



VOLENTE ESD 14 NEWSLETTER

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

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

STATION CONSTRUCTION AND HAPPENINGS

By Lonnie Moore, ESD14 President

NEW STATION BUILDING

The Building Committee is happy to report that the station construction is on schedule. The Committee, along with Chief Zimmerman, continues to meet weekly with the architect and Trimbuilt Construction to review progress, resolve issues, walk the site, and make necessary decisions. Who knew there were so many color choices to make?

At this writing the slab is poured, the superstructure for the bay area is complete and wall studs and door frames are being erected. There is much more to come, but we are on schedule to be completed by the end of the year, and we should be operating from the new building in January 2026.

FIRE WATER TANK

Next to a quick initial response, the most important item of fire suppression is a ready source of water. We depend on the water we can carry in our engines and can shuttle to the scene in tenders (water tankers). That means transporting water from the far edges of the District where the closest fire hydrants are located. To improve upon this, the Village of Volente has taken the initiative to install a 50,000-gallon fire water tank on the Village's property on Lime Creek Road, near Jackson Street. Through an Interlocal Agreement (ILA), ESD14 will operate and help maintain the tank, refilling it as necessary after use. The system will have the appropriate pump and hose connection so that it becomes, in effect, a 50,000-gallon fire hydrant. This will allow VFD and our auto-aid partners to refill our trucks during a fire-fighting incident with far less travel time.

TOWN HALL ON WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION

Travis County Commissioner Ann Howard has organized a Town Hall on Wildfire Preparedness for Thursday, May 8th, 7:00PM, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 10205 FM 620 N, Austin, TX 78726. The Town Hall was arranged in conjunction with our adjoining ESD in that area, ESD #4, but all our ESD14 residents and business owners are invited. Chief Zimmerman and I will be participating, and the subject matter will include steps for homeowners to take, as well as mitigation on and around the BCP – topics which should be of great interest to us.



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

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.

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

VOLENTE FIRE STATION #1



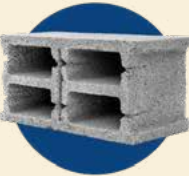
GROUND BREAKING

Project Start:
October, 2024



EXCAVATION

Site-Work, Utilities:
Winter 2024 - Spring 2025



FOUNDATION & SLAB

Completed and ready for
building construction:
Spring/Summer 2025



EXTERIOR & INTERIOR

Construction:
Summer/Fall 2025



FINAL LANDSCAPING

Hoist the flag!
Estimated completion:
December 2025



FULLY OPERATIONAL SERVICES

Targeted January 2026

TOWN HALL

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS



MAY 8TH • 7PM

St. Thomas More
Catholic Church

RSVP HERE

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. See knoxbox.com for more information.

PROGRESS SNAPSHOTS

FROM YOUR FUTURE FIRE STATION



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.

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.



JAG THE FIRE DOG

LAST CALL



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the final call of duty for Jag the Fire Dog. This is the last alarm for Jag, who served the Volente Fire Department faithfully for 10 years. Jag worked his final shift on Tuesday, February 18th. His commitment to duty will forever be etched in our hearts. –Chief Zimmerman

SPRING BASH

APRIL 26TH • 4–8PM

📍 VFD FIRE HALL

LEARN MORE





Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. But by working together, residents can make their own property — and their neighborhood — much safer from wildfire.

Action Items to Improve Your Home's Survivability:

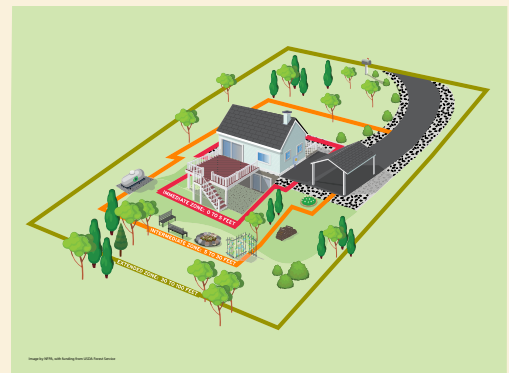
- **REMOVE** leaves, debris, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting your home.
- **SCREEN** areas below decks and porches with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent material from accumulating underneath.
- **COVER** exterior attic and soffit vents with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering your home.
- **ENCLOSE** eaves to help prevent ember entry.
- **INSPECT** shingles or roof tiles. **REPLACE** missing shingles or tiles. **COVER** ends of tiles with bird stops or cement to help prevent ember penetration during a wildfire.

Tips for Landscaping Around Your Home

- **REMOVE** dead vegetation and other flammable materials, especially within the first 5 feet of the home.
- **KEEP** your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to help reduce fire intensity.
- **PRUNE** tree limbs so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet above the ground to help reduce the chance of fire getting into the crowns of the trees.
- **MOVE** construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.
- **DISPOSE** of branches, weeds, leaves, brush, and grass clippings that you have cut to reduce fuel for fire.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Increase your wildfire safety. Make simple low-cost changes to your home and landscape starting today.



Visit www.firewise.org for more information.



<https://www.esd14.org> 512-258-1114



IT'S A BIG WORLD.
LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.®

IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN VOLENTE FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Compiled by Roger Shull, ESD14 commissioner and former VFD Fire Chief

- 1939: Lake Travis Subdivisions platted by David C. Reed, developer
- 1942: Lake Travis is filled following completion of Marshall Ford (Mansfield) Dam
- 1947: PEC brings electric service to Volente
- 1950: 50 permanent homes in Volente
- 1961: Volunteers contribute labor and materials to construct a building to house fire-fighting equipment and supplies
- 1961: Volente Volunteer Fire Department officially chartered October 13, 1961
- 1965: VFD purchases first fire truck (used 1950 Ford, previously TXDOT)
- 1970: Property owner annual subscription fees collected to produce revenue
- 1985: November 5, Volente votes to establish Travis County Rural Fire Prevention District #11, which provides property tax revenue
- 1996 Balcones Canyonlands Preserve established in Volente Fire District, severely constraining property tax revenue growth
- 1999: November 2, residents vote to establish Travis County Emergency Service District #14, further increasing property-tax revenues
- 2000: VFD contracts for paid 24/7 dispatcher, and enables 911 fire dispatching
- 2004: First paid firefighter hired
- 2006: First paid fire chief hired
- 2008: Staff increased to two firefighters per shift, 24/7
- 2011: Staff increased to three firefighters per shift, 24/7
- 2013: Residents outside VoV vote to collect 1% sales tax to replace revenue lost when Cedar Park annexed a large portion of ESD 14
- 2013: ESD 14 joins Travis County Automatic Aid Agreement
- 2016: ESD 14 recognized as a "Firewise Community" by the Firewise Communities/USA Corporation.
- 2017: Residents outside VoV vote to exit CapMetro district and collect another 1% sales tax for ESD 14
- 2019: Travis County BCP sponsors fuel mitigation services in ESD 14
- 2022: Travis County Auto-aid dispatching now includes Williamson County
- 2024: Construction on a new fire station building begins
- 2025: Provision of a fire water supply tank on Lime Creek Rd with Village of Volente
- 2025: Expected completion of new station building

