



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

The annual BBQ was a GREAT success. MVFD wishes to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and a very special thank you to all the individuals and companies who donated items for the raffle and auctions. Your donations and assistance have been the key to our success. THANK YOU.

The MVFD is looking forward to an exciting fall with the start of our new fire station. The Medina County Emergency Services District #1 (ESD) has accepted a preliminary building plan. It will fund the building's cost (your tax dollars at work) and we will be responsible for the inside furnishings. The proposed plan will preserve part of our history, the brick portion of our existing building – isn't that great! The building will remain intact, undergoing an extensive facelift inside and out. It will have offices and a community center for all to enjoy. The patio will remain with its roof possibly lifted a couple of feet. The old red part of the building, added way back, and the EMS barn will be demolished to make way for a new three-bay building to house our emergency vehicles, create a new storage area and an ADA compliant restroom. Things may change and everything depends on funding, but this is where we presently stand.

Beautify Mico – when we drive through Mico, we see a lot of brush and bushes growing through our fence lines – cutting them back will certainly help beautify Mico and avoid traffic hazards as the brush blocks our view around corners of the road. We need volunteers to pick up trash from the Dancing Bear Cantina to the river crossing. Watch for a time and date for a community clean-up on the MVFD sign. Pitch in and help start a beautification effort to showcase Mico and our new fire station.

Christmas 2010 – it isn't too early to start planning for the annual Christmas Party. If our new fire station is under construction, it might have to be in a tent...wouldn't that be fun!!! The tentative date is December 10th.

Business meetings – on the second Tuesday of each month we have a meeting to determine important needs of the MVFD and your input is crucial. They are open to all members and non-members alike. Please join us, it's a great time to visit friends and meet new ones.

"Jim"

Chief's Circle

Mico VFD Chief ~ Gerald Dyson

2010 has past the year's halfway mark and it has been a very fast year – where did it go?

I want to thank everyone for making this year's barbeque the best one ever! Our entire barbeque team did an exceptional job and deserves a hearty congratulations and pat on the back. We had the largest turnout ever and actually ran out of meal tickets! Way to go team!

We are well into the planning and design stages for our firehouse upgrade. Our ESD is going to repair and remodel our existing firehouse and add new parking so we can accommodate our fire apparatus. In addition, we will gain some much-needed office and equipment storage space. In the end, we will have a modern firehouse that we can show off with pride.

Even though we had a lot of rain early in the year, the fire season is still in full force and it is extremely dry. Please use extreme caution when burning anything, and remember to call the Sheriff's Dispatch (830-741-6153) to let them know you are planning a controlled burn. This will help prevent the fire department from being needlessly dispatched to your location to put out your fire.

Our little fire department has an on-going need for new members. If you live anywhere near Mico, please consider joining us. Annual membership is only \$10 per person and these funds are desperately needed to help us continue operating, acquire new gear and train. We will also cheerfully accept donations of any size. You can specify that your donation be used for a specific purpose or it can go into our operational funds. Best of all, we are a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, so your donation is completely tax deductible.

Along with new members, we also need new firefighters! We will train you and provide you with equipment. The only thing that we ask of you is commitment: commitment to train and commitment to respond when needed. We do have a problem however, and that is a severe lack of equipment. Most of everything that we buy comes via grant assistance from the Texas Forest Service. It is a very time consuming process and is limited to how much we can be awarded every year. We have assembled lists of equipment needed and are looking for volunteers to either purchase the items for us or donate the funds and we will handle the purchase. These items range from: traffic control flashlights, to chainsaws, to GPS units, to fire hose and foam concentrate to full fire truck/apparatus, etc. Heck, we will take just about anything. Please consider making a large donation as it will go a long way in equipping us to better protect you and your family.

"Jerry"

The ESD has a preliminary plan for the NEW Mico Fire Station but several things have to happen before construction begins. The ESD Board has asked the architect to get a cost estimate for the plan, to be used in our budget process and to see if the plan needs to be adjusted. After this process, the plan must go out for public bids. To prepare for the construction: [1] the current communications tower needs to be moved or a new, updated tower needs to be constructed; [2] the county siren needs to be moved; and [3] the planning stage for the construction of the new SW Substation needs to be completed. The SW Substation will house some of the fire trucks while the main station is being built. All these things, along with the usual preparation of the site and the electrical – such as demolition and moving the meter loops, etc., need to happen before ground is broken for the new building.

The current plan calls for a building large enough to house five trucks, a larger meeting room, a larger kitchen, ADA approved bathrooms and office and storage space. Your ESD is working hard to make sure your tax dollars are spent wisely. The new building is one we can all be proud of and it will serve our community for many years to come.

Mico VFD Unveils 1st Responder Program

By Al Bishop

Five MVFD firefighters completed extensive medical training and are prepared to assist the community during medical emergencies on an 'as available' volunteer basis. The State of Texas certifies four levels of emergency medical technician training: [1] Emergency Care Assistant (ECA), [2] Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B), [3] Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate (EMT-I) and [4] Emergency Medical Technician – paramedic (EMT-P).

First Responder services are invoked through the customary "911" dispatch service. If requested by Medina County EMS (MCEMS) and the personnel in charge at the time of the call, MVFD First Responders will also be dispatched. The intent is to get medically trained personnel on the scene faster than an ambulance that must travel from Castroville or possibly farther away. When First Responders are dispatched they are under the direction of a Medical Director (a physician) that manages and provides oversight to the MCEMS. For this call, they are not firefighters – they are medics.

In emergency medicine there is a core principle, referred to as the "Golden Hour", that suggests that following a traumatic injury or medical emergency, those getting prompt medical treatment have the highest likelihood of a successful outcome. In the EMS world, the goal is to administer appropriate lifesaving interventions as quickly as possible and attempt to have a patient delivered to an appropriate definitive care facility within that 'Golden Hour'.

Depending on the level of certifications described above, our First Responders can, under protocols established by the Medical Director, assist patients by:

- Delivering a baby
- Performing CPR/defibrillation
- Providing first aid, bleeding control, splinting, bandaging
- Opening airways/artificial airways, administering oxygen
- Assisting patients in taking their own meds (i.e. albuterol inhaler, epinephrine, nitro tablet)
- Providing intravenous fluid therapy
- Communicating vitals/status to ambulance personnel to expedite treatment on arrival

Our First Responders cannot transport a patient to the hospital but can provide valuable basic lifesaving skills that are the foundation of pre-hospital emergency medical care. It is well known that application of the lifesaving "ABC's" [airway, breathing, circulation] is the backbone of successful pre-hospital care.

So – when you have a problem "Call 911" and we'll be on our way.

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

FREE Community Awareness Meetings – The MVFD is sponsoring Community Awareness Meetings. **Everyone is encouraged to attend.** The first meeting's theme is: **Fighting Neighborhood Drugs**

Drug/Meth Lab Awareness Sept 21st, 7:00 – 10:00 PM, at Mico VFD

Congratulations Pamela Mathis Mr. Peter Dudley, Senior V.P. and Manager, Community Support Programs, Wells Fargo, will present a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the Mico Volunteer Fire Department within the next few weeks. After an intense nationwide, three month process of reviewing nearly 500 applications, Wells Fargo's Volunteer Service Award Selection Committee selected **Pamela M Mathis, Volunteer Firefighter**, to receive one of the 2010 Volunteer Service Awards. This award represents Wells Fargo's appreciation for the incredible contribution she makes to the community. He said "Team members like you play a critical role in our success through your volunteer efforts. The leadership you have demonstrated through your extraordinary volunteer efforts proudly reflect our Vision and Values."

W A Y T O G O P A M !!!

This Has Been Another Exciting and Busy Season

By LT. Marsha Suwienski, Training Coordinator, Mico VFD

We currently have three volunteer firefighters, Al Bishop, Jerry Ellsworth and Nicole L'Esperance-Ellsworth who have graduated from their EMT-I training. Now, when a medical emergency call comes in for someone in Mico, we will have three local Intermediate EMTs, one Basic EMT and one Emergency Care Attendant that can respond. The MVFD First Responders can be on scene much sooner than ever before. This need has been an ongoing concern for all those living in our rural, hill-country area. Thank you to all First Responders for your sacrifices and the tremendous amount of time spent in training.

On the fire scene, we have two firefighters, Chief Gerald Dyson and Mark Suwienski who have completed their Basic, Intermediate and Advanced level Firefighter Certification in accordance with the State Fireman's and Fire Marshal's Association of Texas (SFFMA), totaling more than 1000 hours of training each. Along with these accomplishments, both Chief Dyson and Mark have taken their talents to a higher level. Chief Dyson is now certified in high-angle rescue and Mark in fire investigation. This past July, five firefighters attended various week-long training sessions given by Texas A&M when they host their yearly summer fire academy. These men and women gave a week of their personal/vacation time to better prepare to serve.

Our training goal is to give the Mico Community the quality and service they expect by continuously training through the auspices of the SFFMA. Our training requires countless pages of grant writing along with private funding. Please be kind and generous when you see your MVFD volunteers standing in the hot, cold and sometimes beautiful South Texas weather on the corner of FM 1283 and CR 271 asking for donations.

We currently train every first and third Tuesday at 7:00 PM, and every third Saturday at 8:00 AM at the station. If you happen to be driving by, give us a wave and a honk...we look forward to meeting and greeting all of you. Anyone interested in joining us is always more than welcome. We need more volunteer firefighters!!!

Calls & response times

YTD Run stats: 39 Total Calls

Fire calls = 18 EMS Assist calls = 14 Vehicle calls = 7 Helicopter transports = 3

Calls cancelled en-route = 6

Average number of firefighters per call = 4

Average time from alarm to en-route = 7 minutes

Please note that First Responder calls are no longer reported by Mico VFD, they now fall under Medina Valley EMS

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)



A BIG THANK YOU to ALL our Volunteers and Supporters

Medina Crushed
Stone

Medina Rock
Haulers

Custom Crushed
Stone

Vulcan
Industries

Academy
Allied Walker Drilling
Babe's Old Fashion Food
Bandera Electric Coop
Busch's Chicken
Castroville Café
Castroville/La Coste News
Chris Schuchart Law Firm
Cohn Insurance Agency
Custom Ready Mix
Cut-A-Way
Dick's Sports
El Chaparral
Formosa Garden
Germania Insurance
Hardt Realty
Hasslocher Enterprises
HEB
Hermann Sons Steak House

H.L. Zumwalt Construction
Hondo Ag Supply
Joe's Place & Marina
Kohn Insurance
Laurel Canyon HOA
Mountain Valley Ranch HOA
Papa Bucks BBQ & Grill
Perico's
Ranchland Oaks HOA
Red Cove
Rio Medina Mummes
Rio Medina Store
Royce Groff Oil Co
Sea World
State Farm Insurance
Stein Insurance
Sunbelt Mill Supply
Thrumunz Seafood
Wells Fargo Bank



“Honorary Member 2010”

The MVFD presented Martin Davis “Honorary Member 2010” for his many years of contributions and service to our fire department. The award was presented during the live auction, one of the many events at the annual BBQ.

Mico VFD Equipment Requirements

Please consider donating any of these items in any quantity, we need it all.

Possible Source: The Traffic Safety Store

1-800-429-9030

Item #	Name	Price	Qty	Sub Total	Remove
WND9RED	9" Compact LED Traffic Wand without Battery	\$21.95	<input type="text" value="2"/>	\$43.90	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item #	Name	Price	Qty	Sub Total	Remove
CR28SLRC64S	Orange 28" 7.0 Lb. Slim Line Cone w/Black Base MICO VFD Horizontal w/2 Reflective Collars, With Stencil	\$23.75	<input type="text" value="5"/>	\$118.75	<input type="checkbox"/>


Possible Source: Transportation Safety Apparel (TSA)

1-866-304-7189

item#	item description	unit price	u/m	qty	cost	adjust quantity here
T-1005	Emergency DOT Triangle Kit	\$17.99	ea.	1	\$17.99	<input type="text" value="1"/> change qty then click
item#	item description	unit price	u/m	qty	cost	adjust quantity here
V-5PDOT-2X/3X	ANSI II Invisi-Rip DOT Safety Vest Option: Color=Hi-Vis Lime - \$0.00 Option: Size=2X/3X - \$17.99	\$17.99	ea.	1	\$17.99	<input type="text" value="1"/> change qty then click
item#	item description	unit price	u/m	qty	cost	adjust quantity here
V-5PDOT-LG/XL	ANSI II Invisi-Rip DOT Safety Vest Option: Color=Hi-Vis Lime - \$0.00 Option: Size=LG/XL - \$15.99	\$15.99	ea.	1	\$15.99	<input type="text" value="1"/> change qty then click

Possible Source: AED Superstore

1-800-544-0048

	<u>ZOLL® pedi•padz™ II</u>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	\$95.00	\$95.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>ZOLL® Replacement CPR-D•padz™</u>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	\$169.00	\$169.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>ZOLL® AED Plus® Package</u> View/Hide options	<input type="text" value="1"/>	\$1,699.00	\$1,699.00 <input type="checkbox"/>



MICO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
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CASTROVILLE, TX

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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!

