

THE AERIAL VIEW

THE OFFICIAL FORT WORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022 Edition- March



Welcome to the second edition of the Fort Worth Fire Department's Quarterly Newsletter: ***The Aerial View***! Every quarter, we will release a new edition that spotlights various responses as well as community activities that we participated in. There will be seasonal safety messages and other important Departmental updates.

To stay up-to-date with the latest information on your Fort Worth Fire Department, be sure to follow us on social media.



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@fortworthfire



@fortworthfd



Fort Worth
Fire Department



FortWorthFire



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Letter from Fire Chief Jim Davis

Dear Fort Worth,

The mission of the Fort Worth Fire Department is: *"To serve and protect our community through education, prevention, preparedness and response."* This mission requires us to do more than respond to calls for service each day. We must train new recruits, educate the public on safety and preparedness, grow as the City grows to ensure we meet everyone's needs and scale up our preparedness and response capabilities when facing a potentially large weather event. Our mission also makes us *your neighbors*, and that means when our community is impacted by a tragedy or disaster, we mourn with you.



In addition to the daily 400-450 calls your Fort Worth Fire Department responds to daily. The events that occurred this quarter in response to our Department's mission, included: **New Year's Eve** fireworks operations, the opening of **Station 43** in the Walsh Ranch area, the graduation of **Class 90**, two **winter weather** activations at the Emergency Operations Center and the one year anniversary of the I-35 pileup.



We ended December and began January by working jointly with the Fort Worth Police Department in **New Year's Eve** firework safety and prevention operations.

On the January 1st, our newest **station #43**, became operational. Station #43 serves the far west side and Walsh Ranch areas of Fort Worth. We look forward to serving the residents of this rapidly growing area of our city.



On January 12, **Class 90** of the Fire Recruits graduated, bringing 35 new firefighters onboard. These men and women went through the training academy receiving some of the most comprehensive and advanced training in the nation. We're incredibly proud to welcome these new firefighters.

The beginning of February brought with it a **winter weather** event (February 2) that prompted the activation of the EOC. This activation ensured that not only your fire department, but that every department in the city would be responsible for responding to emergencies resulting from the storm were working together to coordinate and communicate effectively. The EOC was activated again on February 22 for another round of winter weather.



February 11, 2022 marked the one-year anniversary of the I-35 pileup that injured dozens of people and claimed the lives of 6 men and women. A year later, we wanted to make sure that the victim's families had a place to remember their loved ones. With the help and support of the Park & Recreation Department, Mayor Price, City Council and City Management, we were able to dedicate two benches and a plaque at Riverside Park in a beautiful ceremony.

To watch the Fort Worth Fire Department's **story** of responding to the event that morning, visit our Facebook page [here](#).

This edition of the newsletter includes safety information for the **severe weather** we face in Fort Worth every spring. There are great preparedness tips and information. You will also find details on registering for our Fort Worth **Emergency Alert System**.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve as your Fire Department in the City of Fort Worth. We appreciate your support, your hospitality and your generosity. Stay safe.

Sincerely,

Jim Davis

THE FIRE FRONT

A Closer Look Spotlighting a Fire Response from this Quarter



Fellow award recipients, MedStar Employee Valerie Carson and Fort Worth Police Officer Luis Canizares, are pictured here with Fire Chief Jim Davis, Police Chief Neil Noakes, Karol Genovese Del Real and John Pardue of the Rotary Club Fort Worth South

Residential Structure Fire at 2600 Rodeo Street

January 27, 2022

Just before 4:00 a.m. on January 27th, firefighters responded to a structure fire at 2600 Rodeo Street in the Glencrest area of southeast Fort Worth. When firefighters arrived, they found fire showing from two corners of the house and the attic.

Crews were able to extinguish the the main body of the fire quickly and began the work of rescuing seven civilians who were trapped by a burglar bar door at the rear of the house.

Firefighter Jeff Ives, who took the 911 call, is a veteran fire fighter with 25.5 years of experience. Fire Alarm Office Captain Tony Dement said, "It is... important it is to have experienced fire ground veterans take emergency fire calls like this one... as he's taking the call, [he's] thinking just like the professional fire fighters responding to the fire, because he's ... done that ...job as well."

Firefighter Ives was awarded the **Rotary Club Fort Worth South Firefighter of the Year Award** due to his "exemplary service and life-saving steadiness when needed most."

This successful call highlights the Mayor and Council's commitment to providing the FWFD with the people and equipment it needs, and reflects on the FWFD's commitment to timely response, prevention, training and community risk reduction.

#YourFWFD in the Community

Educating, Training and Assisting the Residents of Fort Worth



Events in the Community

November 2021 through February 2022

#YourFWFD was proud to take part in these community events:

- The long standing traditions of the GM Financial Fort Worth Parade of Lights and the Cowtown Marathon
- Canvassing over 200 homes in the Far Greater Northside neighborhoods to install free smoke alarms for residents, offer education on how to create a home fire escape plan, and other winter fire safety information.
- Promoting #HeartHealthMonth at Diamond Hill Community Center, performing free blood pressure screenings and assisting the Blue Zones Project Fresh Access Initiative by distributing free produce to residents
- Launching a new Cardiac Care Education program. Hour long programs will be held two different Community Centers per month, allowing us to reach all of the Centers within the calendar year.

Station 18 gets a special visit from Leo the Leopard

Engineer Garrett Hawkins brought his daughter's class mascot, Leo, to the station to show him what a day in the life of a fireman is really like!



Your Fort Worth Fire Department is committed to serving our community by providing exceptional fire and life safety education services through engaging demonstrations and informative programs.

If you would like to learn more about events or have us come to your school/ business/ community group/ event, please contact us at:



817-392-6862



Fire.Safety@FortWorthTexas.gov

FORT WORTH OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

Criteria for Activating the Sirens

TORNADO WARNING OR CONFIRMED ROTATION



WINDS IN EXCESS OF 70 MPH



REPORTS OF HAIL 1.5+ INCH IN DIAMETER



CHEMICAL SPILL OR EMERGENCY



*Criteria can be altered for increased safety during Special Events or at the discretion of the Duty Officer.

Spring & Severe Weather Safety

Did you know that the City of Fort Worth has 153 outdoor warning sirens? While many refer to these sirens as "Tornado Sirens" they are sounded for multiple reasons. *See the graphic to the left.* The criteria for sounding the sirens may be altered if there is a large gathering of people outside. Remember, the sirens are to alert people outdoors to move indoors immediately, learn more information about the situation and seek shelter.

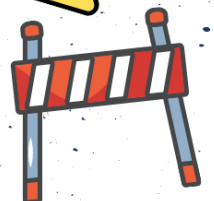
As we enter the spring months, the chances for severe weather increase dramatically. It's important to check the inventory of your emergency supply kit. Discard expired items and restock your kit to include all essential supplies needed to last **at least 72 hours for each member of your family (including pets!)**.

Flash flooding is the number one cause of weather related fatalities.

Don't take any chances when it comes to driving through water.

BASIC SAFETY TIPS: FLASH FLOODING

- Turn Around. Don't Drown
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground. Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the US
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.



TORNADO FACTS

**DESTRUCTIVE AND FAST
SPINNING FUNNEL-SHAPED WIND
THAT STRETCHES FROM A
THUNDERSTORM TO THE
GROUND.**



CAUSES

Scientists aren't exactly sure how or why tornadoes form, but do know that they come from supercell storms that have strong updrafts (rising warm air).

SAFETY

Meteorologists will give as much of a heads up as possible but tornadoes can spin up very quickly. If you're under a warning- seek shelter immediately. Move indoors, away from windows and into the most interior portion of your home.

WATCH/WARNING

A tornado **WATCH** means that conditions are favorable for one; a **WARNING** means that one has formed.

PREPAREDNESS



In North Texas, the chance for tornadoes is all year long. Therefore, you should always have your emergency go back packed. That bag should include enough supplies for everyone in your household (and pets) for up to 72 hours.

Your kit should include everything from flashlights to non-perishable food.



SIRENS

The Fort Worth Outdoor Warning Sirens will sound in your area if a tornado has been seen on NWS radar or if a trained spotter has reported seeing one.

DURATION

Tornadoes can last from a few seconds up to an hour. Do not leave your safe place until it's all clear.

The North Texas Region averages 25-30 tornadoes every year.

North Texas seasons are hard to predict but you can always prepare for whatever weather they may bring to our area.

Spring is one of the busiest seasons in our area in regards to severe weather activity.

Hail, tornadoes, flooding, lightning, and damaging winds all pose a threat during this peak severe weather season. It's incredibly important to identify your safe place, pack your emergency kit, practice escape plans and review your emergency preparedness plans with your family **BEFORE** a storm.

Spring Weather tends to bring several severe thunderstorm and tornado watches and warnings. You want to have **multiple ways** of receiving alerts for these important weather updates. A NOAA weather radio, weather apps, the City's alert system, our social media and your local news channel are great sources of information to use for real time updates.

Remember:

A **WATCH** means that conditions are favorable for a tornado and to prepare.

A **WARNING** means a tornado has been spotted and to seek shelter immediately.

FORT WORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR NOVEMBER 2021-FEBRUARY 2022



Fire Responses
1,953 Calls



Emergency Medical Service
30,576 Calls



Automatic Alarms
3,113 Calls



Motor Vehicle Accidents
4,582 Calls



Other Responses
7,468 Calls

Total Calls:
47,692



Quarterly Calls for Service Totals

Between November 1, 2021 and February 28, 2022, the Fort Worth Fire Department responded to just under **48,000** calls for service.

Nearly **64%** of these calls were emergency medical service calls ranging from cardiac arrest to strokes. The "other responses" include calls for service such as air craft alerts, high water rescues, and gas leaks for example.

On average, your Fort Worth Fire Department responds to about 145,000 calls a year. The call types vary during the time of year. In the spring months, we respond to multiple grass/brush fires as well as increased EMS calls for heat-related issues. Begin preparing your home and your family for the change in weather and the risks that come with the new season.

Your safety is our top priority and we're proud to serve the residents of Fort Worth

Register for Emergency Alerts

The City of Fort Worth, through the Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management, has a **free** alert system called "Fort Worth Texas Alerts."

This system replaced the NIXLE system. If you were previously registered for "NIXLE alerts," you will need to register for this system in order to receive emergency notifications.

You can register for texts, phone calls, email or a combination of all three at by visiting **this site** to sign up today!

FortWorthTexasAlerts.Gov

There are three ways to receive a "FortWorthTexasAlerts" alert from the **Fort Worth Fire Department Office of Emergency Management**. You can choose all options or whichever is most convenient for you.



TEXT MESSAGE

When a FortWorthTexasAlerts.gov alert is sent out you can receive just a text on your phone to alert you of the notification.



PHONE CALL

You can opt to also receive a phone call but this is not a requirement. When you register or update your registration add or remove this option.



EMAIL

You can also receive an email with details about the alert. Your information will not be shared outside of FortWorthTexasAlerts.gov.

****Please be sure when you sign up for alerts to fully register and not sign up as a "guest." This enables you to edit your account as needed.**

WWW.FORTWORTHTEXASALERTS.GOV

