

Chief: David Pearson
Phone: (806) 375-2379
Email: chiefsweede@yahoo.com

Bristol FD

Chief: Brandon Nichols
Phone: (972) 965-5701
Email: nicholslawncare@hotmail.com

Brock-Dennis FD

Chief: Travis Scrimshire
Phone: (817) 341-7368
Email: brockdennisVFD@yahoo.com

Bronte VFD

Chief: Terrance 'Terry' Queen
Phone: (915) 473-3501

Brookshire FD

Chief: Joe Gibbs
Phone: (713) 560-4090
Email: bvfdd@consolidated.net

Brookside Village VFD

Chief: Craig Bailey
Phone: (281) 485-3088
Email: buckstevens@gmail.com

Brownfield FD

Chief: Dennis Rowe
Phone: (806) 637-6633
Email: rdm506@aol.com

Brownsboro VFD

Chief: Robert Chambers
Phone: (903) 852-5001
Email: chamrb@aol.com

Brownwood FD

Chief: Del C. Albright
Phone: (325) 646-6743
Email: dalbright@ci.brownwood.tx.us

Bryan FD

Chief: Michael S. Donoho
Phone: (979) 361-3672

Buda VFD

Chief: Clay Huckaby
Phone: (512) 295-2232
Email: chuckaby@budafire.org

Buffalo FD

Chief: Shaine Reeder
Phone: (903) 388-5651
Email: shainefire@yahoo.com

Buffalo Gap VFD

Chief: Dana Sowell
Phone: (325) 572-4366
Email: bgapfire@taylortel.net

Bullard FD

Chief: Gary 'Keith' Newburn
Phone: (903) 894-7143
Email: knewburn@embarqmail.com

Buna FD

Chief: William Steve Litton
Phone: (409) 994-2178
Email: texasrescue852@gmail.com

Burkburnett FD

Chief: Rodney Ryalls
Phone: (940) 569-3553
Email: burkfire@yahoo.com

Burleson FD

Chief: Gary A. Wisdom
Phone: (817) 295-5498

Burlington VFD

Chief: Gene W. Klein
Phone: (254) 869-2121
Email: kleinfarms@aol.com

Burnet FD

Chief: Randall O. Meeks
Phone: (512) 756-2662
Email: randallmeeks@msn.com

Burton VFD

Chief: Ronnie Stanley
Phone: (979) 289-3473
Email: rstanley@teleshare.net

Bynum VFD

Chief: Alan Markwardt
Phone: (254) 582-1406
Email: amarkwardtbynum@yahoo.com

C-5 Red Lick/Leary FD

Chief: Gregory F. Liles
Phone: (903) 831-7900
Email: mikeakin67@aol.com

Cal Farleys Boys Ranch FD

Chief: John Hazle
Phone: (806) 533-1288
Email: mneill@xit.net

Calhoun County Pct #4/Seadrift FD

Chief: Peter DeForest
Phone: (361) 785-2911
Email: seafire@tisd.net

Calvert FD

Chief: Joe Jackson
Phone: (979) 364-3993
Email: kckg5@yahoo.com

Camelot Fire & Rescue

Chief: Edwin Eisenbeck
Phone: (210) 656-0888
Email: cvfrem@yahoo.com

Cameron FD

Chief: Henry Horelica
Phone: (254) 697-4702
Email: henry_horelica@yahoo.com

Cameron Gardens FD

Chief: Richard Harmon
Phone: (940) 767-7557
Email: rm.harmon@hotmail.com

Campbell FD

Chief: Jay H. Hoffman
Phone: (903) 862-3125
Email: campfd@peoplescom.net

Canadian FD

Chief: Kenneth 'Scott' Brewster
Phone: (806) 323-6485

Caney City FD

Chief: David Ramsey
Phone: (903) 489-1844

Canton FD

Chief: Charles Bazhaw
Phone: (903) 567-6477
Email: cantonfire@cantontex.com

Canyon FD

Chief: Dennis Gwyn
Phone: (806) 655-5010

Cape Area VFD

Chief: Randy L. Hall
Phone: (936) 653-5502
Email: dhall@eastex.net

Carlisle FD

Chief: Charles Marsh
Phone: (903) 521-3607
Email: carlislebfd428@yahoo.com

Carlsbad VFD

Chief: William W. 'Billy' Waller, Jr.
Phone: (325) 465-4650

Carlton VFD

Chief: Jack Dragoo
Phone: (254) 485-1584
Email: carltonvfd@acioglob.com

Carrizo Springs FD

Chief: Jose Luis Rodriguez
Phone: (830) 876-3125

Carthage FD

Chief: C. E. (Brodie) Akins
Phone: (903) 693-5282
Email: fire@carthagetexas.com

Cass County ESD #1

Chief: Don Blackwell
Phone: (903) 796-7675
Email: loubabe79@aol.com

Cass County ESD #2

Chief: Chuck Weerts
Phone: (903) 796-9101
Email: ccesd2@hotmail.com

Cassie VFD

Chief: Robert Elms
Phone: (512) 793-2926
Email: cassievfd@aol.com

Castroville FD

Chief: Billy W. Chase
Phone: (830) 931-0300
Email: wartthogg04@yahoo.com

Cat Spring VFD

Chief: Randy Reichardt
Phone: (979) 865-2213
Email: shayne.carter@fluor.com

Cedar Hill FD

Chief: Steven S. Pollock
Phone: (972) 291-1011

Celeste VFD

Chief: Gregory Moulder
Phone: (903) 568-4713
Email: scotpitbull@yahoo.com

Celina FD

Chief: Mark Metdker - Interim
Phone: (972) 382-2653
Email: kmills@celina-tx.gov

Center FD

Chief: Vernon 'Keith' Byndom
Phone: (936) 598-3288
Email: kfoconnor@sbcglobal.net

Center Hill VFD

Chief: Johnny Duncan
Phone: (903) 756-9568
Email: Fireman0998@Yahoo.com

Center Point VFD

Chief: Charles Daniel Smith
Phone: (830) 634-2323

Centerville VFD

Chief: Johnny L. Franks
Phone: (903) 536-2798

Central Bell County Fire/Rescue

Chief: Lucas A. Reynolds
Phone: (254) 698-6891
Email: lreynolds@centralbellfirerescue.com

Central Community FD

Chief: David Chilcutt
Phone: (817) 599-0818
Email: ccvfd55@gmail.com

Central VFD

Chief: Donald Thornton
Phone: (903) 279-5321
Email: j1960d1966@aol.com

Champions Area FD

Chief: E. Hilland Hardy
Phone: (201) 444-2014
Email: joe.marroni@cavfd.com

Chandler VFD

Chief: Robert York
Phone: (903) 849-3678
Email: cvfd5300@embarqmail.com

Channelview FD

Chief: Phillip Martin
Phone: (281) 452-5782
Email: il@fredsi.com

Channing VFD

Chief: Jeremy Tunnell
Phone: (806) 235-2322
Email: channingfire@hotmail.com

Chapel Hill FD

Chief: Cody W. Crawford
Phone: (903) 566-3890
Email: chapelhillfire@sbcglobal.net

Chappell Hill VFD

Chief: Johnny Kubeczka
Phone: (979) 836-1812

Charlie-Thornberry FD

Chief: Jay Cully
Phone: (940) 544-2410
Email: ctfdd401@yahoo.com

Charlotte FD

Chief: Robert Romo
Phone: (830) 277-1414
Email: charlottevfd@yahoo.com

Chatfield VFD

Chief: Peter Ellington
Phone: (903) 345-9450

Chavon Phillips Chemical -

Pasadena FD
Chief: Terry Graham
Phone: (713) 475-3757
Email: sellelw@cpchem.com

Chico Community FD

Chief: James Redwine
Phone: (940) 644-2435

Chicot VFD

Chief: James Roy Cooke
Phone: (903) 732-3759
Email: chicotafd@neato.net

Chillicothe FD

Chief: Stan Meeks
Phone: (940) 852-5832
Email: chillicothefire@sbcglobal.net

Chilton FD

Chief: James W. Maxey
Phone: (254) 546-3700
Email: jwmax54@ctwa.com

China FD

Chief: Kris Kolander
Phone: (409) 752-5100

China Grove Fire & Rescue Inc.

Chief: Mike Winfield
Phone: (210) 648-0227
Email: res11cuesafd@gmail.com

China Spring VFD & Rescue

Chief: Matt Bradshaw
Phone: (254) 836-4489

Chireno VFD
Chief: Seth Johnson
Phone: (936) 362-2730
Email: chirenovolunteers@hotmail.com

Christoval VFD
Chief: Philip H. Montalvo
Phone: (325) 450-4962
Email: christovalvfd@wtxs.net

Church Hill FD
Chief: William Doerge
Phone: (903) 889-2101

Cibolo FD
Chief: Roger D. Niemietz
Phone: (210) 659-2673
Email: lt1@cibolofd.com

Cisco FD
Chief: Walter Avery Fairbanks
Phone: (254) 442-3078
Email: ciscofd@sbcglobal.net

City of College Station FD
Chief: Robert B. Alley, III
Phone: (409) 764-3707

City of Escobares VFD
Chief: Juan Jose Guerra
Phone: (956) 847-1200
Email: rosalez.francisco@yahoo.com

City of Garrett VFD
Chief: Ernest Cardona
Phone: (972) 875-5893
Email: firefire2905@yahoo.com

City of Groom VFD
Chief: Gary Don Babcock
Phone: (806) 248-7003

City of Pelican Bay Volunteer Fire/Rescue
Chief: Jeremy Joiner
Phone: (817) 444-1234
Email: chief34@firehousemail.com

City of Pinehurst FD
Chief: Grady Gray
Phone: (409) 886-3873
Email: pvfd@cityofpinehurst.com

City of Tool VFD
Chief: Michael Howell
Phone: (903) 432-3522
Email: cityoftoolvfd@yahoo.com

City of White Oak FD
Chief: James A. Nail
Phone: (903) 759-9184
Email: whiteoakfd@suddenlinkmail.com

Clarendon FD
Chief: Delbert W. Robertson
Phone: (806) 874-3515
Email: gwbboward@yahoo.com

Clarksville/Warren Cities VFD
Chief: Ricky Wallace
Phone: (903) 738-4929
Email: cwcvsfd@firehousemail.com

Clayton FD
Chief: Gary Rogerson
Phone: (903) 889-2291

Cleburne FD
Chief: J. C. 'Clint' Ishmael
Phone: (817) 645-0964
Email: clini@cleburne.net

Clifton VFD
Chief: Edwin 'Buddy' Bekkelund
Phone: (254) 675-8225
Email: cvfd@txun.net

Clint FD
Chief: Oliberto Lopez
Phone: (915) 539-3271
Email: betolopez@clintfiredept.org

Cloverleaf VFD
Chief: Michael A. Battise
Phone: (713) 453-1811
Email: 700@cloverleafvfd.org

Clute FD
Chief: Gerald Koenning
Phone: (979) 265-4742
Email: gfk805@yahoo.com

Clyde FD
Chief: William 'Billy' Dezern
Phone: (325) 893-5211
Email: clydevfd@valornet.com

Cockrell Hill FD
Chief: Michael Burns
Phone: (214) 330-6357
Email: firechief@cockrell-hill.tx.us

Coffee City FD
Chief: Chris L. Moore
Phone: (903) 876-4836
Email: coffeecityfirechief@embarqmail.com

Coke/Pleasant Grove VFD
Chief: Bobby Thompson
Phone: (903) 629-3200

Coldspring FD
Chief: Stuart P. Norman
Phone: (936) 653-2302
Email: coldspringvfd@eastex.net

Coleman FD
Chief: Richard Hensley
Phone: (325) 625-2510
Email: firestation@web-access.net

College Mound VFD
Chief: Joshua L. Phillips
Phone: (972) 551-1402
Email: collegemoundvfd@gmail.com

Collinsville FD
Chief: Benny McKee
Phone: (903) 429-6069

Colorado City FD
Chief: Rufino Martinez, Jr.
Phone: (325) 728-5252

Columbia Lakes VFD
Chief: James 'Stanley' Wiggins
Phone: (979) 345-3339
Email: StanWiggins@stayk.com

Columbus FD
Chief: Walter E. Glaseser, Jr.
Phone: 979-732-7736
Email: fire@columbustexas.net

Comanche FD
Chief: Sam Cunningham
Phone: (325) 356-2112

Combine VFD
Chief: Rick Nessner
Phone: (972) 476-2632

Comfort FD
Chief: Adam K. Eichholz
Phone: (830) 995-2124
Email: cvfd@omniglobal.net

Community FD
Chief: Stephen R. Fowler
Phone: (281) 498-1310
Email: sfowler@communityvfd.org

Community Four FD
Chief: Buddy Bowlinger
Phone: (903) 766-2122
Email: gallesg@eastex.net

Conroe FD
Chief: Ken Kreger
Phone: (936) 522-3080

Cooks Point VFD
Chief: Larry Odstrcil
Phone: (979) 412-8646
Email: critter@tconline.net

Cool-Garner Fire Rescue
Chief: Rodney Robertson
Phone: (940) 682-0101
Email: cgfr4300@yahoo.com

Cooper FD
Chief: Mike Gibson
Phone: (903) 395-2217
Email: coopercityhall@neto.com

Copperas Cove FD
Chief: James Michael Baker
Phone: (254) 547-2514

Corrigan FD
Chief: Calvin Jones
Phone: (936) 398-4126
Email: cityofcorrigan@sbcglobal.net

Coryell City-Osage VFD
Chief: Monty Sanders
Phone: (254) 248-4848
Email: ghostrider1964@yahoo.com

Cottdale VFD
Chief: Kevin Tolly
Phone: (940) 393-9929

Cotulla VFD
Chief: Juan A. 'Johnny' Gomez
Phone: (830) 879-3125
Email: cotullaacctpayable@live.com

County Line VFD & 1st Resp
Chief: Dennis E. Brown
Phone: (830) 379-9000
Email: clvfd4800@msn.com

County Road 143 FD
Chief: Mike Andrianatos
Phone: (281) 489-8898
Email: cr143vfd@cr143vfd.org

Coupland VFD
Chief: Tracy Gardner
Phone: (512) 856-0237
Email: 4300@couplandfire.org

Cove Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Chief: James Shaw
Phone: (281) 573-9193
Email: james.shaw@us.rhodia.com

Covington FD
Chief: Kevin Kalicek
Phone: (254) 854-2241

Crabbs Prairie VFD
Chief: Robert A. Gray
Phone: (936) 291-3333
Email: firemancecil@yahoo.com

Crandall FD
Chief: Allen J. Cousins
Phone: (972) 427-3996
Email: ffcapt4@yahoo.com

Crane FD
Chief: Gary W. Collier
Phone: (432) 558-2361
Email: cranefd@classicnet.net

Crawford VFD
Chief:
Phone: (254) 486-2118

Cresson FD
Chief: Joe G. Huffman
Phone: (817) 396-4678

Crims Chapel VFD
Chief: Marvin R. Vinson
Phone: (903) 836-2111
Email: ccvfd1500@crimschapelvfd.org

Crockett FD
Chief: Darrell W. Deckard
Phone: (936) 544-5553
Email: deckardd@crockettexas.org
Crosby FD
Chief: Alan Kulak
Phone: (281) 328-2300
Email: jacquedarbonne@verizon.net

Crosbyton FD
Chief: Jim Justus
Phone: (806) 675-2301

Crossroads/Cornett VFD
Chief: William Dannelley
Phone: (903) 835-6006
Email: tubatimbug84@aol.com

Crowell VFD
Chief: Perry Shaw
Phone: (940) 684-1112
Email: crowellvfd@dtmspeed.net

Crowley FD
Chief: Robert Loftin
Phone: (817) 297-1638

Crystal Beach FD
Chief: David M. Loop
Phone: (409) 684-6311
Email: dfar336444@aol.com

Cuero FD
Chief: William Tolbert
Phone: (361) 275-2411
Email: cuerofd@att.net

Cumby FD
Chief: David Weatherbee
Phone: (903) 994-2588
Email: cumbyfire@cumbytel.com

Cushing VFD
Chief: Steven J. Arreguin
Phone: (936) 552-1816
Email: fireman_982000@yahoo.com

Cy-Fair FD
Chief: Joe Davis
Phone: (281) 550-6663
Email: JoAnn.Linnenkugel@cyfairvfd.org

Cypress Creek FD
Chief: Michael Huffman
Phone: (281) 894-0151
Email: steve.young@cypresscreekvfd.com

Cypress Lakes VFD
Chief: Erskine 'Nat' Holcomb
Phone: (281) 593-0949

Daingerfield FD
Chief: Jimmy Cornelius
Phone: (903) 645-3906
Email: daingerfieldvfd@aol.com

Dalhart FD
Chief: Curtis D. Brown
Phone: (806) 244-5454
Email: dalhartfd@hotmail.com

Dalworthington Gardens FD
Chief: Bill Waybourn
Phone: (817) 275-1234

Dam-B VFD
Chief: Thomas Eller
Phone: (409) 429-3374

Damon FD
Chief: Hugh V. Ferguson
Phone: (979) 742-3089
Email: DamonFir@msn.com

Danbury FD
Chief: Stephen 'Kyle' Webster
Phone: (979) 922-1176
Email: jackie-webster@sbcglobal.net

Danevang FD
Chief: Domingo Acuna
Phone: (979) 578-1445
Email: chuch@lonestarglass.com

Davis Mts Prop Own Assoc VFD Inc.
Chief: Jerry Rhea
Phone: (432) 426-2800
Email: lorens pencer834@hotmail.com

Dawson FD
Chief: Boyd W. Bishop
Phone: (254) 578-1515

DCBE/Acton FD
Chief: Stanley E. Keeton
Phone: (817) 326-2659
Email: office@dcbeactonvfd.org

De Kalb VFD
Chief: Robbie Barrett
Phone: (903) 667-0903
Email: zabsma123@aol.com

De Leon FD
Chief: Doyle Rone
Phone: (254) 462-4618
Email: dvfd@cctc.net

Deanville FD
Chief: Bill Colley
Phone: (979) 535-8011

Decatur FD
Chief: Michael Richardson
Phone: (940) 627-3199
Email: firechief@decaturfd.com

Deer Park VFD
Chief: Greg Bridges
Phone: (281) 478-7281
Email: greg.bridges@dpvfd.org

Demi-John FD
Chief: Bob Michie
Phone: (979) 233-1033
Email: alducks@hotmail.com

Denison FD
Chief: Gordon Weger
Phone: (903) 464-4427
Email: jweda@cityofdenison.com

Deport FD
Chief: Eric Pearson
Phone: (903) 652-9986

Desdemona VFD
Chief: Dwight Dold
Phone: (254) 758-2444
Email: dvfd@txol.net

DeSoto FD
Chief: Fred Hart, Jr.
Phone: (972) 230-9680

Devine VFD
Chief: Charles 'Patrick' DuBose
Phone: (830) 665-4246
Email: devinevfd@hotmail.com

D'Hanis VFD
Chief: Dean Zinsmeyer
Phone: (830) 363-7444

Dickens VFD
Chief: Ricky West
Phone: (806) 623-5339

Dickinson FD
Chief: Keith Morgan
Phone: (281) 534-3031

Dilley VFD
Chief: Daryl Kallio
Phone: (830) 965-1969
Email: dilleyvolfiredept@yahoo.com

Dimmit County FD
Chief: Alonso Carmona
Phone: (830) 876-4234
Email: dimmitcountyvfd@hotmail.com

Department Listing - continued

- Dimmitt FD**
Chief: Randolph E. Griffitt
Phone: (806) 647-9379
- Direct VFD**
Chief: Benjamin 'Frank' Green
Phone: (903) 785-0273
Email: northeastgate@gmail.com
- District 2 VFD Inc. Brazos County**
Chief: Merrie Noak
Phone: (979) 589-3263
Email: firechief@district2vfd.org
- Dixie VFD**
Chief: Terry Rozell
Phone: (903) 597-0960
Email: dixiefiredept@yahoo.com
- Dodge VFD**
Chief: Steve Hill
Phone: (936) 291-9251
Email: rossdobbins@hughes.net
- Double Oak FD**
Chief: Russell Mabra
Phone: (972) 539-7683
Email: station550@dovfd.org
- Dove Creek VFD**
Chief: Cue Roberts, Jr.
Phone: (325) 944-3372
Email: dovecreekvfd@hotmail.com
- Driftwood FD**
Chief: Todd Colvin - Interim
Phone: (512) 288-5474
Email: battchiefgriffin@hcesd6.org
- Dublin FD**
Chief: James Fritts
Phone: (254) 445-2211
Email: dublinfd76446@yahoo.com
- Dumas FD**
Chief: Paul J. Jenkins
Phone: (806) 935-6434
- Eagle Creek Emergency Services**
Chief: Edward J. Schriber
Phone: (830) 393-7283
Email: ecves@aol.com
- Eagle Lake FD**
Chief: Howard Wilkerson
Phone: (979) 234-2450
Email: elvfd@elc.net
- Eagle Mountain FD**
Chief: Michael T. Barton
Phone: (817) 236-8044
Email: jyvovanovitch@eaglemountainfire.org
- Earles Chapel VFD**
Chief: Ted R. Hunt
Phone: (903) 721-9345
Email: hted964@aol.com
- East Bernard FD**
Chief: Randall G. Kresta
Phone: (979) 335-6060
- East Concho VFD**
Chief: Dennis Thompson
Phone: (325) 653-9329
Email: ecvfd645@suddenlink.net
- East End FD**
Chief: Bob Gary
Phone: (409) 384-5266
- East Hopkins/Salttillo VFD**
Chief: Mike Mathews
Phone: (903) 648-2516
Email: dutch07@gmail.com
- East Lake Buchanan FD**
Chief: James Tilley
Phone: (512) 756-4566
Email: elb4510@gmail.com
- East Lake Limestone VFD**
Chief: Tommy Womack
Phone: (903) 626-4366
- East Mountain FD**
Chief: Dennis Medlin
Phone: (903) 297-0000
- East Side VFD**
Chief: Rickey D. Wittner
Phone: (903) 889-2330
Email: wittner@eastex.net
- East Tawakoni VFD**
Chief: Joe Bill Jones
Phone: (903) 447-3777
Email: easttawakonivfd@verizon.net
- East Wise Fire Rescue**
Chief: Robert Brown
Phone: (940) 594-4152
Email: stevenandchristy@msn.com
- Eastex Freeway FD**
Chief: Robert Brian Harris
Phone: (281) 441-2244
Email: bharris@eastexfd.com
- Eastland FD**
Chief: Phillip H. Arther
Phone: (254) 629-8232
Email: efd@txol.net
- ECCA VFD**
Chief: Gary B. Young
Phone: (325) 572-3981
Email: ecca@eccafire.com
- Ector VFD**
Chief: J. C. Cobb
Phone: (903) 961-2495
- Eden FD**
Chief: Jason W. Medders
Phone: (325) 869-2211
- Edgecliff Village FD**
Chief: Jeffrey A. Ballew
Phone: (817) 293-4317
Email: edgecliffire@aol.com
- Edinburg FD**
Chief: Shawn Snider
Phone: (956) 383-7691
Email: mail@edinburgvolfd.org
- Edna FD**
Chief: Wendell W. Hamilton, Jr.
Phone: (361) 782-2121
Email: lchase@cityofedna.com
- El Campo FD**
Chief: James M. Nielsen
Phone: (979) 543-3335
Email: FireDepartment@cityofelcampo.org
- El Paso County ESD #1**
Chief: Allen R. Keys
Phone: (915) 820-7420
Email: MendKa@aol.com
- Elderville-Lakeport FD**
Chief: Pat S. Owens
Phone: (903) 643-3222
Email: eldervillelakeportvofir@msn.com
- Electra FD**
Chief: Gregory A. Lynn
Phone: (940) 495-2345
- Elgin FD**
Chief: Liston Crim
Phone: (512) 281-4025
Email: ocfinder@yahoo.com
- Eliasville VFD**
Chief: Steve Reger
Phone: (254) 349-0691
Email: evfd76481@hotmail.com
- Elkhart VFD, Inc.**
Chief: James R. Parker
Phone: (903) 764-2243
Email: elkhartvfd4800@yahoo.com
- Ellis County ESD #1**
Chief: Andy Mulvany
Phone: (972) 435-2411
Email: maypearlfd@yahoo.com
- Elm Mott Fire/Rescue**
Chief: J.D. Feltgen
Phone: (254) 829-1353
- Elmo VFD**
Chief: Eric Porter
Phone: (972) 563-2344
Email: elmofd@aol.com
- Elmwood VFD**
Chief: Clyde Cunningham
Phone: (903) 549-3846
Email: elmwoodvfd@hotmail.com
- Elsa FD**
Chief: Gregorio Ramirez, Jr.
Email: pgonzalez@ceisd.org
- Emory VFD**
Chief: Ed Emig
Phone: (903) 473-3234
Email: edemig@hotmail.com
- Enchanted Oaks VFD**
Chief: Lyndon Patrick
Phone: (903) 451-4006
Email: fosterfamily@nctv.com
- Energy VFD**
Chief: Ronnie Calcotte
Phone: (915) 885-2594
- Ennis FD**
Chief: David W. Hopkins
Phone: (972) 875-3473
- Era VFD**
Chief: Michael Selby
Phone: (940) 668-6267
- Erath County Vol Fire Rescue**
Chief: Christopher W. Gable
Phone: (254) 965-3388
Email: erathfire800@co.erath.tx.us
- Etoile VFD**
Chief: Andy Sanders
Phone: (936) 854-2267
Email: etoilevfd@hotmail.com
- Eustace Area FD**
Chief: Ken Roberts
Phone: (903) 425-2551
Email: JKKR0816@aol.com
- Evadale FD**
Chief: Stephen P. Conner
Phone: (409) 276-2242
Email: evadalefire@evadalefire.com
- Evant VFD, Inc.**
Chief: Robert Simmerman
Phone: (254) 471-5922
Email: evfd@centex.net
- Everman FD**
Chief: Johnnie Johnson
Phone: (817) 293-6870
Email: evermanfire@charter.net
- Ewell VFD**
Chief: Kenneth D. Neighbours
Phone: (903) 762-2226
Email: ewellvfd@etex.net
- Fabens Fire & Rescue**
Chief: Nick Sierra, Sr.
Phone: (915) 764-3405
Email: nsierra@fabensfireandrescue.com
- Fairview Fire & Rescue**
Chief: Richard 'Dick' Price
Phone: (972) 729-6675
Email: frfritzler@fairviewtexas.org
- Falfurrias FD**
Chief: Lamar David Martinez, Sr.
Phone: (361) 325-2422
Email: falfurrias_vfd@yahoo.com
- Farmersville FD**
Chief: Kim Morris
Phone: (972) 782-6093
Email: f.dept@ci.farmersville.tx.us
- Farwell FD**
Chief: Mike Camp
Phone: (806) 481-9140
- Fate FD**
Chief: Sean Patrick Fay
Phone: (972) 772-7994
Email: sfay@cityoffate.com
- Fayetteville FD**
Chief: Randy Noviskie
Phone: (409) 378-2559
- Ferris FD**
Chief: Eddie Duran
Phone: (972) 842-2898
Email: ffd100@ci.ferris.tx.us
- Five Star VFD Inc.**
Chief: J. B. Simpson
Phone: (903) 575-0995
Email: jsimpso3@txu.com
- Flat VFD**
Chief: Harold Baustian
Phone: (254) 493-4043
- Flatonia FD**
Chief: David W. Vire
Phone: (361) 865-3321
Email: flatoniafire@excite.com
- Flatwoods FD**
Chief: Jerry Coxen
Phone: (903) 622-4392
- Flint-Gresham FD**
Chief: Timothy Stone
Phone: (903) 894-6283
- Flo VFD**
Chief: Richard A. Blanchard
Email: flagshipcva73@yahoo.com
- Florence FD**
Chief: Robert Shelton
Phone: (254) 793-2590
Email: rshelton@florencevfd.org
- Floresville FD**
Chief: Lorenzo Ortiz
Phone: (830) 393-3223
Email: floresvillevfd@felopsis.net
- Floydada FD**
Chief: Billy 'Craig' DuBois
Phone: (806) 983-2834
Email: floydadafire@myreachmail.com
- Flynn VFD**
Chief: Dwayne Kenne
Phone: (936) 396-2424
Email: flynnfire1@outgan.com
- Follett VFD**
Chief: Clayton Born
Phone: (806) 202-1139
Email: cborn@amaonline.com
- Forest Bend FD**
Chief: Samuel G. Scott
Phone: (281) 996-9206
Email: forestbendfire@sbcglobal.net
- Forney FD**
Chief: Rick Townsend
Phone: (972) 552-2211
Email: rtownsend@cityofforney.org
- Fort Davis FD**
Chief: Kelly B. Bryan
Phone: (432) 426-3900
Email: fortDavisfd@netscape.net
- Fort Stockton FD**
Chief: Melvin Thomas
Phone: (432) 336-4643
Email: fsfiredept@fortstocktonfire.net
- Franklin VFD Inc.**
Chief: Brent Sanders
Phone: (979) 828-5831
- Frankston FD**
Chief: Scottie Rodgers
Phone: (903) 876-4921
- Fredericksburg FD**
Chief: Steve Olfers
Phone: (830) 997-5603
- Freer FD**
Chief: James Finney
Phone: (361) 394-6553
Email: freerfire@yahoo.com
- Fresburg VFD**
Chief: Brent Gorman, Sr.
Phone: (979) 732-2999
Email: jneundorff@cstx.gov
- Fresno VFD**
Chief: Paul D. Hamilton
Phone: (281) 431-2451
Email: hurst0303@aol.com
- Friberg-Cooper VFD**
Chief: William Norris, II
Phone: (940) 447-1664
Email: ffwill38@yahoo.com
- Friendswood FD**
Chief: Marc D. Faber
Phone: (281) 996-3360
Email: 801@friendswoodvfd.com
- Friena FD**
Chief: James R. Taylor
Phone: (806) 250-2761
- Frisco FD**
Chief: Mack Borchardt
Phone: (972) 292-6300
- Fritch FD**
Chief: Calvin Nickell
Phone: (806) 857-2515
- Frost VFD**
Chief: Don 'Marcus' Reed
Phone: (830) 682-3333
Email: frostvfd@airmail.net
- Fruitvale FD**
Chief: Jeremy Lane Barker
Phone: (903) 896-1109
Email: jlbarker1@ftfd.us
- Fulshear-Simonton FD**
Chief: Gilbert H. Meier, Jr.
Phone: (281) 346-2800
Email: mcdilmic@co.fort-bend.tx.us
- Fulton FD**
Chief: Ricky McLester
Phone: (361) 729-2691
- Gainesville FD**
Chief: Steve Boone
Phone: (940) 668-7777
- Gallatin FD**
Chief: George Bostock, IV
Phone: (903) 683-6000

Galveston FD

Chief: Mike Varela, Sr.
Phone: (409) 766-2145

Ganado FD

Chief: Donald Kovar
Phone: (361) 771-8062

Gardendale VFD

Chief: Brandon Hayes
Phone: (432) 367-6902
Email: debbie@fjmc.com

Garrett Area Rural VFD

Chief: Robert D. Wilkinson
Phone: (972) 875-5898
Email: garvfd@hotmail.com

Garrison VFD & EMS

Chief: Rodney Robison
Phone: (409) 347-2222

Garwood VFD

Chief: Anthony Brown
Phone: (979) 758-3244

Gary FD

Chief: Timothy Lee Porter
Phone: (903) 754-0186
Email: t9cort@aol.com

Gatesville FD

Chief: Billy Vaden
Phone: (254) 865-6416
Email: bvaden@ci.gatesville.tx.us

Gause FD

Chief: Arthur Neal
Phone: (979) 279-2950

Gay Hill FD

Chief: Donald Schroeder
Phone: (979) 830-0057
Email: wjhspsvh@sbcglobal.net

George West FD

Chief: Lloyd Clifton
Phone: (361) 449-2123

Georgetown FD

Chief: Anthony Lincoln
Phone: (512) 930-3606

Geronimo VFD

Chief: Keith Lohse
Phone: (830) 372-4208
Email: info@geronimovfd.org

Geronimo Village FD

Chief: Benjamin A. Hoeffner
Phone: (210) 679-7051
Email: chief@gvvfd.org

Gilmer FD

Chief: Michael L. Melton
Phone: (903) 843-3225
Email: mmelton@etex.net

Gladewater FD

Chief: Wayne A. Smith
Phone: (903) 845-2484

Glen Flora FD

Chief: Frank Partida
Phone: (979) 677-3342
Email: partida_frank@yahoo.com

Glenn Heights FD

Chief: Christopher D. Shook
Phone: (972) 223-1690 x212
Email: firedepartment@glennheights.com

Glenwood Acres FD

Chief: Terry L. Conyers
Phone: (903) 734-5907

Godley FD

Chief: Gerry Mercer
Phone: (817) 389-2510
Email: godleyfd@yahoo.com

Goliad FD

Chief: Alonzo Morales, Jr.
Phone: (361) 645-2666

Gonzales FD

Chief: Keith Schmidt
Phone: (830) 672-6467

Gordon VFD

Chief: Bill James
Phone: (254) 693-5312
Email: gordonvfd@att.net

Gordonville FD

Chief: Donnie Peel
Phone: (903) 523-5267

Gorman VFD

Chief: Jim Guthery
Phone: (254) 734-2317
Email: jimguthery@hotmail.com

Graham FD

Chief: Dennie Covey
Phone: (940) 549-4013
Email: denise941@hotmail.com

Granbury VFD

Chief: Leonard 'Darrell' Grober
Phone: (817) 579-1111

Grand Prairie FD

Chief: Clif Nelson
Phone: (972) 237-8300
Email: btillman@gptx.org

Grandfalls FD

Chief: J. D. Stocks
Phone: (915) 547-2331

Grandview VFD

Chief: Frank Huggins
Phone: (817) 866-2333
Email: gvfd75@yahoo.com

Grangerland FD

Chief: Wayne Buxton
Phone: (936) 231-3527
Email: firechief_4@yahoo.com

Granite Shoals VFD

Chief: Austin Stanphil
Phone: (830) 596-8110
Email: fire@graniteshoals.org

Grape Creek FD

Chief: Roger D. Gammons
Phone: (325) 658-3770
Email: firehoss950@hotmail.com

Grapeland FD

Chief: Roger L. Dickey
Phone: (936) 687-2115
Email: gvfdems@valornet.com

Greenwood Rural VFD

Chief: John Burgoyne
Phone: (817) 341-3473

Greenwood VFD

Chief: Leland Hart
Phone: (432) 661-1444

Greenwood-Slidell VFD

Chief: Adam North
Phone: (940) 466-9634
Email: gsvfd@hotmail.com

Gregory VFD

Chief: Ernesto R. Solis
Phone: (361) 643-7151
Email: gregorycity@cableone.net

Grey Forest FD

Chief: Shane Reddout
Phone: (210) 695-5033
Email: jennottingham@satx.rr.com

Groves FD

Chief: Dale Jackson
Phone: (409) 962-4460
Email: lbilleaud116@aol.com

Gun Barrel City VFD

Chief: Joseph R. Lindaman
Phone: (903) 887-6909
Email: GBCfirechief@yahoo.com

Gunter Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Chief: Kevin Price
Phone: (903) 433-2222 x106
Email: price203@hotmail.com

Hainesville VFD

Chief: Scott N. Riddle
Phone: (903) 569-9181

Hale Center FD

Chief: Claude A. Burnett
Phone: (806) 839-2131

Hallettsville FD

Chief: Anthony Ludwig
Phone: (361) 772-7735
Email: sbgrahmann@yahoo.com

Hallsville FD

Chief: Norman 'Richard' Crutchfield
Phone: (903) 668-2313
Email: richard.crutchfield@trinityrail.com

Hamby VFD, Inc.

Chief: Ray Watson
Phone: (325) 548-2408
Email: Hambyfd@taylortel.net

Hamilton VFD Inc.

Chief: Cody Catoe
Phone: (254) 386-3517
Email: dbain@hamiltonhospital.org

Hamlin FD

Chief: Gary Morgensen
Phone: (325) 576-3633
Email: hamlinfire@classicnet.net

Hamshire VFD

Chief: Justin R. Chesson
Phone: (409) 243-2411
Email: Jusston-Chesson@bp.com

Happy FD

Chief: Jerry Sims
Phone: (806) 558-2121

Harlingen FD

Chief: Michael J. Rinaldi
Phone: (956) 216-5700

Harmony Consolidated VFD

Chief: James 'Craig' Lambert
Phone: (903) 725-5454

Harmony FD

Chief: Rodney Schlather, Jr.
Phone: (210) 633-3298
Email: hvfd911@yahoo.com

Harper VFD

Chief: John E. Tittle
Phone: (830) 864-4253
Email: harperfd@kctc.com

Harris County ESD #29

Chief: Dan Shelor
Phone: (281) 444-2014

Harris County Fire Marshal's Office

Chief: Mike S. Montgomery
Phone: (281) 436-8000
Email: mike.montgomery@fmo.hctx.net

Harrison Co ESD #3

Chief: John C. Pritchard
Phone: (905) 926-2500
Email: jcpritchard@marshalltexas.net

Harrison Co ESD #4

Chief: Gary L. Colvin
Phone: (903) 934-9686

Hart FD

Chief: Harvey Perez
Phone: (806) 938-2171
Email: hartfire@amaonline.com

Hartley VFD

Chief: Scott White
Phone: (806) 365-4404

Haskell FD

Chief: Randy K. Shaw
Phone: (940) 864-3052

Hawkins VFD

Chief: Van Garner
Phone: (903) 769-2444
Email: hawkinsfire@cebridge.net

Hawley FD

Chief: Jason F. Anderson
Phone: (325) 537-2839
Email: janderson@hawleyfiredept.com

Hays County ESD #6

Chief: Timothy Lee Gothard
Phone: (512) 894-0704

Hearne FD

Chief: Markus Hilton
Phone: (979) 279-5411

Heart of the Pines VFD

Chief: Nathan Decker
Phone: (512) 360-7423
Email: banning@bcfa.us

Heath FD

Chief: Terry Garrett
Phone: (972) 771-6228

Helotes FD

Chief: Walton D. Daugherty
Phone: (210) 695-3572
Email: fire@helotes-tx.gov

Hemphill FD

Chief: D. B. Chance
Phone: (409) 787-3322

Henderson FD

Chief: Russell 'Rusty' Chote
Phone: (903) 657-6551
Email: rchote@hendersontx.us

Henly FD

Chief: Todd Colvin - Interim
Phone: (512) 858-5451
Email: battchiefgriffin@hcesd6.org

Henrietta VFD

Chief: Mike Roberts
Phone: (940) 538-4343
Email: henriettavfd@cebridge.net

Hereford FD

Chief: Robert Murray
Phone: (806) 363-7114
Email: hfd@go-herd.com

Hewitt FD

Chief: Glen C. Arthur
Phone: (254) 666-0460

Hidalgo FD

Chief: Juan Reyes
Phone: (956) 843-8101

Higgins/Lipscomb VFD

Chief: Randy Immel
Phone: (806) 852-3131

Highland Village FD

Chief: Lonnie Tatum
Phone: (972) 317-0890
Email: jcollier@highlandvillage.org

Highlands FD

Chief: Harvey Little
Phone: (281) 843-2466
Email: firehouse_22000@yahoo.com

Hilltop Lakes VFD

Chief: Bart Ewald
Phone: (936) 855-2551
Email: hilltopfire4501@gmail.com

Hitchcock FD

Chief: Mark Allen Cook
Phone: (409) 986-7131
Email: hitchfire@aol.com

Holiday Lakes VFD

Chief: James Larry Boman
Phone: (979) 849-1669
Email: bomanl@yahoo.com

Holland FD

Chief:
Phone: (254) 657-2295

Holly Lake FD

Chief: Daniel Dolezal
Phone: (903) 769-4341
Email: hlrvfd@dpcomm.net

Hondo Volunteer Fire Company

Chief: Herman (Butch) Schueling
Phone: (830) 426-7000
Email: hondofireco1909@sbcglobal.net

Hood County Station #70

Chief: Johnny Miller

Hooks FD

Chief: Donald Buchanan
Phone: (903) 547-2250
Email: hktx415@aol.com

Hoover VFD

Chief: Joe Mack Millican
Phone: (806) 669-8297
Email: hoovervfd@yahoo.com

Hopewell VFD

Chief: Ralph Spencer
Phone: (903) 785-7951
Email: rowan@neto.com

Horseshoe Bend VFD

Chief: Steve Dunbar
Phone: (817) 594-7590

Houston County Lake VFD

Chief: Eric E. Olson
Phone: (936) 544-3206
Email: hmceinardus@frontiercamp.org

Houston VFD

Chief: Jay S. Evans
Phone: (713) 665-4662
Email: houstonvfd@sbcglobal.net

Howe FD

Chief: Mary Frances Jones
Phone: (903) 532-6888
Email: jerrycampbell@howevfd.org

Hubbard Creek VFD

Chief: Doug Potter

Hudson FD

Chief: Joe Burton
Phone: (936) 875-4728
Email: joeburton@hudsonfirerescue.org

Hudson Oaks FD

Chief: Pat English
Phone: (817) 599-0576
Email: penglish@esd3.org

Huffman FD

Chief: Kevin Guillot
Phone: (281) 324-4646
Email: chief@huffmanfire.com

Hughes Springs FD

Chief: William J. Cates
Phone: (903) 639-3716
Email: hsf282@aol.com

Department Listing - continued

Hull-Daisetta VFD

Chief: Lynn Wells
Phone: (936) 536-3804

Humble FD

Chief: Gary W. Outlaw
Phone: (281) 446-2212
Email: jfranks@cityofhumble.net

Hungerford FD

Chief: Kenneth Marak, Sr.
Phone: (979) 532-0439
Email: rynoragsdale@hotmail.com

Huntington VFD

Chief: Jerry LaSalle
Phone: (936) 876-4491

Huntsville FD

Chief: Tom Grisham
Phone: (936) 291-3047
Email: jjanuary@huntsvilletx.gov

Hutto Community VFD

Chief: Scott D. Kerwood
Phone: (512) 759-2606
Email: sdkerwood@huttofirerescue.org

HWY 321 FD

Chief: Leslie T. Edwards
Phone: (936) 258-8622
Email: hwy321vfd@netzero.net

Idalou FD

Chief: Ed Wilbanks
Phone: (806) 892-2531
Email: idaloufd@windstream.net

Imperial FD

Chief: Cruz Gomez
Phone: (915) 536-2258
Email: imperialfd@dbllcnet.net

Indian Harbor FD

Chief: George 'Randy' Schmelz
Phone: (817) 573-8908
Email: ihfiredpt@charterinternet.net

Indian Springs FD

Chief: Steve Culli
Phone: (409) 563-2323

Inez Fire Company

Chief: Rusty Knezek
Phone: (361) 781-0142
Email: rbknezek@hotmail.com

Ingleside on the Bay VFD

Chief: J. Randy Haskin
Phone: (361) 776-5290
Email: iobfire@cableone.net

Ingleside VFD

Chief: Chadwick S. Champion
Phone: (361) 776-7422
Email: rjthomas@inglesidetxt.gov

Ingram VFD

Chief: Harold Ray Lynch
Phone: (830) 367-5745
Email: rlynch@ingramtx.com

Inter Community FD

Chief: Sam C. Johnson
Phone: (972) 622-4725

Iola FD

Chief: Earl E. Sword, Jr.
Phone: (936) 394-2222

Iowa Colony FD

Chief: James R. Ledbetter
Phone: (281) 369-3969
Email: jledbetter@iowacolonyvfd.org

Iowa Park FD

Chief: Randy Fulbright
Phone: (940) 592-9709
Email: lskinnerpk2@yahoo.com

Iraan VFD & EMS

Chief: Darren Brown
Phone: (915) 639-2952

Ivanhoe FD

Chief: John Paul Feeley
Phone: (409) 283-5411
Email: johnpaulemc@yahoo.com

Jacksboro FD

Chief: Jeremy Jennings
Phone: (940) 567-2324
Email: jacksborofire@att.net

Jackson Heights VFD

Chief: Richmond C. Crumpton
Phone: (903) 566-8777
Email: JaHghtsVFD@sbcglobal.net

Jamaica Beach VFD

Chief: Steve K. Spicer
Phone: (409) 737-1856

Jarrell FD

Chief: Clifford Tsoehner, Sr.
Phone: (512) 746-2505
Email: wcesd5@yahoo.com

Jarret VFD

Chief: John Ortega, Sr.
Phone: (210) 622-3900

Jasper FD

Chief: Rodney Pearson
Phone: (409) 383-6168
Email: jasperfd@jasper.tx.gov

Jefferson Co Wtr Dist #10 VFD

Chief: Adam Rosenberg
Phone: (409) 724-2244
Email: jcw10chief@gt.rr.com

Jefferson County ESD # 1

Chief: Chris Gonzales
Phone: (713) 753-3486

Jenkins VFD

Chief: Al Fredrickson
Phone: (903) 656-2956
Email: embernjenkins@aol.com

Jersey Village FD

Chief: Mark A. Bitz
Phone: (713) 466-2130
Email: mbitz@ci.jersey-village.tx.us

Jewett VFD

Chief: David Kirkpatrick
Phone: (903) 626-4416
Email: jewettvolfiredept@sbcglobal.net

Jim Ned VFD

Chief: Bob Eisenberg
Phone: (915) 554-7766

Joaquin FD

Chief: Perry A. Pugh
Phone: (936) 269-3670

Jolly VFD

Chief: Terry K. Pennington
Phone: (940) 767-1868
Email: remco@wf.net

Jollyville FD

Chief: John Kiracofe
Phone: (512) 258-1038
Email: blandi@jvfd.org

Jonesboro FD

Chief: Leslie Kunkel
Phone: (254) 463-2200
Email: dcourtney@dishmail.net

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Chief: Cameron W. Brooks
Phone: (214) 475-1039

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Chief: Bruce Wayne Baker
Phone: (817) 558-4141
Email: l2fire@yahoo.com

Jourdanton VFD

Chief: David Prasifka
Phone: (830) 570-7071

Joy VFD

Chief: Richard 'Clay' Skelton
Phone: (940) 476-2636
Email: ems12afox@yahoo.com

Judson Metro VFD

Chief: John Mark Binnion
Phone: (903) 746-4279
Email: chief@judsonmetrofd.com

Junction FD

Chief: Cecil Martin Conner
Phone: (325) 446-2345
Email: firedept@cityofjunction.com

Justiceburg Community VFD

Chief: Daniel Yarbro
Phone: (806) 629-4017
Email: marinette.tyler@yahoo.com

Justin FD

Chief: Bill Mitchell
Phone: (940) 648-3371

Kamay FD

Chief: Barry Tyler
Phone: (940) 438-2200
Email: kamay401@netscape.net

Karnes City VFD

Chief: Charles Malik
Phone: (830) 780-2320

Katy FD

Chief: Marc Jordan
Phone: (281) 391-3500

Kaufman FD

Chief: Eddie Brown
Phone: (972) 932-3538
Email: kaufman@kaufmanfire.net

Keene Fire/Rescue

Chief: Matthew Gillin
Phone: (817) 556-2474
Email: keenefd@keenetx.com

Kelton VFD

Chief: Michael Braddock
Phone: (580) 799-4323
Email: keltonvfd@yahoo.com

Kemah FD

Chief: Larry Suniga
Phone: (812) 538-5727
Email: chief@kemahfire.com

Kemp FD

Chief: Bryan Beavers
Phone: (903) 498-7909
Email: kempfire@kempfire.com

Kempner FD

Chief: Dan Hause
Phone: (512) 932-3993
Email: bbroker@austin.rr.com

Kenedy County Fire & ESD #1

Chief:
Phone: (361) 592-9347
Email: villarrealaw@sbcglobal.net

Kenedy FD

Chief: Rudy Saenz
Phone: (830) 583-2230

Kerens FD

Chief: Terry Stovall
Phone: (903) 396-7109
Email: terryspaint@yahoo.com

Kermitt FD

Chief: Clinton Dean Croker
Phone: (432) 586-5156
Email: aggieda2@yahoo.com

Kicaster VFD

Chief: Bruce W. Engelke
Phone: (830) 217-4332
Email: bz78101@aol.com

Kilgore FD

Chief: Ronnie Moore
Phone: (903) 983-1559

Killeen FD

Chief: Jerry D. Gardner
Phone: (254) 501-7660
Email: jgardner@ci.killeen.tx.us

Kimble Co Ranch Fire Assn VFD

Chief:
Phone:

Kingsbury FD

Chief: William Harborth
Phone: (830) 639-4499
Email: bharborth@minigrip.com

Kingsville VFD

Chief: Rick Salinas
Phone: (361) 595-8049
Email: kvfd@cityofkingsville.com

Kingtown VFD

Chief: Marvin L. Howard
Phone: (936) 560-3334
Email: kingtownvfd@sbcglobal.net

Kinney County Fire & Rescue

Chief: Bruce Hudgens
Phone: (830) 563-9090

Kirby FD

Chief: Kevin Riedel
Phone: (210) 661-2612
Email: tpinder@kirbyfd.org

Kirbyville FD

Chief: James 'Greg' Ellis
Phone: (409) 423-2626

Kleberg County Fire Rescue

Chief: Ronald W. Pray
Phone: (361) 592-3704

Klein FD

Chief: David Joseph Bessolo
Phone: (281) 376-4449
Email: training@kleinfiredpt.com

Klondike VFD

Chief: Jerry Wood
Phone: (903) 517-4057
Email: jwood401@yahoo.com

Kountze VFD

Chief: Jeffery L. Lacombe
Phone: (409) 246-3131
Email: ktzvf@sbcglobal.net

Kress VFD

Chief: Christopher Collier
Phone: (806) 684-2126
Email: kress501@yahoo.com

Krum FD

Chief: Kenneth Swindle
Phone: (940) 482-6257
Email: krumfire@dnsspeed.net

Kyle FD

Chief: Glenn Whitaker
Phone: (512) 268-6339
Email: ckolls@kylefire.com

L-3 FD

Chief: Gary L. Jones
Phone: (903) 457-4900
Email: gary.l.jones@l-3com.com

La Casita VFD

Chief: Antonio 'Tony' Moreno
Phone: (956) 716-8906
Email: jewelznm@earthlink.net

La Coste Lions VFD

Chief: Ernest Christilles
Phone: (210) 415-4039
Email: echristilles@yahoo.com

La Feria VFD

Chief: Enrique 'Rick' I. Garcia, Jr.
Phone: (956) 797-2261
Email: marine_dad_rick@yahoo.com

La Grange FD

Chief: Frank D. Menefee, Jr.
Phone: (979) 968-5805
Email: lgvfd@cvctx.com

La Joya VFD

Chief: Rene Lopez, Jr.
Phone: (956) 585-4855

La Junta VFD

Chief: Ben Overholt
Phone: (817) 677-2290
Email: jcrook@pcsd1.org

La Marque FD

Chief: Todd Zacherl
Phone: (409) 938-9260
Email: t.zacherl@ci.la-marque.tx.us

La Porte FD

Chief: William 'Mike' Boaze
Phone: (281) 471-3607
Email: fire@laportetx.gov

La Pryor VFD

Chief: Joaquin 'Chambo' Pargas
Phone: (830) 366-4446
Email: lpvfdfiredogs@yahoo.com

La Rosita FD

Chief: Antonio 'Tony' Moreno
Phone: (956) 849-3333

La Vernia FD

Chief: Jason Eric Scheel
Phone: (830) 779-2438
Email: laverniavfd@hotmail.com

La Villa VFD

Chief: Bernardino Perez
Phone: (956) 262-5250

La Ward VFD

Chief:
Phone:

Labelle-Fannett FD

Chief: Charles Sonnier
Phone: (409) 794-1441
Email: caseysanders016@gmail.com

Lacy Lakeview FD

Chief: Dennis Stapleton
Phone: (254) 799-3571
Email: dennis_stapleton@lacy-lakeview.org

Lagarto FD

Chief: Ron Cole
Phone: (361) 547-5512

Laguna Vista VFD

Chief: Terri L. Galloway
Phone: (950) 943-1288
Email: tlgmptff506@yahoo.com

Lake Arrowhead FD

Chief: Michael Hall
Phone: (940) 781-4338
Email: sidekickmh@hotmail.com

Lake Bridgeport VFD

Chief: Willie Garrett
Phone: (940) 683-2700
Email: lbvfd2200@yahoo.com

Lake Brownwood FD

Chief: Randall 'Randy' Feight
Phone: (325) 784-5704
Email: dbatteas@ci.brownwood.tx.us

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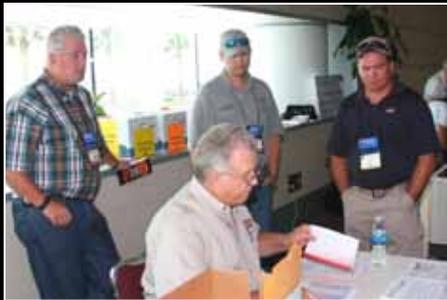
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And to all our exhibitors for making the 2010 conference possible.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN MESQUITE IN 2011.



2010 CONFERENCE PHOTOS

Special thank you to:
City of Corpus Christi
South Central District
Jim Hanson – Photography
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SFFMA Executive Board & Staff
Sergeant-at-Arms for all their help and
all committee members & others who
made the conference so successful!



2010 Photo Contest Winners



Best of Show

by Dawn McGee - Deer Park VFD
"Brotherhood" - Transformer caught three different sheds on fire. Real event - April 2010



1st Place
by Robert Guillemette
Village FD



2nd Place
by Darron Rosenquist



3rd Place
by Latresha Allen
Ballinger VFD Ladies Auxiliary

Life Saving Acts



1st Place
by Dawn McGee
Deer Park VFD



2nd Place
by Trish Cook
Seabrook VFD



3rd Place
by Trish Cook
Seabrook VFD

Education and Fire Safety



1st Place
by Rick Townsend
Forney FD



2nd Place
by Alice Molina
Edinburg Ladies Auxiliary



3rd Place
by Latresha Allen
Ballinger VFD Ladies Auxiliary

2011

Texas Firemen Photo Contest

State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

If you were in the right place in time to capture that special moment, we encourage you to enter the contest.

ANYONE CAN ENTER THE CONTEST WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS, THERE IS NO MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT.



DEADLINE TO ENTER IS FRIDAY • MAY 20, 2011

All photos submitted will be exhibited at the SFFMA Annual Training Conference and Convention. The winning photographs will also be published in the Texas Firemen magazine and e-Info Fire newsletter throughout the year.

CONTEST RULES:

1. Department membership is NOT required. (Professional photographers are NOT allowed to submit entries.)
2. Photos must be 8" x 10" unmounted color or black and white. ALL OTHERS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. Please include prints and digital files on a disk.
3. You MUST fill out the Photo Contest Entry Form and attach to the back of EACH photo submitted. Make as many copies of the entry form as needed.
4. Only three (3) photos per category may be entered. (If more than three per category are submitted, the first 3 will be considered, ALL OTHERS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.)
5. Entries become the property of Texas Firemen magazine and the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, and may be displayed by SFFMA at fire service events. (Author will be credited)
6. Photos from previous Photo Contests CANNOT be resubmitted, any submissions will be disqualified.

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

FIRE-RELATED ACTS - any variety; MUST be "real life" incident

LIFE-SAVING ACTS - any variety; MUST be "real life" incident

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY - any "staged" fires such as at fire training schools and anything relating to public safety

PLEASE PRINT

2011 Texas Firemen Photo Contest Entry Form

Deadline - May 20, 2011

Name: _____ Address: _____
Email: _____ City/State/ZIP: _____
Contact #: _____ Member of Fire Department: YES NO
Photo Contest Category: _____ If yes, what Department: _____

MUST INCLUDE BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Describe what happened, date, and location of incident.

Mail to: SFFMA-Texas Firemen Photo Contest

4450 Frontier Trail • Austin, TX 78745

Department Listing - continued

Lake Dunlap Area FD

Chief: Scott Wiley
Phone: (830) 632-9828
Email: ldchief01@yahoo.com

Lake Jackson FD

Chief: Mike Harper
Phone: (979) 415-2719

Lake Kickapoo VFD

Chief: Michael Noel
Phone: (940) 525-4441

Lake Kiowa FD

Chief: Joe C. Rider
Phone: (940) 665-9321

Lake Nacogdoches Area VFD

Chief: Michael E. Scott
Phone: (936) 462-7675
Email: lakenacfire_1@yahoo.com

Lake Palestine East VFD

Chief: Gary L. Cannon
Phone: (903) 825-2151
Email: fire.call@yahoo.com

Lake Rayburn FD

Chief: Brett Holloway
Phone: (409) 698-2840

Lake Tanglewood FD

Chief: Robert J. Hulsey
Phone: (806) 622-1112
Email: ltfire@suddenlinkmail.com

Lakeside City FD

Chief: James Sons
Phone: (940) 692-4157

Lakeview VFD

Chief: Steve Graham
Phone: (254) 694-2506
Email: lakeviewfd@windstream.net

Lamar Point-Caviness-Emberson VFD

Chief: Kent Davis
Phone: (903) 785-0643

Lamar VFD

Chief: Carl Stubbs
Phone: (361) 790-5102

Lamesa FD

Chief: Cody White
Phone: (806) 872-4352

Lampasas FD

Chief: Terry Lindsey
Phone: (512) 734-3146
Email: tlindsey@ci.lampasas.tx.us

Land's End VFD

Chief: T. J. Henshaw
Phone: (903) 383-7496

Laneville FD

Chief:
Phone: (903) 863-2204

LaRue - New York VFD

Chief: John T. McMakin
Phone: (903) 675-4436
Email: lnyvfd@hughes.net

Latium Wesley Greenvine FD

Chief: Randy Parkison
Phone: (979) 836-6946
Email: lwg.9012@yahoo.com

Lazbuddie FD

Chief: Nicky Nickels
Phone: (806) 965-2921

League City FD

Chief: Brian D. Russell
Phone: (281) 554-1465
Email: Brian.Russell@leaguecity.com

Leakey VFD

Chief: Jose Sanchez
Phone: (830) 232-4005
Email: LeakeyVFD@yahoo.com

Leander FD

Chief: Jerry Williams
Phone: (512) 528-1664
Email: bgardner@ci.leander.tx.us

Ledbetter FD

Chief: Kevin Woelfel
Phone: (979) 542-2891

Lefors VFD

Chief: Floyd Lott
Phone: (806) 835-2772
Email: leforsems@hotmail.com

Leon Springs FD

Chief: Robert Hardenstine
Phone: (210) 698-1593

Leona VFD

Chief: Charles Nash
Phone: (903) 244-3804

Leonard VFD

Chief: Roby Watson
Phone: (903) 587-3469

Leroy FD

Chief: Scott Garner
Phone: (254) 822-1904
Email: leroyaxtellfirerescue@yahoo.com

Levelland FD

Chief: Otis Stark
Phone: (806) 894-3155
Email: mbrewer@levellandtexas.org

Lexington FD

Chief: Don Milburn
Phone: (979) 773-4757

Liberty Chapel FD

Chief: Jerry Sanders
Phone: (817) 641-7320

Liberty-Eylau FD

Chief: David Wesselhoft
Phone: (903) 832-4116
Email: carlahahn115@gmail.com

Lillian FD

Chief: Tony Salmon
Phone: (817) 790-2879
Email: Chief@lillianfd.org

Lindale VFD

Chief: Jerry M. Garner
Phone: (903) 882-3443
Email: jgarner@lindalevfd.com

Linden FD

Chief: Robert Luzio
Phone: (972) 756-5151
Email: chiefrluzio@aol.com

Lindsay VFD

Chief: Adam P. Arendt
Phone: (940) 665-7576
Email: lindsayvfd@ntin.net

Linn-San Manuel FD

Chief: Domingo Hinojosa, Jr.
Phone: (956) 383-7222
Email: lsmvfd2200@aol.com

Little Elm FD

Chief: Joseph Florentino
Phone: (214) 975-0420
Email: fire@littleelm.org

Little York FD

Chief: David K. Griffin
Phone: (281) 448-0391

Littlefield FD

Chief: Jamie Grey
Phone: (806) 385-5161 ext 231
Email: Fdman4@aol.com

Liverpool FD

Chief: Rocky Hicks
Phone: 281-782-4220
Email: rockyhicksff@hotmail.com

Livingston FD

Chief: Carey L. 'Corky' Cochran Jr.
Phone: (936) 327-4311
Email: livfire@livingston.net

Llano VFD

Chief: Tim Harden
Phone: (325) 247-4646
Email: llanovfd@hotmail.com

Lockhart FD

Chief: Jerry Doyle
Phone: (512) 398-2321
Email: jdoyle@lockhart-tx.org

Lockney FD

Chief: Joseph Marks
Phone: (806) 652-3323

Loco Valley VFD

Chief: Michael Self
Phone: (936) 560-2228

Locust Community VFD

Chief: Timothy Thomas
Phone: (903) 786-4111
Email: cathyandstevenh@aol.com

Log Cabin VFD

Chief: Cory Abbe
Phone: (903) 489-2532
Email: fire.chief43@yahoo.com

Lometa VFD

Chief: Robert M. Odom
Phone: (512) 752-3331

Lone Oak FD

Chief: Ronald McGovern
Phone: (210) 649-2141

Lone Oak Tx FD Inc

Chief: Chris Moore
Phone: (903) 662-5119
Email: loneoakfire@yahoo.com

Lone Pine VFD

Chief: Thomas A. Wardell
Phone: (903) 729-3659
Email: lonepinevfd@hotmail.com

Lone Star FD

Chief: Uvalde 'Scoggie' Stoermer
Phone: (903) 656-2311

Lone Tree Comm VFD

Chief: Richard Garcia
Phone: (361) 655-1231

Loop FD

Chief:
Phone:

Lorena FD

Chief: Jim Menefee
Phone: (254) 857-4641
Email: jimmenefee@netzero.net

Los Fresnos FD

Chief: Gene Daniels
Phone: (956) 233-4751
Email: vfdvfdvfd@yahoo.com

Louise FD

Chief: Bobby Popp
Phone: (979) 648-2836
Email: lvfd@warpspeed1.net

Lovelady FD

Chief: Pat Allen
Phone: (936) 636-7313
Email: cityof01@windstream.net

Lowry Crossing FD

Chief: Joel T. Schmieg
Phone: (972) 542-1151

Lubbock FD

Chief: Mike Kemp - Interim
Phone: (806) 775-2632

Lucas FD

Chief: Jim Kitchens
Phone: (972) 727-1242
Email: dleonard@lucasfire.com

Luling FD

Chief: Thomas Harmon
Phone: (830) 875-2412
Email: lulingfd@yahoo.com

Lumberton Fire & EMS

Chief: Dennis M. Gifford
Phone: (409) 755-6031
Email: DennisMGifford@aol.com

Lyford FD

Chief: M. Scott Birdsong - Interim
Phone: (956) 347-3571
Email: birdsong.michael7@gmail.com

Lytle FD

Chief: Matthew Dear
Phone: (830) 709-2326
Email: lytlebfd@yahoo.com

Mabank FD

Chief: Ricky Myrick
Phone: (903) 887-4747
Email: mabank5410@yahoo.com

Madisonville VFD

Chief: Thomas 'Thom' Jones
Phone: (936) 348-3810
Email: shelly_mpd@yahoo.com

Magnolia Beach VFD

Chief: John Bailey
Phone: (361) 552-7449

Magnolia FD

Chief: Gary Vincent
Phone: (281) 356-3288
Email: mvfd@magnoliafire.org

Malakoff VFD

Chief: Kirk Kebodeaux
Phone: (903) 489-4213

Manchaca VFD

Chief: Chris Barron
Phone: (512) 282-7057
Email: mvfd@mvfd.org

Mansfield FD

Chief: Thomas 'Barry' Bondurant
Phone: (817) 276-4700

Manvel FD

Chief: Steve DelBello
Phone: (281) 692-0279
Email: jaucoin@manvelvfd.org

Marathon FD

Chief: Christopher W. Steel
Phone: (409) 943-7362
Email: cwsteel@marathonoil.com

Marathon VFD

Chief: Daniel Eaton
Phone: (915) 386-9006
Email: txuff@yahoo.com

Marble Falls Area FD

Chief: Terry White
Phone: (830) 613-8108
Email: meandcm@wildblue.net

Marfa FD

Chief: Gary Mitschke
Phone: (432) 729-4838
Email: marfavfd@mzstv.net

Marion VFD

Chief: Tom Amen
Phone: (210) 221-5938
Email: amentc@aol.com

Marquez VFD

Chief: Maurice Bourne
Phone: (903) 529-3491

Mason FD

Chief: Charles H. Grosse
Phone: (325) 347-6363

Matador FD

Chief: Rodney Williams
Phone: (806) 347-2323
Email: firemn5@yahoo.com

Matagorda VFD

Chief: Jack Thomsen
Phone: (979) 863-7581
Email: djthomsen@msn.com

Mathis FD

Chief: Lucio Munoz
Phone: (361) 547-2121

Maud FD

Chief: Roy E. Beckett
Phone: (903) 585-5612
Email: maudfiretexas@aol.com

Mauriceville FD

Chief: James Journeay
Phone: (409) 745-1636
Email: mdpevey@sbcglobal.net

Maydelle VFD

Chief: Jody Gray
Phone: (903) 795-3251
Email: jgmandyg01@aol.com

McAllen FD

Chief: Rogelio Rubio
Phone: (956) 972-7500

McCamey FD

Chief: Mathew Rameriz
Phone: (915) 652-3421

McGregor FD

Chief: Moe Spradley
Phone: (254) 840-3751

McKinney FD

Chief: Mark Wallace
Phone: (972) 547-7650
Email: neastham@mcKinneytexas.org

McLean FD

Chief: Clifford McDonald
Phone: (806) 779-2483

McLendon-Chisholm FD

Chief: John 'J. T.' Williams
Phone: 972-524-2077
Email: centrekin@mcvfd.net

McLewis FD

Chief: David Roberts
Phone: (409) 920-0305
Email: youngblakee@ocesd3.co.cc

McQueeny FD

Chief: Tim Bogisch
Phone: (210) 662-9882 CC
Email: chuckhoagland@satx.rr.com

Meadow FD

Chief: Robert Campos
Phone: (806) 539-2377

Medina Lake VFD

Chief: Gregory P. Grothues
Phone: (830) 751-2525
Email: medinalakevfd@gmail.com

Medina VFD Inc.

Chief: Shane Keese
Phone: (830) 589-7261

Megargel FD

Chief: Lawrence J. Smith
Phone: (940) 563-2341

Melissa VFD
Chief: Perry Elliott
Phone: (972) 837-1268
Email: fireadmin@cityofmelissa.com

Melrose VFD
Chief: Ronald Thornton
Phone: (936) 556-2791
Email: melrosevfd@sbcglobal.net

Memphis FD
Chief: James Edwards
Phone: (806) 259-2323

Menard FD
Chief: Michael Schuler
Phone: (325) 396-2333

Mercedes FD
Chief: Jaime Garcia
Phone: (956) 565-7755
Email: jgarcia@ci.mercedes.tx.us

Meridian FD
Chief: Michael Walker
Phone: (254) 435-2381

Merit VFD
Chief: Willie Spencer
Phone: (903) 776-2285
Email: meritvfd@argontech.net

Merkel FD
Chief: Steve Cochran
Phone: (325) 928-4725
Email: stevec@taylortel.net

Mesquite FD
Chief: Mark Kerby
Phone: (972) 216-6267

Mexia FD
Chief: Clayton Shivers
Phone: (254) 562-4160

Meyersville FD
Chief: Alan Pittman
Phone: (979) 836-7317
Email: alan.pittman@bluebell.com

Miami Roberts Co VFD
Chief: Randy Crismas
Phone: (806) 868-4791

Mico VFD
Chief: Gerald Dyson
Phone: (830) 751-2658
Email: mico.firechief@gmail.com

Mid-County Fire Rescue
Chief: Jerry Doyle
Email: jcolorciello1@att.net

Midland FD Fire Marshal's Office
Chief: M. Dale Little
Phone: (432) 688-4160

Mid-North Johnson County VFD
Chief: Lance Trout
Phone: (817) 389-3958
Email: lancetrout@station83.com

Milano FD
Chief: Jesse N. Love
Phone: (512) 455-3971
Email: jsyakesch@yahoo.com

Millsap VFD
Chief: Dayn 'Neal' Doss
Phone: (940) 682-4390

Mims VFD & Ambulance Serv
Chief: Lana Manchester
Phone: (903) 755-4112
Email: mimsvfd2@etex.net

Mineola FD
Chief: Joe 'David' Madsen
Phone: (903) 569-6183
Email: dmadsen@mineola.com

Mineral Wells FD
Chief: Steve Perdue
Phone: (940) 682-8456
Email: sperdue@mesh.net

Minerva FD
Chief: Johnny Demsky
Phone: (512) 446-3820

Mission FD
Chief: Ricardo Saldana
Phone: (956) 580-8705
Email: fireinspector2000@yahoo.com

Mission Valley VFD
Chief: Danny Fisher
Phone: (361) 576-2772

Mobeetie VFD
Chief: Randy Finsterwald
Phone: (806) 845-2453
Email: sallieadcock@hotmail.com

Moffat FD
Chief: Hal Ray Pagel
Phone: (254) 718-1395
Email: firehousepws@clearwire.net

Moffett VFD
Chief: Steve Lumbley
Phone: (936) 632-5161

Monahans FD
Chief: William E. Riley
Phone: (432) 943-2211

Monaville VFD
Chief: Daniel Easter
Phone: (979) 826-8527

Mont Belvieu FD
Chief: Lee 'Kenny' Baumbach
Phone: (281) 385-2194

Montalba VFD
Chief: Joel Parish
Phone: (903) 723-3730
Email: ssws40yr@aol.com

Montana Vista Fire Rescue, Inc.
Chief: Robert Ostrenga
Phone: (915) 857-1080
Email: wyounger@elp.rr.com

Montgomery County ESD #2/MFD
Chief: Brian Edwards
Phone: (936) 597-4455

Moore VFD
Chief: William Curtis
Phone: (210) 316-6083

Morgan Mill VFD
Chief: David Lynn Kinsey
Phone: (254) 965-5554
Email: mmvfd@our-town.com

Morgan VFD
Chief: Gary Orfield
Phone: (254) 635-2141
Email: fire_dwelling@yahoo.com

Morgans Point Resort FD
Chief: Billy Richards
Phone: (254) 780-2022
Email: mpr9@vvm.com

Moro VFD
Chief: James 'Larry' Webb
Phone: (325) 767-2227
Email: larwebb@gmail.com

Moss Lake - Sivells Bend VFD
Chief: Jimmy Mosman
Phone: (940) 727-2940
Email: jimmysosman@yahoo.com

Moulton VFD
Chief: Timothy Koncala
Phone: (361) 596-4033

Mound VFD
Chief: Romulo Gonzalez
Phone: (254) 248-0750
Email: moundvfdtx@yahoo.com

Mount Enterprise FD
Chief: Virgil Nelson
Phone: (903) 822-3333

Mount Pleasant FD
Chief: John Larry McRae
Phone: (903) 575-4144

Mount Vernon FD
Chief: Jeremy Cox
Phone: (903) 537-7155
Email: mvfirestation@comvtx.com

Mountain Home VFD
Chief: Brian Alexander
Phone: (830) 866-3310
Email: balxander44@yahoo.com

Mountain River FD
Chief: Brett Wright
Phone: (940) 682-7739
Email: mountainrivervfd@embarqmail.com

Mt Zion Comm Vol FFA, Inc.
Chief: Mose Graves
Phone: (979) 682-3356

Muenster VFD
Chief: Herbert Knabe
Phone: (940) 759-4141
Email: mufire@ntin.net

Mulberry Canyon FD
Chief: Don Russom
Phone: (325) 846-4000
Email: rwruppelt@taylortel.net

Muldoon VFD
Chief: John McCoy, Jr.
Phone: (979) 250-1818
Email: muldoon.vfd@gmail.com

Muleshoe FD
Chief: Tom Ladd
Phone: (806) 272-4103
Email: mfdfire@fivearea.com

Munday FD
Chief: William L. 'Spike' Bryan
Phone: (940) 422-4323

Murchison FD
Chief: Roy Head
Phone: (903) 469-3101
Email: birbymvfd@embarqmail.com

Myrtle Springs VFD
Chief: Tommy Davis, Sr.
Phone: 903-560-2331
Email: lonniefir@hotmail.com

Nacogdoches FD
Chief: Keith Kiplinger
Phone: (936) 559-2541
Email: frenchc@ci.nacogdoches.tx.us

Naples FD
Chief: Larry G. Betts
Phone: (903) 897-2271
Email: fireman1028@hotmail.com

Nash FD
Chief: Steve Rogers
Phone: (903) 832-7071
Email: fire@nashtx.org

Nassau Bay FD
Chief: Thomas George
Phone: (281) 333-2677
Email: fire.station@nassaubay.com

Natalia FD
Chief: Chuck Brown
Phone: (830) 663-9443
Email: nataliavfd@gmail.com

Navasota FD
Chief: Jason Katkoski
Phone: (936) 825-7388
Email: navasotafd@aol.com

Nazareth VFD
Chief:
Phone: (806) 945-2263

Neches VFD
Chief: Jack Wedgeworth
Phone: (903) 584-3316

Nederland FD
Chief: Gary W. Collins
Phone: (409) 723-1531

Needham FD
Chief: Kevin L. Hosler
Phone: (936) 321-0999
Email: khosler@needhamfirerescue.com

Needville FD
Chief: Keith Thumann
Phone: (979) 793-4262

Nevada FD
Chief: William 'Rob' Caldwell
Phone: (817) 239-7064
Email: robcl@airmail.net

New Berlin FD
Chief: Kurt A. Strey
Phone: (830) 420-2888

New Caney FD
Chief: Jeffrey Taylor
Phone: (281) 689-3112
Email: jtaylor@newcaneyfire.com

New Deal FD
Chief: Randy Teeter
Phone: (806) 746-6399
Email: ndfire@door.net

New Mountain FD
Chief: George J. Richards
Phone: (903) 762-6835
Email: firechief@etex.net

New Salem FD
Chief: Bruce A. Grams
Phone: (903) 854-2293
Email: newsalemvfd@hughes.net

New Ulm VFD
Chief: Keenan Hale
Phone: (979) 877 4528

Newcastle VFD
Chief: Calvin Daigle
Phone: (940) 846-3272

Newton County ESD #5
Chief: Lonnie Burks
Phone: (409) 994-2953
Email: wdd2813@aol.com

Nocona FD
Chief: Rusty Henley
Phone: (940) 825-3282
Email: noconafd@aol.com

Noonday FD
Chief: James David Timmons
Phone: (903) 561-1170
Email: gary@noondayfire.com

Normangee VFD
Chief: Charles Currie
Phone: (936) 396-3131
Email: jcox@amberton.edu

Nortex FD
Chief: Roy Tillman
Phone: (903) 572-0788
Email: nortexfire@yahoo.com

North 19 Volunteer Fire Rescue
Chief: Robert D. Morris
Phone: (903) 292-3020
Email: bobm@lonestarservice.net

North Cherokee County VFD
Chief: Danny Rozell
Phone: (903) 842-4476

North Hays County VFD
Chief: Todd Colvin - Interim
Phone: (512) 858-4600
Email: battchiefgriffin@hcesd6.org

North Hood County VFD
Chief: Michael Bell
Phone: (817) 579-1156
Email: nhoodcovold@charter.net

North Zulch VFD
Chief: David Douglas
Phone: (936) 399-2495

Northeast Fire & Rescue, Inc.
Chief: James Rodgers
Phone: (281) 973-9208
Email: jrodgers@neff91.org

Northeast Fort Bend County FD
Chief: Rick DuPlant
Phone: (281) 242-8283

Northeast Midland County FD
Chief: Mat McClure
Phone: (915) 686-9383

Northshore VFD
Chief: Bill Tackett
Phone: (940) 290-1058
Email: northshorefire@yahoo.com

Northwest FD
Chief: Wesley C. Cole
Phone: (281) 583-8014

Nueces Canyon FD
Chief: Josh E. Cox
Phone: (830) 597-6100
Email: firechiefjoshcox@yahoo.com

Nueces County ESD #2
Chief: Everett 'Dale' Scott
Phone: (361) 937-2645
Email: nuecesemergencys@stx.rr.com

Nursery VFD
Chief: Mike Kelly
Phone: (361) 576-3245

Oak Island-Double Bayou VFD
Chief: Raymond Anders
Phone: (409) 267-7685

Oak Point DPS
Chief: Mike Shackelford
Phone: (972) 294-0000
Email: dps@oakpointtexas.com

Oak Ridge VFD
Chief: Mike Watson
Phone: (940) 902-5563
Email: bpmorgan@orvfd.com

Oakalla VFD
Chief: Ricky Smith
Phone: (512) 734-2293
Email: rjsmithauction@wildblue.net

Oakhurst FD
Chief: Donald Burns
Phone: (936) 377-4303
Email: oakvolfire@yahoo.com

Odem FD
Chief: David Metting
Phone: (361) 368-2831

Ogburn VFD
Chief: Don Santa Anna
Phone: (903) 629-3213
Email: davnsheer@hughes.net

Oglesby FD
Chief: Mark Luckie
Phone: (254) 722-8026

Department Listing - continued

Old Ocean FD

Chief: Craig Peterson
Phone: (979) 647-4421

Old River-Winfree VFD

Chief: James Robinson
Phone: (281) 383-1713
Email: andyandbecky1@verizon.net

Olden VFD

Chief: Dewayne Hunter
Phone: (254) 653-2559
Email: oldenvfdstation@cebridge.net

Olney VFD

Chief: Ron Keeter
Phone: (940) 564-2323
Email: ovfd@brazosnet.com

Olton FD

Chief: Heraldo 'Leroy' Lopez
Phone: (806) 285-2221

Omaha FD

Chief: Michael D. Caldwell
Phone: (903) 884-2302

Onalaska FD

Chief: Roy Newport
Phone: (936) 329-2715
Email: firechief@cityofonalaska.us

Oplin FD

Chief: Doug Campbell
Phone: (915) 529-3129

Ora FD

Chief: Gil Harper
Phone: (409) 876-4035
Email: g7801@yahoo.com

Orange County ESD #1

Chief: Bryant J. Champagne
Phone: (409) 769-8294
Email: ocesd1@sbcglobal.net

Orange County ESD #3

Chief: Robert Simonson
Phone: (409) 883-9200
Email: youngblakee@ocesd3.co.cc

Orange Grove FD

Chief: Billy Schmidt
Phone: (361) 384-2681
Email: Gsrp61@aol.com

Orchard VFD

Chief: Chad Haas
Phone: (979) 478-7575

Ore City FD

Chief: Gaston DeBerry
Phone: (903) 968-2511
Email: ocfire@etex.net

Overton FD

Chief: Bill H. Wall
Phone: (903) 834-7106
Email: firewall816@aol.com

Ovilla FD

Chief: Donnie Pickard
Phone: (972) 617-7375
Email: dpickard@ovillafire.org

Ozona FD

Chief: Bob R. Falkner
Phone: (325) 392-3404
Email: ovfd@ozonafire.com

Paducah FD

Chief: Randy Detwiler
Phone: (806) 492-3131
Email: paducahfiredepartment@yahoo.com

Paige FD

Chief: Troy Kunkel
Phone: (512) 253-6516
Email: paigevfd@yahoo.com

Palestine Southside VFD

Chief: Grady McAdams
Phone: (903) 724-4408
Email: g_mc48@yahoo.com

Palisades VFD

Chief: Dennis Massey
Phone: (806) 622-2133
Email: Palisades.vfd@gmail.com

Palo Pinto FD

Chief: Perry Faubion
Phone: (940) 659-3900

Pampa FD

Chief: Kim Powell
Phone: (806) 669-5800

Panhandle FD

Chief: Jay D. Baze
Phone: (806) 537-3172
Email: panhandlefiredepartment@yahoo.com

Parker County Fire Marshal

Chief: Shawn M. Scott
Phone: (817) 599-9731

Parker FD

Chief: Mike Sheff
Phone: (972) 442-6811
Email: mark.b@acudata-inc.com

Pasadena FD

Chief: Lanny Armstrong
Phone: (713) 475-5554
Email: larmstrong@ci.pasadena.tx.us

Pattison Area VFD Inc.

Chief: Brian J. Diezi
Phone: (281) 934-3473
Email: pavfd@consolidated.net

Pattonville VFD

Chief: Edward Ring
Phone: (903) 652-5200
Email: cdowns@kcc.com

Payne Springs FD

Chief: Randy Harley
Phone: (903) 451-4511
Email: rharley719@embarqmail.com

Pearland FD

Chief: Jack Colbath
Phone: (281) 412-3096
Email: gturner@ci.pearland.tx.us

Pearsall FD

Chief: Placido Aguilar
Phone: (830) 334-2326
Email: pvfd@airspan.net

Peaster FD

Chief: Leo Scott
Phone: (817) 594-4551
Email: peaster_fire_rescue@hotmail.com

Pecan Creek VFD

Chief: Jesse Piatt
Phone: (325) 716-0659
Email: pcvfd@pecancreekvfd.org

Pecan Grove FD

Chief: Paul J. LeDoux
Phone: (281) 341-6677
Email: pgfd@live.com

Pecan Plantation FD

Chief: Dave Raffa
Phone: (817) 573-1643

Pedernales Emer Services Inc.

Chief: Kenneth E. Van Rens
Phone: (512) 264-1476
Email: training@pedernalesemergency.org

Pendleton Harbor FD

Chief: Marc Cummings
Phone: (409) 625-0523
Email: pendletonvfd@valornet.com

Peoria FD

Chief: Steven Lewis
Phone: (254) 582-9696

Perrin VFD

Chief: Eddie Francis
Phone: (940) 798-2255

Perryton FD

Chief: Paul Dutcher
Phone: (806) 435-3000

Perryville FD

Chief: Cloddie Henson
Phone: (903) 720-1366
Email: estherj@etex.net

Petersburg FD

Chief: Tommy J. Marquez
Phone: (806) 667-3461
Email: ptbgfd@windstream.net

Petrolia FD

Chief: Buddy Alexander
Phone: (940) 337-0313
Email: ems12afox@yahoo.com

Pflugerville FD

Chief: Ron Moellenberg
Phone: (512) 251-2801
Email: rmoellenberg@pflugervillefire.com

Pharr FD

Chief: Jaime R. Guzman
Phone: (956) 787-2761
Email: fireadministration@pharrfd.net

Pickton-Pine Forest VFD

Chief: Mark Sustaire
Phone: (903) 866-2611
Email: ppvfd@bluebonnet.net

Pilot Point FD

Chief: Calvin Allison
Phone: (940) 686-5038
Email: callison@ppfd.org

Pineland FD

Chief: Joseph Lane
Phone: (409) 584-1483
Email: lane@sabinenet.com

Pipe Creek VFD

Chief: Rick Martin
Phone: (830) 535-4511

Pittsburg FD

Chief: Carl Cravey
Phone: (903) 856-6392

Plains FD

Chief: Charles R. Diamond
Phone: (806) 456-2288

Plano FD

Chief: Hugo R. Esparza
Phone: (972) 941-7159

Pleasant Grove FD

Chief: Joel Moss
Phone: (903) 838-7123
Email: pg5chief@yahoo.com

Pleasanton FD

Chief: Charles E. 'Chuck' Garris
Phone: (830) 569-2813

Email: plezfire@2fastmail.com

Plum Grove VFD

Chief: Freddie Reed
Phone: (281) 689-8775
Email: plumgrovevfd1@aol.com

Point Blank VFD

Chief: David Boan
Phone: (936) 377-3025
Email: hwright@eastex.net

Point VFD

Chief: Robert Benjamin Ainsworth
Phone: (903) 598-2016
Email: pointvfd@yahoo.com

Ponder FD

Chief: Charles W. Williams
Phone: (940) 479-2488
Email: pvfd650@embarqmail.com

Ponderosa FD

Chief: Fred C. Windisch
Phone: (281) 444-8465

Poolville VFD

Chief: Lannie Fulton
Phone: (817) 523-2056
Email: poolvillevfd@yahoo.com

Port Aransas FD

Chief: Scott Mack
Phone: (361) 749-5214
Email: chris@chrisshanklin.com

Port Isabel FD

Chief: Daniel Marchan
Phone: (956) 943-3523
Email: rogarcia@copitx.com

Port Lavaca VFD

Chief: Anthony Cleve Calagna - Interim
Phone: (361) 552-3241

Port Mansfield VFD

Chief: John 'Whitey' Thompson
Phone: (956) 944-2575
Email: harbor@grandriver.net

Port Neches FD

Chief: Stephen L. Curran
Phone: (409) 722-5885
Email: lsingleton@ci.port-neches.tx.us

Porter FD

Chief: Jody Binnion
Phone: (281) 354-6666
Email: mail@porterfire.com

Post FD

Chief: Les Looney
Phone: (806) 495-2811
Email: gwhunter77@aol.com

Poth FD

Chief: Lawrence Jansky
Phone: (830) 484-3723
Email: iwantofly@yahoo.com

Potosi VFD

Chief: Aaron Maxwell
Phone: (325) 692-2662
Email: 1401@potosifiredepartment.com

Pottsboro FD

Chief: Donnie Glenn
Phone: (903) 786-2495

Powderly VFD

Chief: Roger Bussell
Phone: (903) 732-4488

Powelltown VFD

Chief: Danny Wilson
Phone: (409) 584-1563

Poynor VFD

Chief: Mark A. Craig
Phone: (903) 876-3990
Email: txtrailrider22@hotmail.com

Prairie Hill - Rocky Hill VFD

Chief: Doyle Dahmann
Phone: (979) 836-5134
Email: ddahmann@texasbb.com

Prairie View VFD

Chief: Frank D. Jackson
Phone: (936) 857-9522
Email: pvfd822@sbcglobal.net

Preston FD

Chief: Allen Vols
Phone: (903) 786-3010
Email: Firechief@totalnet.us

Primrose VFD

Chief: Thurman L. Lasater, Jr.
Phone: (830) 742-4800
Email: primrosevfd@att.net

Princeton FD

Chief: Michael Ray Woody
Phone: (972) 736-6668
Email: princetonfire@att.net

Pritchett FD

Chief: Charles Glenn
Phone: (903) 734-4746
Email: pritchettvfd@etex.net

Proctor VFD

Chief: Cliff Jackson
Phone: (254) 879-5609
Email: proctorvfd@yahoo.com

Promontory Park VFD

Chief: Keith Anderson
Phone: (254) 893-7556
Email: ppvfd08@cctc.net

Punkin Center VFD

Chief: Maxie Collins
Phone: (940) 495-4202

Punkin-Evergreen VFD

Chief: Allen Marcotte, Jr.
Phone: (936) 767-4662
Email: pevfd@eastex.net

Quail Creek VFD

Chief: Ron Kramer
Phone: (361) 578-0587

Quanah FD

Chief: Alan W Whitaker
Phone: (940) 663-2963
Email: alanwhitaker@yahoo.com

Quinlan VFD

Chief: Steve Bowen
Phone: (903) 356-2222

Quitman FD

Chief: David 'Scott' Wheeler
Phone: (903) 763-2221
Email: fire@quitmantx.org

Ralls FD

Chief: David Harris
Phone: (806) 253-3503

Randall County FD

Chief: James Amerson
Phone: (806) 358-9959

Randolph FD

Chief: Rodney Blackerby
Phone: (903) 227-5652
Email: chrissent@yahoo.com

Ranger FD

Chief: Darrell Fox
Phone: (254) 647-1505

Rankin FD

Chief: Tim Potter
Phone: (432) 693-2252
Email: runder36@sbcglobal.net

Ravenna VFD

Chief: Steve Hasten
Phone: (903) 583-5381
Email: ravennavfd@yahoo.com

Raymondville FD

Chief: Frank Torres
Phone: (956) 689-5456
Email: willems@prontonet.net

Red Oak Fire Rescue

Chief: Eric Thompson
Phone: (972) 617-2143
Email: ljohnson@redoaktx.org

Red Springs FD

Chief: Timothy M. Thompson
Phone: (903) 858-2412
Email: redspringsfire@hughes.net

Redwater FD
Chief: Douglas M. Harmon
Phone: (903) 671-2376
Email: dougharmon@redwaterfire.org

Refugio FD
Chief: Donald L. Pullin
Phone: (361) 526-2114

Rendon FD
Chief: Steven Dale Howerly
Phone: (817) 478-0221
Email: spowell@rendonfire.com

Reno FD
Chief: Mike Haynes
Phone: (817) 677-4227
Email: renofd@skywi.com

Reno Fire & Rescue
Chief: Hank Kimery
Phone: (903) 785-4502
Email: renofire@renotexas.us

Retreat VFD
Chief: Ron Bennett
Phone: (903) 872-5082
Email: station@retreatfire.org

Rhome FD
Chief: Robert Pratt
Phone: (817) 636-2001
Email: rhomefire@earthlink.net

Rice FD
Chief: Robert Slovak
Phone: (903) 875-8404
Email: rslovak@icountry.net

Richards VFD
Chief: Cort Norwood
Phone: (936) 851-2211
Email: joanfteer@hotmail.com

Richland VFD
Chief: Kenneth L. Guard
Phone: (903) 362-1944
Email: richlandvfd@gmail.com

Richmond FD
Chief: Stephen Noto
Phone: (281) 232-6871

Richwood FD
Chief: Adam Siera
Phone: (979) 265-2082
Email: richwoodfiredept@comcast.net

Riesel FD
Chief: David Minter Sr.
Phone: (254) 896-2201

Ringgold VFD
Chief: Jack Simpson
Phone: (940) 934-6317
Email: ringgoldvfd@yahoo.com

Rio Bravo Fire and Rescue
Chief: Eusebio Gomez
Phone: (956) 722-0600
Email: rebecca.trevino@ymail.com

Rio Grande City FD
Chief: Ricardo Reyes
Phone: (956) 487-5312

Rio Vista FD
Chief: James Underwood
Phone: (817) 373-2691

Rising Star FD
Chief: Josh Constancio
Phone: (325) 203-1478
Email: j335c73@aol.com

River Oaks FD
Chief: William J. Crews
Phone: (817) 626-3787
Email: danreno@gmail.com

River Plantation VFD
Chief: Randal Oliver
Phone: (936) 446-2900
Email: chief@rpfire.org

Rivercrest-Redland VFD
Chief: Roger Justus
Phone: (936) 632-6308

Rivers End FD
Chief: Albert E. Roth
Phone: (979) 964-4454
Email: aroth@brazoriainet.com

Riverside VFD
Chief: Jarrod G. 'Gabe' Johnson
Phone: (936) 594-2817
Email: riversidevfd@msn.com

Robert Lee FD
Chief: C. Mark Sides
Phone: (325) 453-2831
Email: robertleevfd@wtxs.net

Robinson FD
Chief: Gerald Groppe
Phone: (254) 662-3801
Email: robfire@swbell.net

Robstown FD
Chief: Ricardo Gonzalez
Email: rfd@cityofrobstown.com

Roby FD
Chief: Richard Paul 'Mickey' Kelly
Phone: (915) 776-2254

Rockdale FD
Chief: Warren Matous
Phone: (512) 760-5112

Rockport FD
Chief: Albert Howie
Phone: (361) 729-5392
Email: stpvision@yahoo.com

Rockwall FD
Chief: M. A. Poindexter
Phone: (972) 771-7770
Email: bmerritt@rockwall.com

Rocky Creek FD
Chief: Chad Schlabach
Phone: (903) 399-0049
Email: big_chad75@yahoo.com

Rogers VFD
Chief: Clarence H. Kelley
Phone: (254) 642-3312

Rolling Hills VFD
Chief: Mark Randall
Phone: (979) 412-0515
Email: rollinghillsvfd@yahoo.com

Rolling Oaks VFD
Chief: Perry R. DeBord
Phone: (903) 560-1941
Email: deborduldt@aol.com

Roma FD
Chief: Jose H. Garcia
Phone: (956) 849-1411 x237
Email: romafd@cityofroma.net

Rosebud FD
Chief: Donald Zipperlen
Phone: (254) 583-7926 city hall
Email: khensel@valornet.com

Rosehill FD
Chief: Thomas H. Shellenberger, Sr.
Phone: (281) 351-4548
Email: asstchief@rosehillfire.org

Rosenberg FD
Chief: Kathleen Hutchens
Phone: (832) 595-3600
Email: dwainu@ci.rosenberg.tx.us

Rosharon FD
Chief: Joseph Stepchinsky, Jr.
Phone: (281) 595-3730
Email: rosharonfire@airmail.net

Ross VFD
Chief: Larry Pilgrim
Phone: (254) 829-1994
Email: tbroom@cityoflewisville.com

Rosser VFD
Chief: Charles Orman
Phone: (972) 486-3001
Email: rosserfire@peoplepc.com

Rotan FD
Chief: Perry Thomson
Phone: (325) 735-2104
Email: rotanvfd@sbcglobal.net

Round Top-Warrenton VFD
Chief: Frankie Srubar
Phone: (979) 249-5577

Sabine VFD
Chief: Joe Johnston
Phone: (903) 986-1911

Sacul FD
Chief: Ken Garner
Phone: (409) 326-4672

Sadler VFD
Chief: Corgie Fisher
Phone: (903) 564-5277
Email: sadlervfd@yahoo.com

Saint Hedwig VFD
Chief: Lawrence Padalecki
Phone: (210) 667-1612

Saint Jo FD
Chief: Jerry Raymond
Phone: (940) 995-2464

Salado FD
Chief: Charles Young
Phone: (254) 947-5482

Salem FD
Chief: Gene Swonke
Phone: (979) 836-9091
Email: salemvfd@broadwaves.net

Salineno VFD
Chief: Antonio 'Tony' Moreno
Phone: (956) 848-5200

Salt Creek VFD
Chief: Kenneth J. Vise
Phone: (817) 523-3333
Email: saltcreekvfd@yahoo.com

Sam Bass VFD Inc.
Chief: David W. Kieschnick
Phone: (512) 255-0100
Email: bking@sambassfd.com

San Augustine FD
Chief: Charles Sharp
Phone: (936) 275-2121
Email: fire@qzip.net

San Diego VFD
Chief: Amando Tunchez
Phone: (361) 279-3321

San Felipe-Frydek FD
Chief: Johnny R. Hall
Phone: (979) 885-6835

San Juan FD
Chief: Tirso Garza
Phone: (956) 702-6400

San Saba VFD
Chief: James Jones
Phone: (325) 372-5544
Email: ssfire@centex.net

Sand Hills VFD
Chief: K. B. Hallmark, IV
Phone: (830) 372-5240

Sandia VFD
Chief: Henry Barajas
Phone: (361) 547-2454
Email: sandiah@yahoo.com

Sandy Oaks FD
Chief: Charles Metzger
Phone: (210) 621-2131
Email: chief_280@hotmail.com

Sanger FD
Chief: David Phillip Pennington
Phone: (940) 458-7595
Email: dpennington@sangertexas.org

Sansom Park FD
Chief: Steven J. Sanders
Phone: (817) 626-4200
Email: spfd2503@yahoo.com

Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
Chief: C. T. 'Tommy' Anderson
Phone: (409) 925-7331
Email: santafe@comcast.net

Santa Monica VFD
Chief: Ernesto Garcia
Phone: (956) 743-5586
Email: leg1947@grandriver.net

Santa Rosa VFD
Chief: Danny Theys
Phone: (956) 636-1323
Email: servantofchrist@att.net

Santo FD
Chief: Marvin Slimp
Phone: (940) 769-2891

Saratoga VFD
Chief: Gary Flowers
Phone: (936) 274-5759

Savoy FD
Chief: Johnnie Porter
Phone: (903) 965-7140
Email: savoyfirerescue@aol.com

Scenic Loop FD
Chief: Donald W. Marlow Jr.
Phone: (936) 967-4855
Email: slvdfirechief39@aol.com

Schroeder VFD
Chief: Wayne Petru
Phone: 361-2201101
Email: lormsby@infiniticorp.com

Schulenburg FD
Chief: Dennis Lebeda
Phone: (979) 743-3583
Email: svfd@txun.net

Seabrook FD
Chief: Raymond S. Cook
Phone: (281) 474-3434
Email: email@seabrookfd.com

Sealy FD
Chief: Jacob James
Phone: (979) 885-2222
Email: Contact@SealyFire.com

Sebastian VFD
Chief: Ernest G. Garcia
Phone: (956) 743-5322
Email: leg1947@grandriver.net

Seguin FD
Chief: Roger 'Scott' Mycuc
Phone: (830) 401-2310

Seminole FD
Chief: Bryan Reed
Phone: (432) 758-8818
Email: seminolefire@mywdo.com

Seymour FD
Chief: Randy Coltharp
Phone: (940) 889-3344

Shady Grove VFD
Chief: Billie Lilley
Email: drpepperkoyboy@aol.com

Shallowater FD
Chief: Mackie Buck
Phone: (806) 832-4521
Email: shallowaterfd@dtnspeed.net

Shamrock FD
Chief: Randy Tallant
Phone: (806) 256-3542
Email: barry@panhandlerecovery.com

Sheldon Community Vol Fire & Rescue
Chief: Sidney Webb, Jr.
Phone: (281) 458-1431

Shepherd VFD
Chief: Cynthia Nicklas
Phone: (936) 628-6566
Email: midnightmedusa@yahoo.com

Sherwood Shores FD
Chief: Ronald J. Blackwell
Phone: (903) 523-5034
Email: firedepartment@sherwoodshoresfd.org

Shiner FD
Chief: Emil J. Sembera
Phone: (512) 594-3362

Shiro VFD
Chief: Thomas Hardy
Phone: (936) 874-2700
Email: shawns@shirovfd.com

Silsbee FD
Chief: Billy Slaydon
Phone: (409) 790-1178
Email: bs601@aol.com

Silver Creek FD
Chief: Richard Adams
Phone: (817) 444-1196
Email: scvfd@citbroadband.com

Silverton FD
Chief: JoDee Robison
Phone: (806) 823-2125
Email: silvertonvfd@midplains.coop

Simms District VFD
Chief: Kenneth R. Campbell
Phone: (903) 543-2032
Email: sdvfd1@yahoo.com

Simpsonville VFD
Chief: Billy Crone
Phone: (903) 725-7777
Email: simpsvfd@etex.net

Sinton FD
Chief: Clemente Sanchez
Phone: (361) 364-2381
Email: sintonvfd@aol.com

Sipe Springs VFD
Chief: Edward Millwee
Phone: (254) 842-9779
Email: edmillwee@yahoo.com

Sisterdale FD
Chief: Ted Loeffler
Phone: (512) 324-6700

Six Mile VFD
Chief: Bob Morgan
Phone: (409) 579-3007

Skellytown FD
Chief: Clayton Lawrence White
Phone: (806) 848-2477
Email: skvfd@amaonline.com

Skidmore FD
Chief: Rick Bohac
Phone: (361) 287-3747

Department Listing - continued

- Slaton FD**
Chief: Joe R. Cook
Phone: (806) 828-2025
Email: slatonfd1@sbcglobal.net
- Smiley FD**
Chief: Billie Eger
Phone: (830) 587-6220
Email: smileytx@gvcc.net
- Smith Point VFD**
Chief: Tracy Woody
Phone: (409) 355-2202
Email: jodifen@aol.com
- Snook FD**
Chief: Jeffrey Allen Paul
Phone: (979) 272-1409
- Snyder FD**
Chief: Perry Westmoreland
Phone: (325) 573-6215
- Somerset VFD**
Chief: Eddie DuGosh, Jr.
Phone: (830) 429-1243
Email: sfdchief@yahoo.com
- Sonora FD**
Chief: Rick Cearly
Phone: (325) 387-2428
Email: sonoravfd2003@yahoo.com
- Sour Lake VFD**
Chief: Eugene Griffin
Phone: (409) 287-3062
Email: slfirefighter44@yahoo.com
- South Brazos County FD**
Chief: Emily Staples
Phone: (936) 825-6960
Email: SBCFD@iolbv.com
- South Hays FD Inc.**
Chief: David Smith
Phone: (512) 878-0352
Email: chief@southhaysfire.com
- South Houston FD**
Chief: Jesus M. 'Jesse' Garcia, Jr.
Phone: (713) 947-7700
- South Nacogdoches County FD**
Chief: George Millard, III
Phone: (936) 556-2338
Email: snbfd@live.com
- South Padre Island FD**
Chief: Juan V. Loya
Phone: (956) 761-6456
- South Polk County FD**
Chief: Richard I. Tullios
Phone: (936) 685-7115
Email: spcvfd@eastex.net
- South Van Zandt VFD**
Chief: Heath Morris
Phone: (903) 479-3300
- Southeast Caldwell County VFD**
Chief: Jim Bob Murray
Phone: (830) 875-6003
- Southeast FD**
Chief: Chuck Tylka
Phone: (281) 485-7576
Email: sherrisvfd@yahoo.com
- Southern Brooks VFD**
Chief: Pedro Rodriguez
Phone: (361) 568-3685
- Southern Oaks VFD**
Chief: Lee Largent
Phone: (903) 389-4225
- Southside Place FD**
Chief: Michael A. Pack
Phone: (713) 668-2341
Email: sffma@spfd.org
- Southwest Bell County FD**
Chief: Joseph Bailey
Phone: (254) 526-4500
Email: dennis.manewal@baesystems.com
- Spearman FD**
Chief: John Kunselman
Phone: (806) 659-5511
Email: svfd@antden.com
- Splendor VFD**
Chief: Virgil Ray Vaden
Phone: (281) 689-9600
Email: rvaden@splendorafire.com
- Spring Branch FD**
Chief: Eran Denzler
Phone: (830) 885-7151
Email: edenzler-sbvfd@gvtc.com
- Spring Creek VFD**
Chief: Dusty Benthall
Email: dabenthall@aol.com
- Spring VFD**
Chief: Alan Lankford
Phone: (281) 355-1266
Email: rlogan@springfd.com
- Springlake VFD**
Chief: Keith Clayton
Phone: (806) 986-4274
- Springtown FD**
Chief: Jason Hinton
Phone: (817) 523-7598
Email: jcrook@pcesd1.org
- Spurger VFD**
Chief: Ellis Jones
Phone: (409) 429-5339
Email: spurgerfiredept@sbcglobal.net
- Stafford FD**
Chief: Lawrence 'Larry' Di Camillo
Phone: (281) 543-1610
Email: staffordfiretraining@yahoo.com
- Stamford FD**
Chief: Alan Plumlee
Phone: (325) 773-2626
Email: stamfordfire@stamfordfd.com
- Star FD**
Chief: Ed Sanders
Phone: (915) 948-3255
- Steele Creek Acres VFD**
Chief: Bryan Busby
Email: scavfdfirerescue@yahoo.com
- Stephenville FD**
Chief: Steve E. Thomas
Phone: (254) 918-1277
Email: office@billsawnmowershop.com
- Stillhouse VFD**
Chief: Dale Hammerschmidt
Phone: (254) 933-2302
Email: dale.hammerschmidt@yahoo.com
- Stinnett VFD**
Chief: Alan W. Wells
Phone: (806) 878-2422
Email: awwells@sbcglobal.net
- Stockdale FD**
Chief: Edwin Baker
Phone: (830) 996-1383
Email: chiefsfd4100@gmail.com
- Stonewall FD**
Chief:
Phone: (512) 644-5574
- Streetman FD**
Chief: Bret Carroll
Phone: (903) 599-1165
Email: streetmanfire@yahoo.com
- Sudan FD**
Chief: Mike Hill
Phone: (806) 227-2112
Email: sudanfde@sbcglobal.net
- Sugar Hill VFD**
Chief: Gerald 'Jerry' Clark
Email: michelle@peoplescom.net
- Sunnyvale FD**
Chief: Joe Plumlee
Phone: (972) 203-0314
Email: japlumlee@gmail.com
- Sunset FD**
Chief: Alan Campbell
Phone: (940) 845-2015
Email: sunsetfiredept@aol.com
- Surfside Beach FD**
Chief: Donald R. 'Pete' David
Phone: (979) 233-5926
Email: surfsidebeachvfd@yahoo.com
- Sweeny Fire & Rescue**
Chief: Timothy D. Webb, Sr.
Phone: (979) 548-3320
- Taft FD**
Chief: Dan Gibson
Phone: (361) 528-3512
Email: wchilders@cityoftaft.net
- Tahoka FD**
Chief: Steve Sanders
Phone: (806) 561-4211
- Tanglewood VFD**
Chief: Marty Lucas
Phone: (512) 446-0485
- Tarkington VFD**
Chief: Paul Gregory
Phone: (281) 592-7800
Email: tarkingtonvfd@sbcglobal.net
- Tatum FD**
Chief: Rayford Gibson
Phone: (903) 947-2217
Email: tatumfire@tatumtel.net
- Tawakoni South VFD**
Chief: Andy Oxford
Phone: (903) 656-0141
- TEEX-ESTI**
Chief: Les Bunte
Phone: (979) 458-6800
- Telephone VFD**
Chief: James Skidmore
Phone: (903) 644-2140
Email: rebeccashirley29@yahoo.com
- Telico VFD**
Chief: Van Fowler
Phone: (972) 878-2083
Email: erik.ludwig@txdps.state.us
- Temple FD**
Chief: Lonzo Wallace, Jr.
Phone: (254) 298-5682
- Tennessee Colony FD**
Chief: Edward Crockett
Phone: (903) 928-2940
Email: shawn@tcvfd.org
- Terlingua Fire & EMS Inc.**
Chief: Greg P. Henington
Phone: (432) 371-2633
Email: greg@ffoc.net
- Terrell FD**
Chief: Jim Harper
Phone: (972) 551-6651
Email: jharper@cityofterrell.org
- Terrell VFD**
Chief: Donald L. Lindsey Jr.
Phone: (972) 551-2727
Email: terrellvfd@yahoo.com
- Texas City FD**
Chief: Joseph A. Gorman
Phone: (409) 643-5700
Email: ggrimm@texas-city-tx.org
- Texas Forest Service**
Chief: Mark Stanford
Phone: (979) 458-6507
Email: rmcdonald@tfs.tamu.edu
- Texas Pipe Works FD**
Chief: Christian Kehl
Phone: (936) 825-6571
- Texline FD**
Chief: Ray Eads
Phone: (806) 362-4801
Email: texline@xit.net
- The Colony FD**
Chief: Mike Nolen
Phone: (972) 625-3944
Email: tcfire1@aol.com
- The Woodlands FD**
Chief: Alan Benson
Phone: (281) 367-3444
Email: abenson@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov
- Thomas Lake Rd VFD**
Chief: Rick Gibson
Phone: (936) 594-6459
Email: rlgibson@windstream.net
- Thorndale FD**
Chief: Eric K. Melde
Phone: (512) 898-2523
Email: hub.tvfd@yahoo.com
- Thunderbird VFD**
Chief: Donald Mays
Phone: (903) 856-2080
- Tigtown VFD**
Chief: Jerry Hale
Phone: (903) 739-2198
- Timber Lakes VFD**
Chief: Keith B. Eagerton
Phone: (281) 367-0373
- Timbercreek Canyon FD**
Chief: Eddie Wood
Phone: (806) 622-3936
Email: timbercreekcanyonvfd@hotmail.com
- Tin Top FD**
Chief: Walter Kent 'Beau' Morgan, Jr.
Phone: (817) 596-8684
Email: beau-morgan@sbcglobal.net
- Tivoli FD**
Chief: Arnulfo Perez
Phone: (512) 286-3826
- Tolar FD**
Chief: Matt Hutsell
Phone: (254) 835-4334
Email: tolarvfd@windstream.net
- Tom Bean VFD**
Chief: James Dixon
Phone: (903) 821-6161
Email: tombeanfire@hotmail.com
- Tomball FD**
Chief: Randall F. Parr
Phone: (281) 351-7101
Email: rparr@ci.tomball.tx.us
- Travis County ESD #3**
Chief: Gary Warren
Phone: (512) 288-5534
- Travis County ESD #4 / Fire Control**
Chief: Florencio D. Soliz III
Phone: (512) 836-7566
Email: TCFESD4@austin.rr.com
- Travis County ESD #6 / Lake Travis F/R**
Chief: James Linardos
Phone: (512) 266-2533
Email: jlinardos@hbfcd.net
- Travis County ESD #9**
Chief: Gary Warren
Phone: (512) 327-9405
- Trent FD**
Chief: Ray King
Email: trentvfd@aol.com
- Trenton VFD**
Chief: C. J. Fillingham
Phone: (903) 821-7912
Email: bparsons@raytheon.com
- Tri-Community FD**
Chief: Vandie Smith
Phone: (409) 423-3717
Email: vandie_s@yahoo.com
- Tri-County FD**
Chief: Freddy Williams
Phone: (936) 372-3420
Email: ghrich410@msn.com
- Tri-Lakes FD**
Chief: Jerry Ward
Phone: (903) 577-3900
Email: trilakesvfd@yahoo.com
- Trinidad FD**
Chief: Arthur Arnold
Phone: (972) 778-2525
- Trinity FD**
Chief: Wilson 'Hayne' Huffman
Phone: (936) 594-2505
Email: swomack@cityoftrinity.com
- Trophy Club FD**
Chief: Danny L. Thomas
Phone: (817) 831-4630
Email: dthomas@trophyclub.org
- Troup FD**
Chief: Tim Mager
Phone: (903) 842-4900
Email: troupvfd@embarqmail.com
- Tulia FD**
Chief: Johnny Daniels
Phone: (806) 995-2112
Email: tuliafiredept@cebridge.net
- Turnersville VFD**
Chief: Allan Phillip Thompson, II
Phone: (254) 494-1111
Email: turnersvillevfd@yahoo.com
- Uncertain VFD**
Chief: Fred Petersen
Phone: 903-789-3443
- Union Valley FD**
Chief: Edward Ragsdale
Phone: (972) 635-9715
Email: uvvfd704@yahoo.com
- USAA Emergency Response Team**
Chief: Richard S. McAlister
Phone: (210) 913-3120
Email: michael.johnson@usaa.com
- Utopia VFD Inc.**
Chief: Jordan E. Rutherford
Phone: (830) 796-5636
- Uvalde FD**
Chief: Gene Ayala
Phone: (830) 278-3334
Email: todd@roadrunner-energy.com
- Val Verde County Rural VFD**
Chief: Jerry Lee Rust
Phone: (830) 774-7640
Email: valverdecountyfire@stx.rr.com

Valley Mills FD

Chief: David Fisk
Phone: (254) 932-6146

Valley View FD

Chief: Wayne Smith
Phone: (940) 902-0545

Van Alstyne FD

Chief: Frank Baker
Phone: (903) 482-6222
Email: fbaker@ci.van-alstyne.tx.us

Van FD

Chief: Benjamin 'Jeff' Hudgens
Phone: (903) 963-7744

Van Vleck FD

Chief: Meredith Keelan
Phone: (979) 245-4400
Email: mkeelan@vvisd.org

Van Zandt County Midway VFD

Chief: Stan Richardson
Phone: (903) 852-7414
Email: midwayvfd7414@aol.com

Vanderpool VFD

Chief: Doug King
Phone: (830) 966-5500
Email: dking@swtexas.net

Vashti FD

Chief: Kenneth Liggett
Phone: (940) 928-2548

Venus VFD

Chief: Richard L. Allen
Phone: (972) 366-8406
Email: venusfireescue@aol.com

Vernon Fire/EMS

Chief: Thomas 'Kent' Smead
Phone: (940) 553-1782
Email: ksmead@vernontx.gov

Victoria County FD

Chief: Ronald W. Pray
Phone: (361) 579-9103
Email: cbonuz@vctx.org

View VFD

Chief: Lanham 'Ricky' Bishop
Phone: (325) 690-9465
Email: bishop906@hotmail.com

Village FD

Chief: Anthony C. Calagna
Phone: (713) 468-7941

Village of Pleak FD

Chief: Jimmie J. Dean
Phone: (281) 342-3692
Email: pleakvfd@yahoo.com

Volente FD

Chief: Walter Groman
Phone: (512) 258-1114
Email: wgroman@vdfd.net

Waco FD

Chief: John D. Johnston
Phone: (254) 750-1740

Wadsworth FD

Chief: Kim Abshier
Phone: (979) 245-1988
Email: kim.o.abshier@conocophillips.com

Waelder FD

Chief: Adam Ibarra
Phone: (830) 788-7331

Wall VFD

Chief: S. Deen Dickson
Phone: (325) 223-6886
Email: david.mcintyre@txdps.state.tx.us

Waller VFD

Chief: Gene Schmidt
Phone: (936) 372-9512

Wallis FD

Chief: Clay Engelbrecht
Phone: (979) 885-9990

Warren Community VFD

Chief: Ryan Knott
Phone: (409) 547-3162
Email: vfdwarren@att.net

Washburn Community VFD

Chief: Jerry Johnson
Phone: (806) 335-3256

Waskom VFD/EMS Services Inc.

Chief: James 'Murf' King
Phone: (903) 687-3328
Email: wvfd@waskomvfd.org

Watauga Fire/EMS

Chief: Bill Crawford
Phone: (817) 514-5870
Email: ewalsh@cowtx.org

Waxahachie Rural FD/ Ellis County ESD #6

Chief: James H. Garibay
Phone: (972) 937-4302
Email: jamesgaribay@sbcglobal.net

Wayland VFD

Chief: Cecil Ramsaier
Phone: (254) 433-2177
Email: waylandvfd@yahoo.com

Webster FD

Chief: Jamie Galloway
Phone: (281) 316-3730
Email: ichapa@websterfd.com

Weimar FD

Chief: Paul Billeck
Phone: (979) 725-8400

Weir FD

Chief: W. C. Frymire
Phone: (512) 869-0464
Email: mail@weirfd.com

Wellington FD

Chief: Kevin K. Hamby
Phone: (806) 447-2242
Email: hudsontommy@hotmail.com

Weslaco FD

Chief: Arturo F. Avila
Phone: (956) 447-3415
Email: weslacofd@weslacotx.gov

West Carlisle FD

Chief: Tim Smith
Phone: (806) 797-0412
Email: smith@door.net

West Columbia FD

Chief: Jimmy Chafin
Phone: (979) 345-3416
Email: wcvfdchief@hotmail.com

West FD

Chief:
Phone: (254) 826-5742

West Harrison FD

Chief: Duane Nolen
Phone: (903) 758-4400
Email: whfdstation1@gmail.com

West I-10 FD

Chief: James Dillon
Phone: (281) 675-3600
Email: dustynik@westi-10fd.org

West Lake Limestone VFD

Chief: David Nobles
Phone: (254) 729-2857

West Mountain FD

Chief: Richard A. Killian
Phone: (903) 399-8347
Email: kthy_hedge@yahoo.com

West Orange VFD

Chief: Randy Veitch
Phone: (409) 883-3468
Email: fire@cityofwestorange.com

West Shelby County VFD

Chief: Jerryl F. Adams
Phone: (936) 598-3918

West Tawakoni FD

Chief: Randy Dumire
Phone: (903) 447-3644
Email: westtawakonifd@yahoo.com

West Valley VFD

Chief: William Adler
Phone: (915) 886-2323
Email: chiefsmith@wvfd.info

Westfield Road FD

Chief: Maurine Turrentine
Phone: (281) 442-6505

Westlake Community VFD

Chief: Willard 'J. R.' Ungles
Phone: 936-258-7508
Email: westlake395@suddenlink.net

Westlake FD - Katy

Chief: Mark Palmer
Phone: (281) 492-0560
Email: capt7115@yahoo.com

Westminster FD

Chief: Sam Geer
Phone: (972) 924-2626
Email: sdgeer01@aol.com

Weston VFD, Inc.

Chief: Shain Hunn
Phone: (972) 382-4219

Westside FD (Chandler)

Chief: James 'Doug' Nicholson
Phone: (903) 849-3444
Email: mrfirenut@nctv.com

Westside FD (Palestine)

Chief: Kyle Betterton
Phone: (903) 729-5701
Email: kh10625@hotmail.com

Westworth Village FD

Chief: Don Day
Phone: (817) 738-1708

Wharton FD

Chief: Bobby Barnett
Phone: (979) 532-4811 x601
Email: info@whartonfire.com

Wheeler FD

Chief: Robert Ford
Phone: (806) 826-3777
Email: wvfd5@hotmail.com

Wheelock VFD

Chief: Danny Tarver
Phone: (979) 828-2163

White Bluff VFD

Chief: Robert Kruse
Phone: (254) 694-4357
Email: wbvfd@valornet.com

White Deer FD

Chief: Terry G. Sargent
Phone: (806) 883-4191
Email: wdvfd@arn.net

Whiteface FD

Chief: Harold Harrison
Phone: (806) 287-3381

Whitehouse FD

Chief: Ronny Fite
Phone: (903) 839-2884

Whitesboro FD

Chief: Kevin Walton
Phone: (903) 564-9735

Whitewright FD

Chief: Thomas Duevel
Phone: (903) 364-5374
Email: chief@whitewrightfire.com

Whitney FD

Chief: Jeffrey D. Moore
Phone: (254) 694-2444
Email: wfd2501chief@yahoo.com

Whitton-Rural VFD Inc.

Chief: David Fretwell
Phone: (903) 848-0260

Wichita East FD

Chief: Derrell R. Barrett
Phone: (940) 767-5519
Email: wvfd@yahoo.com

Wichita Falls FD

Chief: Earl B. Foster
Phone: (940) 761-7901

Wichita West FD

Chief: Douglas Wooster
Phone: (940) 692-1981
Email: lbourgoin@wichitawestfd.org

Wickett FD

Chief: Norman Luckie
Phone: (915) 943-6765
Email: normanluckie@yahoo.com

Wild Peach FD

Chief: Charles N. 'Chuck' Richardson
Phone: (979) 798-2351
Email: wpvfd@earthlink.net

Williamson County ESD #4

Chief: Bruce A. Watson
Phone: (512) 515-5165
Email: info@libertyhillfire.org

Willow City Vol Fire & Rescue Inc.

Chief: Stanley D. Rabke
Phone: (830) 685-3376
Email: wcvfr@ctesc.net

Willow Park FD

Chief: James Witherow
Phone: (817) 441-8020
Email: willowparkfire@gmail.com

Wills Point FD

Chief: Collin Blasingame
Phone: (903) 873-3011
Email: WillsPointFD@aol.com

Wilmer FD

Chief: Marcus Smith
Phone: (972) 441-3331
Email: wfd413@gmail.com

Wilson VFD

Chief: Curtis Gicklhorn
Phone: (806) 628-6221

Wimberley FD

Chief: Carroll L. Czichos
Phone: (512) 847-3536
Email: training@wimberleyfire.com

Winchester Area VFD

Chief: Jonathan 'Bruce' Ellison
Phone: (979) 242-3173
Email: winchestervfd@hotmail.com

Windcrest FD

Chief: Daniel Reese
Phone: (210) 599-6007
Email: wvfd@ci.windcrest.tx.us

Windthorst FD

Chief: Pete Wolf
Phone: (940) 423-6711
Email: pdwolf@comcell.net

Winfield VFD

Chief: Mike Henson
Phone: (903) 524-2705
Email: mhenson3@yahoo.com

Wink FD

Chief: James 'Robbie' Wolf
Phone: (915) 527-3333
Email: wvinkvfd@sbcglobal.net

Winnie-Stowell VFD

Chief: Lenard Truman Bettis, Jr.
Phone: (409) 296-4133
Email: wfsdchief@windstream.net

Winnboro VFD

Chief: Tommy Carden
Phone: (903) 342-5001

Winona FD

Chief: Nelson Brumley
Phone: (903) 877-3711
Email: wvfd@winonatexas.com

Winters FD

Chief: Mark Bridgeman
Phone: (325) 754-4424

Wise County Sand Flat VFD

Chief: Foy E. Mitchell
Phone: (940) 644-5975
Email: sandflat@wccs.net

Woden VFD

Chief: Rickey Jones
Phone: (806) 564-4881
Email: wodenvfd@sbcglobal.net

Wolfforth FD

Chief: Dr. Charles Addington, II
Phone: (806) 743-9418
Email: mhenricks@mylubbock.us

Woodlawn FD

Chief: Don Dowdell
Phone: (903) 935-3582
Email: doodle@mcc4u.com

Woodrow FD

Chief: Wesley Boone
Phone: (806) 745-3658
Email: woodrowvfd@yahoo.com

Woods VFD

Chief: Jason Pitts
Phone: (936) 248-5015

Woodsboro VFD

Chief: Lee Riemenschneider
Phone: (361) 543-4811

Woodway Public Safety Dept

Chief: Y. A. Zakhary
Phone: (254) 772-4470
Email: rsmith@hot.rr.com

Yancey VFD

Chief: Mark Blythe
Phone: (830) 426-5346
Email: mjbylthe@cps-satx.com

Yantis VFD

Chief: W. Wesley Crist
Phone: (903) 383-7148
Email: yvfd@peoplescom.net

Yoakum FD

Chief: Phillip R. Baker
Phone: (361) 293-5125
Email: firestation@cityofyoakum.org

Yorktown FD

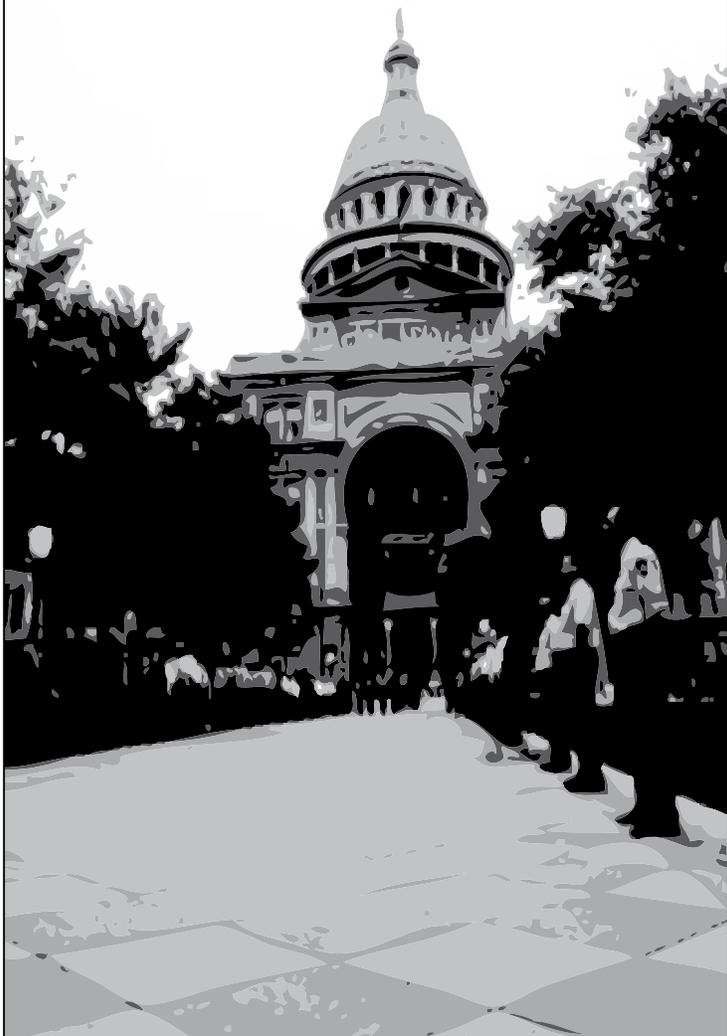
Chief: Darryl Borth
Phone: (361) 564-3564

Zapata County FD

Chief: Juan J. Meza
Phone: (956) 765-9942

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March 23, 2011

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STARTING WITH THE END IN MIND

by Fred Hart, Jr. Fire Chief DeSoto Fire Rescue

In the game of life we are all moving from point A to point B. If we begin life at point A then we will someday get to point B. One can choose to be an active participant in the process or choose to be acted upon by the events of life itself. In their book, *Getting Results through Individual and Organizational Accountability: The Oz Principle*, Roger Connors, Tom Smith and Craig Hickman suggest, "A society of observers is not a society of participants, If you sit on the sidelines watching 'the game of your life' play out before your eyes, you relinquish your ability to affect the final score, just as much as a spectator watching a football game from the bleachers." This suggests that each of us has within us the ability to model the outcome of our future. To model one's fire service career, one must first accept ownership and accountability for one's actions or failure to act and plan.

In his DVD video, *21st Century Leadership*, Don Hutson suggests that there are two types of self image: present and projected. The present self image is where we are today and how we feel about ourselves. The projected self image is what we take into the future. Or in simpler terms, where do we see ourselves in five, ten, fifteen or twenty years or more.

For a brand new employee, it may be hard to see past that first year and the goals may be as simple as successfully completing fire recruit training, completing emergency medical technician training, paramedic school and probation. These are all important goals, but too often some think that once these objectives have been completed, it is time to sit back and enjoy the years until retirement.

Failure to be motivated to plan beyond that first year leaves one vulnerable to be acted upon by many external forces outside of ones personal control. So how do you stay off of the bench (on the sidelines) or worse in the bleachers? You must determine what a successful career is to you personally, then develop and implement the plan.

I would suggest that you consider these elements in your plan: certifications, degrees, certificate programs and promotions. Each represents a degree of accomplishment and a step forward. The rewards, beyond self-satisfaction, may not be evident at first. However, each accomplishment plays into the overall success of your long term plan.

Certifications (both fire and emergency medical) represent a degree of professional development and commitment. You have got to get that basic certificate, but have you given any thought about what certification levels are available beyond the basic? What are the requirements for advanced levels of certification? How quick can I obtain the next level? Is there a monetary value attached to the certification?

There are some fire departments that are now requiring an associates degree as a prerequisite for employment, or at a minimum a set number of college hours. College degrees are recognized by fire as well as police certification agencies, as accomplishments worthy of credit toward advanced levels of certification. Today it is common to see a minimum requirement of a bachelor's degree for the position of fire chief. Many colleges and universities now offer online degrees. With the convenience of online training, it is harder to sell the old excuse of "I don't have time".

Certificate programs are a great way to increase one's knowledge. The National Fire Academy offers officer development training that is cost effective and some of the best training offered anywhere. On the State and local level, training opportunities are more abundant than ever. You don't have to wait for your department to send you to training; place some of the responsibility upon yourself.

Promotions allow a person to grow by taking on responsibility. This forces one to expand their knowledge as they take on new duties and responsibilities. If one's desire to promote continues throughout one's career, there is continuous self-improvement and expanded opportunities for future growth. Failure to take advantage of promotional opportunities will over the years limit ones career options.

Start now by putting your plan in writing. Use the plan as a check off list to track your progress toward your objectives. The years fly by quickly so stay focused on your target. Take time to celebrate your successes along the way and then get back to the business at hand. One thing is for certain.... time waits on no one. If you fail to plan, be content with your future. You are only a victim if you choose to be. I will close with a question taken from *The Oz Principle*, "Which would you rather be: someone who makes things happen, someone who watches things happen, someone who wonders what happened, or someone who never knew anything happened?"



State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

for the latest version of committee rosters please visit www.sffma.org

Texas A&M Advisory Board

Keith Russell

Eastman Chemical Co
PO Box 7444
Longview, TX 75607-7444

Member

Work: (903) 237-6689
Fax: (903) 237-6678
Email: krussell@eastman.com

Deloss Edwards

4733 Catclaw Dr
Abilene, TX 79606-3217

Member

Work: (325) 695-5133
Home: (325) 695-5133
Email: deloss36@hotmail.com

Bob Looney

220 Juniper St
Mansfield, TX 76063-1815

Member

Home: (817) 473-1182
Email: palintex@yahoo.com

Patrick Hlavaty

El Campo FD
2012 Wilson Rd
El Campo, TX 77437-9500

Member

Work: (979) 543-6441
Home: (979) 543-9483
Fax: (979) 541-6599
Email: pat.helen@sbcglobal.net

Executive Board of Directors

Bryan Rickert

Carthage FD
142 County Road 2791
Carthage, TX 75633

President

Work: (903) 693-0119
Home: (903) 693-4855
Fax: (903) 693-0148
Email: brickert@sffma.org

Rex Klesel

Alvin FD
3537 County Road 326
Alvin, TX 77511-1564

1st Vice President

Work: (281) 331-7688
Home: (281) 331-9465
Fax: (281) 331-9713
Email: rklesel@sffma.org

David Wade

Deer Park VFD
3018 Eileen St
Deer Park, TX 77536-5022

2nd Vice President

Work: (281) 478-7281
Home: (281) 479-7941
Fax: (281) 478-7289
Email: dwade@sffma.org

Bill Gardner

Leander FD
PO Box 319
Leander, TX 78646-0319

3rd Vice President

Work: (512) 528-1664
Home: (512) 258-0188
Email: bgardner@sffma.org

Rusty Kattner

Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
680 Fountain View Ln
League City, TX 77573-1971

4th Vice President

Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (281) 554-8468
Fax: (409) 925-7330
Email: rkattner@sffma.org

Joe Ondrasek

Brazos County Pct #4 FD
5572 Caroline Dr
Bryan, TX 77807-7806

Secretary

Work: (979) 775-0194
Home: (979) 822-6162
Fax: (979) 775-0123
Email: jondrasek@sffma.org

F. Jim White

Overton FD
304 Mundy St.
Overton, TX 75684-1734

Assistant Secretary

Home: (903) 834-3457
Email: jwhite@sffma.org

Ben Kennedy

TEEX - ESTI
301 Tarrow (Texas A & M University)
College Station, TX 77842-1859

Chaplain

Work: (979) 458-6800
Home: (979) 774-0819
Email: bkennedy@sffma.org

Kent Watts, Jr.

Southeast Caldwell County FD
303 E Bowie St
Luling, TX 78648-2905

Past President

Work: (830) 875-9239
Home: (830) 445-1055
Fax: (830) 875-9239
Email: kwatts@sffma.org

Chris Barron

SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trl
Austin, TX 78745-1514

Executive Director

Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876
Email: cbarron@sffma.org

Bryce Rickert

142 Country Road 2791
Carthage, TX 75633-6150

Mascot

Home: (903) 693-4855
Email: brickertmascot@sffma.org

Rayford W. Gibson

Tatum FD
PO Box 774
Tatum, TX 75691-0774

Board Parliamentarian

Work: (903) 947-2217
Home: (903) 947-2831
Fax: (903) 947-2217
Email: rgibson@sffma.org

Building & Land Committee

Executive Board Liaison

SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trl
Austin, TX 78745-1514

Executive Board Liaison

Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876

Carl T. Anderson

Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
12150 14th St
Santa Fe, TX 77510-2140

Past President

Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (409) 925-5434
Fax: (409) 925-7330
Email: fdchief700@comcast.net

Shawn Snider

Edinburg FD
2804 Chateau St.
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057

Past President

Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 380-1357
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: ssnider@ci.edinburg.tx.us

Donnie Pickard

Ovilla FD
307 E University St
Ovilla, TX 75154-3401

Past President

Work: (972) 617-7375
Home: (972) 617-2498
Fax: (972) 617-5793
Email: dpickard@ovillafire.org

Dallas Renfrew

TEEX-ESTI
1595 Nuclear Science Rd
College Station, TX 77843-0001
tamu.edu

Past President

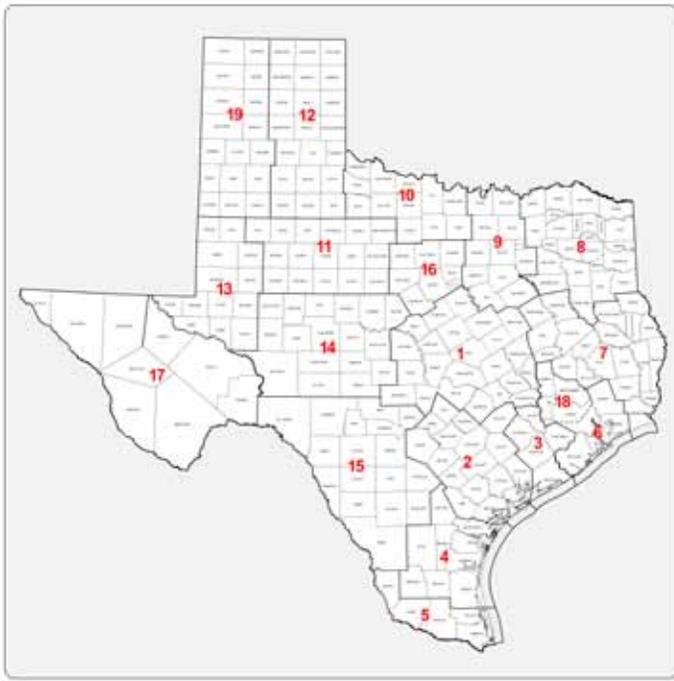
Work: (979) 458-6800
Home: (979) 324-6089
Email: Dallas.Renfrew@teexmail.tamu.edu

Chris Barron

SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trl
Austin, TX 78745-1514
Fax: (512) 453-1876

Executive Director

Work: (512) 454-3473
Austin, TX 78745-1514
Email: cbarron@sffma.org



Certification Board

Donnie Pickard

Ovilla FD
307 E University St
Ovilla, TX 75154-3401

F. Jim White

Overton FD
304 E Mundy St
Overton, TX 75684-1734

Barry Fuhrken

Bishop FD
400 E 2nd St
Bishop, TX 78343-2235

Doug Baker

West I-10 FD
4414 Bunting Meadow Dr
Katy, TX 77449-5511

Brian Q. Scheffer

Brenham FD
5315 FM 1457
Round Top, TX 78954-5017

Donald Pullin

Refugio FD
PO Box 398
Refugio, TX 78377-0398

Peter Marcinkiewicz

Cat Spring VFD
11438 Newberg Rd
Cat Spring, TX 78933-5183

Shawn Snider

Edinburg FD
2804 Chateau St
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057

Chairman/ Zone 9

Work: (972) 617-7375
Home: (972) 617-2498
Fax: (972) 617-5793
Email: dpickard@ovillafire.org

Vice Chairman/Zone 8

Home: (903) 834-3457
Email: jwhite@sffma.org

Secretary/Zone 4

Work: (361) 584-6828
Home: (361) 584-3206
Fax: (361) 584-6168
Email: BFuhrken@stx.rr.com

Asst Secretary/Zone 18

Work: (281) 675-3601
Home: (281) 345-1912
Fax: (281) 675-3610
Email: bakerzone18@comcast.net

Zone 1

Work: (979) 337-7300
Home: (979) 836-9855
Fax: (979) 337-7311
Email: bscheffer@ci.brenham.tx.us

Zone 2

Work: (361) 526-2114
Home: (361) 526-2119
Fax: (361) 526-2222
Email: kelleybarbara90@yahoo.com

Zone 3

Work: (979) 865-2213
Home: (979) 530-8992
Fax: (979) 865-8206
Email: frankmarcinkiewicz@yahoo.com

Zone 5

Work: (956) 292-2001
Cell: (956) 605-0760
Fax: (956) 289-1853
Email: ssnider@sffma.org

Gary Williams

Pasadena FD
4302 Blind River Dr
Pasadena, TX 77504-3118

Vacant

Douglas Page

Bowie FD
203 Walnut St
Bowie, TX 76230-4840

John Clay Deatherage

Hawley FD
3709 US Highway 180 E
Anson, TX 79501-2807

Randy Finsterwald

Mobeetie VFD
PO Box 1123
Wheeler, TX 79096-1123

Arthur Watson

Rankin FD
PO Box 421
Rankin, TX 79778-0421

Brent Wayne Allen

Ballinger FD
PO Box 227
Ballinger, TX 76821-0227

Scott Garris

Pleasanton FD
114 W Adams St.
Pleasanton, TX 78064-3502

John Burgoyne

Greenwood Rural VFD
307 Llano Rd
Weatherford, TX 76088-8413

Paul Loeffler

Fort Davis FD
PO Box 1407
Alpine, TX 79831-1407

Dean Turney

Hereford FD
515 Willow Ln
Hereford, TX 79045-0252

Scott Matthews

TEEX-ESTI
757 Summerwood Dr
New Braunfels, TX 78130-3626

Mark Wobus

Texas Forest Service
PO Box 252
LaGrange, TX 78945-0252

Kevin Creamer

SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trail
Austin, TX 78745-1514

Joyce Stein

SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trail
Austin, TX 78745-1514

Zone 6

Work: (713) 475-5554
Home: (281) 487-8483
Email: gary3473@att.net

Zone 7

Zone 10

Work: (940) 872-2122
Home: (940) 872-3434
Fax: (940) 872-6544
Email: bowiefire@cityofbowietx.com

Zone 11

Work: (325) 537-2839
Home: (325) 823-3614
Fax: (325) 537-2839

Zone 12

Work: (806) 845-2453
Home: (806) 886-7156
Fax: (806) 845-2115
Email: rfinsterwald@hotmail.com

Zone 13

Work: (432) 693-2252
Home: (432) 693-2167
Fax: (432) 693-2303

Zone 14

Work: (325) 365-5137
Home: (325) 365-3907
Email: ballen@ballingerfd.com

Zone 15

Work: (830) 569-2813
Home: (830) 570-9880
Fax: (830) 569-2813
Email: scottgarris@rescueteam.com

Zone 16

Work: (817) 341-3473
Home: (817) 613-1403
Fax: (817) 594-3473
Email: jburgoyne@ymail.com

Zone 17

Work: (432) 426-3900
Home: (915) 837-2635
Email: pvl913@yahoo.com

Zone 19

Work: (806) 363-7114
Home: (806) 364-0842
Fax: (806) 363-7106
Email: hfd@go-herd.com

TEEX Representative

Work: (979) 458-6800
Home: (979) 204-2079
Email: scott.matthews@teexmail.tamu.edu

Texas Forest Service Representative

Work: (979) 458-6507
Home: (979) 242-3953
Email: mwobus@tfs.tamu.edu

Staff Liaison

Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876
Email: kcreamers@sffma.org

Staff Liaison Assistant

Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876
Email: jstein@sffma.org

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Dennis Gifford

Lumberton Fire & EMS
115 Candlewick Dr
Lumberton, TX 77657-7291

James Lafferty

Cameron FD
303 Boedeker Ln
Cameron, TX 76520-3512

John Jandt

Seguin FD
1726 W Court St
Seguin, TX 78155-3102

Louise Watts

Southeast Caldwell County VFD
303 E Bowie St.
Luling, TX 78648-2905

David Bialas

Rosenberg FD
3108 Mockingbird Ln
Rosenberg, TX 77471-5421

Danny Cox, Jr. Rockport VFD

PO Box 2061
Fulton, TX 78358

Gwenyth Willich

La Villa VFD
PO Box 681
Elsa, TX 78543-0681

Domingo Hinojosa, Jr.

Linn-San Manuel FD
PO Box 72
Linn, TX 78563-0072

Donald Shoemaker

Lake Jackson FD
54 Juniper Ct
Lake Jackson, TX 77566-5002

Cody Crawford

Chapel Hill FD
13801 County Road 220
Tyler, TX 75707

Van Fowler

Telico VFD
700 Lone Oak Rd
Ennis, TX 75119-0356

Leonard Nauman

Burkburnett FD
1202 Parliament St
Burkburnett, TX 76354-3117

John Clay Deatherage

Hawley FD
3709 US Highway 180 E
Anson, TX 79501-2807

Chairman/East Texas District

Work: (409) 755-6031
Home: (409) 755-3379
Fax: (409) 751-6237
Email: dennismgifford@aol.com

Co-Chairman/Central Texas District

Work: (254) 697-4702
Home: (254) 697-2349
Fax: (254) 697-3040

Guadalupe District

Work: (830) 401-2310
Home: (830) 379-5485
Fax: (830) 401-2322
Email: jjandt945@sbcglobal.net

Guadalupe District

Work: (830) 875-9239
Home: (830) 445-1055
Fax: (830) 875-9239
Email: lwattsk@hotmail.com

Tri-Rivers District

Work: (832) 595-3600
Home: (281) 232-9895
Fax: (832) 595-3601
Email: davidb@ci.rosenberg.tx.us

South Central District

Work: (361) 790-8855
Home: (361) 790-3626
Email: dumptruck161@yahoo.com

Rio Grande Valley District

Work: (956) 457-0956
Home: (956) 262-1443
Fax: (956) 262-2516
Email: willichelsa@aol.com

Rio Grande Valley District

Work: (956) 383-7222
Home: (956) 287-7954
Fax: (956) 386-9023
Email: dhj3502@yahoo.com

Gulf Coast District

Work: (979) 238-5771
Home: (979) 233-3350
Fax: (979) 285-0368
Email: fire15s@aol.com

Northeast District

Work: (903) 566-3890
Home: (903) 566-8806
Fax: (903) 236-9902
Email: chfirechief@aol.com

North Texas District

Work: (972) 878-2083
Home: (972) 878-2083
Fax: (972) 878-2083

Red River District

Work: (940) 569-3553
Home: (940) 642-5923
Fax: (940) 569-4192
Email: leonard.nauman@sheppard.af.mil

Mid-West Texas District

Work: (325) 537-2839
Home: (325) 823-3614
Fax: (325) 537-2839
Email: mo2se@att.net

Gary Collier

Crane FD
2301 Brook Dr
Crane, TX 79731-5221

Executive Board Liaison

SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trail
Alvin, TX 78745-1514

Richard Harmon

Cameron Gardens FD
PO Box 1872
Wichita Falls, TX 76307-1872

Credentials Committee

Dennis Gifford

Lumberton Fire & EMS
115 Candlewick Dr
Lumberton, TX 77657-7291

Teri Parkison

Latium Wesley Greenvine FD
7550 FM 2502
Brenham, TX 77833-7616

Brian Deason

Stockdale FD
603 S 7th St
Stockdale, TX 78160-6031

William Wilcox

East Bernard FD
PO Box 907
East Bernard, TX 77435-0907

Gillian Cox

Rockport VFD
PO Box 2061
Fulton, TX 78358

Herbert Willich

La Villa VFD
PO Box 681
Elsa, TX 78543-0681

Pedro Gonzalez, Jr.

Elsa FD
PO Box 911

William Gerber

Alvin FD
PO Box 2202
Alvin, TX 77512-2202

Thomas Jones

Madisonville VFD
921 E Main St
Madisonville, TX 77864-2113

Danny Hurt

Bloomburg VFD
4786 FM 3129 S
Bloomburg, TX 75556-4020

Mark Hanson

Bellevue FD
520 King St.
Bellevue, TX 76228-1630

Permian Basin District

Work: (915) 558-2361
Home: (432) 557-6533
Fax: (915) 558-1016
Email: cfd501@classicnet.net

Executive Board Liaison

Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876

Past President Liaison

Work: (940) 767-7557
Home: (940) 867-7837
Email: rm.harmon@hotmail.com

Chairman

Work: (409) 755-6031
Home: (409) 755-3379
Fax: (409) 751-6237
Email: dennismgifford@aol.com

Central Texas District

Work: (979) 836-6946

Guadalupe District

Work: (830) 996-1383
Home: (830) 391-4743
Fax: (830) 996-1366
Email: bdeason4200@yahoo.com

Tri-Rivers District

Work: (979) 335-6060
Home: (409) 335-6503
Fax: (979) 335-4139

South Central District

Work: (361) 289-3111
Home: (361) 523-9400
Fax: (361) 289-3142
Email: mables35@sover.net

Rio Grande Valley District

Work: (956) 262-5250
Home: (956) 262-1443
Email: willichelsa@aol.com

Rio Grande Valley District

Home: (956) 494-3152
Fax: (956) 262-8770

Gulf Coast District

Work: (281) 331-7688
Home: (281) 245-7186
Fax: (281) 331-9713
Email: billy.gerber@att.net

East Texas District

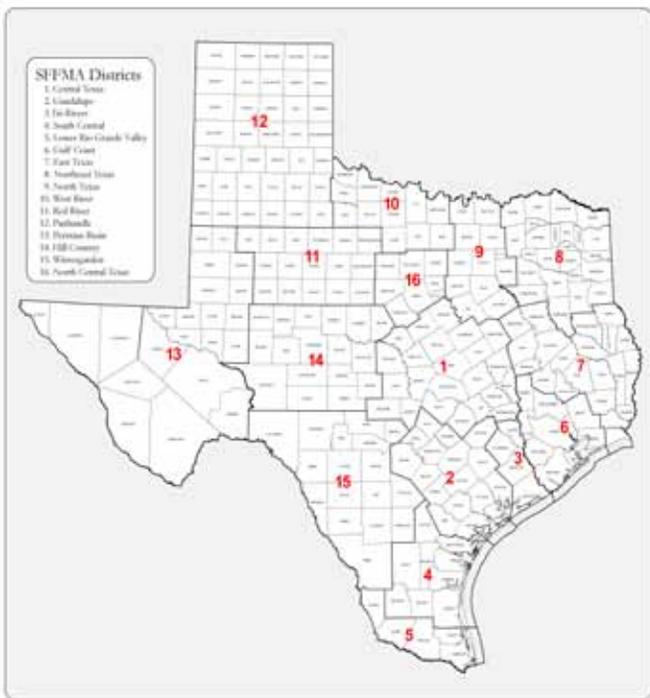
Work: (936) 348-3317
Fax: (936) 349-0149

Northeast District

Work: (903) 824-4878
Home: (903) 728-5821
Fax: (903) 729-5404

Red River District

Work: (940) 928-2125
Home: (940) 928-2240
Fax: (940) 928-2109
Email: farmboyh@sbcglobal.net



Joe Ondrasek
Brazos County Pct # 4 FD
5572 Caroline Dr.
Bryan, TX 77807-7806

Bob Looney
220 Juniper St
Mansfield, TX 76063-1815

Gabi Glass
SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trail

District Officers

Central Texas District 01PRES

Henry Horelica
Cameron FD
1505 N. Travis Ave
Cameron, TX 76520-1647

John Mendoza
Cameron FD
715 E 10th St
Cameron, TX 76520-2729

Guadalupe District 02PRES

Corey L. Tolbert
Cuero FD
904 Macarthur St
Cuero, TX 77954-2304

Steven Simpson
150 Tomahawk Trl
Seguin, TX 78155-6951

Tri-Rivers District 03PRES

Doug Baker
West I-10 FD
4414 Bunting Meadow Dr
Katy, TX 77449-5511

Executive Board
Work: (979) 775-0194
Home: (979) 822-6162
Fax: (979) 775-0123
Email: jondrasek@sffma.org

Past President Liaison
Home: (817) 473-1182
Email: palintex@yahoo.com

Staff Liaison
Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876

President
Work: (254) 697-4702
Home: (254) 697-4013
Fax: (254) 697-3040
Email: henry_horelica@yahoo.com

Secretary
Work: (254) 697-4702
Home: (254) 697-4011
Fax: (254) 697-3040
Email: fdpdjohn@yahoo.com

President
Work: (361) 275-2411
Home: (361) 564-4719
Fax: (361) 275-6265
Email: ctolbert@gvec.net

Secretary
Home: (830) 379-0309
Email: simpson@the-cia.net

President
Work: (281) 675-3601
Home: (281) 345-1912
Fax: (281) 675-3610
Email: bakerzone18@comcast.net

Michelle Cornell
1940 Melody Ln
Richmond, TX 77406-2412

South Central District 04PRES

Clemente Sanchez
Sinton FD
PO Box 652
Sinton, TX 78387-0652

Elena Sanchez
Sinton FD
PO Box 652
Sinton, TX 78387-0652

Rio Grande Valley District 05PRES

Ruben Javier Lopez
Edinburg FD
808 N. Roberts St
Edinburg, TX 78541-2333

Maricruz Tovar
212 W McIntyre St
Edinburg, TX 78541-3340

Gulf Coast District 06PRES

Doug Baker
West I-10 FD
4414 Bunting Meadow Dr
Katy, TX 77449-5511

Michael Richter
Needville FD
PO Box 374
Needville, TX 77461-0374

East Texas District 07PRES

Charles Sonnier
Labelle-Fannett FD
728 Little Acres Rd.
Beaumont, TX 77705-8138

Dennis Gifford
Lumberton Fire & EMS
115 Candlewick Dr
Lumberton, TX 77657-7291

Northeast Texas District 08PRES

Danny Hurt
Bloomburg /Bright Star FD
4786 FM 3129 S
Bloomburg, TX 75556-4020

F. Jim White
Overton FD
304 E Mundy St
Overton, TX 75684-1734

North Texas District 09PRES

Ryan M. Woolever
City of Hutchins FD
13 Park Ln
Hutchins, TX 75141-3406

Secretary
Work: (281) 468-3150
Home: (281) 341-3165
Fax: (832) 223-0167
Email: mcornell@lcisd.org

President
Work: (361) 364-2381
Home: (361) 364-4498
Fax: (361) 364-3781
Email: csanchez1123@sbcglobal.net

Secretary
Work: (361) 364-2381
Home: (361) 364-4498
Fax: (361) 364-3781
Email: esanchez1019@sbcglobal.net

President
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 457-2543
Fax: (956) 383-7111

Secretary
Work: (956) 383-5661
Email: mtovar@ci.edinburg.tx.us

President
Work: (281) 675-3601
Home: (281) 345-1912
Fax: (281) 675-3610
Email: bakerzone18@comcast.net

Secretary
Work: (979) 793-4262
Home: (713) 793-6928
Fax: (979) 793-7255
Email: richtmic@co.fort-bend.tx.us

President
Work: (409) 796-1441
Home: (409) 284-2461
Email: sonnier132@aol.com

Secretary
Work: (409) 755-6031
Home: (409) 755-3379
Fax: (409) 751-6237
Email: dennismgifford@aol.com

President
Work: (903) 824-4878
Home: (903) 728-5821
Fax: (903) 729-5404
Email: dannyhurt@netzero.com

Secretary
Home: (903) 834-3457
Email: jwhite@sffma.org

President
Work: (972) 225-9137
Home: (972) 225-4412
Fax: (972) 225-5559

Karen Pickard
Ovilla FD
307 E University St
Ovilla, TX 75154-3401

Secretary
Work: (972) 617-7375
Home: (972) 617-2498
Fax: (972) 617-5793
Email: karen.pickard@utsouthwestern.edu

Red River District 10PRES

Mark Hanson
Bellevue FD
520 King St
Bellevue, TX 76228-1630

President
Work: (940) 928-2125
Home: (940) 928-2240
Fax: (940) 928-2109
Email: farmboymh@sbcglobal.net

Jeff Jackson
Jacksboro FD
PO Box 88
Jacksboro, TX 76458-0088

Secretary
Work: (940) 567-2883
Home: (940) 567-6678
Email: jjackson@jackcountyfire.com

Panhandle District 12PRES

Billy Bonner
Shamrock FD
400 N Main St.
Shamrock, TX 79079-2032

President
Work: (806) 256-3542

Paul Hamilton
Panhandle FFMA
PO Box 364
Bushland, TX 79012-0364

Secretary
Work: (806) 364-7311
Home: (806) 359-4960
Fax: (806) 276-5265
Email: paulh@wtrt.net

Permian Basin District 13PRES

Noel Ybarra
Pecos FD
PO Box 831
Pecos, TX 79772-0831

President
Work: (432) 445-3519
Home: (432) 445-2263
Fax: (432) 445-6670
Email: nybarra@cebridge.net

Hill Country District 14PRES

Jason Medders
Eden FD
PO Box 1285
Eden, TX 76837-1285

President
Work: (325) 869-2211
Home: (325) 234-9193
Fax: (325) 869-5075
Email: jwmeddervfd@yahoo.com

Brent Allen
Ballinger FD
PO Box 133
Ballinger, TX 76821-0133

Secretary
Work: (325) 365-5137
Home: (325) 365-3907
Email: ballen@ballingerfd.com

Wintergarden District 15PRES

Denea Chase
Castroville FD
322 Country Road 468
Castroville, TX 78009-5520

President
Work: (830) 931-0300
Home: (830) 931-9246
Email: wartthogg04@yahoo.com

Jerry Rust
Val Verde County Rural VFD
PO Box 421314
Del Rio, TX 78842-1314

Secretary
Work: (830) 774-7640
Home: (830) 719-0470
Fax: (830) 774-7686
Email: valverdecountyfire@stx.rr.com

Driving Contest Committee

Michael Richter
Needville FD
PO Box 374
Needville, TX 77461-0374

Chairman/Gulf Coast District
Work: (979) 793-4262
Home: (713) 793-6928
Fax: (979) 793-7255
Email: richtmic@co.fort-bend.tx.us

William Schiffman
Needville FD
PO Box 1019
Needville, TX 77461-1019

Vice Chairman/Gulf Coast District
Work: (979) 793-4262
Home: (409) 793-3464
Fax: (979) 793-7255
Email: schifman@consolidated.net

Ronnie Sexton
Thorndale FD
3705 Del Norte Blvd.
Temple, TX 76502-1616

Brian Deason
Stockdale FD
603 S 7th St
Stockdale, TX 78160-6031

Paul Shannon
Wharton FD
1206 Crestmont St
Wharton, TX 77488-3404

Daniel Cabrera
Falfurrias FD
PO Box 302
Falfurrias, TX 78355-0302

Darwin Dobesh, Jr.
Rosenberg FD
2111 Arapahoe Dr.
Rosenberg, TX 77471-9606

Lewis Willard
La Marque FD
104 Tulip Trl
Lake Jackson, TX 77566-4116

Jose Hernandez, II
Rosenberg FD
1012 5th St
Rosenberg, TX 77471-2614

Dennis Gage
Kilgore FD
PO Box 379
Gladewater, TX 75647-0379

Jeff Rhoads
Belton FD
700 E 9th Ave
Belton, TX 76513-2732

Bob O'Burke
206 McMurry Ave
Duncanville, TX 75116-3314

EMS Committee

Bill Gardner
Leander FD
PO Box 319
Leander, TX 78646-0319

Phillip Reynolds, Jr.
Buchanan VFD
115 Harold Dr
Burnet, TX 78611-2809

Forrest C. Wood, Jr.
TEEX-ESTI
3903 Oak Bend Dr
Bryan, TX 77802-4722

John Mendoza
Cameron FD
715 E 10th St
Cameron, TX 76520-2729

Central Texas District
Work: (512) 431-1024
Home: (254) 791-0060
Email: wgoldwing04@hotmail.com

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 996-1383
Home: (830) 391-4743
Fax: (830) 996-1366
Email: bdeason4200@yahoo.com

Tri-Rivers District
Work: (979) 532-4811 x 601
Home: (979) 532-8303
Fax: (979) 282-2199
Email: paul.shannon@co.wharton.tx.us

South Central District
Work: (361) 325-2422

Gulf Coast District
Work: (832) 595-3600
Home: (832) 309-7716
Fax: (832) 595-3601
Email: rfd87@firehouseemail.com

Gulf Coast District
Work: (409) 938-9260
Fax: (409) 935-1113

Gulf Coast District
Work: (832) 595-3600
Home: (281) 344-0472
Fax: (832) 595-3601

Northeast District
Work: (903) 983-1559
Home: (903) 987-3908

TEEX Representative
Work: (254) 933-5881
Fax: (254) 933-5887

Past President Liaison
Home: (972) 298-3291
Email: bobdotoburke@sbcglobal.net

Chairman/ Central Texas District
Work: (512) 528-1664
Home: (972)258-0188
Email: bgardner@sffma.org

Central Texas District
Work: (512) 793-6212
Home: (512) 793-2968
Fax: (512) 793-6212
Email: preyn2@yahoo.com

Central Texas District
Work: (979) 458-6800
Home: (979) 846-6467

Central Texas District
Work: (254) 697-4702
Home: (254) 697-4011
Fax: (254) 697-3040
Email: fdpdjohn@yahoo.com

Gerald Weniger
Seguin FD
PO Box 215
Seguin, TX 78156-0215

Clemente Sanchez
Sinton FD
PO Box 652
Sinton, TX 78387-0652

Jason Delattre
Edinburg FD
206 Beverly Hills Ln
Edinburg, TX 78542-4389

Dennis Gifford
Lumberton Fire & EMS
115 Candlewick Dr.
Lumberton, TX 77657-7291

Karen Pickard
Ovilla FD
307 E. University St
Ovilla, TX 75154-3401

Edward Walsh
Watauga Fire/EMS
806 Clover Ln
Keller, TX 76248-2426

Adam Scott
Vernon Fire/ EMS
2621 Center Dr.
Vernon, TX 76384-7908

Douglas Page
Bowie FD
203 Walnut St
Bowie, TX 76230-4840

Timothy Smith
West Carlisle FD
PO Box 98044
Lubbock, TX 79499-8044

Dr. Charles Addington, II
Wolfthorh FD
23 Bennett Cir
PO Box 845
Wolfthorh, TX 79382-2203

Steve Perdue
Mineral Wells FD
2215 NW 1st Ave
Mineral Wells, TX 76067-2947

Scott Brinkley
Eastland FD
1099 Lago Vista Blvd. Apt. 228
Eastland, TX 76448-3203

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 401-2310
Home: (830) 560-2707
Fax: (830) 401-2322
Email: gweniger@satx.rr.com

South Central District
Work: (361) 364-2381
Home: (361) 364-4498
Fax: (361) 364-3781
Email: csanchez1123@sbcglobal.net

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 624-5903
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: jasondelattre@edinburgems.com

East Texas District
Work: (409) 755-6031
Home: (409) 755-3379
Fax: (409) 751-6237
Email: dennismgifford@aol.com

North Texas District
Work: (972) 617-7375
Home: (972) 617-2498
Fax: (972) 617-5793
Email: karen.pickard@utsouthwestern.edu

North Texas District
Work: (817) 514-5870
Home: (817) 993-0662
Fax: (817) 428-0268
Email: edward.walsh@mavs.uta.edu

Red River District
Work: (940) 872-2122
Home: (940) 886-9464
Fax: (940) 552-2293
Email: ascott@vernonntx.gov

Red River District
Work:(940) 872-2122
Home:(940) 872-3434
Fax:(940) 872-6544
Email: bowiefire@cityofbowietx.com

Panhandle District
Work : (806) 797-0412
Home: (806) 885-4681
Fax: (806) 797-0514
Email: smith@door.net

Panhandle District
Work: (806) 866-0158
Home: (806) 866-0137
Fax: (806) 866-0162
Email: driiadd@aol.com

North Central District
Work: (940) 325-2908
Home: (940) 682-8456
Fax: (940) 325-2908
Email: sperdue@mesh.net

North Central District
Work: (254) 918-1244
Home: (817) 631-2379
Fax: (254) 629-2000
Email: sbrinkley@techproservices.net

Chuck Richardson
Conoco Phillips - Sweeny Refinery
PO Box 866
Sweeny, TX 77480-0866

Donnie Pickard
Ovilla FD
307 E University St
Ovilla, TX 75154-3401

Exhibits Committee

Mark Lancaster
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
12510 E. Bar Dr
Santa Fe, TX 77510-8601

Raymond Murray
Casco Industries
607 W 62nd St
Shreveport, LA 71106-2913

Michael Pratt
Brazos County Pct #4 FD
3800 Valley Oaks Dr
Bryan, TX 77802-4753

Terry Mayfield
Seguin FD
18162 S State Highway 123
Seguin, TX 78155-0845

Robert Collins
Alvin FD
902 S Douglas St
Alvin, TX 77511-3627

Ignacio Rodriguez, Jr.
Clute FD
200 E Brazoswood Dr Apt. 2507
Clute, TX 77531-3539

Matt R. Glaves
Alvin FD
2197 Country Road 155
Alvin, TX 77511-1533

Joel Sumrall
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
16207 Bluebird St
Santa Fe, TX 77517-2142

Thomas Jones
Madisonville VFD
921 E Main St.
Madisonville, TX 77864-2113

Jerry Taylor
Gilmer FD
885 Azalea Rd
Gilmer, TX 75645-7469

Wayland Price, Jr.
Covington FD
403 N King St
Itasca, TX 76055-2225

Industrial Board Liaison
Work: (979) 491-2034
Fax: (979) 491-2241
Email: chuck.richardson@conocophillips.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (972) 617-7375
Home: (972) 617-2498
Fax: (972) 617-5793
Email: dpickard@ovillafire.org

Co-Chairman/ Gulf Coast District
Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (409) 925-1906
Fax: (409) 925-7330

Co-Chairman
Work: (800) 551-8787
Fax: (419) 735-4259
Email: raymond@cascoindustries.com

Central Texas District
Work: (979) 775-0194
Home: (979) 219-2381
Fax: (979) 775-0123
Email: Michael@TerrisuePratt.com

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 401-2310
Home: (830) 303-3473
Fax: (830) 401-2322
Email: tntmayfield@yahoo.com

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 331-7688
Home: (281) 331-7688
Fax: (281) 331-9713

Gulf Coast District
Work: (979) 265-4742
Home: (979) 236-6704
Fax: (979) 265-4742
Email: favff_tman@yahoo.com

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 331-7688
Home: (281) 331-9213
Fax: (281) 331-9713
Email: matt.glaves@bluebell.com

Gulf Coast District
Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (409) 925-4278
Fax: (409) 925-7330
Email: jsumrall@santafefire.org

East Texas District
Work: (936) 348-3317
Fax: (936) 349-0149

Northeast District
Work: (903) 843-3225
Fax: (903) 843-3251

North Texas District
Work: (254) 854-2241
Home: (254) 687-2578
Email: wjprice1800@hotmail.com

Shawn Snider
Edinburg FD
2804 Chateau St
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057

Thomas Bledsoe
Gilmer FD
2596 Bob O Link Rd
Gilmer, TX 75645-7340

Julie Beauchamp
SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trl
Austin, TX 78745-1514

Gabi Glass
SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trl
Austin, TX 78745-1514

Finance Committee

Allen Scopel
Rosenberg FD
3814 Marilyn St
Rosenberg, TX 77471-5349

Patrick Hlavaty
El Campo FD
2012 Wilson Rd
El Campo, TX 77437-9500

Rayford Gibson
Tatum FD
PO Box 774
Tatum, TX 75691-0774

Earl Whitmore
Rockdale FD
1211 Zana Ln
Rockdale, TX 76567-2751

Robert Thomas
Ingleside VFD
3190 Rebecca St.
Ingleside, TX 78362-4649

Herbert Willich
La Villa VFD
PO Box 681
Elsa, TX 78543-0681

Carl Anderson
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
12150 14th St
Santa Fe, TX 77510-2140

James Philp
Lumberton Fire & EMS
7866 Walnut Dr
Lumberton, TX 77657-8995

Allen Russell
Cedar Hill FD
404 Meadow Ridge Dr
Cedar Hill, TX 75104-1975

Past President Liaison
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 380-1357
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: ssnider@ci.edinburg.tx.us

Past President Liaison
Home: (903) 734-5631
Email: pegbleds@aol.com

Staff Liaison
Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876
Email: jbeauchamp@sffma.org

Staff Liaison
Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876
Email: gglass@sffma.org

Chairman/Tri-Rivers District
Work: (832) 595-3600
Home: (281) 342-5893
Fax: (832) 595-3601
Email: ajscopel@att.net

Vice Chairman/Past President Liaison
Work: (979) 543-6441
Home: (979) 543-9483
Fax: (979) 541-6599
Email: pat.helen@sbcglobal.net

Secretary/Northeast Texas District
Work: (903) 947-2217
Home: (903) 947-2831
Fax: (903) 947-2217
Email: rgibson@sffma.org

Central Texas District
Work: (512) 760-5112
Home: (512) 446-2983
Email: ew_smokeeater25@hotmail.com

South Central District
Work: (361) 776-7422
Home: (361) 523-9447
Fax: (361) 775-1186
Email: rjthomas@inglesidetx.gov

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 262-5250
Home: (956) 262-1443
Email: willichelsa@aol.com

Gulf Coast District
Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (409) 925-5434
Fax: (409) 925-7330
Email: fdchief700@comcast.net

East Texas District
Work: (409) 755-6031
Home: (409) 893-9913
Fax: (409) 751-6237
Email: jphilp@lumbertonfirerescue.org

North Texas District
Work: (972) 291-1011
Home: (972) 291-4064
Fax: (972) 291-3473
Email: arussell@sffma.org

Thomas Smead
Vernon Fire/ EMS
2738 Oaklawn Dr.
Vernon, TX 76384-6417

Steve Cochran
Midwest District
821 Yucca
Merkel, TX 79536-7010

Gary Brown
Floydada FD
129 W Crockett St
Floydada, TX 79235-3810

Brent Allen
Ballinger FD
PO Box 227
Ballinger, TX 76821-0133

Jerry Rust
Val Verde County Rural VFD
PO Box 421314
Del Rio, TX 78842-1314

Steve Perdue
Mineral Wells FD
2215 NW 1st Ave
Mineral Wells, TX 76067-2947

Kent Watts, Jr.
Southeast Caldwell County FD
303 E Bowie St
Luling, TX 78648-2905

Michael Looney
1110 Danbury Dr.
Mansfield, TX 76063-6612

Jack King
661-B FM 2550 Rd
Huntsville, TX 77320-1972

Shawn Snider
Edinburg FD
2804 Chateau St
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057

Kyle Stephens
Decatur FD
PO Box 331
Decatur, TX 76234-0331

Chris Barron
SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trl
Austin, TX 78745-1514

Ben Kennedy
TEEX-ESTI
301 Tarrow
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77842-1859

Red River District
Work: (940) 553-1782
Home: (940) 552-7658
Fax: (940) 552-2293
Email: ksmead@vernontx.gov

Mid-West Texas District
Work: (325) 575-2002
Home: (325) 928-5304
Email: stevec@taylortel.net

Panhandle District
Work: (806) 983-2834
Home: (806) 983-2618
Fax: (806) 983-5542
Email: gbrown@amaonline.com

Hill Country District
Work: (325) 365-5137
Home: (325) 365-3907
Email: ballen@ballingerfd.com

Wintergarden District
Work: (830) 774-7640
Home: (830) 719-0470
Fax: (830) 774-7686
Email: valverdecountyfire@stx.rr.com

North Central District
Work: (940) 325-2908
Home: (940) 682-8456
Fax: (940) 325-2908
Email: sperdue@mesh.net

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 875-9239
Home: (830) 445-1055
Fax: (830) 875-9239
Email: kwatts@sffma.org

Past President Liaison
Work: (817) 399-4303
Home: (817) 473-4294
Fax: (817) 399-4343
Email: hiwaytoons@hotmail.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (936) 295-2081
Home: (936) 295-3967
Fax: (800) 492-3919 Pager
Email: ajackking@aol.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 380-1357
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: ssnider@ci.edinburg.tx.us

Past President Liaison
Work: (940) 627-4530
Home: (940) 627-4530
Fax: (940) 627-7240
Email: kstephenstt79@yahoo.com

Staff Liaison
Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876
Email: cbarron@sffma.org

Firefighter of the Year Committee

Co-Chairman
Work: (979) 458-6800
Home: (979) 774-0819
Email: bkennedy@sffma.org

Barbara Marzean
VFIS/Regnier & Associates
3420 Executive Ctr Dr Ste 301
Austin, TX 78731-1626

Donald Pullin
Refugio FD
PO Box 398
Refugio, TX 78377-0398

Matthew Cornell
Pecan Grove FD
727 Pitts Rd
Richmond, TX 77406-2205

Ubaldo Perez
Edinburg FD
2609 San Alejandro
Edinburg, TX 78539-6971

Richard Drewry
Edinburg FD
2932 North 1st
McAllen, TX 78501

Perry Thomson, Jr.
Anson FD
1832 Avenue M
Anson, TX 79501-6126

Anthony Cargile
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
4712 Scott St
Santa Fe, TX 77517-3314

Fire Museum Board

Charlie Cox, Jr.
Labelle-Fannett FD
12313 Garner Rd.
Beaumont, TX 77705-7541

Charles Gee
Jasper FD
905 Richardson Dr
Jasper, TX 75951-2809

Dennis Gifford
Lumberton Fire & EMS
115 Candlewick Dr
Lumberton, TX 77657-7291

Cecily Varner
Mauriceville FD
PO Box 1376
Mauriceville, TX 77626-1376

David Wade
Deer Park VFD
3018 Eileen St
Deer Park, TX 77536-5022

Robert Welborn
Silsbee FD
PO Box 130
Silsbee, TX 77656-0130

Co-Chairperson
Work: (512) 448-9928
Fax: (512) 448-9929
Email: bmarzean@vfirstx.com

Guadalupe District
Work: (361) 526-2114
Home: (361) 526-2119
Fax: (361) 526-2222
Email: kellybarbara90@yahoo.com

Tri-Rivers District
Work: (281) 238-1500
Home: (281) 342-5583
Fax: (281) 342-0431
Email: cornemat@co.fort-bend.tx.us

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 381-4552
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: bperez@ci.edinburg.tx.us

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 383-7691
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: rdrewry@ci.edinburg.tx.us

Mid-West Texas District
Work: (325) 823-2256
Home: (325) 823-2248
Fax: (325) 823-3604

Gulf Coast District
Work: (409) 978-2554
Home: (409) 925-2083
Fax: (409) 925-7330

East Texas District
Work: (409) 796-1441
Home: (409) 673-6811

East Texas District
Work: (409) 383-6168
Home: (409) 384-5282
Fax: (409) 384-5437
Email: queenmother911@sbcglobal.net

East Texas District
Work: (409) 755-6031
Home: (409) 755-3379
Fax: (409) 751-6237
Email: dennismgifford@aol.com

East Texas District
Work: (409) 745-1636
Home: (409) 745-5517
Fax: (409) 745-3946
Email: wildfire2@pnx.com

Executive Board Liaison
Work: (281) 478-7281
Home: (281) 479-7941
Fax: (281) 478-7289
Email: dwade@sffma.org

Past President Liaison
Work: (409) 790-1178
Home: (409) 386-2919
Fax: (409) 385-4761
Email: BnSWelborn@aol.com

Golf Tournament Committee

Barbara Marzean
VFIS/Regnier & Associates
3420 Executive Center Dr Ste 301
Austin, TX 78731-1626

Roy Mercer
2118 Enchanted Oaks Ln
Rosenberg, TX 77471-7105

Brian Scheffer
Brenham FD
5315 FM 1457
Round Top, TX 78954-5017

John Schulze
Brenham FD
708 E Sixth St
Brenham, TX 77833-4665

Gregory Nienstedt
Brenham FD
601 Farmers Rd
Brenham, TX 77833-1695

Lang Flisowski
Brenham FD
3771 Wiegat Ln
Brenham, TX 77833-8649

Randall Parkison
Latium Wesley Greenvine FD
7550 FM 2502
Brenham, TX 77833-7616

Brian Janes
Latium Wesley Greenvine FD
9804 N FM 2502
Brenham, TX 77833-1595

Lloyd Klatt
El Campo FD
673 Lakeview Ln.
El Campo, TX 77437

William Wilcox
East Bernard FD
PO Box 907
East Bernard, TX 77435-0907

Becky Wilcox
East Bernard FD
PO Box 907
East Bernard, TX 77435-0907

Danny Cox, Jr.
Rockport VFD
PO Box 2061
Fulton, TX 78358

Barry Barnett
Arp FD
17916 Country Road 2142
Troup, TX 75789-3725

William Norris, II
Friberg-Cooper VFD
7496 Cooper Rd
Wichita Falls, TX 76305-6400

Liaison
Work: (512) 448-9928
Fax: (512) 448-9929
Email: bmarzean@vfirstx.com

Co-Chairman/Tri-Rivers District
Work: (281) 341-5023
Home: (832) 473-5414
Email: roymercer@msn.com

Co-Chairman/Central Texas District
Work: (979) 337-7300
Home: (979) 836-9855
Fax: (979) 337-7311
Email: bscheffer@ci.brenham.tx.us

Central Texas District
Work: (979) 337-7300
Home: (979) 421-6852
Fax: (979) 337-7311
Email: smokerjrs@yahoo.com

Central Texas District
Work: (979) 337-7300
Home: (979) 830-1986
Fax: (979) 337-7311
Email: gnienstedt@ci.brenham.tx.us

Central Texas District
Work: (979) 337-7300
Home: (979) 836-5910
Fax: (979) 337-7311
Email: spankylang@hotmail.com

Central Texas District
Work: (979) 836-6946
Home: (979) 451-0821

Central Texas District
Work: (979) 836-6946
Home: (979) 251-8133

Guadalupe District
Work: (979) 543-3335
Home: (409) 543-6717
Fax: (979) 541-5062

Tri-Rivers District
Work: (979) 335-6060
Home: (409) 335-6503
Fax: (979) 335-4139

Tri-Rivers District
Home: (979) 335-6503

South Central District
Work: (361) 790-8855
Home: (361) 790-3626
Email: dumptruck161@yahoo.com

Northeast District
Work: (903) 859-5232
Home: (903) 859-3065
Email: bbarn01@hotmail.com

Red River District
Work: (940) 447-1664
Home: (940) 855-5835
Email: ffwil38@yahoo.com

Paul Hamilton
Panhandle FFMA
PO Box 364
Bushland, TX 79012-0364

William Morris
Rio Vista FD
PO Box 93
Rio Vista, TX 76093-0093

Deloss Edwards
4733 Catclaw Dr
Abilene, TX 79606-3217

Thomas Bledsoe
Gilmer FD
2596 Bob O Link Rd
Gilmer, TX 75645-7340

Allen Russell
Cedar Hill FD
404 Meadow Ridge Dr.
Cedar Hill, TX 75104-1975

Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board

Rick Deel
Lubrizol Corp. - Deer Park
PO Box 158
Deer Park, TX 77536-0158

Terry Boyett
Chevron Phillips Chemical Co
9500 East Fwy
Baytown, TX 77521-8155

George Melder
FMC Corporation - Bayport Plant
12000 Bay Area Blvd
Pasadena, TX 77507-1310

Brett Steed
EPCO, Inc.
PO Box 4735
Houston, TX 77210-4735

Keith Russell
Eastman Chemical Co
PO Box 7444
Longview, TX 75607-7444

Todd Johnson
Eagle Construction &
Environmental Services, L.P.
414 FM 1103
Cibolo, TX 78108-3533

Chuck Richardson
Conoco Phillips- Sweeny Refinery
PO Box 866
Sweeny, TX 77480-0866

Geoffrey Atwood
Refinery Terminal Fire Company
PO Box 4162
Corpus Christi, TX 78469-4162

Rodney Kovalcik
ExxonMobil Company
5000 Bayway Dr
Baytown, TX 77520-2123

Panhandle District
Work: (806) 364-7311
Home: (806) 359-4960
Fax: (806) 276-5265
Email: paulh@wtrt.net

North Central District
Work: (817) 373-2691
Home: (817) 373-2929

Past President Liaison
Work: (325) 695-5133
Home: (325) 695-5133
Email: deloss36@hotmail.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (903) 843-3225
Home: (903) 734-5631
Fax: (903) 843-3251
Email: pegbleds@aol.com

Staff Liaison
Work: (972) 291-1011
Home: (972) 291-4064
Fax: (972) 291-3473
Email: arussell@sffma.org

Chairman/SLOT-03
Work: (832) 260-7852
Fax: (832) 260-7852
Email: rick.deel@lubrizol.com

Vice Chairman/SLOT-02
Work: (281) 421-6232
Fax: (281) 421-6444
Email: boyette@cpchem.com

Secretary/SLOT-08
Work: (281) 474-8710
Fax: (281) 474-8736
Email: george.melder@fmc.com

SLOT-01
Work: (713) 803-1793
Fax: (713) 803-8027
Email: bsteed@epco.com

SLOT-04
Work: (903) 237-6689
Fax: (903) 237-6678
Email: krussell@eastman.com

SLOT-05
Work: (210) 566-8366
Fax: (210) 566-6247
Email: toddj@ecesi.com

SLOT-07
Work: (979) 491-2034
Fax: (979) 491-2241
Email: chuck.richardson@conocophillips.com

SLOT-10
Work: (361) 885-7107
Fax: (361) 241-4568
Email: gatwood@rtfc.org

SLOT-11
Work: (281) 834-4006
Fax: (281) 834-0021
Email: rodney.r.kovalcik@exxonmobil.com

James Pursell
Valero Energy Corporation
PO Box 696000
San Antonio, TX 78269-6000

David Cave
CITGO Refining and Chem Co
1801 Nueces Bay Blvd
Corpus Christi, TX 78407-2221

Brian Sossaman
Equistar Chemical Co
8280 Sheldon Rd
Houston, TX 77530

Jody Jackson
Total Petrochemicals USA Inc.
8600 Park Place Blvd
Houston, TX 77017-2513

Dave Snell
Luminant - Corporate Office
500 North Akard, Ste 10-115 C
Dallas, TX 75201-3302

Kent DeLaney
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
12506 Highway 6
Santa Fe, TX 77510-7610

Robert Moore
TEEX-ESTI
301 Tarrow
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-0001

Paul Hannemann
Fredericksburg FD
708 W Austin St
Fredericksburg, TX 78624-2502

Rosendo Garcia
TEEX-ESTI
6215 Guylar St
Wallis, TX 77485-9495

Rene Alaniz
McAllen FD
PO Box 220
McAllen, TX 78505-0220

Juan Gloria, Jr.
Edinburg FD
3312 Aceves
Edinburg, TX 78541-6284

Diana Cardona
SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trl
Austin, TX 78745-1514

Memorial Committee

Ben Kennedy
TEEX-ESTI
301 Tarrow
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-0001

SLOT-12
Work: (210) 345-3054
Fax: (210) 370-4716
Email: james.pursell@valero.com

SLOT-13
Work: (361) 844-5241
Fax: (361) 844-5113
Email: dcave@citgo.com

SLOT-14
Work: (281) 452-8795
Fax: (281) 457-8098
Email: Brian.Sossaman@Lyondell.com

SLOT-15
Work: (713) 474-7756
Email: Jody.Jackson@tpcgrp.com

SLOT-17
Work: (214) 875-8670
Fax: (214) 875-8636
Email: wsnell1@txu.com

SLOT-19
Work: (409) 925-7331
Fax: (409) 925-7330

SLOT-20
Work: (979) 862-4469
Home: (979) 255-0084
Email: robert.moore@teexmail.tamu.edu

SLOT-21
Work: (830) 997-5603
Home: (512) 997-7259
Fax: (830) 997-3918
Email: phannemann@tfs.tamu.edu

International Member Committee

Chairman
Work: (979) 458-6800
Home: (979) 324-5685
Email: rosendo.garcia@teexmail.tamu.edu

Member
Work: (956) 972-7500
Fax: (956) 682-0377

Member
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 292-2104
Fax: (956) 383-7111

Staff Liaison
Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876
Email: dcardona@sffma.org

Co-Chairman/Chaplain
Work: (979) 458-6800
Home: (979) 774-0819
Email: bkennedy@sffma.org

Rusty Kattner
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
680 Fountain View Ln.
League City, TX 77573-1971

Shari Schiffman
TFA
PO Box 1019
Needville, TX 77461-1019

Dixie Whitmore
TFA
1211 Zana Ln
Rockdale, TX 76567-2751

Ernest Reesing, Jr.
Marathon VFD
1 Branch Rd.
Alpine, TX 79830-1015

Patrick Hlavaty
El Campo FD
2012 Wilson Rd
El Campo, TX 77437-9500

Jennifer Rickert
142 Country Road 2791
Carthage, TX 75633-6150

Anthony Cargile
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
4712 Scott St
Santa Fe, TX 77517-3314

Nita Kattner
TFA
680 Fountain View Ln.
League City, TX 77573-1971

Co-Chairman/ 4th Vice President
Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (281) 554-8468
Fax: (409) 925-7330
Email: rkattner@sffma.org

Auxiliary President
Work: (979) 793-3464

Auxiliary Chaplain
Home: (512) 446-2983
Email: msmusic71@hotmail.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (915) 386-9006
Home: (432) 837-2974
Email: ernest.reesing@teexmail.tamu.edu

Past President Liaison
Work: (979) 543-6441
Home: (979) 543-9483
Fax: (979) 541-6599
Email: pat.helen@sbcglobal.net

Member
Home: (903) 693-4855

Member
Work: (409) 978-2554
Home: (409) 925-2083
Fax: (409) 925-7330

Member
Work: (281) 554-8468
Home: (281) 554-8468
Email: lunarpearl@aol.com

National Volunteer Fire Council

Patrick Hlavaty
El Campo FD
2012 Wilson Rd
El Campo, TX 77437-9500

Dallas Renfrew
TEEX-ESTI
1595 Nuclear Science Rd.
College Station, TX 77843-0001

State Director
Work: (979) 543-6441
Home: (979) 543-9483
Fax: (979) 541-6599
Email: pat.helen@sbcglobal.net

Alternate State Director
Work: (979) 458-6800
Home: (979) 324-6089
Email: Dallas.Renfrew@teexmail.tamu.edu

Past Presidents of the Association

C. H. Boring, Jr.
2600 Pualani Way Apt 2301
Honolulu, HI 96815-3939

Billy Haynes
PO Box 840
Livingston, TX 77351-0014

Bob O'Burke
206 McMurry Ave
Duncanville, TX 75116-3314

Jack King
661-B FM 2550 Rd
Huntsville, TX 77320-1972

Past President 1961
Home: (808) 924-5370
Email: chboring@earthlink.net

Past President 1973
Work: (936) 328-3121
Home: (936) 327-8463
Email: billyrh@livingston.net

Past President 1977
Home: (972) 298-3291
Email: bobdotoburke@sbcglobal.net

Past President 1981
Work: (936) 295-2081
Home: (936) 295-3967
Fax: (800) 492-3919 Pager
Email: ajackking@aol.com

Ray Williamson
320 E Milam St
Wharton, TX 77488-5024

Bob Looney
220 Juniper St
Mansfield, TX 76063-1815

Thomas Bledsoe
2596 Bob O Link Rd
Gilmer, TX 75645-7340

Ernest Reesing, Jr.
1 Branch Rd.
Alpine, TX 79830-1015

Gerald Matheaus
2226 Ripple Creek
Rosenberg, TX 77471-5429

Billy Mize
808 Easy St
Burkburnett, TX 76354-2617

J. E. Eckert, III
1101 Lake Shore Dr.
Beaver Dam, WI 53916-1239

Donald Hoffman
PO Box 1747
Brenham, TX 77834-1747

Deloss Edwards
4733 Catclaw Dr
Abilene, TX 79606-3217

Patrick Hlavaty
2012 Wilson Rd
El Campo, TX 77437-9500

Terry Mayfield
18156 S State Highway 123
Seguin, TX 78155-0845

Dallas Renfrew
1595 Nuclear Science Rd.
College Station, TX 77843-0001

Michael Looney
1110 Danbury Dr
Mansfield, TX 76063-6612

Richard Harmon
PO Box 1872
Wichita Falls, TX 76307-1872

Past President 1984
Work: (979) 532-2111
Home: (979) 532-0186

Past President 1986
Home: (817) 473-1182
Email: palintex@yahoo.com

Past President 1987
Work: (903) 843-3225
Home: (903) 734-5631
Fax: (903) 843-3251
Email: pegbleds@aol.com

Past President 1988
Work: (915) 386-9006
Home: (432) 837-2974
Email: ernest.reesing@teexmail.tamu.edu

Past President 1989
Work: (281) 232-6871
Home: (281) 344-1711
Email: fire_2@sbcglobal.net

Past President 1991
Work: (940) 322-5281
Home: (940) 569-1841
Fax: (940) 569-4192
Email: bmize@nortexrpc.org

Past President 1992
Work: (806) 983-2834
Home: (920) 356-8754
Fax: (806) 983-5542
Email: jee_eee@swbell.net

Past President 1993
Work: (979) 836-9473
Home: (979) 836-9473
Fax: (979) 830-7144
Email: don.hoffman@sbcglobal.net

Past President 1995
Work: (325) 695-5133
Home: (325) 695-5133
Email: deloss36@hotmail.com

Past President 1997
Work: (979) 543-6441
Home: (979) 543-9483
Fax: (979) 541-6599
Email: pat.helen@sbcglobal.net

Past President 1999
Work: (830) 401-2310
Home: (830) 303-3473
Fax: (830) 401-2322
Email: tntmayfield@yahoo.com

Past President 2000
Work: (979) 458-6800
Home: (979) 324-6089
Email: Dallas.Renfrew@teexmail.tamu.edu

Past President 2001
Work: (817) 399-4303
Home: (817) 473-4294
Fax: (817) 399-4343
Email: hiwaytoons@hotmail.com

Past President 2002
Work: (940) 767-7557
Home: (940) 867-7837
Email: rm.harmon@hotmail.com

Carl Anderson
12150 14th St
Santa Fe, TX 77510-2140

David Luedeke
PO Box 132
8124 Banker St
Needville, TX 77461-0132

Robert Welborn
505 Winters St
Silsbee, TX 77656-5033

Kyle Stephens
PO Box 331
Decatur, TX 76234-0331

Donnie Pickard
307 E. University St.
Ovilla, TX 75154-3401

Shawn Snider
2804 Chateau St
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057

Gary Tilton Memorial Fire Prevention Poster Contest Committee

Carl Teaff
Sonora FD
211 E Mulberry St
Sonora, TX 76950-2403

Fred Hart, Jr.
DeSoto FD
211 E Pleasant Run Rd
Desoto, TX 75115-3901

John Mendoza
Cameron FD
715 E 10th St
Cameron, TX 76520-2729

Wayne Drummond
6210 Dudley Rd
Troy, TX 76579-3113

Kris Janes
Latium Wesley Greenvine FD
9804 FM 2502
Brenham, TX 77833-1595

Lloyd Klatt
El Campo FD
673 Lakeview Ln.
El Campo, TX 77437

Isidore Moy
Floresville FD
776 US highway 181 S # B
Floresville, TX 78114-5135

Past President 2003
Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (409) 925-5434
Fax: (409) 925-7330
Email: fdchief700@comcast.net

Past President 2004
Work: (281) 343-0071
Home: (979) 793-6821
Fax: (979) 793-7255
Email: chief700@consolidated.net

Past President 2005
Work: (409) 790-1178
Home: (409) 386-2919
Fax: (409) 385-4761
Email: BnSWelborn@aol.com

Past President 2007
Work: (940) 627-4530
Home: (940) 627-4530
Fax: (940) 627-7240
Email: kstephenstt79@yahoo.com

Past President 2008
Work: (972) 617-7375
Home: (972) 617-2498
Fax: (972) 617-5793
Email: dpickard@ovillafire.org

Past President 2009
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 380-1357
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: ssnider@ci.edinburg.tx.us

Chairman/Hill Country District
Work: (325) 387-2428
Home: (325) 387-2773

Co-Chairman/North Texas District
Work: (972) 230-9680
Home: (972) 217-4806
Fax: (972) 230-5817
Email: fhart@ci.desoto.tx.us

Central Texas District
Work: (254) 697-4702
Home: (254) 697-4011
Fax: (254) 697-3040
Email: fdpdjohn@yahoo.com

Central Texas District
Home: (254) 913-1364
Email: troyobbvfd@juno.com

Central Texas District
Work: (979) 836-6946

Guadalupe District
Work: (979) 543-3335
Home: (979) 543-6717
Fax: (979) 541-5062
Email: tightline@warpspeed1.net

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 393-3105
Fax: (830) 393-2056
Email: isidoremoy@clear.net

Elena Sanchez
Sinton FD
PO Box 652
Sinton, TX 78387-0652

Ruben Lopez
Edinburg FD
808 N Roberts St
Edinburg, TX 78541-2333

Antonio Trevino, Jr.
Mission FD
1418 E Fay St
Edinburg, TX 78539-4950

Gerald Roberson
Channelview FD
1304 Linda
Magnolia, AR 71753-2647

George Tullgren
Deer Park VFD
602 Kingston Ct
Deer Park, TX 77536-6126

Joe Garcia, Jr.
Richmond FD
112 S 2nd St
Richmond, TX 77469-3127

Dorothy Funkhouser
Katy FD
2633 Village Ct
Katy, TX 77493-1234

Derek Brown
Richmond FD
406 Land Grant Dr
Richmond, TX 77406-2106

Frankie Smith
Madisonville VFD
107 W Turner St
Madisonville, TX 77864-3130

Nancy Hall
Gilmer FD
1003 Antelope Rd
Gilmer, TX 75644-5155

Bob Stulce
Mansfield FD
810 Hummingbird Ln
Mansfield, TX 76063-1517

Robert Underwood
Rankin FD
PO Box 300
Rankin, TX 79778-0300

Jeri Hamilton
TFA
PO Box 364
Bushland, TX 79012

Carl Anderson
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
12150 14th St
Santa Fe, TX 77510-2140

South Central District
Work: (361) 364-2381
Home: (361) 364-4498
Fax: (361) 364-3781

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 457-2543
Fax: (956) 383-7111

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 580-8705
Home: (956) 287-8108
Fax: (956) 580-8712
Email: fireinspector2000@yahoo.com

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 452-5782
Home: (870) 234-2552
Fax: (281) 452-2100
Email: gr0115@sbcglobal.net

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 478-7281
Home: (281) 479-8253
Fax: (281) 478-7289
Email: george.tullgren@dpvfd.org

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 232-6871
Home: (281) 341-1161

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 391-3500
Home: (281) 391-6289
Fax: (281) 391-6515
Email: dotti.funkhouser@usi.biz

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 232-6871
Home: (281) 341-8002

East Texas District
Work: (936) 348-3317
Home: (936) 348-5808
Fax: (936) 349-0149

Northeast District
Work: (903) 843-3225
Fax: (903) 843-3251

North Texas District
Work: (817) 276-4700
Home: (817) 473-9156
Fax: (817) 276-4787
Email: bstulce@juno.com

Permian Basin District
Work: (432) 693-2252
Home: (915) 693-2476
Fax: (432) 693-2303

Ladies Auxiliary Liaison
Work: (806) 337-4158
Home: (806) 359-4960
Email: hamilton5134@sbcglobal.net

Past President Liaison
Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (409) 925-5434
Fax: (409) 925-7330
Email: fdchief700@comcast.net

Billy Mize
Burkburnett FD
808 Easy St
Burkburnett, TX 76354-2617

Terry Mayfield
Seguin FD
18156 S State Highway 123
Seguin, TX 78155-0845

Pumper Race Committee

Stephen Donnelly
Pearland FD
3913 Cedarwood Dr
Pearland, TX 77584-9248

Henry Horelica
Cameron FD
1505 N Travis Ave
Cameron, TX 76520-1647

Duane Henry
Conroe FD
PO Box 433
Normangee, TX 77871-0433

Gary Williams
Pasadena FD
4302 Blind River Dr
Pasadena, TX 77504-3118

Frank Rubio
Rockdale FD
PO Box 820
Rockdale, TX 76567-0820

Alvin Fail, IV
Cameron FD
702 E 12th St
Cameron, TX 76520-2762

Cody Horelica
Cameron FD
1505 N Travis Ave
Cameron, TX 76520-1647

Gerald S. Weniger
Seguin FD
PO Box 215
Seguin, TX 78156-0215

Barry Fuhrken
Bishop FD
400 E 2nd St
Bishop, TX 78343-2235

Shawn Snider
Edinburg FD
2804 Chateau St
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057

Roman Candelario Flores
San Juan FD
PO Box 1502
San Juan, TX 78589-1502

Past President Liaison
Work: (940) 322-5281
Home: (940) 569-1841
Fax: (940) 569-4192
Email: bmize@nortexrpc.org

Past President Liaison
Work: (830) 401-2310
Home: (830) 303-3473
Fax: (830) 401-2322
Email: tntmayfield@yahoo.com

Overall Chairman
Work: (281) 844-2442
Home: (281) 489-3918
Fax: (281) 489-3348
Email: jsd3913@yahoo.com

3-Man Chairman
Work: (254) 697-4702
Home: (254) 697-4013
Fax: (254) 697-3040
Email: henry_horelica@yahoo.com

6-Man Chairman
Home: (936) 396-9151
Fax: (936) 522-3079
Email: duane777@usa.net

3-6 Ladies Chairman
Work: (713) 475-5554
Home: (281) 487-8483
Fax: (713) 473-0524
Email: gary3473@att.net

Central Texas District
Work: (512) 760-5112
Email: frank.rubio@boral.com

Central Texas District
Work: (254) 697-4702
Home: (254) 605-0733
Fax: (254) 697-3040

Central Texas District
Work: (254) 697-4702
Home: (254) 697-4013
Fax: (254) 697-3040

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 401-2310
Home: (830) 560-2707
Fax: (830) 401-2322
Email: gweniger@satx.rr.com

South Central District
Work: (361) 584-6828
Home: (361) 584-3206
Fax: (361) 584-6168
Email: BFuhrken@stx.rr.com

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 380-1357
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: ssnider@ci.edinburg.tx.us

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 702-6400
Home: (956) 227-4360
Fax: (956) 783-3441
Email: truckee7975@yahoo.com

John French
Huntsville FD
779 FM 1696 W
Huntsville, TX 77320-1843

Royce Johnson
Center FD
PO Box 291
Center, TX 75935-0291

Donna Chudalla
TFA
3811 County Road 131
Wharton, TX 77488

David Luedeke
Needville FD
PO Box 132
Needville, TX 77461-0132

C. H. Boring, Jr.
2600 Pualani Way Apt 2301
Honolulu, HI 96815-3939

Gerald Matheaus
Richmond FD
2226 Ripple Creek Dr.
Rosenberg, TX 77471-5429

Sergeant-at-Arms Committee

Robert Kleen
Blanket VFD
7800 Country Road 329
Blanket, TX 76432-6318

Roy Crouch
Hearne FD
202 W Davis St
Hearne, TX 77859-2825

Edwin Baker
Stockdale FD
602 S 7th St
Stockdale, TX 78160-6031

Jason Scheel
La Vernia FD
11283 US Highway 87 W Unit 4
La Vernia, TX 78121-5886

Matthew Cornell
Pecan Grove FD
727 Pitts Rd.
Richmond, TX 77406

Paul Shannon
Wharton FD
1206 Crestmont St
Wharton, TX 77488-3404

Tomas Sanchez
Odem FD
PO Box 273
Sinton, TX 78387-0273

Gerardo Gomez
Alamo FD
125 S 9th St
Alamo, TX 78516-2525

East Texas District
Work: (936) 291-3047
Home: (936) 291-3047
Fax: (936) 291-3472

Northeast District
Work: (936) 598-3288
Home: (936) 598-3622

Ladies Auxiliary Liaison
Work: (979) 532-8895
Home: (979) 532-8527
Email: chudalla2012@yahoo.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (281) 343-0071
Home: (979) 793-6821
Fax: (979) 793-7255
Email: chief700@consolidated.net

Past President Liaison
Home: (808) 924-5370
Email: chboring@earthlink.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (281) 232-6871
Home: (281) 344-1711
Email: fire_2@sbcglobal.net

Chairman/Central Texas District
Work: (325) 748-3171
Home: (512) 415-7049
Fax: (325) 748-3171
Email: rekles@earthlink.net

Central Texas District
Work: (979) 279-5411
Home: (409) 279-3316
Fax: (979) 279-5411

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 996-1383
Home: (830) 391-1713
Fax: (830) 996-1366
Email: chiefsfd4100@gmail.com

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 779-2438
Home: (210) 818-8312
Fax: (830) 779-1729
Email: jasonscheel25@aol.com

Tri-Rivers District
Work: (281) 238-1500
Home: (281) 342-5583
Fax: (281) 342-0431
Email: cornemat@co.fort-bend.tx.us

Tri-Rivers District
Work: (979) 532-4811 x 601
Home: (979) 532-8303
Fax: (979) 282-2199
Email: paul.shannon@co.wharton.tx.us

South Central District
Work: (361) 368-2831
Home: (361) 364-4553
Fax: (361) 368-4100

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 787-5787
Home: (956) 821-9897
Email: ltlstrait@yahoo.com

Lonnie Shelton
Needville FD
PO Box 437
Needville, TX 77461-0437

Elton Thornell
Brookside Village VFD
5706 W Broadway Apt 7
Pearland, TX 77581-7846

Anthony Cargile
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
4712 Scott St
Santa Fe, TX 77517-3314

Jimmie Martinez
Lumberton Fire & EMS
527 N Village Creek Pkwy Apt 1A
Lumberton, TX 77657-6402

Robert Welborn
Silsbee FD
505 Winters St
Silsbee, TX 77656-5033

Daniel Hernandez
Lumberton Fire & EMS
8558 Ash St
Lumberton, TX 77657-8927

William Norris, III
Frieberg-Cooper VFD
7496 Cooper Rd
Wichita Falls, TX 76305-6400

Derek Thayer
Cameron Gardens FD
3351 River Rd.
Wichita Falls, TX 76305-7267

Donald Wiley
Floydada FD
PO Box 73
Floydada, TX 79235-0073

Dennis Rowe
Brownfield FD
1709 E Broadway
Brownfield, TX 79316-4801

Richard Harmon
Cameron Gardens FD
PO Box 1872
Wichita Falls, TX 76307-1872

Shawn Snider
Edinburg FD
2804 Chateau St
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057

Site Selection Committee

Bryan Allen Rickert
Carthage FD
142 County Road 2791
Carthage, TX 75633

Bill Gardner
Leander FD
PO Box 319
Leander, TX 78646-5022

Gulf Coast District
Work: (979) 793-4262
Home: (979) 793-3848
Fax: (979) 793-7255

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 485-3088
Home: (281) 485-6837
Fax: (281) 485-9551

Gulf Coast District
Work: (409) 978-2554
Home: (409) 925-2083
Fax: (409) 925-7330

East Texas District
Work: (409) 755-6031
Home: (409) 227-4666
Fax: (409) 751-6237
Email: jmartinez@lumbertonfireandrescue.org

East Texas District
Work: (409) 790-1178
Home: (409) 386-2919
Fax: (409) 385-4761
Email: BnSWelborn@aol.com

East Texas District
Work: (409) 755-6031
Home: (409) 781-2248
Fax: (409) 751-6237
Email: dhernandez@ohmstede.net

Red River District
Work: (940) 447-1664
Home: (940) 447-1669
Email: wnorrisiii@yahoo.com

Red River District
Work: (940) 767-7557
Home: (940) 767-1723
Email: Thayerddt@aol.com

Panhandle District
Work: (806) 983-2834
Home: (806) 983-2704
Fax: (806) 983-5542

Permian Basin District
Work: (806) 637-6633
Home: (806) 637-2072
Fax: (806) 637-4868
Email: dfr514@aol.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (940) 767-7557
Home: (940) 867-7837
Email: rm.harmon@hotmail.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 380-1357
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: ssnider@ci.edinburg.tx.us

President
Work: (903) 693-0119
Home: (903) 693-4855
Fax: (903) 693-0148
Email: brickert@sffma.org

3rd Vice President
Work: (512) 528-1664
Home: (512) 258-0188
Email: bgardner@sffma.org

Deloss Edwards
4733 Catclaw Dr
Abilene, TX 79606-3217

Jack King
661-B FM 2550 Rd
Huntsville, TX 77320-1972

Chris Barron
SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trl
Austin, TX 78745-1514

Gabi Glass
SFFMA
4450 Frontier Trl
Austin, TX 78745-1514

T*Flag Advisory Group

Steve Perdue
Mineral Wells FD
2215 NW 1st Ave
Mineral Wells, TX 76067-2947

Dave Snell
Luminant - Corporate Office
500 North Akard Ste 10-115C
Dallas, TX 75201-3302

Ronnie Sexton
Thorndale FD
3705 Del Norte Blvd.
Temple, TX 76502-1616

John Jandt
Seguin FD
1726 W Court St
Seguin, TX 78155-3102

Don McFarland
McQueeney FD
PO Box 1246
Seguin, TX 78156-1246

Edwin Baker
Stockdale FD
602 S 7th St
Stockdale, TX 78160-6031

Barry Fuhrken
Bishop FD
400 E 2nd St
Bishop, TX 78343-2235

Robert Thomas
Ingleside VFD
3190 Rebecca St
Ingleside, TX 78362-4649

Ricardo Saldana
Mission FD
2004 N. Bryan Rd
Mission, TX 78572-3028

Past President Liaison
Work: (325) 695-5133
Home: (325) 695-5133
Email: deloss36@hotmail.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (936) 295-2081
Home: (936) 295-3967
Fax: (800) 492-3919 Pager
Email: ajackking@aol.com

Executive Director
Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876
Email: cbarron@sffma.org

Staff Liaison
Work: (512) 454-3473
Fax: (512) 453-1876
Email: gglass@sffma.org

Chairman
Work: (940) 325-2908
Home: (940) 682-8456
Fax: (940) 325-2908
Email: sperdue@mesh.net

Indust Rep
Work: (214) 875-8670
Fax: (214) 875-8636
Email: wsnell1@txu.com

Central Texas District
Work: (512) 431-1024
Home: (254) 791-0060
Email: wgoldwing04@hotmail.com

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 401-2310
Home: (830) 379-5485
Fax: (830) 401-2322
Email: jjandt945@sbcglobal.net

Guadalupe District
Work: (210) 362-5296
Home: (830) 401-1650
Fax: (210) 662-9887 CC
Email: Don.McFarland@gmail.com

Guadalupe District
Work: (830) 996-1383
Home: (830) 391-1713
Fax: (830) 996-1366
Email: chiefsfd4100@gmail.com

South Central District
Work: (361) 584-6828
Home: (361) 584-3206
Fax: (361) 584-6168
Email: BFuhrken@stx.rr.com

South Central District
Work: (361) 776-7422
Home: (361) 523-9447
Fax: (361) 775-1186
Email: rjthomas@inglesidex.gov

Rio Grande Valley District
Work: (956) 580-8705
Home: (956) 580-8705
Fax: (956) 580-8712
Email: rsaldana@mission.lib.tx.us

Jeffery Thomson
Alvin FD
2305 County Road 284
Alvin, TX 77511-8385

Kendall Hunting, III
Alvin FD
1738 Glenview Dr
Alvin, TX 77511-4329

Dan Key
Friendswood FD
2204 Pine Dr
Friendswood, TX 77546-5539

Dennis Gifford
Lumberton Fire & EMS
115 Candlewick Dr
Lumberton, TX 77657-7291

Micheal Melton
Gilmer FD
214 Long St
Gilmer, TX 75645-6602

Michael Richardson
Decatur FD
608 Country Road 4460

Billy Mize
Burkburnett FD
808 Easy St
Burkburnett, TX 76354-2617

Clay Deatherage
Hawley FD
3709 US Highway 180 E
Anson, TX 79501-2807

Richard Goodney
Colorado City FD
950 E 15th St
Colorado City, TX 79512-4008

Paul Hamilton
Panhandle FFMA
PO Box 364
Bushland, TX 79012-0364

Kyle Donaldson
Sonora FD
125 E Castle Hill Rd
Sonora, TX 76950-6632

Charles Garris
Pleasanton FD
312 Tagert St
Pleasanton, TX 78064-3964

Trey Blocker
100 Congress Ave Ste 1100
Austin, TX 78701-4042

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 331-7688
Home: (281) 822-7074
Fax: (281) 331-9713
Email: avfd22@sbcglobal.net

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 331-7688
Home: (281) 228-4345
Fax: (281) 331-9713
Email: khunting@cityhall.cityofalvin.com

Gulf Coast District
Work: (281) 996-3360
Home: (281) 996-8655
Fax: (281)-996-3364
Email: dannykey@yahoo.com

East Texas District
Work: (409) 755-6031
Home: (409) 755-3379
Fax: (409) 751-6237
Email: dennismgifford@aol.com

Northeast District
Work: (903) 843-3225
Home: (903) 797-2430
Fax: (903) 843-3251
Email: mmelton@etex.net

Red River District
Work: (940) 627-1187
Home: (940) 433-5757
Fax: (940) 627-6014
Email: mrichardson@decaturfd.com

Red River District
Work: (940) 322-5281
Home: (940) 569-1841
Email: bmize@nortexrpc.org

Mid-West Texas District
Work: (325) 537-2839
Home: (325) 823-3614
Fax: (325) 537-2839
Email: mo2se@att.net

Mid-West Texas District
Work: (325) 728-5252
Home: (325) 728-3972
Fax: (325) 728-5252
Email: fdcc323@aol.com

Panhandle District
Work: (806) 364-7311
Home: (806) 359-4960
Fax: (806) 276-5265
Email: paulh@wtrt.net

Hill Country District
Work: (325) 387-2428
Home: (325) 387-3313

Wintergarden District
Work: (830) 569-2813
Home: (830) 569-4119
Fax: (830) 569-2813
Email: plezfire@2fastmail.com

Legislative Consultant
Work: (512) 236-2002

Ted Regnier
VFIS/Regnier & Associates
3420 Executive Center Dr Ste 301
Austin, TX 78731-1626

Carl Anderson
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
12150 14th St
Santa Fe, TX 77510-2140

Shawn Snider
Edinburg FD
2804 Chateau St
Edinburg, TX 78539-7057

TCFP Board Representatives

Gene Giles
Carthage FD
808 Ray St
Carthage, TX 75633-1310

Michael Melton
Gilmer FD
214 Long St
Gilmer, TX 75645-6602

TCFP Fire Fighter Advisory Committee Representative

Carl Anderson
Santa Fe Fire & Rescue
12150 14th St
Santa Fe, TX 77510-2140

Member
Work: (512) 448-9928
Fax: (512) 448-9929
Email: TRegnier@vffistx.com

Past President Liaison
Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (409) 925-5434
Fax: (409) 925-7330
Email: fdchief700@comcast.net

Past President Liaison
Work: (956) 383-7691
Home: (956) 380-1357
Fax: (956) 383-7111
Email: ssnider@ci.edinburg.tx.us

Commissioner
Work: (903) 693-5282
Home: (903) 693-9581
Fax: (903) 693-2474

Commissioner
Work: (903) 843-3225
Home: (903) 797-2430
Fax: (903) 843-3251
Email: mmelton@etex.net

Member
Work: (409) 925-7331
Home: (409) 925-5434
Fax: (409) 925-7330
Email: fdchief700@comcast.net

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TFA President's Pen



I want to take this opportunity to let everyone know how excited I am to be President of the Texas Firemen's Auxiliary. I look forward to working with each and every one of you during the coming year. I would not be here without the support of the Needville Fire Department, the Needville Fire Department Auxiliary, the Gulf Coast/Tri-Rivers district and especially my husband Bill and our daughter and son-in-law, Jamie and Daniel. The love and support they give me each day allows me to focus on what I need to do.

One of my primary goals this year is to continue to find better ways of communicating with each other. We are spread out all over Texas and this can sometimes cause problems in communicating. I want to encourage everyone to contact me or the Executive Board with any questions or concerns you might have. We all need to work together to keep our Auxiliary running properly.

I also am excited about working with the SFFMA Executive Board and the Austin office. President Rickert and I are busy working together to bring you a fabulous convention in Mesquite. The dates for the Mesquite Convention are June 17 – 22, 2011. Please make note that it is a week later this time and will fall

on Father's Day weekend.

Since our main purpose is to promote the interest and welfare of the SFFMA, we need to continue to support them and to find ways to become self-sufficient. With our economic times being what they are, we need to find ways to raise money for ourselves so that we do not continue to rely on the SFFMA for funding. I also want to remind y'all that we are here to serve you. Your voices and your opinions are important. I plan on visiting as many districts as I possibly can between now and the June Convention in Mesquite. In addition, I want to encourage each of you to consider running for a position on the Executive Board or serving on a committee. It would be nice to have each district represented.

We are looking for suggestions to fill the time on Mondays at Convention. Monday morning is the TFA general meeting and Monday nights is the various hospitality rooms. Several people have contacted me about finding something for the ladies to do that afternoon. I am asking

everyone to talk to their various districts and come up with some things you might like to have available. Once we have some ideas, we will contact the Mesquite Convention and Visitors Bureau. They have expressed the desire to help us with whatever we need. Please get back to me by December 1st with some suggestions for what you would like to do. We are looking forward to providing a full-filled afternoon for you in Mesquite.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for their support as I have moved through the chairs. The advice and help that I have received are truly appreciated. I am looking forward to having a wonderful year!

Shari Schiffman
TFA President



2010 - 2011 TFA Executive Board

Congratulations!



Bill Gardner
3rd Vice President

To the members of SFFMA thank you for your support during my campaign and election to the 3rd Vice President. The next few years will be exciting and challenging for use all as we move forward and address changes in this new era of public safety. Remember the Executive Board is your voice in the Texas Fire Service and to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Again Thank you and see you soon,
Bill Gardner



Rusty Kattner
4th Vice President

Thank you for supporting my candidacy for 4th Vice President. I promise to work hard for you and always protect your interest.

Rusty Kattner
President 2015



Joe Ondrasek
Secretary

Thanks to everyone for the support you gave me during this past year. I look forward to serving on the Executive Board as your Secretary. Please don't hesitate to call me, if I can help you or your district in any way. I would ask that all district secretaries and presidents keep me informed with what's going on in your District.

Joe Ondrasek
Secretary



Bryce Rickert
Mascot

I would like to thank everyone that voted for me, and expecily my second family the Northeast Texas District that worked very hard with me during my campaign and also my mother & father.

Bryce Rickert
Mascot

Training Opportunities 2010 - 2011

October

10/21 - 22 Medical Management of CBRNE Event, Belton
 10/25 - 29 Fresh Water Oil Spill Control Course, Galveston
 10/25 - 29 Hazardous Materials Pipeline Emergency Response Technician Training, College Station
 10/27 - 29 Incident Management/ Unified Command (MGT - 313) (ICS-300 Equivalent and Compliant), Arlington

November

11/1 - 2 Basic Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-53), College Station
 11/1 - 5 HazWoper for Clean-Up Operations Training, College Station
 11/1 - 5 NFPA 1006 2008 Edition Roper Recue Level I Training, College Station
 11/1 - 12 NFPA 1021 Fire Officer IV, Garland
 11/1 - 5 STCW Basic Safety Training, Basic Marine Fire Fighting, First Aid CPR, Person Survival at Sea,
 4HR Personal Safety and Social Responsibility, College Station
 11/2 - 4 NFPA 472, Annex E, Flammable Liquids Bulk Storage Specialty, College Station
 11/8 - 12 Combined Basic & Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI - 12), College Station
 11/8 - 12 Emergency Medical Services Instructor, College Station
 11/8 - 12 EMS Leadership Academy: Basic Supervisory Practices, Brenham
 11/8 - 12 NFPA 1081 Industrial Exterior Fire Brigade Training, College Station
 11/9 - 12 Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI - 15), College Station
 11/10 - 11 National Registry Written Exam Review, College Station
 11/12 National Registry Exam Skills Review, College Station
 11/15 - 17 Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Pumper Training, College Station
 11/15 - 19 Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Technician Training, College Station
 11/16 - 17 LNG Spill Control and Fire Suppression, College Station
 11/17 - 19 Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial Training, College Station
 11/20 - 21 Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents, Austin
11/21 - 24 Texas EMS Conference, Austin
 11/29 - 30 Advanced Incident Management/ Unified Command, Arlington
 11/29 - 30 Basic Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-53), College Station
 11/29 - 12/3 STCW Basic Safety Training, Basic Marine Fire Fighting, First Aid CPR, Person Survival at Sea,
 4HR Personal Safety and Social Responsibility, College Station
 11/30 - 12/2 Advanced Tactical Leadership Training, College Station

December

12/6 - 10 NFPA 1081 Industrial Interior Firefighting Training, College Station
 12/6 - 10 NFPA 472 Hazardous Material Technician Training, College Station
 12/6 - 7 NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Incident Command Training, College Station
 12/8 - 9 NFPA 1081 Leadership Training, College Station
 12/13 - 17 Combined Basic & Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-125), College Station
 12/13 - 17 NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I Training, College Station
 12/14 - 17 Advanced Fire Fighting (TXEESTI-15), College Station
 12/15 - 16 National Registry Written Exam Review, College Station
 12/17 - 17 National Registry Exam Skills Review, College Station

January

1/3 - 3/23 Emergency Medical Technician Basic, College Station
 1/3 - 3/16 Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
 1/3 - 3/25 Fire Training Academy, College Station
1/10 - 12 Leadership Development Symposium, Frisco
 1/10 - 5/26 Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
 1/10 - 14 Hazardous Materials Transportation Specialist Training, College Station
1/13 - 15 International Conference, Laredo
 1/17 - 4/8 Laredo Fire Training Academy, Laredo

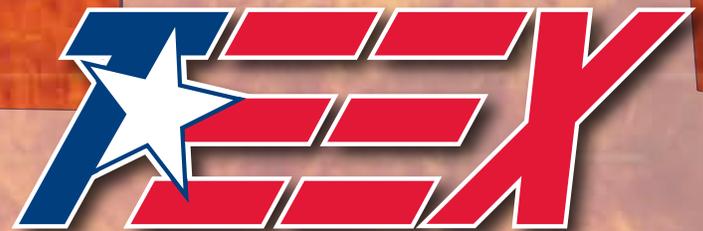
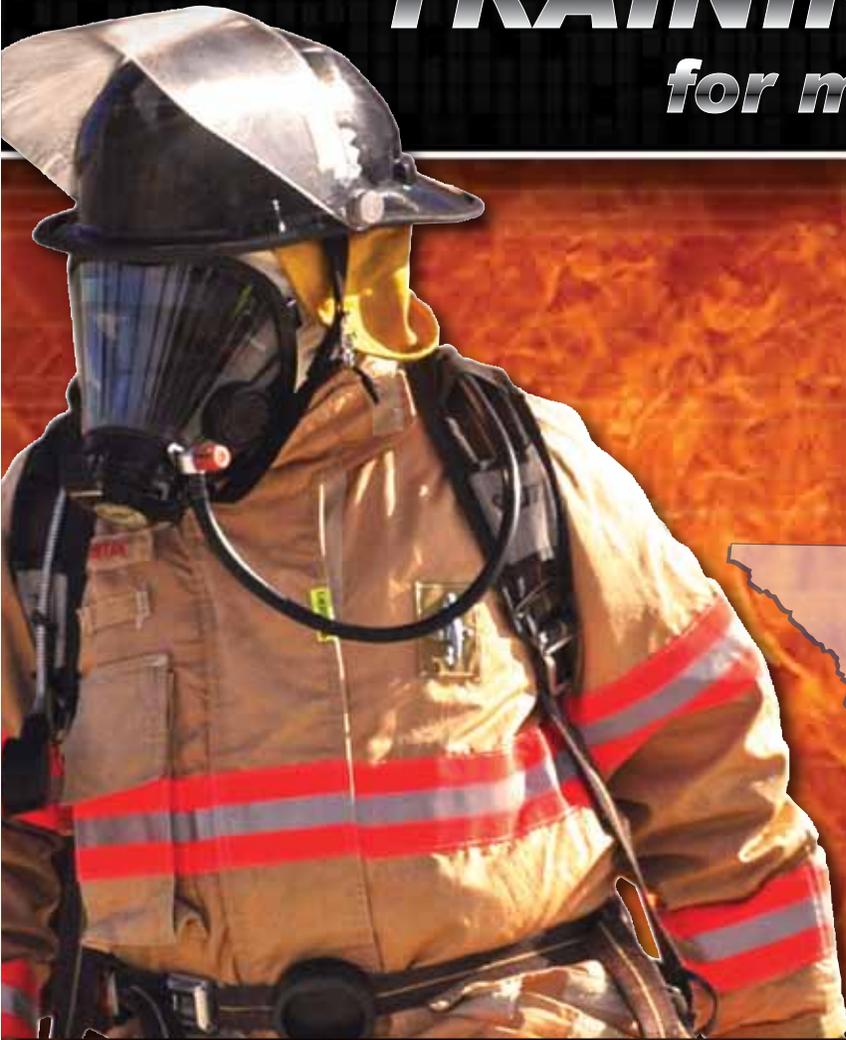
February

2/7 - 25 Emergency Medical Technician Basic, College Station
 2/7 - 18 NFPA 1021 Fire Officer IV, Cedar Park
 2/28 - 3/4 Emergency Medical Services Instructor, College Station

March

3/6 - 11 Spring ARFF Fire School, College Station
 3/15 - 6/30 Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, College Station
3/19 - 25 56th Annual Arson Investigators Seminar, Austin
 3/28 - 4/29 Emergency Medical Technician Basic, College Station

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