WILLIAMSON COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #8
FIRE PREVENTION SAFETY GUIDE >>>
INFORMATION

We hope you can take a few moments to review the Emergency Service District #8 information guide for your Emergency Services and Fire Prevention. Within the next several pages, you will find helpful information about where your tax dollars are being invested to keep you and your family safe from fire and other emergencies.

The Contact information and for general information for the Emergency Services District #8 can be found:

www.wilco8.org
Email is info@wilco8.org
Phone is 512-930-3611
Address is 103 West 9th, Georgetown, TX 78626

ESD DISTRICT #8

What’s Inside

1. - ESD Information and Contact numbers
2. - Georgetown Fire Dept. info and contact numbers
3. - Open Meetings
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5. - Summary of ESD study
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10. - Smoke Detectors
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GFD INFORMATION

The Georgetown Fire Department is a fully paid professional department funded with city tax dollars and the Emergency Services District #8 contract fee. Our 5th fire station will open in July of 2012 and our staffing is 87 Members.

Summary of services:
All Hazards Response to Include:
• Fire
• EMS
• Hazardous Materials
• Water Emergencies
• Rescue Entrapments
• Motor Vehicle Accidents
• Aircraft Emergencies
Fire Preventions and Public Education
Special Events
Emergency Management

A detailed list of services and all other information about the fire department can be found at www.georgetownfd.org

Contact information
General information 512-930-3473
Problems Complaints 512-930-3611
Most citizens who have a Georgetown address BUT do not live in the City Limits pay a 9.5 cent tax per $100 valuation on their property to the Emergency Service District #8 (ESD8). This tax is earmarked for Fire Protection. The ESD8 contracts with the Georgetown Fire Department to provide Fire and Rescue services for a 100% of the ESD8 territory. The Emergency Service District #8 is led by 5 Commissioners appointed by the Williamson County Commissioner’s Court. Below are the names of each Commissioner and the dates of their meetings for 2012.

**President Tony Callaway**
Deputy Fire Marshal for Travis County
esd8tony@gmail.com

**Vice President Bobby Bunte**
Independent Computer contractor
esd8bobby@gmail.com

**Treasurer Jim Briggs**
Assistant City Manager
esd8jim@esd.com

**Secretary Chris Stanley**
Attorney
esd8chris@gmail.com

**Open Position**
If interested, please notify Valerie Covey at vcovery@wilco.org

All meetings agendas are published the Friday before the meeting at the Williamson County Courthouse. Every meeting is an “Open Meeting” and the public is encouraged to attend. The ESD8 is governed by the Open Meeting rules similar to the City and County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>103 West 9th, Georgetown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>103 West 9th, Georgetown</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>103 West 9th, Georgetown</td>
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<td>August 15</td>
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<td>September 15</td>
<td>3600 DB Wood, Georgetown</td>
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<td>November 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 19</td>
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# BUDGET & FUTURE PLANS

**Accrual Basis**  
Williamson County Emergency Services District  
2011-2012 Annual Budget  
October 2011 through September 2012

## Ordinary Income/Expense

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4000-00</td>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
<td>1,500,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4005-00</td>
<td>Bank Interest Income</td>
<td>1,500,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4005-03</td>
<td>Money Market Interest</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6,000.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,506,000.00</strong></td>
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### Expense

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>5500-00</td>
<td>Insurance Expenses</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5500-01</td>
<td>Vehicle Insurance</td>
<td>156.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5500-04</td>
<td>Tres/Accounting Bond</td>
<td>2,134.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5500-07</td>
<td>Commercial Package</td>
<td>960.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5500-10</td>
<td>Commercial Umbrella Policy</td>
<td>1,750.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>5,000.00</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Estimated Revenue to finance the approved budget will come from the following sources:

- Current Ad Valorem Tax Levy: 1,500,000
- Bank Interest on Reserve Funds: 6,000
- Cash Balance at beginning of the year including the Reserve:
  - Funds labeled “assigned” Fund Balances: 1,020,000
  - Other Cash Balance designated as Reserve Funds: 980,000
- **Total- All available Revenue Sources**: 3,506,000
ESD STUDY

In 2011, the City of Georgetown partnered with the ESD #8 and hired Citygate Associates to perform a Deployment Study. The study treated the City limits and ESD#8 as one large urbanized area and recommended 6 major strategies to improve Fire and Emergency Response protection to all citizens with a Georgetown address. The summary of analysis examined historic growth patterns, predicted growth models, current and future road networks, census data, and all emergency responses for the past 3 years. As a result of this Study, the Fire Department and ESD#8 have made changes as recommended by the study OR have started the budget process to implement future recommendations. These changes include:

- Improvements to call processing times to assure each 911 call is processed and concluded in 60 seconds or less 90% of the time.
- Improvements to Firefighter turn out reactions times
- Shifting of emergency personnel based on the recommendations and predictive modeling.
- Modifications to current fire station to allow for future growth of Specialized Response Units.
- Budget funds allocated for land purchase for future fire station development

Below are the two areas recommended for future fire station growth within 1-3 years.

Northwest station planned near 3405 and Williams

East side station is planned near University and Inner Loop
WILDFIRE PREVENTION

ZONE 1

(Extends 10 feet from house)

• Tree Canopies trimmed at least 4-6 feet from roof
• Remove dead vegetation and leaves from around decks and gutters
• Relocate combustibles and wood piles to Zone 2
• Remove or prune vegetation from windows
• Remove “ladder fuels”

(This is low level dry vegetation that allows fire to spread vertical into the tree canopy.)
WILDFIRE PREVENTION

ZONE 2

(Extends 10 to 30 feet from the house)

- Remove ladder fuels
- Grass should be a maximum of 4 inches in height
- Trim tree canopies
- Remove debris and trash
- Keep ground watered and maintained

ZONE 3

(Extends 30 to 100 feet)

- May not be applicable in a suburban neighborhood
- First line of defense so keep maintained and clean of dead vegetation.

BAD

Leaves can help spread a fire

Leaves can help spread a fire

Large wild fire requires outside support

Emergency Service District #8   www.wilco8.org
Addressing and Access are **CRITICAL** for the fire department to find and access your home in case of an emergency. Addresses need to be visible from the street and not obstructed by trees or vegetation. Reflective numbers are a great advantage at night. If you have a long driveway the address must be located at the point of entrance so emergency responders can find your home in a timely manner.

Access is of **VITAL** importance as many homes in the ESD8 have long driveways or positioned on numerous acres. Our Fire Apparatus can be as long as 42’ and as tall as 12’ and making sharp turns with numerous trees can delay our response. **REMEMBER**, our timely response to you and your family is 100% dependent upon finding your home and having access to your front door.
CONTROLLED BURNS & FIREWORKS

CONTROLLED BURNS

Outside fires are regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and by local Burn Bans enacted by the County. The state rules for outdoor burning include:

- Must be attended at all time
- At least 300’ from any structure
- Not allowed under Burn Ban
- Burning must cease during dark hours
- No burning if the winds are above 20mph,
- No burning of plastics and other petroleum based products such as shingles and tires

FIREWORKS

Fireworks are not allowed in the City limits AND within 5000’ of the city limits. State law allows cities with a population of 5000 or more to regulate certain conditions within 5000’ of their city border and fireworks are one of these items. If County residents are caught violating this rule then the penalty is up to a $2000 fine and you will receive a bill from the City of Georgetown if you are within the 5000’ boundary.

For more information see the TCEQ website at www.tceq.state.tx.us. ALWAYS check the County Website at www.wilco.org to see if the burn ban is enacted.
SMOKE DETECTORS

The most important and cheapest form of insurance a homeowner can buy is a smoke detector. Smoke detectors should be in each bedroom, hallway and in the common areas of a home. Important information about smoke detectors includes:

- Change the Batteries on an annual basis.
- Do Not use discount store batteries, use a reputable brand from the same lot.
- Dust or vacuum the detector when the batteries are replaced.
- Change smoke detectors every 7-10 years or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- If the detectors are hard wired and networked, please contact a local handyman for assistance.
- The Georgetown Fire Department staff cannot repair or install detectors.
CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Every house that uses natural or propane gas should have Carbon Monoxide Alarms. Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless LETHAL gas that is a by-product of heating around ovens, stoves, heaters, and cars. At least 15,000 people are a victim of Carbon Monoxide poisoning each year and 5,000 of those exposures were fatal throughout the United States. Important tips to prevent Carbon Monoxide poisoning include:

- Do NOT leave a car running in a garage
- All gas appliances should be serviced on an annual basis
- Never self install a gas appliance
- Install Carbon monoxide alarms as recommended by the manufacturer
- Have the Chimney cleaned as needed
- Do not use generators or other gasoline powered equipment indoors
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire Extinguishers should be located in the following rooms:

- Kitchen
- Garage
- Work Shops

Choose a Multi-Purpose extinguisher that can extinguish all types of household fires.

A-B-C

- P-Point
- A-Aim
- S-Squeeze
- S-Sweep

CLASS A
- Ordinary combustibles such as: wood, cloth, and paper.

CLASS B
- Flammable liquids such as: gasoline, oil, and all-based paint.

CLASS C
- Energized electrical equipment including: wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, and appliances
FAQS

1. **Why does a Fire Engine respond when I only need an Ambulance?** Fire stations are strategically placed within communities and all firefighters are trained as a Basic EMT. Ambulances are operated by Williamson County and often have a longer response than local firefighters. Since the ambulance response times are sometimes unpredictable, local firefighters will be at your front door in a timely manner to stabilize and perform life saving measures before an ambulance arrives.

2. **What is my tax rate?** Citizens who live in the City limits pay roughly 39 cents for city services including fire and rescue protection. ESD#8 citizens currently pay 9.5 cents for fire and rescue protection. State law caps any ESD tax at 10 cents so ESD#8 is half a penny under the cap.

3. **Who can be a commissioner?** You must reside in the district that you want to serve and be appointed by the Williamson County Commissioners Court.

4. **Could ESD#8 have a paid fire department?** Yes, they could, but the cost of personnel, infrastructure, and apparatus would be very expensive and this is why the ESD#8 Board contracts with the Georgetown Fire Department.

5. **If I have a complaint or questions, who do I contact?** The best full time contact is the Fire Chief at 512-930-3611 and he will address the issue and forward any concern to the Board of Commissioners if needed.