

Chief's Staff Report for April, 2007

Calls for Service – March 2007

Entity	EMS Calls	Fire Calls	Other	Average Response Time
Argyle	13	17	0	4.25
Bartonville	2	5	0	5.75
Copper Canyon	7	1	0	7.00
Corral City	1	1	0	2.75
Lantana	7	8	0	7.25
North Lake	2	1	0	7.25
Denton County	8	8	0	7.75
Total Calls	40	41	0	7.00

The statistics listed above do not include calls that were disregarded while in route. The above response time is from the time of call to the time the first unit arrives.

Staff Activity

Entity	Total Calls	Average Time per Call	Average Responding	Total Hours
Argyle	30	2.75	9	742.50
Bartonville	7	2.00	8	112.00
Copper Canyon	8	2.75	7	154.00
Corral City	2	1.75	6	21.00
Lantana	15	2.75	11	453.75
North Lake	3	1.50	7	31.50
Denton County	16	2.25	8	288.00
Totals	81	2.23	9	1802.75

Call Volume

Comparing the March 2006 call volume of 79 to the March 2007 call volume of 83, we see a 5% increase in call volume. The District additionally received mutual aid 2 times and provided mutual aid 2 times in the month of March.

All calls have been answered within our average response times, and all medical calls were answered with advanced life support capabilities.

Total number of patients transported to the hospital in March was 22; 56% of all EMS patient contacts resulted in transport.

Disposition	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Encounters	31	36	39									
Transports	15 48%	23 63%	22 56%									
Refusals	16 52%	13 33%	17 44%									

April 15th through 21st is National Volunteer Week

Independent Sector (independentsector.org) has announced that the value of a volunteer hour in 2006 reached \$18.77 per hour, up from \$18.04, an increase of 4 percent since 2005.

This estimate, which is updated annually, is based on the average hourly wage (plus 12 percent to allow for fringe benefits) for all non-management, non-agriculture workers as determined by the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://bls.gov) (bls.gov). The announcement by IS coincides with preparations for [National Volunteer Week](#), April 15-21, which recognizes and celebrates America's legacy of volunteerism and the value that Americans place on helping others.

"The true value of volunteer time is the vital role that they play in helping millions of charitable organizations and communities across the country," said IS president and CEO Diana Aviv. "Volunteering is about giving, contributing, and helping others. The new estimate helps put into perspective the enormous contributions provided by our nation's volunteers."

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." – Mahatma Gandhi

If you want to make an impact in the world, follow Gandhi's advice. The benefits and rewards of volunteering go far beyond the dollar figures. Volunteering is a great way to change a life – and the life you change might be your own. This is a great week to be a volunteer, or to thank one.

Million Dollar Volunteers

As an organization relying heavily on volunteers, the AVFD recognizes the important personal contributions of our members, and as well, the financial impact of these contributions. In 2006 alone, the following volunteer hours were logged by AVFD members:

Training	1,940
Emergency Calls	12,215
Community Involvement	<u>1,410</u>
Total Volunteer Hours	<u>15,565</u>
Valued at \$18.77 per hour	\$ 292,155

Volunteers play a vital role for our district, and volunteers working within the Fire District since its inception in 1963 have devoted hours of work valuing in the millions of dollars. Volunteers give financially and also with the personal sacrifices of themselves and their time with their families, to ensure that the citizens in the Fire District receive the best possible service. Volunteers will continue to play an integral role in the future growth of the district. Thanks a million, volunteers!

Warning Sirens

We have exhausted all avenues of securing a grant to install warning sirens. Several issues were brought up with the grant funding agencies that we could not overcome. The primary obstacle to grant funding is that other methods of severe weather notification are proving to be far more effective than sirens, including weather alert radios and Reverse 911.

Some of the additional issues identified with warning sirens were activation, location, and maintenance. Activation of the sirens is preferred to be at an emergency dispatch center. Since the Fire District uses Denton County for dispatch, this would place an additional responsibility on an already overworked center. With regard to location and maintenance, there was significant difficulty in securing property that is accessible and would remain so, at all the required locations within the District. The property and access points, as well as the equipment, would require routine maintenance and repair for the foreseeable future.

Because of the lack of funding for this project, the Fire District recommends the use of a weather alert radio, in conjunction with the Reverse 911 system that will be put in place by the Fire District.

Weather Alert Radios

In the very near future the Fire District will have an agreement with a local supplier to sell weather alert radios at a very competitive rate. The alert radios will sound an alarm describing the threat and the location and what you need to do. Several entities that utilize sirens within their communities rely on weather alert radios to know when to activate the sirens.

Unlike the warning sirens, the weather alert radio is activated by the National Weather Center. When a possible threat of tornadoes or severe storms enters into the County, the National Weather Service sends out a signal that activates the alert radio and broadcasts the threat.

Please watch our website at www.argylefire.com. Information will be posted with instructions on purchasing a weather alert radio once we have received the information from our vendor. Weather alert radios are also available at many local retailers such as Radio Shack, Target and Wal-Mart.

Reverse 911 Systems

Beginning in our next budget year we will implement a Reverse 911 system for the Fire District. The system will be used to broadcast emergency information that affects either all or part of the Fire District via telephone calls. This will benefit citizens in case of severe weather, and additionally, other types of situations, such as:

- Fire
- Flood / Dangerous Water Conditions
- Missing Children or Elderly
- Evacuation Notices and Routes
- Prisoner Escape Warning
- Neighborhood Crime Watch Report
- Sexual Predator Alert
- Terrorism or Bio-terrorism Threats
- Bomb Threats
- Nuclear Hazards
- Chemical Spills
- Gas Leaks
- Haz-Mat Emergencies
- Drinking Water Contamination
- Viral Outbreaks
- Utility Outages
- Street Closings
- Public Notifications

Currently, the Fire District is developing standard operating procedures to enable the use of the Reverse 911 system to correlate with the Weather Alert Radios. An integral part of this procedure will include activation of the Reverse 911 system upon activation of the Weather Alert Radio to notify district citizens of any additional information and any actions that should be taken to ensure your safety.

KnowWhat2Do

Although this was mentioned in last month's report, it bears repeating now that severe weather season is upon us. In case of emergency, KnowWhat2Do! We face many potential hazards here in North Central Texas, and we have many skilled and caring emergency professionals ready to help if and when disaster strikes. But you are your own best protection. The KnowWhat2Do Web site (<http://www.knowwhat2do.com>), developed through the collaboration of our North Central Texas regional governments, teaches you how to Think, Prepare and Act to protect your personal safety and the safety of those around you.

This website is full of important information, and with severe weather season just around the corner it is a good time for every citizen to take an opportunity to review ways to stay safe. The site contains a lot more information than just severe weather actions, it also includes other threats we could face in the North Texas Region.

Stay safe this severe weather season!
Respectfully,

Mac Hohenberger
Fire Chief
Argyle Volunteer Fire District