



**MICO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
MVFD Newsletter**



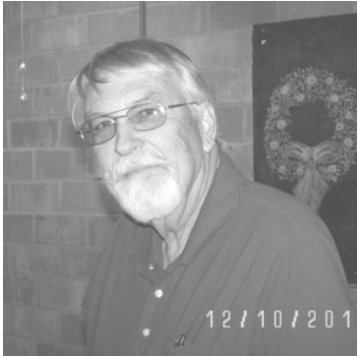
December 2011

Best Little Fire House in Texas ... by a Dam Site

From the Desk of the President

James M. Wilbourn

Our new main fire station will soon be going up with Boyle Construction the general contractor. Our old station will be demolished and replaced with two bays for four firefighting apparatus, a community meeting room and offices. Two 5,000 gallon water storage tanks supplied with water from a new well will be installed. A communications building with new tower will vastly improve firefighting deployment throughout our 70 mile coverage area will also be built. We thank the Medina Emergency Services District #1 for all their hard work to see this come to fruition. We especially thank you as Medina County tax payers for the funds to create this much needed station. Earlier in the year, a new substation was built in Rocky Creek expanding further storage for two fire vehicles and adding additional coverage for the south side of the Medina River. Due to the demolition we must cancel our annual community Christmas celebration. Keep your fingers crossed that the new station will be completed in time for a grand opening dedication and our annual BBQ in May.



I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. Jim

Chief's Circle

Mico VFD Chief Mark Suwinski

The Mico firefighters and board got together this summer and donated 2 First Responder Backpacks to the US Military. The back packs are given to a wounded soldier as they arrive at the combat support hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan. When a wounded soldier arrives at these hospitals they often have only what they are wearing in the battlefield and considering they were injured, it usually is not in very good condition. It can take up to a couple of days before they receive replacement supplies and it is often weeks before their belongings catch up to them. These backpacks include a t-shirt, boxer shorts, hoodie sweatshirt, sweat pants, crew socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, disposable razors, shampoo, comb, hand lotion, wet wipes, nail clippers, 150 minute AT&T phone card, and a handmade blanket. This program is through the Solders' Angels Store and if anyone would like to participate please go to www.angelsstore.org.



The Mico Fire Dept. would like to thank the Rio Medina General Store and Dancing Bear Cantina for allowing us space on their limited counter tops for our fundraising "Donation Boots". Please stop in their store/restaurant and tell them how much we appreciate them.

Wanted: Highly motivated, brave, dedicated men and women to serve as America's firefighters, these individuals must possess critical thinking skills and be able to process large quantities of conflicting, often incomplete, information to make rapid and accurate decisions. Candidates must be physically fit, capable of working under extreme conditions and be willing to sacrifice their lives in an effort to save others.

God Bless everyone and have a safe and Merry Holiday

Mark Suwinski. Mico Fire Chief

Medina County Emergency Service District #1 (ESD) Update

By Polly Edlund, MCESD#1

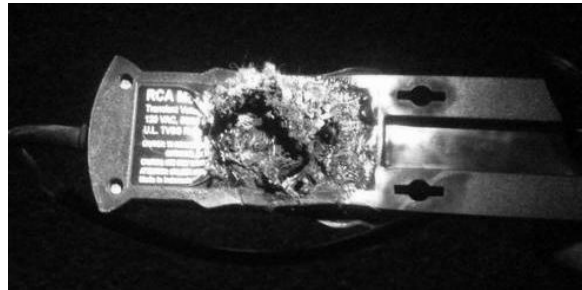
The MCESD#1 would like to inform you that the new water storage tanks and well are almost finished and demolition of the old station will soon follow. We ask everyone to be safe over the holidays. Be careful when lighting fires in the fire place and please do not drink and drive. Happy Holidays

Power strips

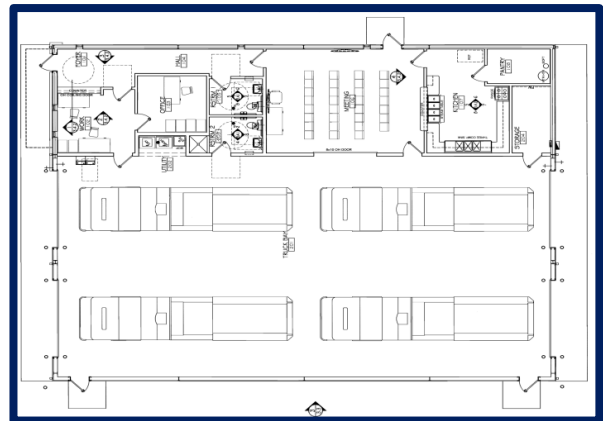
If you have too many high-voltage devices plugged into a power strip, you can overload it and cause sparks and potentially fire. Never, under any circumstances, plug one power strip or surge protector into another. This can easily lead to sparks, overheating, and fire. As with any electrical outlet, water can cause electrical arcs which can start fires. For the same reason, never cover power strips, and never place them near highly flammable substances like paper and cloth.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning consumers about millions of faulty extension cords, power strips and surge protectors that pose a fire, shock and electrocution danger. These substandard cords were sold at discount stores and small retailers for about \$1 to \$7. Most were made in China. Many have no identifying marks or model numbers. Some have counterfeit Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certification labels. In 1996, electrical cords and plugs were involved in about 7,100 fires resulting in 120 deaths or about 32 percent of all deaths associated with residential electrical system fires. In 1997, more than 12,000 people were treated in hospital emergency rooms for electrical burns and shocks and about 2,500 people were treated for injuries associated with extension cords. 1997, CPSC began an investigation to monitor the extension cords, power strips and surge protectors sold in stores across the country. CPSC investigators inspected products sold through discount stores, mass merchandisers, dollar stores and hardware chains. After collecting suspect samples from 83 locations around the country, investigators found that 72 percent of the samples failed to meet current safety standards.

Burned power strip



Mico VFD Building Plans



Mico VFD Calendar of Events for 2011

Unless otherwise noted, ALL meetings & events will be at
MICO VFD Base Station, 7121 CR 271, Mico TX 78056

Firefighter Training
1st & 3rd Tuesday (7 – 10 PM)
3rd Saturday (8AM – 4 PM)

Monthly Business Meeting
2nd Tuesday (7:30 – 8:30 PM)

Please note we no longer have a Post Office box number



We want to thank both Al and Jerrie Bishop for the dedication and hard work that both gave Mico VFD. Al Bishop retired after his completion of EMT Intermediate and as a Mico VFD Assistant Chief. Jerrie Bishop also retired as our #1 Senior Firefighter and completing her EMT Basic! They will truly be missed.

Mico VFD received a check from the County Farm Bureau on 10/25/11 for our dedicated service in the 2011 wild land fires



Medina County Fire Chiefs



Joe Suszcynski, Pam Mathis, Mike Tudor, Mark Suwienski, Marsha Suwienski

MICO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
7121 COUNTY ROAD 271
MICO, TEXAS 78056

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EMAIL Communications and Mico VFD Online Information

Take a moment to visit the Mico Volunteer Fire Dept. website www.micovfd.org. You will find meeting agendas, newsletters, the updated activity calendar, downloadable membership and donation forms and current news and information about MVFD and the Medina Lake area burn information and tips --- and lots more.

Do you have a new neighbor? Please share this newsletter with them, invite them to become a member of the Mico VFD and attend our monthly business meetings.

OUTDOOR BURNING RULES BEFORE BURNING – Call it in! (830) 741-6153 it's the Law!

Join Now for 2012

Numbers Count ...we need everyone in Mico to be a member

Only \$10.00 per person

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail(s): _____

Mico VFD, 7121 County Road 271, Mico, Texas 78056