



MICO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

MVFD Newsletter

August 2010



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

From the Desk of the President

James M. Wilbourn

As another year draws to a close, let's reflect back to the accomplishments of the MVFD. First and most significant is the development of two new buildings for Mico. The first built will be a southwest substation that will house two of our firefighting vehicles and completes fire safety requirements for the west side of the river and, the second, a new main fire station on our current site. Plans are in development and should be available for all to see early next year.

This year was the most successful BBQ of all time netting over \$19,000 through proceeds and donations – thank you Mico. We now have 16 firefighters trained to various levels of firefighting expertise with an outstanding training program intact. The firefighters train three times a month and also go to outside fire training schools including A & M. The MVFD sponsored Mico's first community awareness program and has plans to host more early next year – have an idea for a topic? Please consider volunteering your time perhaps doing committee work or even become a firefighter – we need more firefighters! We look forward to our annual Christmas Dinner when all the community can get together and greet old and make new friends. It's always a fantastic gathering for our Mico family.

The Board for 2011 has been elected. I will remain as President along with Mike Ivey as Secretary and Jerrie Bishop as Treasurer. Welcome Stanley Kaciuba, Vice President and Mark Suwinski, Fire Chief. I know both of you will add a significant boost to the MVFD.

I close by thanking Jerry Dyson for his fantastic direction taking the MVFD into the 21st century through both personnel and technology. I'm happy he will remain a firefighter and offer best wishes on his enhanced job.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas to all.

"Jim"

Chief's Circle

Mico VFD Chief ~ Gerald Dyson

The winter fire season is here and, thanks to La Niña, we face the possibility of it being an early and active winter fire season. Though all the rain we received earlier this year was welcomed, it resulted in exceptional growth of grasses leaving us in a volatile situation for fire. Fire spreads easily through grass with only light or moderate winds and if it gets into the brush it will spread very rapidly with very high intensity. This will be devastating as we have extremely limited resources and will have to invoke Mutual Aid very early on during every fire call. We continuously monitor critical fire danger and fire weather thresholds as weather forecasts change frequently. The weather forecasters and fire analysts at the Texas Forest Service Predictive Services Department indicated that this year will be very much like the La Niña winters of 2006, 2008 and 2009. Please be extremely cautious in any burning activities.

As many of you know, I am stepping down (retiring) from the Fire Chief position, effective December 31st. My paid job has changed such that I no longer have time available to dedicate to running the MVFD, but I will be staying on as a firefighter. Together, we have made significant strides in training and certifying our firefighters to get them the needed qualifications to provide the best possible service to our community. As of today, 75% of our firefighters hold at least one certification and many hold several specialized credentials. We have been successful in getting a commitment from the ESD to replace our main station and to build a new substation on the far west side of our service area. This will ensure that we do not have any residents that are isolated and without fire protection in the event of a flood. We are leading the County in our communications improvements by upgrading our radios to meet the FCC narrowband requirements and have a set plan for moving to the new P25 digital trunking system that meets the Texas Interoperable Communications requirements. Our critical equipment is now receiving the required annual maintenance and recertification that it had previously not been receiving thus helping us comply with standards. However, there are still issues to address, such as funding for new gear and equipment. We have implemented a rotational plan for upgrading our personal protective equipment (PPE) so that it does not all expire at the same time – this will eliminate the need to spend \$20,000 at one time for new bunker gear. Since we request grants for almost everything, our equipment purchases are limited to what we can get with the funds we have on hand and any grant money that we are lucky enough to receive. So, as you can tell we have been doing a lot to raise our rating with the Insurance Services Organization (the ISO) which directly impacts the cost of every homeowner's fire insurance. There is still a long way to go.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Fire Chief for the Mico VFD, and have the utmost confidence that the department will continue to prosper under the leadership of the new Fire Chief.

Sincerely, "Jerry"

Gerald Dyson, Fire Chief (Retired)
Mico Volunteer Fire Department

Mico VFD Training Department

The Comfort emergency area is hosting a 16 week EMT class that has a total of 23 students including Jerrie Bishop and Pam Mathis of Mico. The four other departments represented are Lake Hills, Pipe Creek, Bergheim and Comfort. During the training they will learn how to recognize and treat medical and traumatic emergencies of all kinds. The training includes but is not limited to how to apply cervical spine collars, backboards, traction splints, oxygen administration and the assistance of certain medications. They will also learn their role in working with advanced personnel in cardiac arrest and how the medications given affect the body. Upon completion the students will be EMT Basic Certified by National Registry of EMT's and the State of Texas.



Jerrie Bishop



Pam Mathis

Stationary Boots – Accolades to the following businesses for housing MVFD donation boots on their counters all year

Dancing Bear Cantina Joe's Marina & Rio Medina Store

A round of applause for the new owner, Lois, at Rio Medina store for the monies collected in the donation boot

A BIG THANK YOU to ALL our Volunteers and Supporters

To the folks at Haby's Bakery thank you for your continued support, you have always been there for the MVFD we apologize in having omitted our thanks to you in the last newsletter.

Calls & response times

YTD Run stats: 53 Calls

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| Fire calls | 22 | EMS Assist calls | 4 | Calls cancelled en-route | 6 |
| Vehicle calls | 7 | Helicopter transports | 4 | Average number of firefighters per call | 4 |

Average time from alarm to en-route 13 min

First Aid Tips

- **Call 911 for serious injuries**
- Use direct pressure and elevation for bleeding
- If you suspect a limb is fractured, do not move it, stabilize it
- Put cool water on burns
- RICE for strains & sprains– Rest Ice Compression Elevation
- Clean minor cuts and scrapes and cover with a clean cloth or sterile bandage
- If your clothes catch on fire remember to: Stop Drop & Roll
- Have a first aid kit in your home and car

Winter Fire Safety Tips

- Keep Combustibles 3 feet away from portable heaters, wood stoves & fireplaces.
- Never fill a kerosene heater when hot.
- Do not store ashes from the stove/fireplace on your porch.
- Do not leave candles unattended.
- Have an emergency kit with food, water, flashlight, first aid supplies and battery operated radio for when you lose power. (do not forget about your pets)
- Check your smoke detectors monthly
- Install a carbon monoxide detector

Leave fireworks to the professionals. Report all burn injuries. Please remember that your safety is our business. For more information, contact your local fire chief.

SAVE A LIFE—LEARN CPR

For more Information Call 830-751-2658

Mico Volunteer Fire Department
Annual Christmas Party
10 December 2010 at 7 P.M.

Mico VFD Base Station - 7121 CR 271, Mico

Mico residents and all surrounding communities

The 2010 Mico Christmas and Holiday celebration is fast approaching and we sincerely hope you and your family will plan to share in the festivities at the Mico Fire Station on Friday, December 10th.

The turkeys and hams are being prepared by volunteers. Bring your favorite 'trimmings' or side dish or salad or dessert. We'll serve coffee and tea, if you favor other refreshments, bring them as well.

We welcome all extra "hands" to help set up and clean up...arrive a little earlier and stay a little later if you can.



*Blessings to you and yours
and we'll see you there*

To volunteer your assistance in setup, decorations, cooking, serving, breakdown and restoration, please contact Mary Wilbourn at:

woody9703-holiday2010@yahoo.com

and thank you in advance

Mico VFD Calendar of Events for 2010

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)

MICO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
PO BOX 6383
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 2011

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 P.O. Box 6353 7121 County Road 271 Mico, Texas 78056