



LAKE TRAVIS FIRE RESCUE

TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 6

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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A MESSAGE FROM THE TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 6 FIRE CHIEF

It is my honor to serve alongside a team of dedicated professionals who take immense pride in providing compassionate, committed service in every area of our mission—from risk reduction and emergency response to the ongoing training that ensures our personnel are equipped to perform their duties safely and effectively. Guided by the leadership of the Board of Commissioners, Lake Travis Fire Rescue (LTFR) reached several important milestones in 2024. These achievements not only enhanced our service to the community but also laid the foundation for continued workforce development and operational excellence in the years to come. One of the most significant initiatives was the launch of the design and construction process for a new logistical warehouse, training center, and fleet services facility. This strategic investment supports cost-effective operations and creates meaningful opportunities for employee development, career progression, and readiness to meet emerging challenges.

In June 2024, LTFR entered into collective bargaining with the Lake Travis Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 4117. These open and constructive discussions centered on strengthening the terms and conditions of employment and fostering a more collaborative and supportive work environment. The resulting agreement took effect on October 1, 2024.

We also celebrated the success of our inaugural Junior Firefighter Academy, a four-day immersive experience for youth aged 12 to 15, designed to spark interest in fire and EMS careers. Planning is underway for the 2025 academy, and we are excited to continue inspiring the next generation of public safety professionals.

Our updated Fiscal Year 2025–2034 Financial and Capital Improvement Plan further underscores our commitment to strategic growth and responsible stewardship. This plan ensures that our infrastructure, resources, and services evolve in step with the needs of the community we serve.

These accomplishments are made possible by strong partnerships—with our employees and their families, our local, state, and federal collaborators, and with you, the members of our community. Together, we advance policies and initiatives that build resilience, foster transparency, and promote public trust in the systems that safeguard our lives every day.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are Lake Travis Fire Rescue.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Abbott
Fire Chief



MESSAGE FROM THE TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 6 BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6 Board of Commissioners, I want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the community for its continued trust and support. As our region grows and the demand for emergency services increases, our dedicated professionals remain steadfast in our mission—to provide exceptional care and service to residents and visitors alike. Your support ensures high-quality, responsive services are always ready when needed most.

Looking back on the past year, our team responded to a record number of emergency incidents with efficiency and professionalism, all while maintaining fiscal responsibility and honoring the community's investment in its fire and EMS services. I encourage you to review this report, which not only highlights key accomplishments but also outlines areas for improvement and the strategic initiatives we've put in place to meet the future head-on.

Among the most significant developments was the Board's approval of a \$55 million Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This ambitious plan will fund the replacement of three aging fire stations, the addition of new stations, and the construction of vital support facilities—including a logistics warehouse, a dedicated training center, and a fleet maintenance and repair facility. These enhancements are designed to strengthen our operational readiness and ensure our response capabilities keep pace with the community's growth.

In addition, we adopted the updated Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover document. These tools provide a critical foundation for decision-making, enabling our leadership to align services with current risks and future challenges. Together, they support a forward-looking approach to public safety that is data-driven, community-focused, and built to adapt. We are proud of the progress made and deeply grateful for the support that makes it all possible. With a shared commitment to service and safety, we look forward to building an even stronger future—together.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to Commissioner Paula S. Barr, who retired after 18 years of distinguished service to the District. Her steadfast leadership, unwavering commitment, and countless contributions have left a lasting impact on the growth and success of our organization. Commissioner Barr's dedication to public service and her advocacy for the community will be remembered with great appreciation. We thank her for nearly two decades of service and wish her a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

Lastly, the Board approved an updated Collective Bargaining Agreement, reinforcing our commitment to fair compensation and improved working conditions. This agreement strengthens our partnership with the workforce and supports our mission to deliver exceptional service. As we plan for future growth, we remain focused on excellence in emergency services. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,
Shiloh Newman



Shiloh Newman
President

Travis County ESD No. 6 Board of Commissioners



Larry Sartin
Vice President



Matt Womack
Treasurer



Angela Grossman
Assistant Treasurer



Jessica Clinton
Secretary

Who We Are

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

To continually exceed the expectations of those we serve through Innovation, Engagement and Preparedness.



VALUES

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



Our Team

140

Full-Time
Budgeted Positions

5

Executive Staff

96

Operations

7

Prevention

6

Training

12

Fuels Mitigation

8

Administrative

6

Fleet/Logistics

15

Veterans



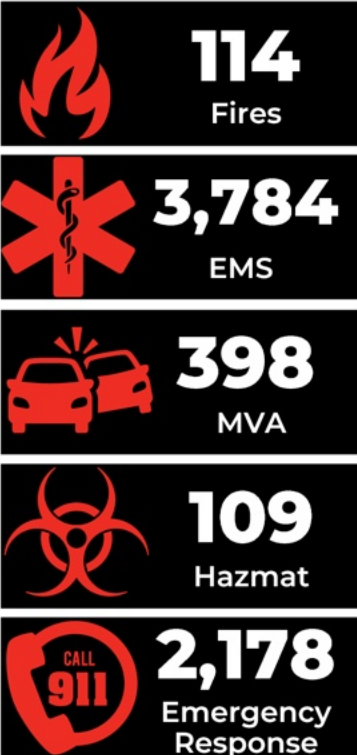
Emergency Operations

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.



Total Incidents
2024 6,583

2024 Stats



Promotion



120 Public Education Events

21

Credentialed
Paramedics

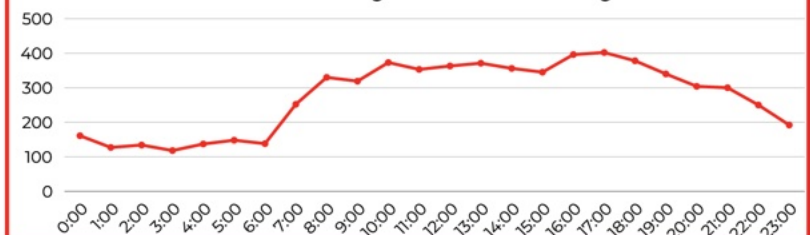
39

Credentialed
Advanced EMTs



Seven firefighters completed their probationary year with Lake Travis Fire Rescue and were pinned on Sept. 19, 2024.

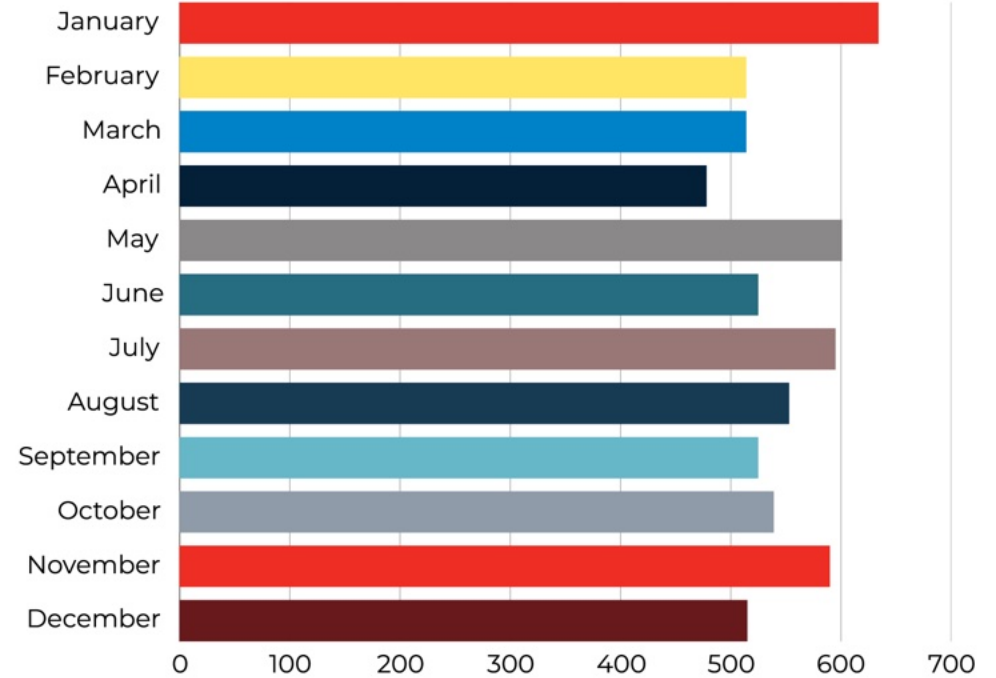
Calls by Hour of the Day



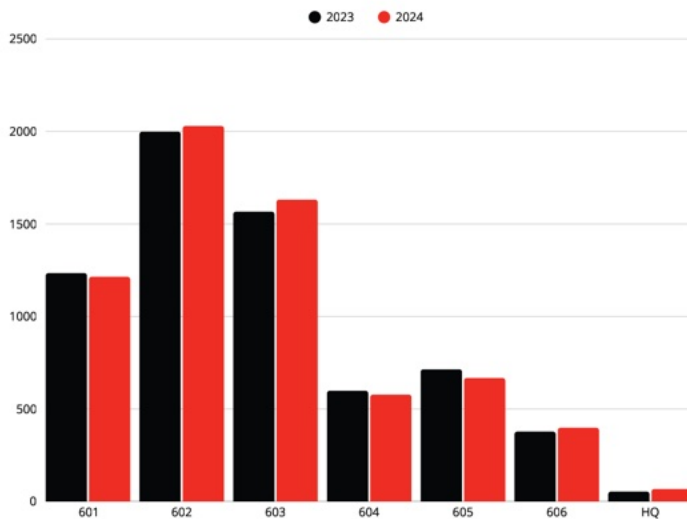
Stations



Call Volume by Month



2023 vs 2024 Call Volume Per Station



Apparatus



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**
21

TOTAL UAS FLIGHTS
1,143

OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS
253

TOTAL FLIGHT HOURS
162.94

MAJOR EVENTS
25

TRAINING FLIGHTS
890

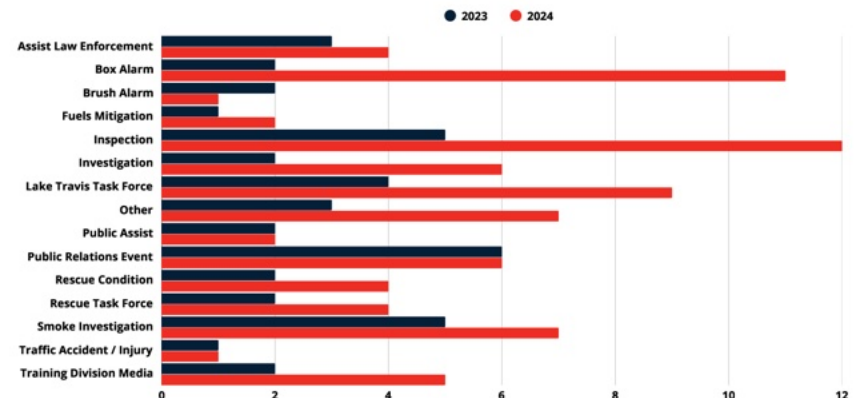


NIST Drone Certification

Lake Travis Fire Rescue hosted a regional NIST train-the-trainer course, enhancing drone proficiency in partnership with regional fire agencies. This first-of-its-kind course in Texas certified pilots and proctors to a nationally recognized standard, ensuring measurable and repeatable UAS proficiency. By achieving this certification, LTFR is strengthening emergency response capabilities and setting a new benchmark for public safety drone operations.



2023 vs 2024 UAS Missions



NIST-Approved Training Course

Lake Travis Fire Rescue developed a NIST-approved UAS training course, making LTFR the first in the region to implement this updated standard. With its completion, all NIST Levels (1-5) are now available at the Training Center for pilot proficiency and real-world drone operations.



Large Events



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.



Assistant Fire Marshal



Ryan Smith joined the Fire Prevention Division in 2024 as the assistant fire marshal, a newly created position. He brings extensive expertise in fire investigations and fire and life safety enforcement.



854
Plan
Reviews

118
Operational
Permits

2,050
Inspections

41
Fire
Investigations

TCFP Certified

15
Fire
Investigators

19
Fire
Inspectors

K9 Ember Joins LTFR

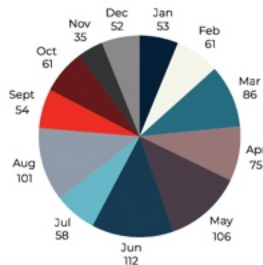


In 2024, K9 Ember joined Lake Travis Fire Rescue, becoming a vital part of our fire investigation team. As an ignitable liquid detection K9, K9 Ember works alongside her handler, Assistant Fire Marshal Ryan Smith, to support fire investigations by detecting trace amounts of accelerants. Originally awarded to Travis County Emergency Services District No. 12 (ESD12) in 2022 through a generous grant from



K9s4COPs—funded by Ms. Jean Goodwin of Texas— K9 Ember transitioned to Lake Travis Fire Rescue when her handler, Ryan Smith, joined Lake Travis Fire Rescue. K9 Ember's extraordinary sense of smell allows her to pinpoint areas where potential evidence can be collected and sent for laboratory analysis, significantly improving the accuracy and efficiency of fire investigations. Her nose is so sensitive she can detect ignitable liquids at concentrations as low as one part per trillion, making her an invaluable tool in identifying the presence of accelerants.

Plan Reviews by Month



K9 Casualty Care Class

Lake Travis Fire Rescue hosted a K9 Casualty Care Course taught by the experts from Memorial Hermann Life Flight and the Houston Police Department. This specialized training brought together 22 K9 handlers and those working with police K9s to learn lifesaving skills for responding to working dog injuries.



Deputy Fire Marshal II

Chris Lee and Jared Defoore joined Lake Travis Fire Rescue in 2024 as Deputy Fire Marshal II.

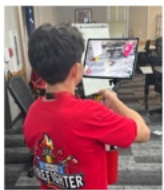


Chris Lee



Jared Defoore

Inaugural Junior Firefighter Academy



Safety Squad



11 schools
22 shows
7,740 students reached



Public Safety Day



National Night Out



Public Educator

In 2024, Jesus De Luna joined the Prevention Division as LTFR's first Public Educator, a newly established role dedicated to advancing fire safety and community education.



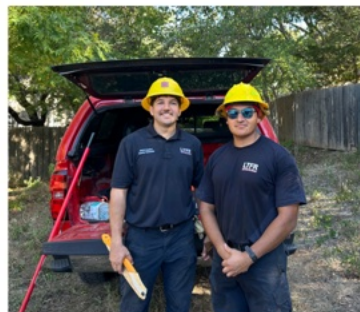
Wildfire Mitigation

The Wildfire Mitigation Division 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.



Steiner Ranch Fuels Mitigation Projects

Lake Travis Fire Rescue successfully completed two community fuel mitigation projects in Steiner Ranch, in partnership with volunteers from the Steiner Ranch Firewise group and LTFR's Fuels Mitigation crew. These efforts focused on reducing wildfire risk by removing ladder fuels, dead vegetation, and smaller trees—critical steps in creating defensible space. Additional projects are planned to continue strengthening wildfire resilience in the community.



Blue Bluff Project



In Spring 2024, the Blue Bluff Fuel Mitigation Project reduced wildfire risk by treating hazardous fuels and strengthening firelines to support future prescribed burns. Managed by the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office and completed by the LTFR Fuels Crew with funding from ESD4, the project was a collaborative effort with Travis County Parks and partner agencies, enhancing long-term wildfire resilience.



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.



6 Firefighters Completed Paramedic School



Students Trained



127

Medical Continuing
Education



6

Healthcare Provider Card
Classes



210

Community CPR, AED,
First Aid, and
Stop the Bleed



11

DSHS Certified
Educators



5

CPR Instructors



3

ACLS/PALS
Instructors



5

Stop The Bleed
Instructors



1

NAEMT Specialty
Instructors

Steps to Safety

In 2024, Lake Travis Fire Rescue (LTFR) launched the NFPA "Steps to Safety" program to address the increasing fall risks identified within our district. This home safety initiative is designed to help older adults reduce their risk of falls and fires, two of the leading causes of injury in this age group. The program provides simple, actionable steps to enhance home safety, such as removing tripping hazards, installing smoke alarms, and planning emergency exits. By focusing on education and practical strategies, Steps to Safety empowers older adults to live safely and independently in their homes.

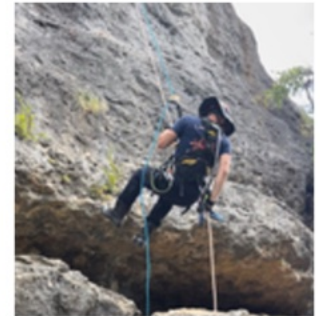


103

Attendees

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
115



Annual Total Training Hours
1,701



Total Employee Hours Trained
2,887



New Training Prop

LTFR invested in a Fire Ventilation Training Prop to enhance firefighter training in vertical ventilation, a critical fire suppression tactic. This state-of-the-art tool allows safe, hands-on practice, reinforcing our commitment to safety, innovation, and excellence.

CLEARED

7

MEDICS



New Position Emergency Educator Specialist

Firefighter Sam Wieland joined the Training Division as an emergency educator specialist. With this addition, the training division has three emergency educator specialists 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.

New Hires

9 Forestry Techs

7 Operations

3 Prevention

1 Fleet

19 TOTAL

Promotional Process

32 Tested

3

Battalion Chief

5

Captain

8

Lieutenant

16

Engineer

16

Assessment Center

15

Eligible to Promote

10 Career Advancements

Engineer William Tatsch



Engineer William Tatsch served LTFR for 23 years and retired in Jan. 2024. Thank you, Engineer Tatsch, for your service.

Firefighter Richard Loera



Firefighter Richard Loera served LTFR for 22 years and retired in April 2024. Thank you, Firefighter Loera, for your service.

Commissioner Paula S. Barr



Commissioner Paula S. Barr served for 18 years on Travis County ESD No. 6's Board, where she served as board president, advocated for statewide public safety, and helped establish the Community Advisory Committee.

Retirements

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.



Administration

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

\$2.7 Million

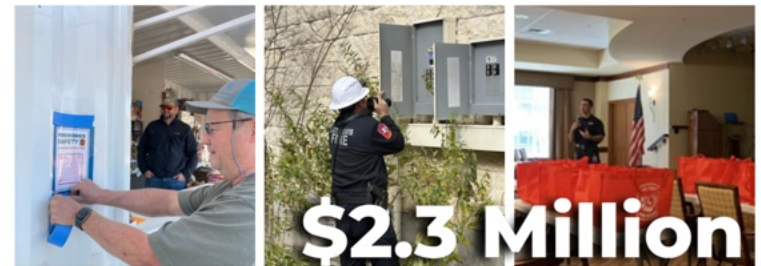
Training

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

\$1.2 Million

Community Risk Reduction & Prevention

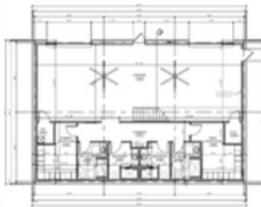
Building inspections, code enforcement, plans review, smoke alarm installations, and fire and life safety presentations.



Debt Services

\$400,000

Principal and interest payments for outstanding loans.



\$1.1 Million Capital Projects Fleet and Equipment

Purchase of fire equipment, radios, EMS equipment and staff vehicles.

Capital Projects
Land and Construction



\$972,000 land purchase and \$1.4 million construction cost

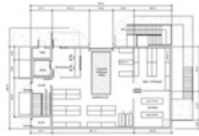
Capital Improvement Projects Approved in 2024

\$55 Million

Logistics Warehouse



Features
3 offices
2 bunk rooms
4,200 sq. ft.



Estimate Build: 2025

Fleet Warehouse



Estimate Build: 2026

Station 603



Features

4 bays
12 bunk rooms
5 offices
14,445 sq. ft.



Estimate Build: 2026

Station 608 - Hillsong



Estimate Build: 2031

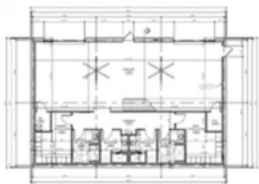
Station 604

Estimate Build: 2029

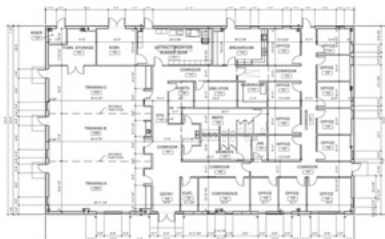
Station 607 - Serene Hills

Estimate Build: 2027

Training



Features
12 offices
2,000 sq. ft. training room
7,300 sq. ft. training building
2,400 sq. ft. fitness building



Estimate Build: 2026

Station 602



Features
3 bays
10 bunk rooms
3 offices
12,600 sq. ft.



Estimate Build: 2026

Fleet & Logistics

Fleet and Logistics 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.



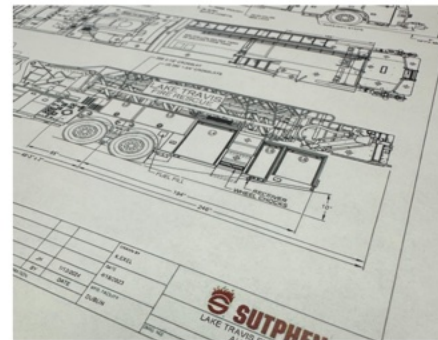
1 Truck Refurbished

Lake Travis Fire Rescue began a fire truck refurbishment project to extend the life of existing apparatus at a fraction of the cost of a new build. The contract was signed in 2023, with work in 2024 and delivery expected in 2025. This investment ensures reliable equipment for our crews while maximizing taxpayer value. Once complete, the truck will return to front-line service, ready to meet the community's growing needs.



**New Position
Fleet Technician Assistant**

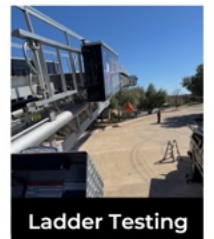
Lake Travis Fire Rescue welcomed Peter Wagner to the newly created position of Fleet Technician Assistant, supporting the maintenance and readiness of the District's emergency response vehicles.



Pre-con for Truck 603 & Engines 606 and 607



Clean Gear



Ladder Testing



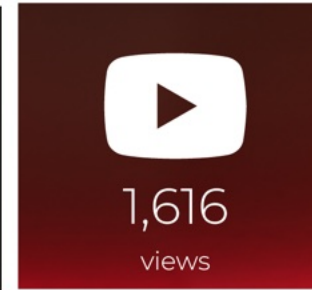
Pump Testing

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



Media Interviews



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

Video Projects

Lake Travis Fire Rescue created and also collaborated with all Travis County ESDs on multiple multi-media projects in 2024.

2024 State of the District

Steiner Ranch Fuels Mitigation

Are you Prepared?

Fire Prevention Week: Smoke Alarms: Make them Work for You

Fire Prevention Week: Spanish



CPC Certificate

Communications Director Rachel Neutzler graduated from Texas Christian University's (TCU) Certified Public Communicator (CPC) Program. This program offers an in-depth curriculum focusing on strategic communication, crisis management, media relations, and public affairs.

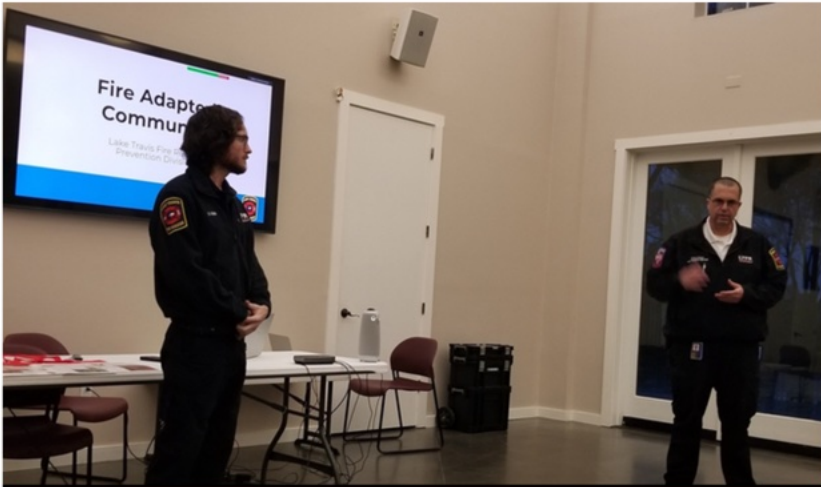
Public Information Officer Focus Group

Communications Director Rachel Neutzler participated in a focus group at FEMA's National Disaster and Emergency Management University in Emmitsburg, MD, to update and revise the Advanced Public Information Officer, 0388, course.



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.



Assistant Chief Trubee and Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Dustin Dunn spoke at the City of Lakeway Government Friends of the Park and the Steiner Ranch Fire Safety Community Town Hall Meeting.



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



Lieutenant Taylor Wade, along with Coitt Kessler and with the assistance of Firefighter Wes Laurel, presented at the Texas Fire Marshals Conference on the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in public safety.



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.

Presentations & Partnerships



Tri-City Emergency Management



West Side 5 Training

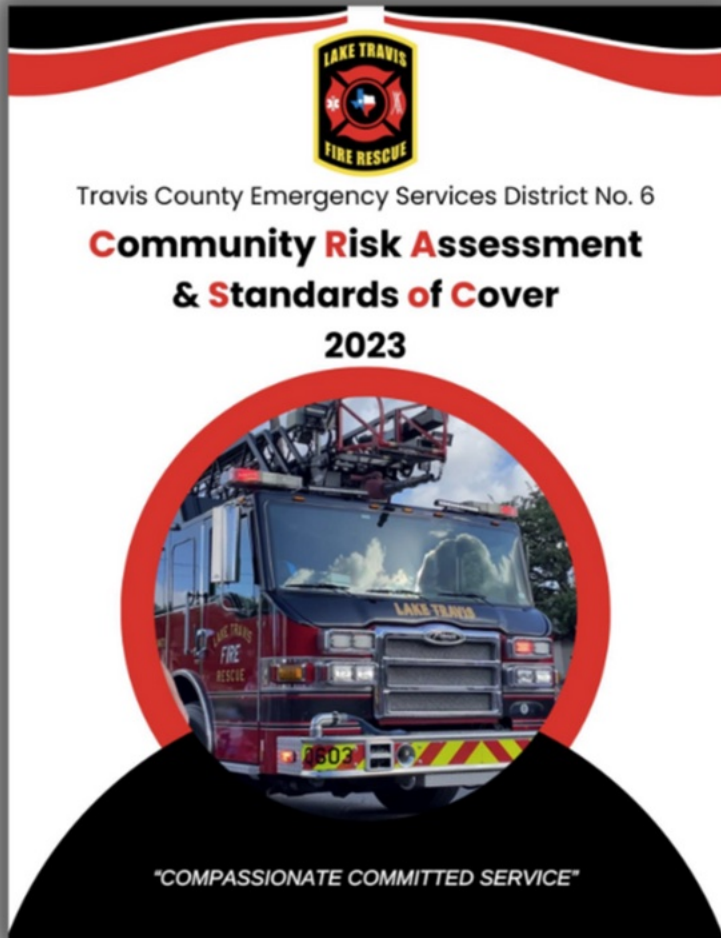


STARflight Rideouts

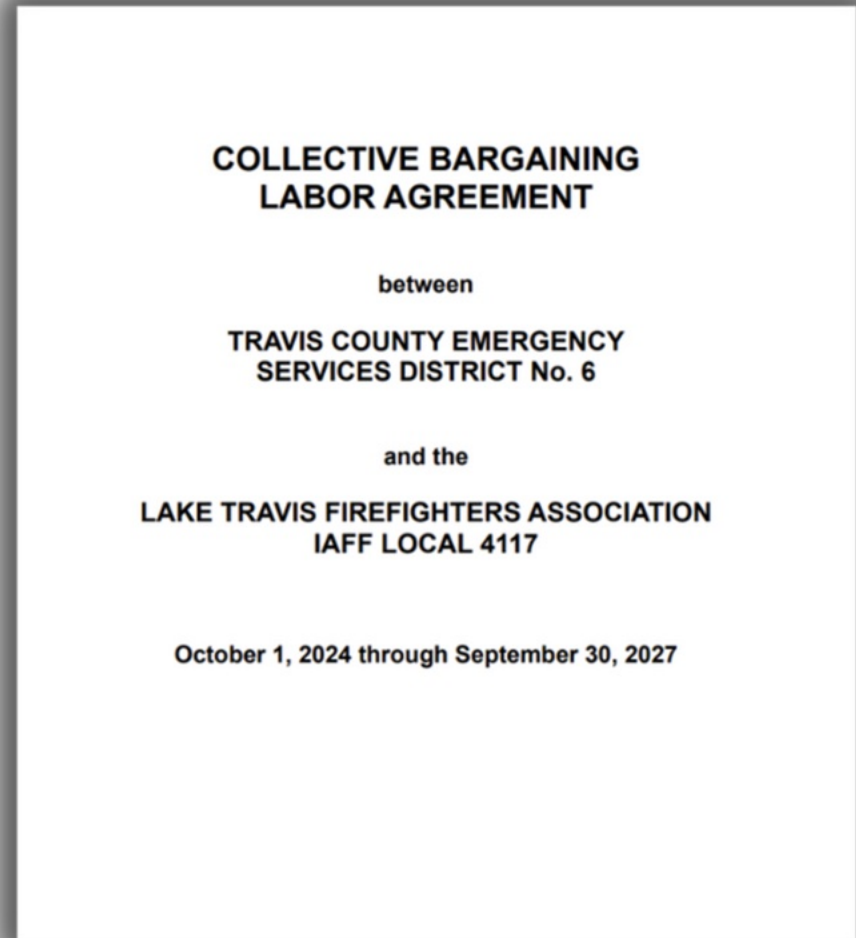


TIFMAS Deployments

Reports and Agreements



Lake Travis Fire Rescue (LTFR) would like to share our Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover Report. This comprehensive report is an in-depth analysis used to understand the current and future needs of our communities as it relates to LTFR.



During July, the International Association of Firefighters, Local 4117, and Travis County ESD No. 6 (District) Commissioners successfully reached a new collective bargaining agreement, which took effect in October 2024. The deal, finalized after two days of negotiations, shapes significant improvements in wages and working conditions for the District firefighters to ensure Lake Travis Fire Rescue (LTFR) remains competitive within the industry.

Awards and Recognition

2024 Lake Travis Fire Rescue Awards



Firefighter of the Year
Firefighter Ralph Delgado



Engineer of the Year
Engineer Tristan Monks



Officer of the Year
Lieutenant Taylor Wade



Medical Provider of the Year
Engineer Tristan Monks



Visionary Award
Battalion Chief Robert Rygg



District Support Award
Hope Ball



District Support Award
Samuel Kang



Company of the Year: 601 C-Shift
Lieutenant Jeffrey Dudik, Engineer Graham Taylor, Firefighter
Brandon Barto, Firefighter Ralph Delgado, and Firefighter Rob
Greene



Community Impact Award
Safety Squad

Awards and Recognition



Assistant Fire Marshal Ryan Smith was awarded the esteemed Roscoe Gibson Award at the Texas Fire Marshals Association's Conference in San Marcos on Nov. 7. This honor highlights his exceptional dedication and contributions to fire safety and prevention.

Lake Travis Fire Rescue was proud to receive the prestigious Platinum Excellence Award from the Texas Fire Marshals Association in 2024. This distinguished recognition is awarded to departments that earn the Gold Excellence Award for three consecutive years, reflecting our sustained commitment to fire prevention, code enforcement, and community risk reduction.



Awards and Recognition



Firefighter Daniel Bachmeyer was presented the Medal of Bravery from LTFR for his extraordinary heroism on May 31, 2024, by Fire Chief Robert B. Abbott and Assistant Chief Mike Prather.

Lieutenant Matt Benson was recognized with the Commendation Medal for 20 years of exceptional service as a creator and leader of LTFR's Public Safety Squad.



On March 5, during Travis County's Commissioners Court, Engineer John Hagerty and Firefighter Sam Wieland were presented with a Proclamation for Clinical Excellence for their actions in assisting in the birth of a baby.



Chief Robert B. Abbott (left) presented Past President Engineer Jeff Kimbrell (right) with an award for his dedication and leadership to Local 4177.



Chief Robert B. Abbott (right) presented Past Interim President Engineer Graham Taylor (left) with an award for his dedication and leadership to Local 4177.



WE ARE LTPR





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