



# VOLENTE ESD 14 NEWSLETTER

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 14 • VOLENTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

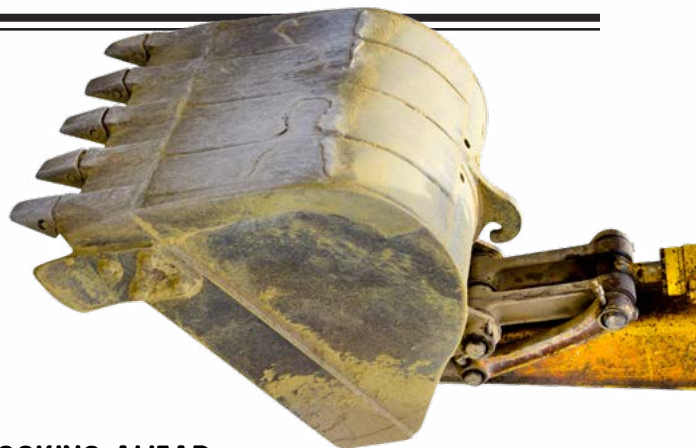
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## OUR CONTINUING PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT

By Lonnie Moore, ESD14 President

### 2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Our new brush truck was placed into service.
- All our radios were upgraded to meet the county wide encryption standards.
- The obsolete brush truck and surplus radios were sold at government auction.
- We connected a new, larger propane service for longer emergency power generation.
- We received a grant for additional bunker gear and recertified the existing gear.
- ESD14 renewed its certified "Firewise Community" status.
- FF Chris Rodriguez retired after 17 years of service; Michael Teague joined VFD.
- Eric Harr was promoted to Lieutenant; Justin Manteufel was promoted to Driver.
- ESD14 finalized station design and issued an RFP. The low bidder was selected from 5 respondents.
- A low interest (4.3%) loan was secured to finance station construction.
- We hosted a well-attended National Night Out.
- At NNO, we held a public ground-breaking ceremony and information session for the new station.
- Construction of the new station building began in mid-October.



### LOOKING AHEAD:

Construction of the new station will be a major focus of ESD14 and VFD in 2025. To say we are excited about it would be an understatement, and we hope our residents are excited about it as well. The most impactful part, major site preparation, is now over but we still have some major work to go, including utility construction and foundation and concrete driveway pouring, as well as the building construction itself. Bear with us – the finished station will be a major improvement and will serve our community for many decades to come. Just like the building we have used for the last 65+ years, this will be your community fire station, and you can be proud of it.



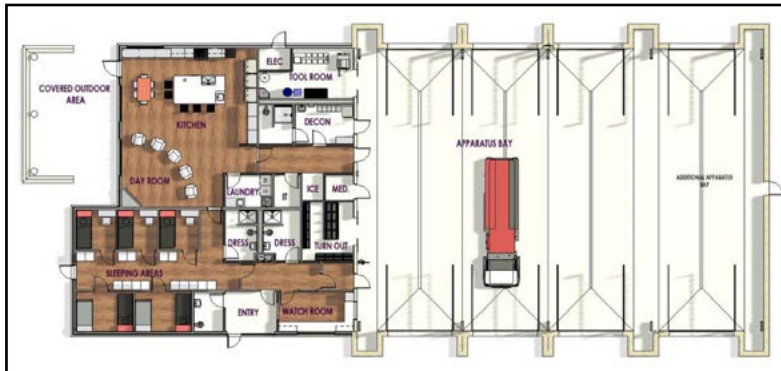
Chief Zimmerman and the Building Committee meet weekly on-site with the architect and general contractor.



FOR THE NEXT  
**60+**  
 YEARS  
 OF SERVICE  
 TO THE COMMUNITY

# YOUR **NEW** FIRE STATION

DESIGNED TO BE THE FACILITY OUR  
 RESIDENTS AND OUR FIREFIGHTERS DESERVE



## FACTS AND FIGURES

**SITE SIZE:** 3.5 acres developed out of the ESD's 5.1 acre tract

**ARCHITECT:** Keith Hickman, KAH Architecture

**BUILDING OVERVIEW:** 1-story, Hardi-Plank exterior, metal roof, 4 vehicle bays

**BUILDING SIZE:** 3,445 SF living space, 6,060 vehicle bays, Total 9,505 SF

**NUMBER OF BIDS RECEIVED:** 5. High bid: \$6,760,500. Low bid: \$4,909,615.

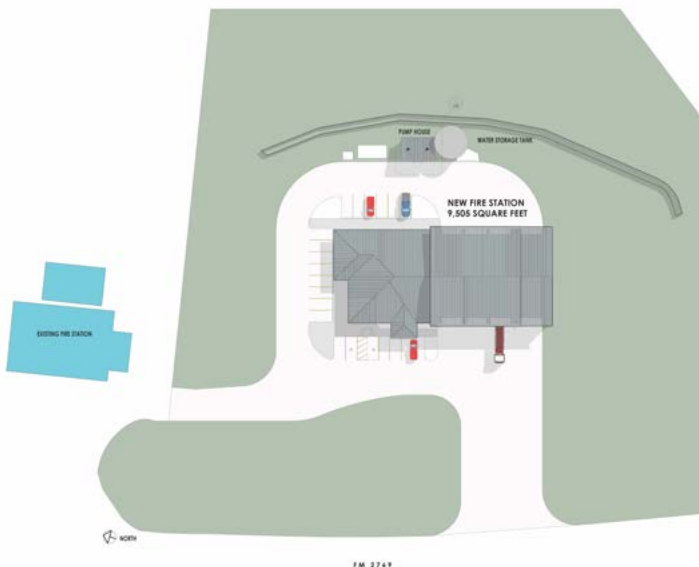
**BIDDER SELECTED:** Trimbuilt Construction (lowest bid)

**DAYS TO COMPLETE:** 365 days, plus allowances for rain days, changes, etc.

**LOAN FINANCING:** 20-year note at 4.34% interest, annual payments of \$376, 508.42.

**BUDGET FOR NON-CONTRACT ITEMS:** \$400,000 (from cash reserves)

**OVERSIGHT:** Weekly on-site meetings with Chief, Building Committee, architect and Trimbuilt.







GUEST ARTICLE FROM OUR GENERAL CONTRACTOR, TRIMBUILT CONSTRUCTION

## NOTE FROM FIRE STATION #1'S PROJECT TEAM:

By Trimbuilt Construction

"Trimbuilt is honored to be a part of the construction of Fire Station #1 in Volente. As the general contractor we will oversee the construction of a new 9,505-square-foot building with 4 apparatus bays for the fire trucks and living quarters for the fire fighters. This will include five dorm rooms, a full kitchen, laundry, tool, decon shower and turnout rooms. In addition to the building, there will be a detention pond covering approximately 15,000 square feet. A 30k gallon water tank will be installed for the fire sprinkler system that will cover the entire building, including the apparatus bays for added safety. Construction began in mid-October when the team quickly cleared and leveled the site. Following this, the detention pond was dug out, utility installations commenced, and the building pad was prepared. Current efforts are focused on installing underground rough piping for the septic system and trench drain connections leading to the detention pond. The foundation is planned to be poured

in March, with vertical construction to begin immediately after in April. The fire department is and will remain operational, working out of the original building throughout the construction process. Once construction is complete, the current space will be put to use as both a community center and for secondary fire department operations."

- Colbey Bullock, Trimbuilt Construction, Inc.



### ABOUT OUR SUPERINTENDENT:

Erick Burns started his career in 1982 and has worked at Trimbuilt Construction for ten years. He has successfully completed several public projects, including the Cedar Park Fire Administration remodel and Williamson County ESD's Fire Station #3 in Hutto, Texas. His experience is diverse, covering everything from restaurants

to executive suites. Erick's role is to be on-site 100% of the time that work is in progress. He is committed to the safety of both the workers on-site and the general public.

### ABOUT TRIMBUILT CONSTRUCTION:

For over four decades, Trimbuilt Construction has been a cornerstone in the Central Texas commercial construction industry, delivering excellence, innovation, and unparalleled service. Founded in 1984, our company has grown from a small, dedicated drywall company to a leading player in the commercial construction sector, known for our commitment to quality and our ability to bring a concept to reality.

Our mission is to deliver superior construction solutions that exceed our clients' expectations. We strive to create spaces that are not only functional and aesthetically pleasing, but built to last.





# VOLENTE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL MEETING AND **BOARD ELECTION**

THE VOLENTE FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING:



## WHERE

VFD Fire Hall  
15406 FM 2769



## WHEN

Monday, March 10, 2025  
7:00 pm



## WHY

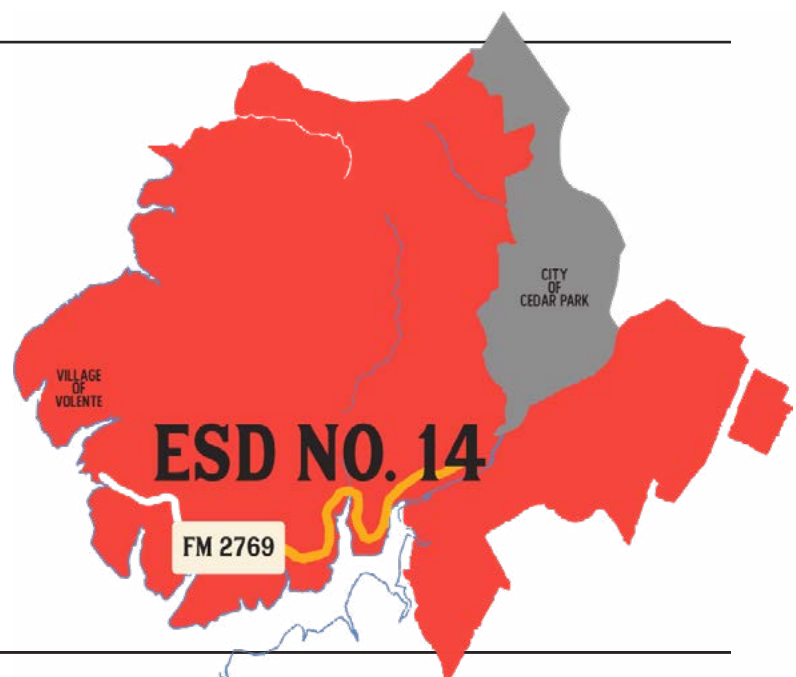
Annual report and election for 3 expiring  
board positions—Vice President,  
Treasurer, and Member-at-large

## KEEP IN MIND

- For a contested election, a formal voting process will be conducted as specified in the by-laws
- Nominations accepted up until ten days prior to the annual meeting
- Board Members must be “members”, defined as “those persons owning property within the boundaries of the VFD Service Area, or those persons registered to vote within that area.”

The VFD is directly responsible for fire and emergency services within the ESD No. 14 boundaries as well as operation of the community center at the fire station.

**For more information on membership, elections and duties of board members, please email Z. Smith, President, at [zsmith@vvfd.net](mailto:zsmith@vvfd.net).**



# STAY ALERT

SIGN UP  
FOR REVERSE  
9-1-1

[CLICK HERE](#)

to sign up to receive  
emergency notifications on  
your cell phone or mobile  
device.

[warncentraltexas.org](http://warncentraltexas.org)



## TOM FRANCESE NAMED TO ESD BOARD

The Travis County Commissioners' Court has appointed Tom Francese to serve on the ESD14 board. Tom replaces Lizza Harrison, who has moved from our area after serving 5 years on the board. Tom joins commissioners Lonnie Moore, Roger Shull, Dorothy Wilhelm, and John Schlotzhauer on the 5-member board, which meets on the third Monday of each month at the fire hall.

Tom and his wife have lived in the Volente area since 1997. Prior to establishing his current consulting business, Tom had a distinguished management career with several well-known high-tech firms. Tom is a former Marine captain and served several years as a volunteer firefighter in Colorado.

## ELECTRIC GATE? YOU NEED KNOX!



All electric gates need to have a Knox Key Switch that allows emergency services access to your property in a fire or medical emergency. The key switches can be ordered directly on [knoxbox.com](http://knoxbox.com) or through your gate company.

Do you have a Knox key switch and want us to test it? Contact the Volente Fire Department at [info@esd14.org](mailto:info@esd14.org) or 512-258-1114 and arrange for us to come by and verify operation. See [knoxbox.com](http://knoxbox.com) for more information.

## WHERE WE SERVE



ESD No. 14 serves a 16 square mile area including 10 sq miles of Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, the Village of Volente, and surrounding communities.

## BLUE SIGNS HELP US FIND YOU!

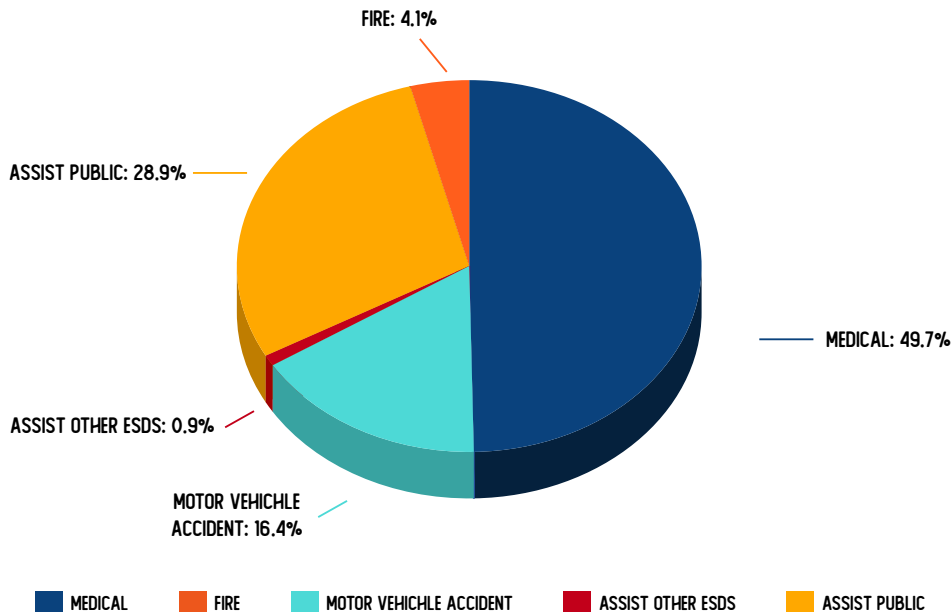


If you need a sign installed or replaced, contact us at [info@esd14.org](mailto:info@esd14.org) or call the station at 512-258-1114. Please keep existing signs clear and readable.



# VOLENTE CALL REPORT

2024 IN REVIEW



## BURN PERMITS



1. CALL **512-258-1114** TO REQUEST A BURN PERMIT. (PLEASE ALLOW 2 DAYS TO SCHEDULE ON-SITE VISIT.)



2. FIRE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS AN INSPECTION AT YOUR PROPOSED SITE



3. MUST CALL **512-258-1114** THE DAY YOU BURN, BEFORE YOU BURN.

The purpose of a burn permit is to help ensure that the residents understand the guidelines for burning in the District and to assist the resident in having a safe burn site.

To burn in the ESD 14, you must **first** call to request a burn permit (at no cost). The Fire Department will come out and inspect your proposed site. Then **call us at 512-258-1114** the day you want to burn. This is to confirm that conditions are favorable for that particular day. Humidity, wind conditions, Red Flag Warnings, and Ozone Action Days are items that are considered for daily burn/ no burn determination.



This is the only printed quarterly newsletter ESD 14 will mail in 2025. Other issues are only distributed electronically. If you received this issue by mail only, be sure to **sign up for the e-newsletter at [esd14.org](http://esd14.org)** to receive future newsletters!



## FEATURED FIREFIGHTER

JAG THE FIRE DOG



Originally from San Angelo (rescue shelter), Jag has served 10 years as the VFD “fire dog” . While on duty, Jag ensures no visitor goes unannounced and keeps an eye on the station when the truck has to go out. We are thankful for Jag and his company. Come by and say hi sometime!



# WILDFIRE

## ARE YOU PREPARED?

The terrain and vegetation of Volente enhance its beauty but also create an extreme fire hazard. Consider the safety tips below:



## BEFORE A WILDFIRE:

### STAY INFORMED

- Register for Reverse 9-1-1 emergency notifications via [WarnCentralTexas.gov](http://WarnCentralTexas.gov). In the event of an emergency, local officials will be able to contact you with the latest information via text, email, or phone.
- Follow @TravisCountyES on social media

### PREPARE YOUR HOME

- Schedule a free, confidential Firewise Risk Assessment from ESD 14/VFD to have a Firewise home.
- Have a prepared Go Bag ready to go. Arrange your Go Bag with prescription medication, emergency supplies, important documents, and other essential items. Find more information at [www.esd.org](http://www.esd.org).
- Remove combustible materials near your home.

### CREATE AN ACTION PLAN:

- Create and discuss an Action Plan with your family and neighbors that includes evacuation meeting locations and communication plans—rehearse it regularly.
- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the wildfire hazard area, in the event that you do decide to evacuate.

## WILDFIRE NEARING:

### STAY INFORMED

- Stay tuned to your local TV and radio stations for updates on potential shelter-in-place or evacuation recommendations.

### IF TIME ALLOWS

- Close all doors and windows.
- Pull rugs, chairs, tables, etc. away from points of entry to your home.

## DURING A WILDFIRE:

### IF YOU DECIDE TO EVACUATE

- Do not wait to be advised to leave if there is a possible threat to your home and/or evacuation route.
- **There are only 2 roads in and out of Volente and its surrounding areas.** Consider all of your evacuation options. Follow any directions given by local authorities.



# Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

## BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



## Heating Equipment Smarts

**Install** wood burning stoves following manufacturer’s instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

**Install** and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



## FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January,** and **February.**



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource  
on fire, electrical and related hazards

