

Ellis County Emergency Services District #2
Fire and EMS Service & Emergency Preparedness Upgrade Plan
August 27, 2009

Lower Insurance Premiums

The ESD #2 Board commissioned an ISO consultant to review the ESD's ISO Public Protection Class (PPC), a major factor in determining the annual homeowner/fire insurance premium ESD #2 residents pay. This consultant provided the Board with a plan to lower the PPC from a 5/4 to a 3 and also to a 2. These reductions in PPC can reduce homeowner/business insurance up to 14%. Homeowners in Texas pay the highest insurance premiums in the Country.

Increased Public Safety

The Board of Emergency Commissioners has also reviewed the level of Fire and EMS service that ESD #2 District residents receive and the level of emergency preparedness. Based on this review the following Fire and EMS service upgrades have been recommended:

Increase Firefighter Staffing

The ISO consultant recommended increased firefighters as the number one priority in lowering the PPC. In addition to lowering the PPC, District residents will see lower response times. Three of the four fire stations that respond to ESD #2 Fire and EMS calls are staffed 24/7. The Ovilla Fire Department station is currently staffed on an average about 50% of each day. When the station is not manned, response times increase above the average response time in other parts of the District. The service upgrade plan includes additional funds to increase the daily hours that the Ovilla Fire Station is staffed.

Funding apparatus driver positions and funding for a minimum staffing level at the Midlothian Fire Stations are also included in the proposed service upgrade plan.

Firefighter Training Center

Funding for the design and construction of a fire department training center is also included in the service upgrade plan based on the ISO consultant's recommendation. This training center will also improve firefighter safety in addition to increased firefighter training. Both the Midlothian Fire Department and the Ovilla Fire Department will use this training center.

Additional Advanced and Basic Life Saving EMS Equipment

Purchase four (4) mechanical CPR devices and four (4) additional heart monitor/defibrillators that will be placed on each ambulance and one each will be placed on the Ovilla FD EMS First Responder vehicle. Studies have shown these mechanical CPR devices are increasing the survivability of patients suffering a cardiac arrest. The additional heart monitor/defibrillators will be used to increase advanced life support capability of each fire station. Without these additional monitor/defibrillators, there is a delay in advanced life support when a second EMS call is received in that station's response area. These new heart monitor/defibrillators also have the ability to measure firefighters or civilians suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. The ambulances currently do not have any equipment that can determine carbon monoxide poisoning.

Five (5) Additional Outdoor Hazard Warning Sirens

The addition of five (5) outdoor hazard-warning sirens will insure that all populated areas of ESD #2 are covered. The attached map shows the approximate area of the new outdoor hazard warning sirens.

Upgrade Water System

The Board of Emergency Commissioners has met with Sardis Lone Elm Water Supply Corporation to discuss adding hydrants in areas that do not have a hydrant within 1000 feet of homes and businesses.

We have identified areas that need hydrants and the Board is committed to initially adding hydrants close to the businesses in the Eastgate Business Park and businesses on Ovilla Road. We also are committed to adding hydrants close to homes in coordination with an ongoing Sardis Lone Elm Water Supply system upgrade.