

Chief's Staff Report for July, 2006

Calls for Service - June 2006

Entity	EMS Calls	Fire Calls	Other	Average Response Time
Argyle	21	8	0	4.25
Bartonville	3	3	0	6.00
Copper Canyon	2	3	0	6.25
Corral City	1	0	0	2.25
Lantana	6	8	0	7.75
North Lake	0	2	0	8.50
Denton County	2	17	0	8.25
Total Calls	35	41	0	7.25

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	Avg. Time per Call	Avg. Responding	Total Hours
Argyle	29	2.25	8	576.00
Bartonville	6	2.50	9	157.50
Copper Canyon	5	2.00	8	192.00
Corral City	1	1.75	6	10.50
Lantana	14	2.25	9	303.75
North Lake	2	1.25	6	37.50
Denton County	19	2.00	9	306.00
Totals	76	2.23	9	1577.75

Call Volume

Comparing the June 2005 call volume of 64 to the June 2006 call volume of 90 including 14 mutual aid calls, we see an increase of 26 calls, a 41% increase. Compared to May 2006, our call volume increased by 18 calls, a 25% increase.

All calls have been answered within our average response times; and all medical calls were answered with advance life support capabilities – at least one paramedic responded.

The District received mutual aid 7 times, and provided mutual aid 14 times in the month of June.

Total patients transported to the hospital in June were 11. A total of 61% of all EMS patient contacts resulted in transport.

Fire Academy

The current academy will be complete in mid August. The State of Texas test date is scheduled for August 16th, 2006. The class began with 4 volunteers from our department, and 11 other students, from other departments and just beginning their career in the fire service.

Over the past 10 months, some students were disqualified, for grade averages not being kept at the required 75 percent.

Training is a very important part of the fire district operations; and our bi-annual academy has provided our volunteer members with excellent training. This is a state approved academy, and students become State of Texas certified firefighters upon completion.

The Fire District gains many benefits from having a high percentage of members state certified, including a better ISO rating, which lowers homeowner insurance costs. When the 3 remaining members have completed the class and taken their state test, the District will have 19 of our 23 volunteer members state certified. Our goal to maintain a high number of members with state certification will remain a high priority in our training program.

Volunteer members completing the class are:

- Cole Jasper - Current EMT-B (soon to take Paramedic exam)
- Ande Mosher - Current EMT-B (soon to take Paramedic exam)
- Gerry Shepherd - Current EMT-B
- Kyle Johnson - New member

Please join me in congratulating and thanking these dedicated members, all of whom have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Emergency Services District (ESD) Update

At our June board meeting, a Steering Committee was formed to begin educating and informing the citizens in our district about the ESD. The Steering Committee has discussed several ideas. Our first step in preparing for the Public Education campaign is to create a budget; fund allocation will be discussed at our July board meeting.

Currently, pricing is being gathered to create information cards, this pricing should be prepared to present to the Board and the ESD Steering Committee this month. A website is also being developed to allow for citizens to visit, leave comments and ask questions, as well as learn about the need for the ESD.

The Steering Committee has discussed several ideas, including a press release, and will be meeting before month end. Key goals for this meeting will be to setup a community wide publicity campaign and a budget, which will include outside funding, for presenting the ESD to the public.

July 4th Report

We were very pleased with the low call volume we experienced on the 4th of July. Historically, the 4th of July has proven to be a busy day with an even busier night, as a direct result of fireworks.

One incident occurred in Bartonville, where lit fireworks were placed in a mailbox. The minimal ignition caused damage to the mail box, and started a small grass fire which was easily contained.

The members of the Fire District appreciate the level of awareness demonstrated by the citizens of the District in observing the firework ban and burning restrictions during this drought.

Reverse 911

As reported in June, the Fire Marshal's office will be setting up County wide Reverse 911 systems before the end of this year. The system is comparable to the "Code Red" system, but in comparison, Code Red is a superior system.

Reverse 911 systems are not designed to alert citizens in the event of eminent danger such as a tornado; they are designed to inform citizens in the event of a life or property threatening situation. A delay in notification means that the system is not as helpful in an eminent danger situation. Reverse 911 systems can be helpful in the event of a lost child or adult; or additionally, as recently used in a neighboring community, to locate a dog that had bitten a child.

I will keep you updated on the progress the County is making in providing the reverse 911 system. My recommendation is that in the next budget year we implement the Code Red system, as well as continuing to pursue the warning siren grants.

Budget Information

Current budget status is as follows: The percentage shown represents the percentage of budgeted income received to date as of 07-25-06.

Entity members	91%
County Funding	87%
Fund Raisers	105%
Service Fees	145%
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Total percentage of budgeted income received to date	97%

Expenditures to date, as a percentage of funds budgeted to be expended, as of 07-25-06:

Payroll	75%
Operations	80%
Facilities	83%
Apparatus & Equipment	94%
Training & Safety	80%
Contractual Services	80%
Capital Outlay	96%
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Total budget expended to date	80%

Mutual Aid

As you can see in our call numbers, Mutual aid calls are higher than normal. The increase is not as a result of more fires, but as a result of the current weather conditions. Because of the drought conditions and heat, all departments are calling for assistance immediately when responding to a reported fire, rather than waiting until they reach the scene.

This helps all departments in providing manpower. With the heat index in the triple digits, and in a superheated environment with protective gear in place, the danger of a firefighter suffering from heat exhaustion is very high. Automatic mutual aid allows better rotation for crews fighting fires; and protects the health and safety of firefighters in these extreme heat conditions.

Driver Training

One of the most effective ways to protect the safety of our personnel as well as the citizens we serve is to assure everyone operating our apparatus is well trained in how to operate the apparatus in a safe manner.

This November we will be conducting driver training, which is an annual requirement for all members permitted to operate any district apparatus. This class, known as EVOG (Emergency Vehicle Operations Class), provided in part by our insurance carrier is scheduled for November 11th and 12th for a total of 16 hours, including 8 hours in class room and 8 hours practical.

At present, all members and staff are current with the District SOP for apparatus operation. Since a reported 25% of all firefighter fatalities are directly related to traffic accidents traveling to or from calls; keeping our staff up to date in safe operational policies is a must. Additionally, the new engine adds several new layers of protection for our members since it is equipped with 360 degree airbags and an anti-lock braking system.

Call Response

Changes have recently been made to our policy regarding emergency call response. Looking at historical information, we have been responding lights and sirens to calls that do not warrant using this Code 3 response. With 25% of firefighter fatalities occurring from traffic collisions during response, and with Code 3 responses being more prone to occurrences, this is an unacceptable risk. Changing the response Code on this type of alarm puts our risk more in line with our life safety goals. In the future, controlled burns reported as “in control” will no longer warrant a Code 3 response.

Respectfully submitted

Mac Hohenberger
Fire Chief
Argyle Volunteer Fire District