



# LAKE TRAVIS FIRE RESCUE

TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 6

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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Robert B. Abbott

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President Shiloh Newman

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE **LAKE TRAVIS FIRE RESCUE FIRE CHIEF** TOGETHER, WE ARE LAKE TRAVIS FIRE RESCUE.

I am privileged to be part of a great team of public safety professionals who pride themselves on providing *compassionate, committed service* in all aspects of our services, from risk reduction to emergency response to training our team members to ensure they all have what they need to do the job and to do it safely.

With the oversight and leadership of the Board of Commissioners, our organization accomplished several significant projects in 2023, which will lead the District to improve services to the community while developing our workforce for the challenges and service demands that lie ahead.

Our accomplishments in 2023 started with securing property for a new logistical warehouse, training center, and fleet center, allowing the District to control costs better while ensuring our employees receive the training and development they need to grow and take on new roles.

In addition to the large capital projects, expanding positions in the logistics, training, administrative, and emergency planning and coordination roles will ensure we have support in many of the various disciplines and services we offer.

All of this is only possible by developing and nurturing relationships with our stakeholders, including our employees, their families, our local, state, and federal partners, and the community at large. We leverage our capabilities and influence to contribute significantly to shaping public policies and laws, fostering community resilience, transparency, and collaboration. Through these efforts, we aim to instill trust in the collective systems that residents depend on during emergencies or when seeking assistance to enhance their lives. Together, we are Lake Travis Fire Rescue.

Sincerely,  
Robert Abbott



Robert B. Abbott  
Fire Chief



Mike Prather  
Assistant Chief



Glenn Trubee  
Assistant Chief/  
Fire Marshal



Sharon Smith  
Chief Financial Officer



Virginia Deeny  
Chief Human  
Resources Officer



# MESSAGE FROM THE **TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 6 BOARD PRESIDENT** THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT.

On behalf of the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6 Board of Commissioners, I want to thank the community for its unwavering support as the District responds to the ever-growing number of emergency incidents and service demands a thriving community can generate. Our dedicated professionals ensure that citizens and our shared visitors can live and prosper safely, knowing that high-quality services are always standing by.

Looking back on the previous year, our services were deployed in a manner that provided our community with fast response times while also being responsible fiscal stewards of the citizen's investment.

I encourage readers of this report to look at the District's performance in the last year as it highlights improvements and areas of enhancement planned for the next few years.

This includes the Board's approval of a 40-million-dollar capital improvement plan (CIP) to replace three existing fire stations, add fire stations, and construct a dedicated logistics warehouse, training center, and fleet maintenance and repair center.

In addition to the updated CIP, the District also approved the Community Risk Assessment. It updated the Standards of Cover documents that will allow organizational leaders to advance services to ensure they meet not just today's needs, but the needs of our communities for years to come.

Sincerely,  
Shiloh Newman



Shiloh Newman  
President

## **Travis County ESD No. 6 Board of Commissioners**



Larry Sartin, Vice President



Matt Womack, Treasurer



Jessica Clinton, Secretary



Paula S. Barr, Commissioner

# about LTFR

Lake Travis Fire Rescue, Travis County Emergency Service District No. 6 proudly provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the Lake Travis community.

## Compassionate Committed Service



### MISSION

To minimize loss of life and property through emergency response, prevention and community involvement.



### VISION

Our organization is recognized by those we serve as exceptional and innovative.



### VALUES

Our success is built upon the foundation of our commitment to professionalism, leadership, integrity, respect, compassion and safety.



# Our Team



**134**

Full-Time  
Budgeted Positions

**101**

Firefighters

**13**

Fire  
Investigators

**16**

Fire  
Inspectors

**58**

Credentialed Advanced  
Life Support

**14**

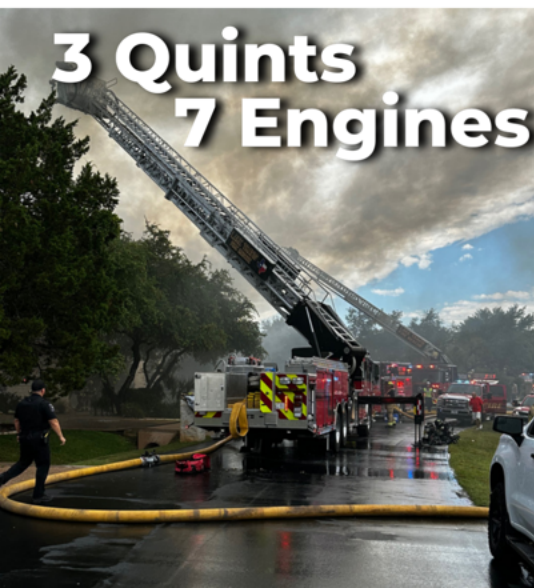
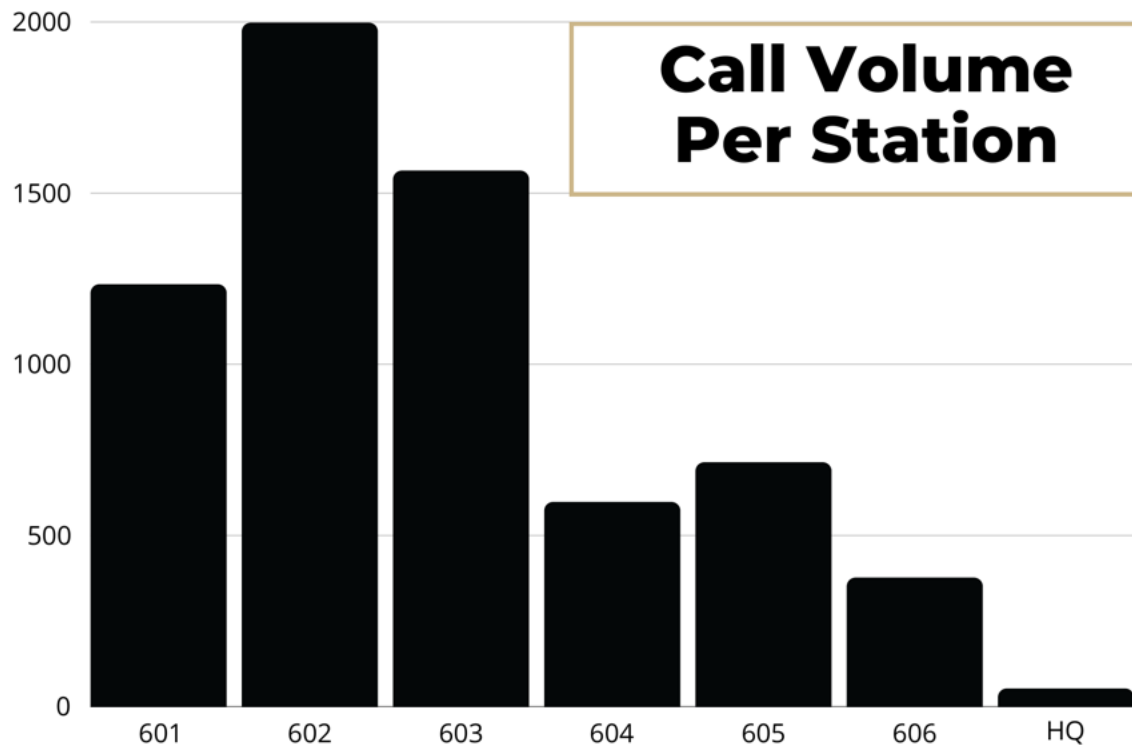
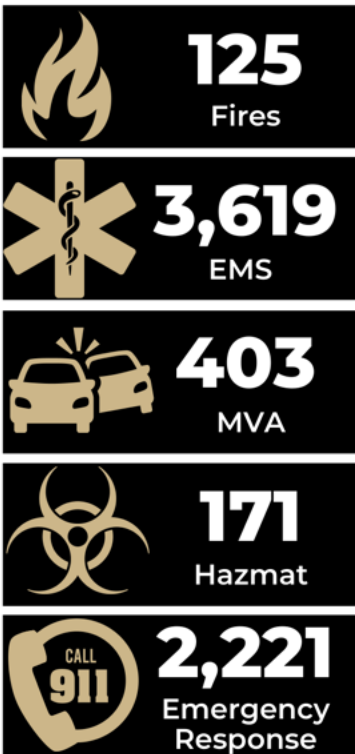
Veterans



# Emergency Operations

The Emergency Operations Division at Lake Travis Fire Rescue involves responding to various emergencies, such as fires, accidents, rescues and medical emergencies. Committed to integrity, they lead with compassion, ensuring the safety of individuals and property while upholding the highest standards of respect for the community they serve.

## 2023 Stats





# Emergency Operations

The Emergency Operations Division at Lake Travis Fire Rescue involves responding to various emergencies, such as fires, accidents, rescues and medical emergencies. Committed to integrity, they lead with compassion, ensuring the safety of individuals and property while upholding the highest standards of respect for the community they serve.

Stations

601



604



602



605



603



606





# Emergency Operations

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## Performance Evaluation

All ranked personnel certified by TCFP participated in the Performance Evaluation.

Event 1: Dry Hose Deployment

Event 2: Charged Hose Deployment

Event 3: Roof Walk

Event 4: Attic Crawl

Event 5: Roof Ventilation

Event 6: Victim Removal

Event 7: Ladder Removal/Carry

Event 8: Crawling Search

Event 9: Stair Climb with Hose

### Stair Climb



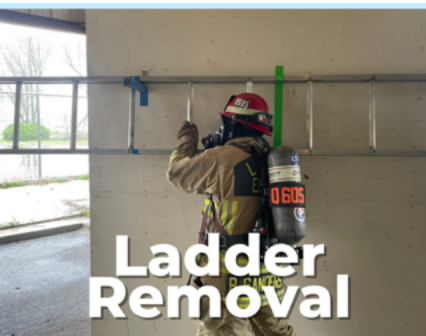
### Charged Hose



### Roof Walk



### Ladder Removal



### Attic Crawl



### Victim Removal





# TAC Team

The Lake Travis Technology Aiding Command (TAC) Team will act as the central hub for the organization's robotics initiatives, initially concentrating on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). This team will harness UAS capabilities to aid in incidents, preventive measures, and mapping, ensuring a versatile and efficient approach to operational tasks.



**FAA PART 107 CERTIFIED  
UAS PILOTS**

**9**



**TOTAL UAS TAKEOFFS**

**347**



**TOTAL UAS MISSIONS**

**42**



**TOTAL FLIGHT HOURS**

**63.63**



**FIRE TRUCKS CANCELLED AS A  
RESULT OF UAS RESPONSE**

**8\***



**TOTAL ON SCENE MINUTES  
UAS SAVED**

**130\***

\*approximate numbers

## Rescue Boaters

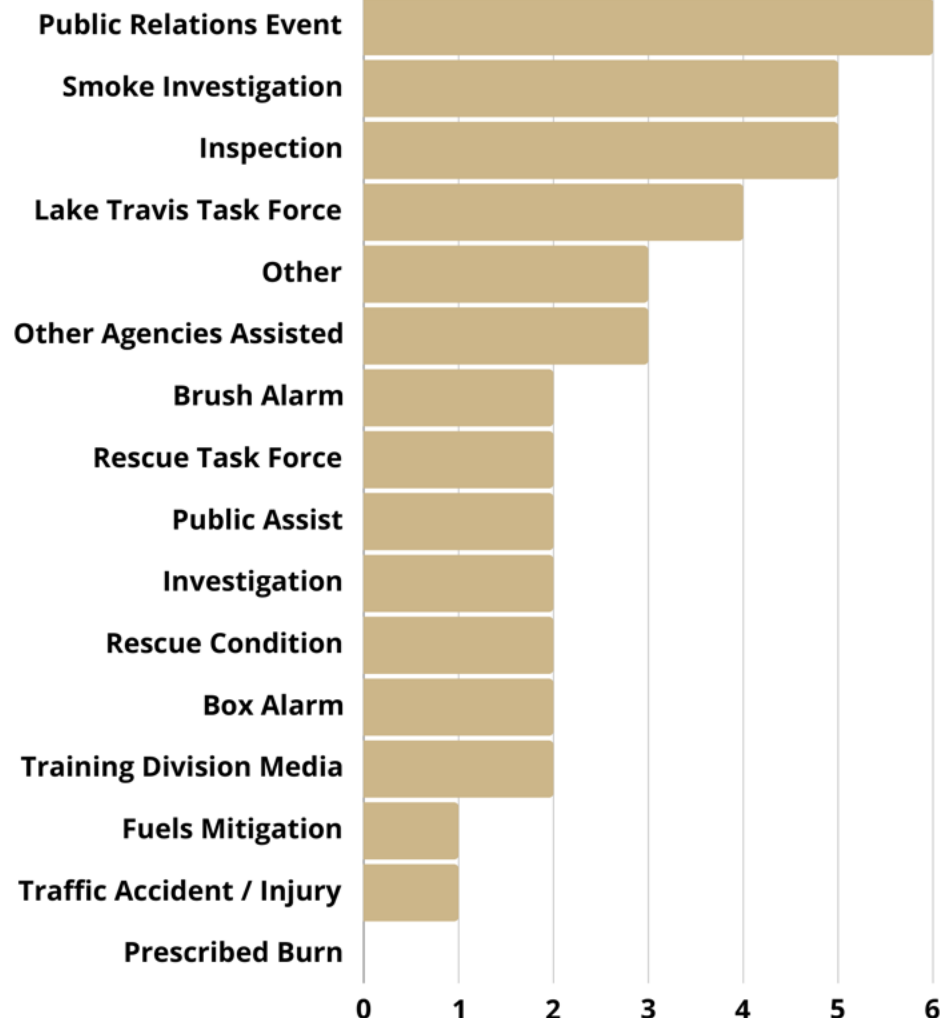


## Fire Operations



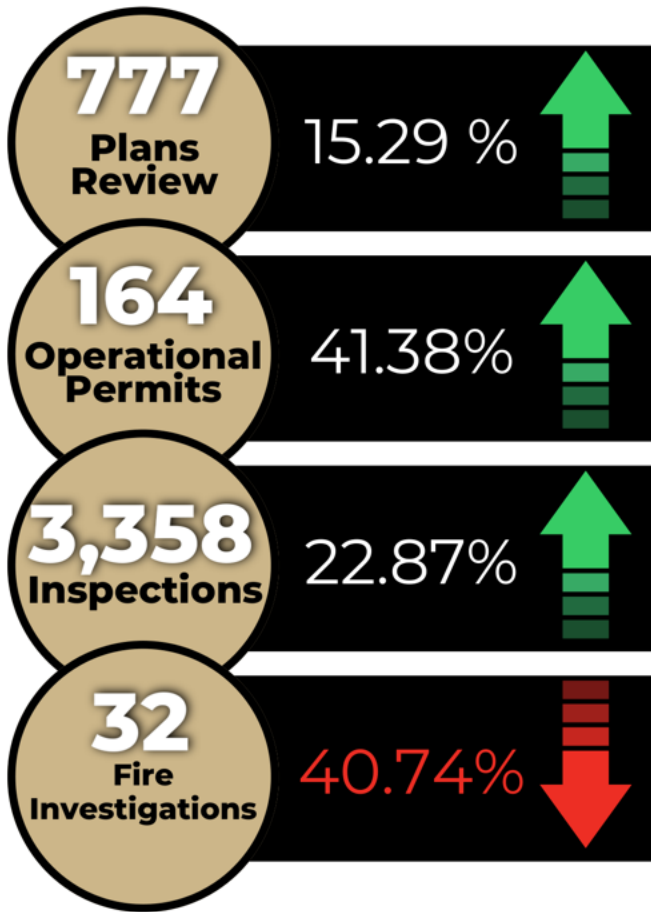
## Locate Missing People

## 2023 UAS Missions



# Prevention

The Prevention Division is responsible for protecting lives and property through fire code adoption, fire inspections, code enforcement, fire investigations, permitting and community outreach and education.



## Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Prevention team at Lake Travis Fire Rescue actively engaged in collaborative efforts by participating in the Travis County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Planning Team.



This involvement underscores our commitment to proactive measures for community safety and hazard mitigation.

## New Code Adoption



In 2023, Travis County ESD No. 6's Board of Commissioners, with the recommendation of LTFR's Fire Marshal, adopted the 2021 International Fire Code.

## Police Academy Graduate

Battalion Chief Eric Carlson graduated from the University of Texas System Police Academy in 2023. Battalion Chief Carlson was sworn in by Fire Chief Robert B. Abbott. Carlson is a certified law enforcement officer and arson investigator.



## Sprinkler Trailer Donation

In 2023, the National Fire Sprinkler Association donated a home fire sprinkler trailer to Lake Travis Fire Rescue. This trailer demonstrates the effectiveness of home fire sprinklers. The trailer will be utilized throughout the central Texas region.





# Prevention

The Prevention Division is responsible for protecting lives and property through fire code adoption, fire inspections, code enforcement, fire investigations, permitting and community outreach and education.



**133 Public Education Events**

## SAFETY SQUAD



**10** schools

**20** shows



**7,300**  
students  
reached



## PUBLIC SAFETY DAY



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT





# Wildfire Mitigation

The Wildfire Mitigation Department at Lake Travis Fire Rescue takes proactive measures to reduce the risk and impact of wildfires in the region. Through strategic vegetation management, community outreach, and comprehensive planning, they work to create defensible spaces, raise awareness about wildfire risks, and enhance overall preparedness.



## Winter Storm Mara

Lake Travis Fire Rescue played a crucial role in supporting the City of Bee Cave during the burning of more than 100,000 cubic yards of brush from Winter Storm Mara. Collaborating with Tri-City Emergency Management, LTFR facilitated the coordination and obtained approval from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the controlled burning of a substantial amount of debris.

Dustin Dunn, Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Private Risk Management Association regarding wildland fires in Texas. Other panelists included representatives from the insurance industry.

## Education



## Evacuation Planning

Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Dustin Dunn assisted the Commanche Trail neighborhood association with the planning and execution of an evacuation drill.



Shaded Fuel Breaks



**10 acres**

Storm Cleanup



**65 acres**

Biomass Chipped



**750 cubic yards**

Assisted Burning



**100 brush piles**



# EMS Education

The EMS Education Coordinator at Lake Travis Fire Rescue is committed to advancing the knowledge and skills of emergency medical services personnel. They design and deliver comprehensive training programs, ensuring that EMS professionals receive up-to-date education on the latest medical techniques and protocols.

## 7 Firefighters Completed Paramedic School



## Students Trained



**352**

MEDICAL CONTINUING  
EDUCATION



**27**

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER  
CARD CLASSES



**174**

COMMUNITY CPR, AED,  
FIRST AID, AND STOP  
THE BLEED



**7**

DSHS Certified  
Educators



**14**

CPR Instructors



**14**

ACLS/PALS  
Instructors



**10**

Stop The Bleed  
Instructors



**5**

NAEMT Specialty  
Instructors



# Training

The Training Division is responsible for honing personnel's skills and knowledge for effective emergency response. They conduct comprehensive and ongoing training programs, ensuring firefighters are equipped with the latest techniques and best practices.



**Hands-On Training  
Classes  
101**



**Annual Total  
Training Hours  
1,592.5**



**Total Employee  
Hours Trained  
1,547**

## Training Chair



Battalion Chief Robert Rygg was appointed Training Chair for the Capital Area Fire Chiefs Association.

## New Position Emergency Educator Specialist

Engineer John Hagerty joined the Training Division as an emergency educator specialist. With this addition, the training division has four staff dedicated to ensuring LTFR firefighters are trained to national standards and best practices.



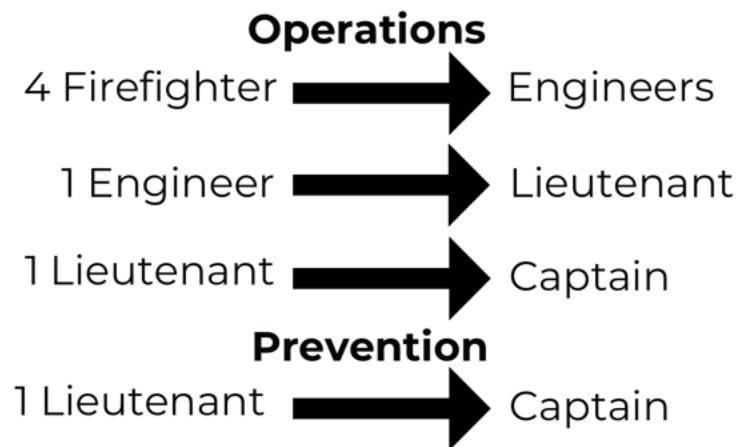
# Human Resources

Human Resources is responsible for the management of talent acquisition, personnel policies and procedures, employee benefits, compliance with employment laws and regulations and a wide range of other HR administrative functions. HR plays a crucial role supporting District staff and fostering a positive work environment.

## 22 new hires

**9 Operations**  
**11 Forestry Techs**  
**2 Administration**

## 7 promotions



## New Firefighter Hiring Process

**104**

Applications

**58**

Written Exam

**46**

Physical Ability Test

**39**

Oral Interviews

**14**

Conditional Offers



## Retirement

Investigator Frederick served LTFR for 24 years and retired in February of 2023. Thank you, Investigator Frederick, for your service.



# Finance

Finance is responsible for all financial aspects of the department, including the annual budget, long-term financial and capital planning, cash flow and investment management, and all accounting functions, including payroll and accounts payable/receivable. Additionally, Finance is responsible for the annual audit, monthly financial reporting to the Board of Commissioners, establishing and monitoring internal controls, and assuring compliance with accounting and financial standards.

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Emergency response staff salaries and benefits, required protective equipment, tools and supplies for responding to emergency calls.



**\$16.5 Million**

## ADMINISTRATION

Salaries and benefits of non-emergency personnel, utilities, facility maintenance and contracted services.

**\$2.9 Million**

## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION & PREVENTION

Building inspections, code enforcement, plans review, smoke alarm installations, and fire and life safety presentations.



**\$2.1 Million**



**\$1.3 Million**

## TRAINING

**\$1 Million**

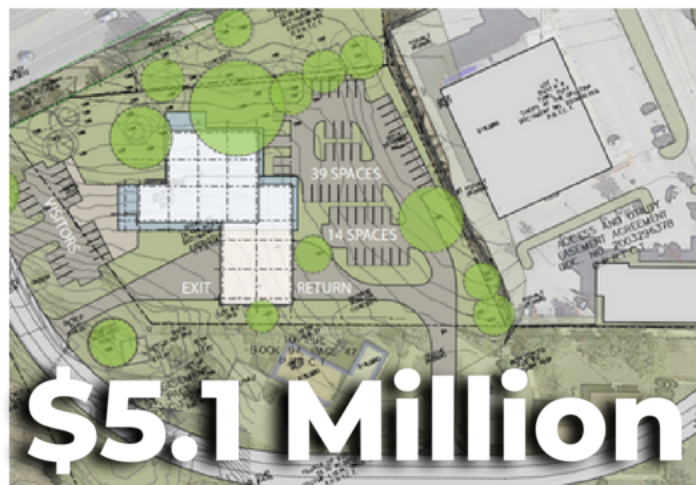
Training for firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, new recruits and staff.

## DEBT SERVICES

**\$500,000**

Principal and interest payments for outstanding loans.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS LAND PURCHASES



**\$5.1 Million**

Purchase of land to build future fire stations, fleet maintenance and training facility.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS FLEET AND RADIO

Purchase of brush truck, staff vehicles, Fuels UTV, and battalion trucks



# Fleet & Logistics

The Fleet and Logistics Department at Lake Travis Fire Rescue is dedicated to ensuring the seamless operation of the fire department's vehicles and optimizing logistical efficiency. Additionally, they oversee the coordination of logistical operations, ensuring timely and effective resource deployment to support Lake Travis Fire Rescue and surrounding Emergency Services Districts.



**2 New Battalion Trucks**



**3 New Investigator Trucks**

**1  
Captain**

**2  
Logistics  
Techs**

**2  
Fleet  
Techs**

**EVT &  
ASE  
Certified**



## Fleet Techs and Trailer

Lake Travis Fire Rescue expanded our team by hiring two skilled fleet technicians and acquiring a new fleet trailer. The technicians equipped the trailer to service our fleet of fire trucks and assist surrounding departments with their maintenance and mechanical needs.



**415 Sets of Gear  
Cleaned**



**Hose Testing**



**Ladder Testing**



# Public Information

Public Information is the crucial link between the fire department, the community, and the media, disseminating timely and accurate information. The public information officer manages public communications, social media, and news releases, keeping residents informed about fire safety, emergency preparedness, and departmental activities.

## Social Media

Facebook



8,417

followers

Instagram



886

followers

Twitter/X



1,217

followers

YouTube



2,479

views

## Video Projects

Lake Travis Fire Rescue created and also collaborated with all Travis County ESDs on multiple multi-media projects in 2023.

Overdose Mapping PSA Series

What is an ESD?

Life Jacket Safety

Fire Prevention Week: Cooking Safety

Fire Prevention Week: Cooking Safety - Kids



## News Conference

On July 19, a news conference was held, in coordination with Travis County ESDs to discuss wildfire preparedness and prevention.



## Media Interviews

Lake Travis Fire Rescue works with the media to ensure timely and accurate information is provided on various topics.





# Presentations & Partnerships

Presentations and partnerships are integral to Lake Travis Fire Rescue as they provide opportunities to educate the community on fire safety measures and emergency preparedness, fostering a safer environment. Collaborative efforts with external entities enhance LTFR's capacity to respond effectively to diverse challenges, creating a network of support for the community's well-being



Fire Chief Abbott presents the State of Travis County ESDs to the Travis County Commissioners Court.



Fire Chief Abbott advises Senior Advisor to the President John Podesta at the Whitehouse on issues of wildfire and flood mitigation during the Whitehouse Summit on Building Resilient Communities in September 2023.



Communications Director Rachel Neutzler, through a partnership with NFPA, taught a session during a community risk reduction event.



Every year, Lake Travis Fire Rescue provides lunch to the dispatchers and communications team who provide dispatch services for LTFR.



Communications Director Rachel Neutzler, the Travis County Sheriff's Office and Texas Department of Emergency Management taught Basic PIO to attendees from across the state.



# AWARDS & Recognition

## 2023 Lake Travis Fire Rescue Awards



Firefighter of the Year  
Firefighter Brandon Barto



Engineer of the Year  
Engineer Tristan Monks



Officer of the Year  
Lieutenant Jeffrey Dudik



Medical Provider of the Year  
Firefighter Samuel Wieland



Company of the Year Award: ENGINE 602 B-Shift: Lieutenant Matt Benson, Engineer Adam Power, Firefighter Samuel Wieland, and Firefighter Carson Monks



Exemplary Leadership Award  
Captain Ted Harris



District Support Award  
Sam Kang



Community Impact Award  
Rachel Neutzler



# AWARDS & Recognition



Community Partner Award  
City of Lakeway



Excellence Award -- Gold  
Texas Fire Marshals Association



# AWARDS & Recognition



Battalion Chief Carlson  
Prevention Division



Battalion Chief Carlson and  
Captain Bohot graduated from the Fire  
Executive Management Training Program



Captain Bohot  
Prevention Division



Engineer Tristan Monks was honored by the  
Texas Department of Public Safety for saving a  
woman's life off duty.

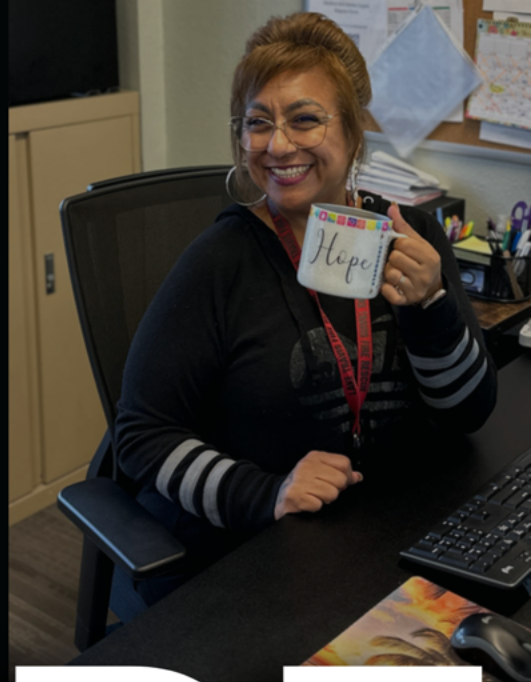


Engineer Levon Steele received a  
Commendation Medal from LTFR for his heroic  
efforts during a fire in Cedar Park on Aug. 8



Certificate of Appreciation presented to LTFR's  
Wildland Mitigation from Mayor Wharton for their  
fuels mitigation work in The Hills.





# WE ARE LTFR







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