

COLLEGE STATION FIRE









COLLEGE STATION FIRE DEPT. AM

1970 - 1995







Credit Goes To:



Editorial Advisors: Personnel Photographs: Design and Typography: Cover Design and Graphics:

CSFD archival researchers:

Tim Hamff and Lee Gillum Robert MFG Rhodes CSFD Historian:

Douglas Arndt, Morgan Cook, Paul Gunnels, Maggie McGraw, David Moore,

Paul Powell, Fred Rapczyk, Bobby Stanford

Larry Wentrcek and Tom Thraen Advertising:

Published by: College Station Firefighters Association

College Station, Texas 77840

Susan Sharp and Mary Morse

Quick as a Flash Photography

Mary Morse and Tim Hamff

(409) 7643700

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Printed by:

Library of Congress Card: 2010-911

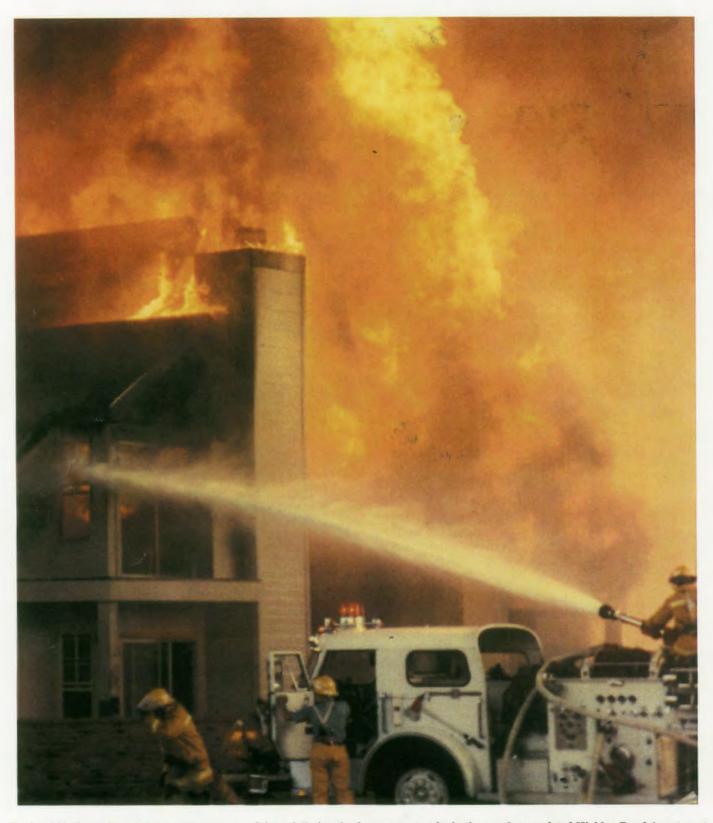
Page Opposite:

Artwork courtesy: Benjamin Knox Gallery, College Station, Texas

I've worked on this book for those who stood by me at my darkest hour. Enough said.



Drawing by Benjamin Knox © 409-696-KNOX



Engine 141 directs its master stream onto one of three fully involved apartment units in the nearly completed Walden Pond Apartment complex in College Station on Friday, July 13, 1984. David White





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Truck 751 surveys College Station's Whataburger for hot spots after helping to extinguish this major involvement on January 17, 1996. David White

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Post Office Box 9960 1101 Texas Avenue College Station, Texas 77842-0960

(409) 764-3541

May 1, 1996

Chief Bill Kennedy and Members of the College Station Fire Department

Congratulations on the first 25 years as a department of the City of College Station. Much has changed from the day the city first took the responsibility for furnishing fire protection for the City of College Station. From this humble beginning with many of the fire fighters serving as volunteers the Department has become one with true professionalism providing much more than just a fire fighting service. Today the College Station Fire Department provides emergency medical service, safety inspection, and safety education in addition to fire protection. In addition, the personnel of the Department are active in many charitable events in the community.

We are grateful for the professionalism and expertise of today's Fire Department. The fire, rescue and EMS services you provide bring credit to our city. Because of your dedication, College Station residents have access to first class emergency services.

We are also proud of the part you play in educating the public, particularly the children, about fire safety. The work you did to construct the Fire Safety House exemplifies this important role. We appreciate the time you spend taking the Fire Safety House to schools, childcare facilities, and community gatherings. It is obvious that you view safety education an important role.

You, as members of the College Station Fire Department, have played a major role in making College Station a first class city, one where safety is important. For that, I am sure all the residents of College Station join me in saying thank you and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Ringer

Mayor

To the College Station Fire Fighters:

I appreciate the opportunity to publicly express my thanks to the members of the College Station Fire Department, both past and present. Through your hard work and commitment to excellence the residents and visitors to our city enjoy a safe environment in which to live and work.

When duty calls and fire fighters enter hazardous atmospheres to defend their community against disaster, quality of character and commitment to duty are essential. The commitment of the men and women of this department is beyond reproach. I take great pleasure in serving the fire department as your city manager. My hope is to continue watching the department grow in knowledge and professionalism. I am confident that the traditions and honor of the fire service will be upheld by the future officers and personnel of this organization and the City of College Station will be proud of its Fire Department.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued success and never-forget that as you succeed as an individual, the Department also succeeds.

X Ziciy,

City Manager

To the College Station Firefighters:

As Fire Chief of the College Station Fire Department it is my privilege to address you during the twenty fifth anniversary of our organization. As spokesman for the four Fire Chiefs who have served this department the last twenty five years I salute you and express our appreciation for your dedicated service.

The profession of "firefighter" has undergone dramatic changes, both in the area of fire ground duties and in the level of knowledge required to manage the ever changing hazards of our community. College Station Firefighters have met the requirements of the job and have exceeded normal standards to set a new measure of quality for future firefighters.

The task of mitigating the effects of adversity is difficult in large communities. However, the men and women of the College Station Fire Department manage these same adversities with a vastly smaller force. The ability to prevent catastrophic events, minimize the effects of natural calamities, and take the heat when there are no other resources available sets the College Station firefighter above the average.

As available resources continue to diminish in our communities fire personnel will have to work smarter to meet the challenges. With one of the countries largest Universities as the core of our community and our City located in the path of future development, College Station is postured for substantial growth. The opportunity to serve as a College Station Firefighter over the next twenty five years will be far from boring.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chief. I ask that you commit yourself to the service of your neighbors as proud members of the College Station Fire Department, and I as God to bless you and keep you safe.

Fraternally Yours,

William L. Kennedy

Fire Chief

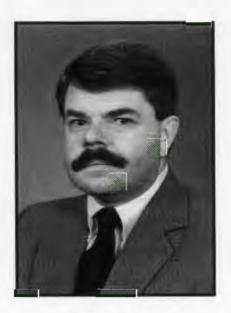
College Station Fire Department Former Fire Chiefs



Elwood F. "Woody Sevinson April 1970 - October 1973



Douglas W. Landua October 1973 - April 1990



Richard Orange September 1990 - July 1992

College Station Fire Department

Former Members 1970 - 1995

Stewart Acosta Richard D Akin Gene Allen Alvin Andrus Paul Avera Robert Baker Richard Baldwin Terry Barnet John Bearrie Mary Beck Lionel Benavides Leonard L Benford Chris L Bibeau Leonard C Bishop Lynn Bizzell Charles W Boling Richard K Boone Robert A Bordeau Mike Bourque Dorothy Brooks Richard Brown
Benjamin Bryan
Timothy J Bulgerin
Richard Bunte
John Campbell
Robert A Carlton
Gary Carpenter
George Carrol
Dennis Chevalier
James M Clay

John R Cochrane
Julie Collins
Benton Crawford
James Creager
Chris Cyxewski
Chris Dale
Harry L Davis
Timothy Dedear
Gary D Dehaven
Charles Dobrovolny

Allen Dodson Glen Dowell Shawn K Dunham Douglas Earnest Andre Economedes Garnet Eimann Gilbert Eimann Glenn Eimann John Ellen Ron J Epps Larry D Farley Gus Farmer Donald Fisher Joseph Fisher Joseph Foster Clifford Garnett Ronald Garrison Fletcher German Jr Steven Godby James Golden Michael Gray Larry Grubbs Joseph Guidry Kit R Hickman Kenneth L Higgins Charles E Hodges Mark T Hoeller Richard Holbert Roger Holder Ricky G Homeyer



Fred Honneycutt
Dayton Hosteller
Edward Hubacek
George Huebner III
James Humpries
David D Ilger
Billy Izquierdo
Kenneth Jarrell
Guy Johnson
Jesse Johnson
Gary Karnavas
Christopher Kellen
Charles Kirnble
David Krause

Rubert Krupa
Johnnie Kuder Jr
Douglas Landua
Richard Lee
Anthony Lincoln
Steven Lind
Larry Lisbenbe
Jack Madeley
Craig Mangham
Gary Martin
Pat McAuliff
Michael McBride
Frankie McLewis
Steven Meinecke

Alfred Miller
Andy Mitchell
Christofer Moffatt
Barbara Montgomery
Michael Mooney
Donald Morris
Gary Munion
Ray Neblett
Buren Noey
Larry Orsak
Ray Owens
Gregory Panzino
Billy Parker
Jack Perryman

Willie Peterson Bernie Phipps Joseph Porter Weldon Price Dale Prince Michael Putter Dwight Rabe James Redman Leroy Reed Gustav Reinhardt Don Richardson William Riley John Rinard Susan Rinn David Rosier
Maxie Ross Jr
Jeffrey Rowe
James Saxon
William Schaer
Robbin Schellhous
Raymond Schultz
Lars Sharpe
George Sheldon
Sammie Shepard
Frank Simonetti
Jerry Since
John Smith
Pearl Smith

Timothy Smith
David Sneed
David R Sneed
James Springer
Wayne Stark
Thomas Stone
James Summers
Albin Swanson
David Tankersley
Brian Tanner
James Thibodeaux
Benjamin Walker
Loss Warlick
Bruce Watson

Warren Weilder David Wentrcek Steven Wertz Benjamin West Kevin Williams Mark Wisdom John Womack Bruce Woods Robert Wright Charles Yeager Donald Yeager Frank Zepeda

From Humble Beginnings: The College Station Fire Department



On October 7, 1995, current and former members of the College Station Fire Department participated in a muster and reunion commemorating 25 years of dedicated service to the citizens of College Station. The ceremonies recognized the 1970 beginnings of College Station's full-time fire department, a consequence of community leaders' determined efforts to establish the City of College Station as a self-sufficient municipality. The following is a brief history of the events that led up to this memorial event, and is dedicated to all those, both living and dead, who contributed to the creation and development of the College Station Fire Department.

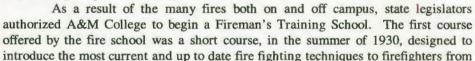
College Station, Texas A&M, and the Fireman's Training School

College Station, a community that evolved from the 1876 founding of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (A&M) is located four miles south of Bryan in Brazos County. A&M College (now Texas A&M University) was the first public institution of higher learning in the State of Texas.

On February 7, 1877, the United States Postal Service gave the name of College Station to the developing community

surrounding the campus. Fire protection services for A&M campus and the community were provided by cadets living in Milner Hall. Limited training and equipment often hampered the efforts of the cadets in providing effective fire protection services.

Several destructive and costly fires on the college campus and in the surrounding community emphasized the need for better-trained and equipped firefighters. November 10, 1911, brought destruction to the college's old mess hall and an early morning fire gutted the college's Old Main Building on May 27, 1912. Another devastating fire occurred December 5, 1920, when the Mechanical Engineering shops were destroyed.



around the state. Directed by Dr. H.R. Brayton, a professor of inorganic chemistry, the course taught 196 firefighters the latest concepts in municipal fire fighting techniques. Called the "Training School for Texas Firemen," the class was a huge success and the college was authorized to offer the fire school annually.

The second Fireman's Training School began on April 27, 1931. The school was taught by the A&M Chemistry Department in cooperation with the Bryan Fire Department and was attended by 315 firefighters. Thus began the long, prestigious operation of the Texas A&M Fire Protection Training Division.



The students of the Thirteenth Annual School for Firemen A&M College of Texas.

The brick shell was all that remained

after fire gutted the nearly 65-year-old Main Building on the Texas A&M

campus in 1912. TAMU Archives

The Texas A&M College Fire Department

On May 27, 1931, A&M's campus newspaper, *The Battalion*, announced tentative plans "calling for new equipment to be under the care of the College, giving it adequate fire-fighting equipment." Several more major fires on campus and in the surrounding community occurred before delivery of the newly funded apparatus. Delays of almost a year caused *The Battalion* to publish a series of critical editorials calling for quicker action in delivery of fire apparatus.

On June 21, 1932, the first of three fire trucks finally arrived at A&M. This first truck was a 1928 Mack, triple combination pumper, carrying 750 gallons of water. This engine is now known as "Old Mack." Another pumper and a ladder truck were scheduled for delivery in July 1932. The arrival of the "new fire trucks" brought excitement and high expectations to the many volunteers charged with providing fire protection.



Training primarily A&M physical plant employee volunteers and students, A&M organized the Texas A&M College Fire Department. Once properly trained and qualified in fire suppression, employees became eligible for college furnished housing. Housing provided was situated in a neighborhood at the northeast section of the traffic circle then located at University Drive and South College Avenue. This area became known as "Candy Hill" or "Fireman's Hill." Firemen were notified of an emergency by party-line phones placed in their homes.

The rapid growth and development of A&M College and the surrounding community during the early 1930s created many public concerns and issues. Community fire safety and the enforcement of building codes, electrical codes, and equipment installation were among the concerns that only a local government could address. In 1938, these concerns persuaded residents to incorporate their community into the City of College Station.

After the incorporation, the A&M Board of Directors authorized College Station to purchase, for an annual fee, the services of Texas A&M College Fire Department to provide fire protection to the newly incorporated city. The agreement provided residents with affordable fire protection and code enforcement.

As city officials continued developing public services during the 1940s and 1950s, fire protection services continued to be purchased from the Texas A&M College Fire Department. Paying insurance fees for personnel and equipment, salaries and charges incurred during response, plus tuition for one firefighter to attend the Texas Fireman's Training School annually was a cost-effective arrangement for the city.

An example of the City's fire protection expenditures from an article in the June 9, 1956, issue of *The Battalion* indicates the following costs:

	Budget	Actual
Rent on fire truck paid to A&M College	\$ 650.00	\$ 450.00
Burning and cutting grass	4,850.00	4,939.04
Firemen	600.00	587.00
Insurance on trucks and men	400.00	432.80
Hydrants & water services	50.00	50.00
Fireman's Training School	150.00	150.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 6,615.84

The Plans for a City Fire Department

The 1960s led to an increased population in College Station and an unexpected demand for expanded city services. The need for increased services motivated city leaders to explore alternatives to finance several long awaited capital improvement projects within their growing community. In late 1966, a special bond election financed the urgently needed overhaul of the city's water supply system. By late 1968 the completion of a two-million gallon water storage tank, a new one million gallon water tower, a new pumping station, and thirteen miles of new or improved water lines was in place.

The approval of a 1967 special bond election allowed for a 1969 groundbreaking ceremony for a much-needed City Hall complex and combination fire and police station, with equipment to start a full-time city fire department. The buildings were to be located on property owned by the city between Francis and Gilchrist Streets with frontage on Highway 6.

In late 1968, the City Council awarded the bid for the City of College Station's first fire trucks to the Houston Fire Equipment Company for two custom, white American LaFrance, 750 GPM, triple-combination pumpers. Delivery was expected in January 1970.

Mayor D. A. "Andy" Anderson proposed to the City Council that College Station obtain the new National Emergency phone number 911 for the community. Upon Council's adoption of Mayor

community. Upon Council's adoption of Mayor Anderson's proposal in January 1970, the City of College Station became one of the first cities in Texas to implement the use of the 911 Emergency Call System.

The first City Council meeting held in the new City Hall building occurred on March 9, 1970. Dedication ceremonies for City Hall and the Fire and Police building were held March 21, 1970.

In 1970, the citizens had a new fire station and two new American LaFrance pumpers, yet they still depended on the fire fighting services of the Texas A&M University Fire Department (A&M College changed to Texas A&M University in 1963). Planning to hire full-time personnel to assume more city fire fighting duties, Mayor Anderson said, "...our dependence on A&M should come to a close shortly, we have been nurtured by A&M and we are most appreciative."

City and university officials wanted a gradual transfer of all fire fighting activities to the city fire department before the university closed its



A circa 1960 aerial view of College Station's traffic circle with "Fireman's Hill" in the lower right corner and Texas A&M College above the circle. Commercial Images

fire department. A significant step in the transfer of services came in April 1970 when College Station hired Texas A&M University Fire Marshall, Elwood F. "Woody" Sevison, as the first Fire Chief of the College Station Fire Department.

In July 1970, former Bryan firefighter Harry L. Davis was hired as the first full-time paid firefighter for the City of College Station Fire Department. While the city and Texas A&M worked to finalize a mutual aid agreement, the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Fire Department continued to respond to city fire and emergency calls.

Davis worked from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. each day. The city fire station and Davis' residence were connected to the TAMU Fire Department party line. Davis would respond to the emergency call with one of the city's LaFrance pumpers. Often alone, Davis would handle the situation until the university's fire department could arrive with additional equipment and manpower.

Late 1971 brought about the completion of a comprehensive mutual aid agreement between the City of College Station and Texas A&M University. The agreement stated that no more than fifty percent of the College Station Fire Department would be comprised of Texas A&M volunteer firefighters, College Station would have access to Texas A&M fire equipment, College Station would provide protective clothing for TAMU volunteers, and College Station Fire Department (CSFD) would assume responsibility for fire protection on Texas A&M campus. The first mutual aid agreement was initiated and signed by Fire Chief Sevison and TAMU Fire Marshal Doug Landua. This agreement reversed a 33-year tradition of TAMU providing fire protection services to the citizens of College Station.

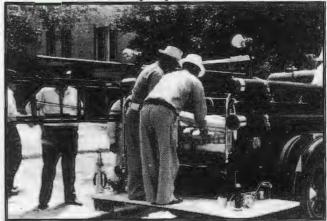
"Those were the Days . . . "



Upper left: TAMU's 1st Fire Pumper, a 1928 Mack.

Upper right: Unidentified firemen load hose onto the back of a pumper.





Below: Alumni of the Texas Fireman's Training School.



Timeline

1970

During most of 1970, CSFD staffing consisted primarily of a full-time fire chief and one full-time firefighter with the majority of the city's fire suppression efforts still being supplied by the Texas A&M University Fire Department. In April, city officials named Texas A&M University Fire Marshall Elwood F. "Woody" Sevison as the first Fire Chief of the College Station Fire Department. On July 20, former City of Bryan firefighter Harry L. Davis started as CSFD's first full-time firefighter.

MARCH 3 Fire drill, all TAMU Fire Department firemen reported to the City of College Station's new fire station to receive orientation on the new trucks and equipment and loading hose on trucks.

APRIL 6 Fire Drill, took all equipment and men to Fireman's Training School (FTS), used the City of College Station's new pumper, set the house on fire, used the high pressure booster lines and extinguished the fire.

JULY 27 Fire at 1217 Haines, used gasoline too close to a water heater. Fire was out on arrival. Units returned to station in good order. (Note: This is the first fire report written under a CSFD letterhead. All fire reports up until this run were written and kept under TAMU Fire Department letterhead.)

NOVEMBER 24 Units stand by for annual Aggie Bonfire, Duncan Drill Field (TAMU).

1971

JULY 1 Millican store had burned to the ground by time CSFD arrived at FM 2154 and FM 159.

JULY 1 Children playing with matches started fire in a bedroom at 1106 Phoenix, causing extensive smoke damage to the house.

OCTOBER 5 Barn fire at FM 60 by Winn's Grocery. Electrical short set hay afire, destroying the barn and its contents.

OCTOBER 14 Fire watch standby at tents during Circus performance at FM 2818.

OCTOBER 29 Emergency landing of a Davis Airline's twin engine aircraft experiencing engine problems. The plane landed safely at Easterwood Airport.

1972

JANUARY 17 Electrical burning smell at 606 Jersey. Investigation revealed reported odor to be emanating from a skunk.

FEBRUARY 16 Explosion at the new chilled-water plant at the TAMU Physical Plant. After flammable petroleum naphtha and hexane were poured in same sink, a welder's spark fell in sink drain and ignited liquid vapors.

MARCH 16 Trailer house fire on Wellborn Road. Units arrived to find the trailer to be two-thirds consumed by fire as David White, a CSFD volunteer firefighter, fought the fire with a garden hose. White had already rescued a woman from a burning shed, after hearing her screams for help.



The remains of the trailer house and the saved metal shop bulding on Wellborn Road. CSFD

OCTOBER 18 Overturned butane gas tractor-trailer transport at FM 2818 and Highway 6. CSFD checked for leaks (finding none), and maintained safe zone until tanker was off-loaded and removed.

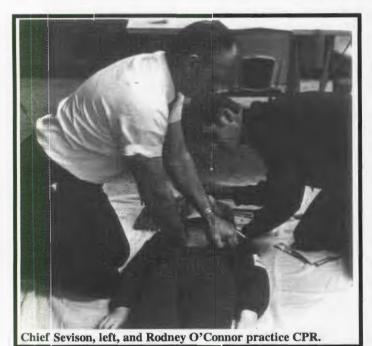
NOVEMBER 13 Twenty minutes after midnight, CSFD fire units responded to reports of a tornado touching down in the Krenek Tap Mobile Home Park on Krenek Tap Road on the east side of the city. The tornado had formed near FM 60 West, traveled east / northeast, passing over the middle of College Station's residential area, doing minimal damage until touching down in the mobile home park, where it destroyed eight homes, damaged ten others and injured seven park residents.

1973

In late 1972 and 1973, CSFD staffing increased to six full-time on-duty firefighters manning three 24-hours-on and 48-hours-off shifts with two full-time firefighters on duty per shift. They supplemented additional manpower requirements with 12 to 15 former University Fire Department volunteers working as paid-call CSFD firefighters. By mid-1973, a city-hired consulting firm recommended CSFD use radio notification to alert its off-duty and paid-call personnel when required, instead of using the time-consuming and easily tied-up telephone notification system. The department soon acquired the Plectron receiver notification system.

APRIL 7 12:15 A.M. fire in apartment No. 2 at the Plantation Oaks Apartments. Evidence at the scene convinced Chief Sevison the cause of was of an electrical origin, which the occupant's father at first disagreed with. The documentation of the evidence was a very simplistic type.

JUNE 6 Garage fire with vehicle inside on fire on Agronomy Road near Veterinary School (TAMU). Because reporting person's telephone was out of order, she drove to the fire station to personally report the fire.



OCTOBER 1 1962 A&M Consolidated High School graduate and Texas A&M University Fire Marshall, Douglas Landua, assumed command of the College Station Fire Department as Fire Chief. CSFD's future development and progress over the next 18 years would be guided and influenced by him.

NOVEMBER 8 Washing machine fire at 1824 Shadowwood. Occupant poured gasoline into the washing machine to clean oily clothes, and the machine ignited the gasoline vapors. The 17-year-old male received first-degree burns to his face and was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital by private vehicle.

DECEMBER 13 Fire and explosion at the TAMU power plant, west of the cooling tower. Two welders were seriously burned when diesel vapors ignited in the 150,000-gallon underground diesel storage tank they were repairing. One person received second and third degree burns over 25% of his body, the other received fatal second- and third- degree burns over 100% of his body.

DECEMBER 18 Fire in the apartment house at 402 Boyett Street. CSFD's notification was severely delayed as the person

who reported the fire first called the manager who lived across town and came to the Boyett Street house to discover a burning odor. Turning the electrical power off, he was just in time to witness all of the house windows blow out. He then called the fire department. The major pre-burn, which occurred before CSFD notification, left ten people homeless.

In May of 1974, Chief Landua increased CSFD's personnel from six to eleven full-time firefighters, still supplementing manpower with seventeen paid-call firefighters.

APRIL 11 Fire at Fowler Hall, Dorm 15 Room 313. A home made model rocket went through the window of Room 313, with minor damage to window. The rocket was propelled by a blasting cap.

APRIL 13 Trailer house fire on Deer Park Road on Highway 6 South. Booster tank water from three units was used to extinguish fire.

APRIL 20 A 1:19 A.M. trailer home fire at Oak Forest Trailer Park, Lot number 12. Crews found the entire trailer involved with owner Lonnie Stanley not at home. Mr. Stanley had departed at 11:00 P.M. to go fishing at Lake Livingston.

JUNE 29 Retiring CSFD and TAMUFD firefighters Loss R. Warlick, Garnet E. Eimann, James C. Redman, and Gilbert B. Eimann were recognized and honored for their combined 90 years of fire-fighting service to the community of College Station. CSFD served a barbecue meal, and College Station's City Manager North Bardell presented city awards at Hensel Park. As the day was also Chief Landua's 30th birthday, he was duly and appropriately soaked with water from a charged hand line.

OCTOBER 19 Boxcar fire on Missouri Pacific freight train, two miles south of city limits. Fire presented special water supply requirements as the car was loaded with over 7,000 pounds of rolled newsprint. The fire became one of the department's longest fires to extinguish. The car was pulled back to the nearest side track and water hydrant, and took CSFD crews almost ten hours to off-load the huge rolls of paper and extinguish the fire.

NOVEMBER 26 Standby for the Aggie Bonfire on Duncan Drill field. High winds made it necessary for CSFD crews to wet down the roof of Duncan Dining Hall on the north side of the Bonfire to prevent embers from igniting the structure's roof. One unit responded to a trash Dumpster fire caused by wind blown Bonfire embers.

DECEMBER 8 Aircraft down at FM 60 and FM 2818. After taking off from Easterwood Airport, a plane has complete power failure. The pilot attempted to land back at Easterwood, but did not make the runway, and crash landed in the open field after striking power lines near FM 2818. The downed power lines caused a twenty-acre grass fire. The pilot and his wife, who was a passenger, were transported to St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan.



Then and Now





JULY 4, 1974 Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic Texas World Speedway

Car fire report at Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic at The Texas World Speedway, about ten miles south of College Station. On arrival to the Speedway's grass parking lot, the crew discovered several automobiles heavily involved in fire. When the fire truck stopped to attack the fires, they found their truck and themselves immediately overrun and swamped by over-energetic spectators, who pulled equipment and water hoses off the truck, some attempting to take fire hoses away from the CSFD firefighters. The crew relied on the event's special security force to gain control of the crowd and halt the interference. The CSFD crew was finally able to limit the fire damage to just 12 vehicles. This was the first CSFD fire to receive national coverage from television, newspaper, and magazine media outlets.



A sea of cars on fire along with a very over-anxious crowd greet CSFD firefighters on their arrival to Willie Nelson's Picnic on July 4, 1974, at the Texas World Speedway. B/CS Daily Eagle



Firefighter Ben Walker puts the finishing touches on a car at what perhaps may be considered CSFD's most infamous grass fire: Willie Nelson's Fourth of July Picnic, 1974. B/CS Daily Eagle

CSFD's manpower had expanded to include seventeen full-time firefighters by the beginning of 1975. During this time period, the department had established a Fire Prevention Division responsible for arson investigation, public education, fire inspections, and code enforcement. The division had grown from a staff of one to the current staff of five. Responsibilities had grown to include: existing construction inspections, new construction inspection and fire suppression system inspection, testing, and public fire prevention education with each a duty function of staff officers. Additional division duties included cause and origin detection and explosive ordinance disposal. (*Note:* In 1995, a decision to transfer explosives responsibilities to the College Station Police Department would be implemented.)

JANUARY 31 Fire in Duncan Dining Hall (TAMU), in the basement food storage area. Alarm sounded at 1:46 p.m., with Car 149 (Chief Landua) giving a Code 5 (Fire under control) at 2:05 p.m.

FEBRUARY 7 Before the opening of the movie Towering Inferno at the Cinema I Theater in College Station, CSFD members were treated to a special screening. As the fire in the movie began on the screen, CSFD Chief Landua shouted from the back of the theater, "All you firemen, let's go, we've got a fire!" A smoke report regarding the second floor of the First Baptist Church in College Station (two blocks away) had come in. At first, everyone thought it was someone's idea of a poor practical joke, but soon realized it was Chief Landua voice, and that the alarm was real! An hour-long search of the church did not produce the location of the smoke's source, so crews were allowed to return to the theater and finish watching the movie without further interruptions.

MARCH 4 Mutual Aid request at Easterwood Airport. CSFD crews arrived to find an automobile driven halfway through an aircraft hanger wall, trapping the two occupants inside the auto. The crews assisted the University Police Department with extricating individuals from the vehicle.

MARCH 31 College Station Fire Department mourned the passing of one of its members. Services were held at Memorial Funeral Chapel for 19-year-old David Wayne Wentrcek. The ninemonth member of CSFD received the department's first Firefighter Memorial Ceremony. Accompanied by an honor guard, a CSFD pumper carried him to his final resting-place.

JUNE 1 CSFD units responded to call from Lot 12 Oak Forest Mobile Home Park, the home of on-duty Lieutenant Robert Carlton. His wife, Sherry, called concerning a crackling noise in a wall light switch she heard in their mobile home.



JULY 15 House fire in the Wellborn Community caused by the occupant hanging his clothes too close to a wood cook stove, catching them on fire, and totally destroying the house and all the contents before CSFD arrival.

SEPTEMBER 11 Large animal rescue request for a horse stuck in a utility manhole opening at Texas Avenue and Holleman Drive. The horse's left rear leg was in the manhole opening with the horse sitting on its rump. Placing rope around the horse's rear, the crew tried unsuccessfully to pull the horse forward to lift it out of the hole. After 20 minutes of watching firemen pulling on the rope and scratching their heads, the animal stood up and came out of the manhole on its own, with only minor scratches on its hind leg.

- **FEBRUARY 2** Grass fires at FM 2154 and Luther Street, at FM 2154 and FM 2818, then Graham and Barron Roads. Grass fires were reported all along FM 2154 between the highway and the railroad tracks almost to the community of Wellborn. Warm dry weather and 25-mile-per-hour winds aided the fires, which were begun by a southbound freight train. The fires quickly burned over 500 acres before an army of volunteers of College Station city employees, Texas A&M employees, and Bryan firefighters helped CSFD extinguish the largest number of grassfires in the community's history.
- MARCH 17 House fire in the country on Rock Prairie Road. The house, built as a log cabin in 1875, went up in flames for an undetermined reason. CSFD units were unable to save the unoccupied structure for lack of an ample water supply and the structure's aged fire load.
- **APRIL 4** A mid-morning aircraft crash in a pasture in southern Brazos County near Arrington Road and Greens Prairie Road claimed the lives of three passengers and the pilot.
- **APRIL 4** A mid-afternoon house fire at 1118 Detroit Street was the result of a faulty bathroom wall heater. Damage was limited primarily to the bathroom wall and part of the roof.
- **NOVEMBER 18** Inbound Davis Airline aircraft reported an in-flight emergency to Easterwood Airport tower. The landing gear failed (did not extend), and the pilot attempted to belly-land the plane. CSFD units stood near the runway as the pilot successfully landed the aircraft.
- **NOVEMBER 24** Delivery of water to the city's waste water treatment plant on Sewer Plant Road. An almost weekly departmental chore for several years, this was a rookie firefighter's right of passage when allowed by shift members to drive truck and deliver the water to the sewer plant alone.
- **DECEMBER 20** House fire at 1006 Arboles Circle at 22:52 hours. First arriving units found the house heavily involved with fire and flames out the roof. Crew attacked interior and exterior with 1-½-" hand lines and a 2-½-" line at the rear of the house. Fire intensity forced the abandonment of the interior attack. A 2 ½-" line from an exterior wall hole reached the main fire's location, extinguishing it. The fire claimed the life of the owner and occupant of the house.

1977

Prior to the spring of 1977, emergency medical service was provided to the city and community by private ambulance companies. In the first week of March, one of the ambulance services announced it would cease operations by March 8 and leave two community-purchased Southern box-type ambulances with CSFD. This resulted in perhaps the single most influential and significant development in the history of the College Station Fire Department.

After Ed Sherill dropped off the two ambulances on March 6 at the College Station Fire Department, CSFD became responsible for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) in the city and southern Brazos County with only one certified EMT on staff. Mid-Tex Ambulance Service agreed to provide EMS service for Bryan and northern Brazos County. The new responsibility allowed for an immediate expansion of nine CSFD personnel with emergency medical training (EMT) to provide the personnel to operate the ambulances as the department upgraded its member training with EMT certifications.

- MARCH 6 The first emergency medical service call CSFD received after the city began providing EMS services was a non-emergency transfer of a female from the Sherwood Health Care Center to the Bryan Hospital, both facilities located in Bryan.
- JULY 8 A fire in the basement of the Memorial Student Center (TAMU) at 18:44 hours, with heavy smoke coming from the doors of the basement loading dock. Company commander requested another Fire Company from CSFD and from the Bryan Fire Department. Fire damage was limited to the basement storage area and was under control in 30 minutes.
- SEPTEMBER 6 Citizens of Cossegue Station were asked to conserve electricity for a few days after a major fire resulted in almost \$40,000 damage to a city electrical substation at Highway 30, knocking out most of the electrical power to the southern

part of the city. After assisting the city's Electrical Department with extinguishing the fire, CSFD units turned control of scene over to them and returned to service.

OCTOBER 4 Gasoline pump fire at the Mobil Service Station on University Drive and South College Avenue. Person refueling an automobile left the hose nozzle in the auto tank fill pipe when driving off, pulling the fuel pump over, and causing an electrical short which ignited the fuel. CSFD extinguished fire with dry chemical extinguisher.

NOVEMBER 10 House fire at 415 Holleman. Rear of house fully involved in flames. Interior attack was abandoned after flashover involved the whole house, and an exterior attack was started. At the rear of the house, firefighters heard yelling for help from inside the burning house. Lieutenant Morgan Cook and firefighter Timothy Fickey busted through the back door and pulled paid-call firefighter Ron Epps out of the house. Epps was treated at the scene and hospital for minor burns on his hands. Cook, Fickey, and Lynn Lee received second degree burns on their faces and necks.

DECEMBER 20 C Shift gives Santa Claus a ride on a pumper to the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at Detroit and Nevada Streets. (CSFD is always willing to help the big fellow keep his appointed rounds during the holiday season.)

1978

MAY 23 Explosion and fire at the Barcelona Apartments. Incident mistakenly reported to be at the Briarwood Apartments. Units were advised of the mistake while en route. Upon arrival, they found one complex with heavy external structural damage in a second floor apartment and small fire in bedroom. Structural damage was assessed and the fire extinguished. Gas company and city utility department were notified to help investigate cause and secure the apartment.

JUNE 1 At 08:45, major 10-50 (motor vehicle accident) on Highway 6 in front of the Ponderosa Inn. Two autos and a tractor-trailer were involved in the accident. The injured driver and passenger of one auto were transported by CSFD ambulance to the hospital for observation. The deceased female driver of the other auto was discovered to be Miss Pearl Smith, CSFD's former secretary.

AUGUST 10 B Shift responded to an apartment fire at the Doux Chene Apartments, number 316. Upon arrival, units found heavy smoke pouring from two apartments. An interior attack was abandoned and the fire controlled with an exterior deluge operation when four apartment units became involved.



College Station Fire Department Station flags in honor and memory of Bryan firefighter Richard Lopez, a CSFD fireman from 1970-1973. Bill Meeks

AUGUST 22 Mutual Aid request at 00:28 hours from the Bryan Fire Department to the Tropicana Apartments on Kent Street in Bryan. CSFD crews were ordered to attack hallway and stop the fire, and also laid water supply lines to several Bryan pumpers. Before firefighters from Bryan, College Station, Navasota, Hearne, Caldwell, Brenham, and Precinct 3 gained control, 16 apartment units were destroyed. The fire had also claimed the life of 30-year-old Bryan firefighter and former College Station fireman Richard Lopez.

1979

JANUARY 1 An apartment fire reported at 05:50 hours, with outside temperature of 24°F with winds north at 15 mph, at number 791 at the Plantation Oaks Apartments. Heavily iced area roads slowed response time. Pumper 142 found heavy smoke coming from the north end of the building, but had difficulty locating the fire. High winds allowed the fire, which had been triggered by a kitchen stove in Apt. 795, to run the building's attic space, damaging Apartments 785 - 796 before CSFD could bring the fire under control. The unusually severe cold temperatures hampered fire fighting efforts and water supplies lines.

JANUARY 2 B Shift responded to a house fire at 05:51 hours located at 1603 Lair Lane in 13°F weather. Mistaken dispatch to 1605 Laura

Lane caused arrival delay to the 1603 Lair Lane address. Units found the structure's west wall heavily involved in fire, which had spread into the house's attic and could not be reached from inside. Exterior attack began with three 2-1/2 inch lines to knock down the fire. Upon report from a neighbor that the owner may still be inside the house, a rescue operation located no one. The exterior attack led to a successful interior attack. Company officer reported a code 5 in about 40 minutes. (*Note:* The Laura/Lair Lane mix-up caused Lair Lane to later be changed to Wolf Pen Lane.)

JANUARY 2 Ceiling collapse at 1421 Magnolia Street. Freezing weather ruptured water pipes in the attic. Soaking of the ceiling's sheet rock caused it to fall on the room's floor, flooding the room with water. CSFD assisted the home owner in removing water.



Chief Landua talks to former TAMU Chancellor and Mrs. Jack Williams, occupants of the Historic Board of Directors House on the TAMU campus, after they evacuated the structure during the fire. Bill Meeks

FEBRUARY 27 Structure fire at the Board of Regents House (TAMU). A Shift found a large volume of fire approximately half the length of the roof. Water supply established an interior attack, but crew had trouble locating stairway to second floor. A rear fire escape gained them access to the second floor and the attic. Mutual Aid from BFD requested, exterior and interior attacks contained the fire in a little more than two hours.

JULY 12 Heavy smoke from room 322 of the Soil and Crop Sciences Building (TAMU). First in company ventilated room considered the main fire location, and rapidly discovered the adjacent room heavily involved with fire. A general (second alarm) and larger attack lines was requested by first-in-company officer. A second company attacked fire room from east hall as the first crew attacked from the north end. Heavy thick smoke hampered firefighting efforts to reach very far into the fire room. Both fire companies were cleared from the fire floor as an exterior attack began, using an aerial ladder truck belonging to the Texas Fireman Training School. After the knockdown,

CSFD companies went back in to extinguish spot fires. Bryan Fire Department's Mutual Aid helped keep the fire loss damage estimates to the three-room fire and research equipment to about \$30,000.

AUGUST 3 House fire at 1106 Phoenix at 12:49 hours. House appeared to be totally involved on arrival. Pre-connected 1-1/2" hose lines were used on each side of the house. Ambulance crew pulls a 3" hose hand line to the front of the house. Unit 143 lays three 3" supply lines to a water hydrant at Holleman and Carolina. The exterior attack quickly gained control of the main fire area. An interior attack was used for hot spots and overhaul.

AUGUST 11 Major accident at University and the Highway 6 Bypass. An automobile traveled into a ravine 15 feet from Carter's Creek, requiring both engine and ambulance crews to remove female patient in a stokes basket up the steep cement embankment for transportation to a local medical facility.

OCTOBER 12 Stabbing report at the Travis House Apartments, No. 85. The ambulance crew was directed by College Station Police officers to the body of an apparently fatally stabbed young female.

OCTOBER 18 Structure fire at the University Cleaners at 112 College Main. By the time Engine 142 arrived, the building's front plate glass window was already venting flames because the entire structure was totally involved in fire. An exterior attack was quickly established with deluge monitor and hand lines from Engine 142, while Engine 143 established a supply line. The ambulance crew checked adjacent building's ceilings for fire extension. Bryan units 21 and 22 arrived at the same time, set up the squirt unit in front of the fire building, and assisted in extinguishing the fire.

In 1980 CSFD expanded its facilities to quicken unit response times in response to the southern growth and development of the city, with the opening of the Number 2 Fire Station at Rio Grande Drive and FM 2818. The station was staffed with six firefighter/EMT's and housed one fire engine and an ambulance.

- JANUARY 11 Engine 142 responded to a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of University and the Highway 6 by-pass. On arrival CSFD found one male occupant trapped inside a pick-up truck. 142's Crew used forcible entry tools to remove the steering column and extricate the man from the truck.
- **FEBRUARY 6** Responding to the report of a fire on the roof of the Texas Grub Steak House, CSFD discovered the restaurant's barbecue pit's vent pipe caused the fire on the roof and in the building's attic. The fire was extinguished after crew gained entry into the attic.
- **FEBRUARY 17** At 09:12 hours Fred Rapczyk, Maggie McGraw and Tim Kinchloe became CSFD's first Ambulance crew to helped a woman deliver her baby. The run report stated that mother, baby and ambulance crew were doing fine on arrival to the hospital.
- **MARCH 2** Engine 144 responded to a aircraft down near Welborn road, 3 miles from the city limits. On arrival 144's crew found a Beechcraft Bonanza down in a field with major damage to the landing gear and wing. The plane's occupants were discovered to be uninjured, and the unit soon returned to service.
- **MARCH 13** Engine 142 is toned out to a child reportedly stuck in the branches of a tree. Finding a 3-year-old female with her leg wedged between two heavy branches, firefighters used hydraulic spreaders to free the child 's leg. The child received minor injuries from her experience.
- **APRIL 17** CSFD responded to a motor vehicle accident on South Highway 6, and found a pickup truck had left the roadway, and was partially underwater with two adults and one child trapped inside the truck. This difficult rescue required assistance from a Navasota ambulance crew and several bystanders to help extricate the individuals.
- APRIL 30 CSFD units respond to the report of a fire involving the old Circle Drive-In Theater's movie screen on Nagle Street. A general alarm brought in off-duty staff with mutual aid requested from the Bryan Fire Department. A large volume of fire was located inside the screen's structure. A garage and fence quickly became exposure concerns for the firefighters, as the severe heat being produced by the screen fire required extra protection. Embers fell on area houses and began grass fires that endangered other buildings. CSFD, with the assistance of many volunteers, contained the fire and damage to the theater's screen.
- JUNE 15 CSFD responds to the report of an explosion and car fire at 500 University drive. On arrival the automobile was totally engulfed in flames. The crew learned that the tank of the propane fueled car had been leaking before the gas vapors ignited and blew out all the vehicle's windows. CSFD's second response unit collided with a CSPD unit while driving to the car fire scene.
- **AUGUST 24** Engine 144 and Ambulance 501 responded to a motor vehicle accident at Hardy Weedon Road and Highway 30. CSFD crews soon discovered the one fatality of the accident is the close relative of an on-scene CSFD firefighter.
- **SEPTEMBER 13** A Shift responded to a general alarm to a house fire at 1402 Caudill at 04:19 hours to find flames rolling out both front bedroom windows. Firefighters lost the nozzle on the interior attack hose line when the coupling came off the hose after the line was charged with water, necessitating an exterior attack until another interior hose line was set up.
- **OCTOBER 9** A shift responded to a house fire at 1305 Austin with smoke from a side window showing on arrival. An interior attack limited the fire damage to a bedroom and a bathroom.
- OCTOBER 11 C Shift was toned out to a police patrol car reported to be on fire at Highway 30 and Stallings Drive. CSFD dispatch had problems getting information from CSPD dispatch, because, it seemed, they were overcome with the humor of the situation, which delayed CSFD's response time. Once on the scene, Engine 142 found smoke coming from underneath a CSPD

patrol car, due to a malfunction of the car's exhaust system. 142's crew cooled the overheated exhaust with about 10 gallons of water.

OCTOBER 21 A Shift responded to a structure fire at 618 Columbus. On the scene, they found heavy smoke and flames coming out of the house. Because the house's interior was divided into multiple small rooms, the crew experienced difficulty reaching the fire's seat with an interior attack. Fire fighters reverted to an exterior attack to gain control of the main portion of the fire.

DECEMBER 21 Engine 142 responded to the report of an individual trapped underneath the automobile he was working on after it slipped off the jack at 510 Kyle street. Removed from under the car, he was bruised but not seriously injured.

1981

JANUARY 9 CSFD units responded to a house fire report at 1506 Hawk Tree Drive at 19:01 hours. They found heavy fire damage to kitchen cabinets, with smoke damage throughout the home. The owner extinguished the fire before firefighters arrived on scene.

FEBRUARY 17 Public assist at the intersection of Hawk Tree Drive and Brothers Street. Person needed help in removing her pet Cockatoo from a tree. During the rescue attempt, the tame bird flew away, forcing the rescue to be abandoned.

MAY 27 Engine reported to 1209 Milner Street for a public assist with a snake in the yard. Male resident dispatched the snake before firefighters arrived.

JULY 7 CSFD responded to a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Highway 30 and Texas Avenue, where a pick-up truck collided into the rear of a CSPD patrol car. No injuries were reported in the accident.

SEPTEMBER 3 Pumper 144 responded to an oil storage tank burning at Bird Pond Road in Brazos County. Upon arrival, 144 found one storage tank completely involved in fire. Precinct 3 volunteer fire unit, which was already on the scene, used their water hoses to provide heat exposure protection to 144's crew while they used AFF foam to attack the fuel fire. The fire was under control in 10 minutes.

SEPTEMBER 18 Train derailment at Joe Routt & Welborn Road. A three-foot section of track was loose, causing three tank cars to derail. There was no damage or hazards to or from the derailed cars.

DECEMBER 26 Responded to two fully involved apartments at the Doux Chene Apartment complex on FM 2818, which were extinguished without incident.

1982

JANUARY 9 Three people, who were overcome by carbon monoxide in their apartment at 134 Luther, were transported to an area hospital. The source of the carbon monoxide was an improperly cleaned heating vent pipe.

APRIL 6 Responded to an apartment fire at 601 Holleman. Found one unit fully involved with three other units beginning to emit heavy smoke. Two apartment residents were injured during this fire because they refused to stop reentering their burning apartment. One of them required the attentions of a medical facility, the other was treated at the scene.



CSFD firefighters apply AFFF foam to the top of a burning oil storage tank in Brazos County. Bill Meeks

APRIL 28 CSFD responded to a structure fire at the Condominium Apartments to find fire in the mail sort room for the apartments. During this fire, units were also toned out to a structure fire at 2318 San Pedro, a duplex with fire showing through the roof. Both fires were later determined to be of suspicious origin.

MAY 14 Animal rescue call at 1820 Leona Drive. A bird was trapped in the walls of the residence. Crew cut a hole in the wall and freed the bird.

JUNE 9 Large gas leak and fire at 2400 Longmire. Construction crew digging a ditch cut a 2" natural gas line, igniting the gas and burning a digging machine. The fire was extinguished with no injuries reported.

JUNE 17 Car fire at the intersection of Holleman and Village, with an individual reported to be burned at the location. The carburetor had backed fired, which ignited the gasoline the owner had poured into it, and burned the owner. After the car fire was extinguished, the owner was taken to St. Joseph's hospital.

JULY 10 Structure fire at 200 Montclair, with one side of a duplex partially involved. Flames were out of the roof upon arrival. This caused some exposure problems with the shopping center next to it. An exterior attack with larger diameter hose lines was required in order to contain and extinguish the fire.

AUGUST 18 Apartment fire in the 1700 block of Southwest Parkway, with flames visible prior to unit's arrival. The fire was confined to one room of the apartment. There was extensive damage to the room and heavy smoke damage to adjoining apartments.

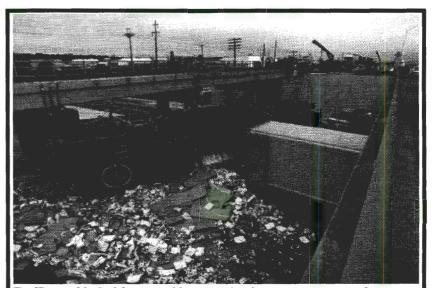
SEPTEMBER 1 Black smoke showing from Rudder Tower (TAMU). A kitchen fire had erupted in the 13th floor restaurant. The fire alarm system had disabled elevators, making reaching the fire floor difficult for CSFD firefighters.

SEPTEMBER 10 One person was transported to the hospital after two aircraft collided on a runway at Easterwood Airport. When the aircraft ran into each other, the propeller of one aircraft damaged the other. The injury occurred as passengers exited one of the aircraft.

SEPTEMBER 20 One firefighter was treated for heat exhaustion after a large fire in the Agriculture Engineering Shop (TAMU). Spray foam insulation made the fire difficult to extinguish.

OCTOBER 29 The west-bound traffic lane of University drive was completely blocked to traffic after a freight train's box car fell off the bridge overpass, landed upside-down, and spilled the car's complete load of canned beer over both the west- and east-bound traffic lanes at 00:24 hours. How no one was injured in this mishap at that time in that location is amazing. Safety City truly struck again that night!

DECEMBER 24 This Christmas Eve a two-vehicle alcohol-related accident at FM 2154 and FM 2818 claimed the lives of four of the five individuals from one of the vehicles.



Traffic was blocked for several hours as the clean-up crew removed thousands of beer cans from the middle of University Drive after the box car containing it fell from the overpass. Bill Meeks

DECEMBER 25 House flooded at 2501 Raintree. Homeowners were out of town for the holiday, so the crew was unable to enter without forcible entry. Neighbors received owner's permission to forcibly enter, and crews returned later to remove water.

JANUARY 1 The new year started off with a working structure fire at the Monaco Apartments at 306 Redmond Street. The fire, caused by overheated grease left on the stove, involved one unit of the apartment complex. Damage to the unit and the building was estimated at \$10,000.

JANUARY 1 An automobile driver narrowly escaped severe injury. As he exited his vehicle, another vehicle hit his auto's door, slamming it closed and pinning one of his legs. Hydraulic tools were required to extricate him from the jammed door; he received only minor injuries.

FEBRUARY 26 The College Station Fire Department met the Bryan Fire Department at A&M Consolidated High School's Tiger Field in a Benefit Football Game to raise money for the Brazes Valley Shriners. Texas A&M's former head football coach Tom Wilson was CSFD's coach and Former Aggie player James Zachary coached BFD. Bryan firefighters won the game 28-0. Funds were donated to the Shriner's Burn Institute and the Crippled Children's Hospital.

MARCH 17 A child playing with a cigarette lighter ignitied a bed mattress in the house at 204 South Texas Avenue. The fire was extinguished before CSFD units arrived.

MARCH 30 Lightening started an attic fire in the house at 200 Lee Street, and destroyed the attic, roof and most of one of the bedrooms. One firefighter was injured during salvage operations.

APRIL 8 A fire of suspicious origin was reported in a vacant house at 305 Patricia. Upon arrival, CSFD units found the structure heavily involved with fire. The structure was completely destroyed before the fire was extinguished.

MAY 30 A fire of undetermined origin was reported in a storage facility unit at 602 Southwest Parkway. Firefighters found the storage unit locked with smoke showing. After the lock was cut and the door opened, the fire was quickly extinguished. The fire resulted in smoke damage to the adjacent storage units.

JULY 5 Storage of flammable liquids near a water heater is believed to have caused fire at 1808 Potomac. Fire fighters found the fire in a storage room of the two-story apartment building. The fire had extended to the second floor apartment through a water heater vent pipe. There were no injuries.



Chris Bibeau, cowboy hat, looks on from the CSFD sideline during the CSFD/BFD Charity football game.

AUGUST 3 Three CSFD firefighters received minor injuries during a fire at the Student Housing Office (TAMU). The fire's origin was believed to be a cigarette left smoldering on a couch in the lounge.

AUGUST 4 CSFD firefighters were dispatched to a trench collapse, with a person buried in the ditch at 900 Harvey Road. The man was found buried in dirt up to his armpits, as his co-workers had already uncovered his head. Firefighters completed his rescue and transported him to a hospital.

AUGUST 9 Firefighters Rodney O'Connor and Tim Johnson, returning home from their shift, spotted a fire on top of the Brazos Valley Geriatric Center at 1115 Anderson. They drove to the scene and alerted the staff to call the Fire Department. Johnson took a fire extinguisher, climbed a tree to control the fire, while O'Connor helped with the building's evacuation.

Johnson's action controlled the fire until CSFD crews arrived. No injuries to the residents occurred, with only minor smoke damage to the building.

- OCTOBER 13 A discarded cigarette on a couch resulted in a fire that destroyed the living room of a home at 1010A Welsh.
- **NOVEMBER 2** Grease left on the stove resulted in heavy damage to one apartment and smoke damage to three other apartments at the Southwest Village Apartments at 1100 Southwest Parkway. The fire was quickly extinguished with no injuries.
- **NOVEMBER 16** The occupant of an apartment at 609 Turner received 1st- and 2nd-degree burns on his hands, feet, and face, after dropping a pan of burning grease, which caused the flaming oil to splash on him.

1984

In early 1984, CSFD acquired its first ladder truck, a Pierce Arrow truck with a 100-foot LTI-elevated platform. This unit was required in order to meet the fire protection needs of the higher multi-story buildings in the City and on the TAMU campus. The Department's Emergency Medical Service was also upgraded with the implementation of its Advanced Life Support System.

JANUARY 1 Mutual Aid to the Brazos County Volunteer Fire Department with a mobile home fire. Upon arrival, the crew found the trailer nearly destroyed.

JANUARY 26 144 responded to a kitchen fire at the Southside Apartments (TAMU). The fire was contained to the stove, with minor damage.

FEBRUARY 1 A fire in a storage room in the basement of the Zachary Engineering Building at (TAMU) caused minor damage to the storage room, and destroyed a motorcycle being stored there.

FEBRUARY 20 Car fire at Walton and Francis Streets. Engine malfunction began the fire, which self-extinguished before fire crews arrived.

- **MARCH 4** A dog required rescuing during an apartment fire at the Plantation Oaks Apartments. Firefighters removed the dog while confining fire damage to one apartment. There were no injuries.
- MARCH 19 A kitchen received heavy smoke damage during an apartment fire at the Parkway Apartments.
- **APRIL 17** Injured construction worker at the intersection of Spence and Ross Streets (TAMU). The worker, who was located in a 20' deep hole, required below-grade rescue techniques to remove him.
- JUNE 1 A fire was confined to the Game room of the Tanglewood Apartments on Hwy. 30. The fire's origin was unknown.
- AUGUST 7 Fire damage was limited to an upstairs apartment at the Southgate Village Apartments at 134 Luther.

SEPTEMBER 20 There was one fatality, and another person injured and taken to the hospital, after their automobile was hit by a train at the intersection of FM 2154 and Luther Street.

OCTOBER 24 There was minor damage to the kitchen after a fire at 401 Stasney.

July 13, 1984 Walden Pond Apartments

At 1947 hours, CSFD received a call for an apartment fire at Walden Pond Apartments. Responding units were 242, 145, C-1, and 2502. Upon arrival, Engine 242 reported heavy smoke and fire in one entire building and another building starting to burn. C-1 ordered a general alarm at 1950 hours. 142 hooked to a hydrant and immediately went into monitor operations on the fully involved building. They also pulled a 2 ½" hose line and started attacking the second building involved in fire. Engine 141 responded at 1951 hours. The fire advanced to the third building very rapidly, so Unit 141 was positioned ahead of the fire to cut it off. Engine 145 hand laid two lines to 141. Unit 141 immediately went into master stream operations on Bulding No. 3. Bryan Fire Department responded one engine to CSFD central station to fill in, and their squirt responded to the scene. A 2 ½" line and a 1 ½" line were also pulled off Unit 141 for exposure lines to cover two other buildings that were starting to burn. A three-inlet monitor was also set up in front of 141 to assist in fighting the fire and to cover Unit 141. Another portable monitor was set up ahead of the fire to knock down the major portion of the advancing fire. The fire was pretty much surrounded when Unit 144 arrived and laid two additional supply lines. Unit 144 then staged and only their manpower was used. After the fire was surrounded and exposures were protected, the four monitors pretty much knocked down the major flame front.

All the monitors were then shut down, additional hand lines were placed into service, and overhaul operations were started. 162 and some fresh men were called to the scene to assist. Bryan squirt was placed into operation to extinguish some remaining fire in the attic area of Building No. 3, which had not fully collapsed. The situation was under control at 2127 hours.

Units 144 and 242 were returned to the station at 2242 hours. Other CSFD units soon returned to service. Unit 162, with a monitor, hand lines and three men, was left at the scene all night. Fire fighter Doug Arndt suffered second, possibly third, degree burns on both hands. Firefighter Richard Baldwin suffered from apparent heat exhaustion and Lieutenant Fred Rapczyk suffered from apparent heat exhaustion / smoke inhalation during overhaul. All three firefighters were taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, treated, and released.

TEXFIR Incident Report Fire Ground Commander D.K. Giordano



The estimated \$1.4 million loss at Walden Pond Apartments is the largest in the department's history. CSFD

Mid-1985 brought the 4,000-square-foot expansion of the Central Fire Station's administrative offices, remodeled living quarters, and truck bays.

- JANUARY 10 Two men were severely injured when a 35' scaffolding collapsed to the floor during the construction of the water tower at the intersection of Greens Prairie and Hwy. 6 South. Confined-space rescue techniques were required to remove the men from the bottom of the tower.
- JANUARY 19 A child was burned while playing with matches and gasoline at 2004 Angelina Street. The child was transported to the hospital.
- FEBRUARY 26 A pilot escaped injury after his single-engine aircraft ran off the runway and flipped upside-down at Easterwood Airport.
- MARCH 1 A tractor-trailer truck caught fire after being struck by a freight train at the grade crossing at Schein Road and FM 2154. The driver was treated and transported to an area hospital.
- MARCH 7 Structure fire at the Oceanographic Building (TAMU). The fire was contained to a loading dock storage area.
- JUNE 28 CSFD received a Mutual Aid request from the Snook Volunteer Fire Department for a multiple-vehicle accident at the intersection of Highway 50 and Highway 60. The three-vehicle accident caused one fatality and seriously injured two others, requiring their extrication from the severely damaged vehicles.
- JUNE 29 Fire destroys one unit of the Eastmark Apartments. Intense fire and smoke conditions were encountered by CSFD upon arrival. The fire was extinguished with no injuries.
- JULY 27 A trailer house was destroyed by fire at the Ceminos Mobil Home Park at 3001 Texas Ave. Nothing was left but remnants to extinguish upon arrival.
- **AUGUST 1** Forcible entry was required to enter the church fire at 707 Eisenhower. The storage room fire caused extensive smoke damage inside the church.
- **SEPTEMBER 29** An explosion occurred at the Saber Inn at 701 Texas Avenue. Crews found debris from an exploded device and another device in a hallway of another room. The truck crew assisted CSFD prevention division.
- **NOVEMBER 24** CSFD responded to a tent on fire at the Aggie Bon-Fire site (TAMU). Trying to keep warm, a student started a fire in his tent, setting the tent on fire. This run is no Aggie Joke!
- **DECEMBER 4** Cable company worker and boom truck were entangled in high-tension power lines at 605 Westridge Street. The worker, who received severe burns, was removed from bucket and transported to a local hospital.
- **DECEMBER 12** CSFD crew's efforts, abilities and procedures were praised after the fatal crash landing of a GTE aircraft at Easterwood Airport. One seriously injured passenger and the two fatalities required extrication from the twisted wreckage. The investigator of the National Transportation Safety Board stated his job had been made easier by help from local officials and "the accident response was exceptional. I'm amazed at how much expertise and competence has been available at every turn."
- **DECEMBER 30** House fire at the home of CSFD firefighter Dwight Rabe at 1908 FM 158. Rabe was not at his home when the fire broke out. The blaze was under control within an hour.

- MARCH 29 A difficult-to-locate fire in the Brownstone apartments on 600 Welsh street resulted in increased damage to the structure with flooring, ceiling, and sheet rock needing to be removed in order to locate the fire.
- APRIL 6 One firefighter was injured and several residents lost their belongings in a major fire that destroyed most of Building B of the Sausilito Apartments. More than half of the eight-unit apartment building was fully involved on CSFD's arrival. The primary concern was exposure protection to prevent the fire from igniting adjacent apartment buildings. The fire was under control in about 45 minutes.
- MAY 17 Three people were injured and transported to a local hospital after an awning they were standing under at the TAMU Golf Shop collapsed.
- MAY 20 A fourth floor concentric bore X-ray machine was destroyed by fire in the Chemistry Annex (TAMU).
- JUNE 8 Station 2's crew responded to a large natural gas leak at the intersection of Longmire and Brothers. The Lone Star Gas relay station had developed a leak. They established a safe zone perimeter until the Gas Company had the situation under control.
- JUNE 16 High water rescue call at 100 Milliff Street. A person driving in a high-water situation became trapped in his vehicle after nearly being swept downstream. The removal of the driver from the vehicle required swift water rescue techniques. Both the driver and the rescuers were removed safely.
- JULY 12 One firefighter was injured removing wreckage to gain access in the rescue of a female trapped under a vehicle after an MVA on Highway 6 South.
- AUGUST 4 A grease fire on the kitchen stove at 1201 Westover caused heavy fire and smoke damage to the entire house. The house filled with smoke while neighbors controlled the fire with a garden hose until CSFD arrived.
- OCTOBER 9 One male was rescued from creek bottom. It took several firefighters to place the victim in a stokes basket and pull him up the side of the creek bank.
- **DECEMBER 19** Construction workers accidentally set fire to the roof of the house at 618 Fairview while sweating a pipe joint on the roof. The roof was cut open to extinguish the fire.



Then and Now





- JANUARY 13 A fire of suspicious origin caused extensive damage to a home at 203 Fairview. A leaking gas line ignited by a bedroom and spread quickly to the roof. The fire was extinguished without injuries.
- FEBRUARY 5 Responded to a Hazardous Material fire at the Brayton Fire Training Field (TAMU). A chemical reaction caused the fire, which totally destroyed a storage building and partially damaged a classroom building at the Hazardous Materials Training Facility at the school. Without proper extinguishing agents, the material was control-burned.
- MARCH 11 Rescue at 1802 Texas Ave. at Mazzio's Pizza Shop. Two children stuck their fingers in holes of the chairs they were sitting in and could not remove them, requiring CSFD to cut the chairs in order to release the children.
- MARCH 28 A horse became wedged between two trees. The crew used inflatable air bags to spread apart the trees and release the horse.
- APRIL 12 A garage was destroyed and home damaged by a fire in the garage of 8113 Raintree. When firefighters arrived on the scene, they encountered heavy fire and smoke conditions. The fire was extinguished without injury.
- MAY 7 Two residents were injured while breaking a window to escape their burning apartment at 2000 Longmire. Firefighters found the front of the apartment fully involved with fire. The fire was extinguished and injured residents were transported to the hospital:
- JUNE CSFD firefighters received high-rise rescue training.
- AUGUST 27 Five Brazos County fire units and two College station fire units were needed to control a large grass fire at the intersection of Rock Prairie Road and Greens Prairie Road. The fire's path threatened several homes and livestock. Firefighters prevented any loss of structures, and no injuries were reported.
- OCTOBER 13 Mutual Aid response to a structure fire at 2813 Cypress Bend in Bryan. En route, the crew was advised of a child possibly trapped in the structure. Under heavy smoke conditions, a rescue crew found no children. CSFD assisted Bryan Fire Department with extinguishing the fire and returned to service.
- **NOVEMBER 7** Stand-by for the A&M Consolidated High School's annual Bonfire. Engine 142 staged at Nueces and Welch Streets and watched for spot fires from flying embers. Crew treated a hand laceration on one student, who later refused transport to a medical facility.
- **DECEMBER 2** Public assist to a vehicle lockout with the motor running at 1600 Southwest Parkway. Units were canceled before leaving station ramp, because the owner opened the car.



CSFD Assistant Chief Charles Yeager demonstrates rope techniques while off the University Towers building. *John Ward*

Fallen Comrades "gone from our lives, forever in our hearts"

March 31, 1975 David Wayne Wentrcek received the department's first Firefighter Memorial Ceremony.

July 12, 1987 Reponding to a motor vehicle accident on Highway 6 South, the crew found one vehicle lying on its side with the driver already out of the vehicle. The driver was CSFD firefighter/EMT-P Mary Beck, who was to report for CSFD duty that morning. Ambulance crew examination indicated minor injuries. Hospital examination revealed serious internal injuries. Mary Beck Blenderman died July 29.

January 15, 1988 A fatal boating accident at Lake Limestone while duck hunting claimed the life of 27-year-old CSFD firefighter Glen Dowell.



David Wayne Wentrcek C.S.F.D. 1974-1975



Mary Beck Blenderman C.S.F.D. 1985-1987

photo Tom Reed



Glen Dowell C.S.F.D. 1980-1988

photo Thomas Geoehl

- JANUARY 17 Vehicle fire on the railroad tracks 1-1/2 miles north of FM 159. An intoxicated driver lost control of his car, driving it onto the railroad tracks and igniting the car on fire. The driver was not injured and was removed from the auto before a train approached.
- **FEBRUARY 25** Toned out at 00:03 hours to a portable toilet on fire at the Old Chemistry Building construction site (TAMU). Crew had trouble with the directions, which resulted in the toilet's total consumption before the unit's arrival.
- MARCH 1 Structure fire at 118 Morgan. Upon arrival, the crew found the house halfway involved in fire, which was extinguished without incident.
- MARCH 12 Structure fire at Sunset Gardens Nursery at 3020 Texas Avenue. The fire had consumed most of the wooden structure full of agricultural chemicals on arrival, and was allowed to burn itself out to prevent the contamination of a nearby creek with toxic runoff water. This early morning blaze was the second early Sunday morning fire and one of four in two weeks within the same half-mile area. These fires had CSFD investigators looking for an arsonist and had area residents worried about their homes and businesses.
- APRIL 22 Rescue call at the new parking garage still under construction (TAMU). An injury occurred on the 5th floor. Ambulance personnel climbed up and stabilized the victim. The Aerial Ladder was needed to remove the victim from the fifth floor.
- MAY 7 Structure fire at Moses Hall (TAMU). The dormitory was evacuated after discovering that someone had stuffed papers and a mop down an electrical chute in the bathroom. This was a very difficult fire to extinguish.
- JUNE 1 Electrical malfunction at the Ponderosa Motor Inn at 3702 Texas Ave. Several electrical fires were found throughout the structure as a result. The City Electrical Department was needed to turn off the electricity before the fires could be controlled.
- JULY 7 Structure fire at the Kent Moore Cabinet Shop at 3206 Longmire. A sawdust removal duct was on fire and needed to be disassembled in order reach the fire and extinguish it.
- AUGUST 12 Ladder 151 responded to a Mutual Aid request from the Bryan Fire Department. At a church located at 1601 Mumford, they assisted BFD with overhaul operations and smoke removal.
- **SEPTEMBER 22** A house was totally destroyed at Luther Street and Wellborn Road. The house was near collapse from the intense fire on CSFD's arrival.
- **OCTOBER 9** Apartment fire at 306 Redmond. Two vacant units were completely involved in fire. The fire at the Redmond Apartments was difficult to extinguish and of a suspicious origin.
- OCTOBER 12 Oil tank fire 1-1/2 miles south on Highway 6. AFFF was used to extinguish the burning storage tank.
- **DECEMBER 1** A child was locked in a car at 802 Autumn. The crew had to remove the door window in order to open the car, as door tools would not unlock the door. The child was uninjured.
- **DECEMBER 6** Bomb threat at the Yellow House Apartments at 1800 Welsh. Units staged down the road while Prevention Division investigated the location. To everyone's relief, it was a false alarm.

JANUARY 25 Structure fire at 306 Redmond at the Aggieland Apartments. The small fire was extinguished with no problems.

FEBRUARY 4 Twenty-degree weather with sleet and iced roads slowed the response to a mobile home fire at the Oak Forest Mobile Home Park on Krenek Tap Road. Ladder Truck 751 slid off the road into a ditch and got stuck. Extensive fire damage resulted to the Mobile home.

MARCH 8 Structure fire at 1105 Deacon St. An automobile was on fire inside the garage. There was heavy smoke damage with moderate fire damage.

MARCH 10 Three people were burned when gasoline ignited while they refueled their automobile at the Diamond Shamrock Station on Texas Avenue. The source of ignition was unknown; all three needed medical attention and were taken to a hospital.

APRIL 7 Structure fire at the Anderson Place apartments at 1603 Anderson. Two apartments received extensive damage before the fire was brought under control.

JULY 27 Rescue call at the Woodstock Condominiums. A dog had its head stuck in a clothes dryer vent. Part of the wall was removed to release the dog unharmed.

AUGUST 1 Heavy rains resulted in the recovery operation of two of three young men who were tubing in the run-off waters of Bee Creek. The two young men were drowned after being swept downstream into the concrete drainage culvert under the Highway 6 East Bypass.

SEPTEMBER 5 Vehicle fire in a parking garage at (TAMU). These new types of structures on the TAMU campus presented special entry requirements for CSFD fire crews, resulting in alternative approaches for fires in these specialized structures. On this call, crews hand-carried (humped) fire hose to the fire floor and used the building's dry standpipe system to extinguish the vehicle.

Then and Now





In early 1990, Richard Orange became College Station Fire Department's Fire Chief, after relocating from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Orange was the second chief officer of the department since its establishment. Orange soon made changes in command rank authority while adopting the Incident Command System, actions which created lasting developments during Chief Orange's short tenure.

FEBRUARY 1 Report of power lines down at 1502 Lawyer. Occupant heard electrical static sounds in her back yard. Crew discovered the sounds to be a back yard electrical Bug Zapper.

FEBRUARY 5 Animal rescue, cat stranded in a tree at 300B Ayrshire. On approach to residence, truck's sound scared the cat down out of the tree.

MARCH 25 Structure fire at the Sandstone Apartments. Sandstone staff informed the company officer that people smoking caused the smoke alarm to sound.

APRIL 7 Ladder 151 transported the Easter Bunny around the mall parking lot in the truck's basket during the Post Oak Mall Easter Bunny Parade.

SEPTEMBER 26 Mass Casualty Drill simulating a downed passenger aircraft held at Easterwood Airport. CSFD participated with Bryan Fire Department and TAMU personnel to coordinate and practice emergency contingency plans and procedures.

OCTOBER 18 Structure fire at the Peking Express Restaurant at 606 Tarrow. The kitchen's vent hood fire ran the attic space, making it difficult to get to and extinguish.

NOVEMBER 12 Report of a sulfuric acid leak at Ashbury and Hogg Streets (TAMU). CSFD found a 3,000-gallon tank of sulfuric acid leaking almost a gallon/minute. CSFD crews plugged and stopped the leak.

Richard Weisser, left, Charles Yeager, right, and Lance Norwood, center, examine injured participants in the mock mass casualty triage area. Bill Meaks

1991

SEPTEMBER 20 Structure fire at the Sandstone Center. Found steam from hot shower activated the alarm system.

SEPTEMBER 25 Structure fire at Building 518 (TAMU). Found small fire started by a student suspected of starting numerous lab fires. Fire extinguished with CO² extinguisher. Student advised to discontinue his experiments.

OCTOBER 5 Fire alarm at City Jail at 2611 Texas Avenue. Prisoner broke off sprinkler head, activating system.

OCTOBER 17 Report of a structure fire at 1527 Wolf Run. No fire at location. Units discover smoke source was caused by neighborhood children throwing smoke bombs onto the roof of the house.

NOVEMBER 15 Report of explosion and fire at the Chemistry Building (TAMU). A can of paraffin had caught fire in a flume hood, and one student got burned while attempting to extinguish the fire. The student was transported to a medical facility and the fire was extinguished.

NOVEMBER 19 Report of structure fire on the 7th floor of Oceanography Building (TAMU). Fire crew found fluorescent light ballast malfunctioned, causing the smoke odor.

DECEMBER 2 Structure fire at Zachary Building (TAMU). Heavy smoke was discovered on the 3rd floor. The office fire was considered suspicious, requiring an inspector. There were no injuries.

1992

JANUARY 16 Vehicle fire inside structure at 1251 Barron Road. The fire was started by an electric light bulb the owner was using to examine the vehicle's carburetor. The light bulb broke, starting fire and causing minor injury to the owner. After the fire was extinguished, it was discovered that the structure stored highly flammable and hazardous materials.

FEBRUARY 1 Structure fire at 311 Stasney. Food left on the stove caused minor structural and heavy smoke damage to the apartment.

FEBRUARY 20 Structure fire at 405 Thompson Street. Child stuck a screwdriver into an electrical panel. There were no injuries or damage.

JUNE 5 Unconscious person 5191 Straub Road. A twenty-five year old female, who had fallen off her horse, was transported to a local hospital.

JULY 8 Chemical emergency at Building 1503 (TAMU). Bottle of beryllium in hexane concentrate broke, filling the laboratory with vapors. TAMU's Safety Office remedied the incident, releasing CSFD units to service.

NOVEMBER 2 Bomb threat at the Post Office on Hilltop Street. The "bomb" was discovered to be a large bag with smaller bags filled with popcorn, with cassette tapes taped to each bag.

DECEMBER 15 Aircraft standby at McKenzie Terminal at Easterwood Airport for Air Force One carrying President George Bush.

DECEMBER 27 Structure fire at Jose's Restaurant at 4004 Harvey Road. Heavy fire and smoke showed on arrival, caused by a grease vent on the roof. The building was a total loss; there were no injuries.

1993

MARCH 23 Structure fire at 9207 Shadowcrest. Crew encountered heavy smoke, with two rooms involved. The home owner received minor burns and one firefighter, suffering from smoke inhalation, was taken to hospital.

MARCH 24 Structure fire at Mayor Larry Ringer's house at 702 Thomas. Crew encounters a one-story wood-frame house with the garage and exterior walls and roof fully involved. An exterior attack with deck monitor gained control, and the fire was mopped up with an interior attack.



Using community donated funds, material and labor, CSFD constructs a community fire safety education trailer house to promote and educate Brazos Valley school children about home fire safety. CSFD

APRIL 23 Structure fire on the 5th floor of the Soils and Crops Building (TAMU). An overheated electrical motor caused heavy smoke on the 5th floor. The crew disconnected electricity and returned to service.

JUNE 25 Electrocution at 3011 Cortez. A utility worker in a tree made contact with a power line. The individual was found fatally injured. After the power was turned off, CSFD crews removed the victim from the tree.

JUNE 28 Fire at the Hilton Hotel at 801 University Drive East. Upon arrival, the crew found heavy smoke in the basement and first floor, with smoke in the 8th and 9th floors as well. Hotel guests were evacuated, and Mutual Aid was requested from Bryan Fire Department. The smoke source was an oily rag, which was left on the fire pump motor in the basement. Smoke was removed from the structure, and the crews returned to service.

AUGUST 12 Structure fire at 211 Sterling. Upon arrival, the crew found heavy smoke with fire in a rear bedroom, which was quickly extinguished.

AUGUST 30 Fire at the Colony Apartments at 1109 Southwest Parkway. Upon arrival, the crew found light smoke showing. The fire was located in the attic and extinguished. There were no injuries.

SEPTEMBER 12 Structure fire at Building 1507, Research Laboratory (TAMU). On arrival, the crew found heavy smoke with occupants trapped on the 5th floor. The occupants were evacuated from the floor and building. The fire was located in the main electrical panel in the basement. Carbon dioxide extinguishers were used on the fire, then a decontamination site was established in case of Polychloronated Byphenol (PCB) exposure from the electrical equipment smoke.

NOVEMBER 8 Structure fire at the Bee Creek Apartments at 1801 Potomac. Upon arrival, the crew found two apartment units fully involved. The fire was extinguished with no injuries.

NOVEMBER 11 Hazardous materials incident at Building 524 (TAMU), with a tank leaking sulfuric acid. The Texas A&M University Health & Safety Office spill response team was on the scene, spreading bicarbonate of soda to neutralize the acid. CSFD unit was advised that additional services were not needed and were returned to service.

NOVEMBER 28 Structure fire at the Oakwood Apartments at 503 Southwest Parkway. Upon arrival, the crew found two units totally involved with flames through the roof. They gained control of the fire without major structural loss to the building, or injuries to tenants or firefighters.



belongings from fire. CSFD

DECEMBER 7 Structure fire at 1024 Navarro Drive. Prior to arrival the crew was advised of heavy smoke and fire conditions. The main hallway and bedroom of the duplex was totally involved with fire, which was extinguished with no injury to personnel.

1994

In early 1994, fifty-four youngsters graduated from CSFD's first Kid Safe fire safety program. Two new positions, Public Information Officer and Fire Protection Specialist, were added to the Fire Prevention Division. Funding was approved for a third fire station, with ground breaking ceremonies in early Spring. A course completion agreement with Scott & White, Blinn College, and CSFD would allow EMT-B, EMT-1 and EMT-P students to train with CSFD ambulance crews. Dr. Joseph Jones replaced Dr. Richard Herron, who had served since 1987 as CSFD's Medical Director. CSFD took delivery of a new, larger chassis ambulance during the year.

JANUARY 17 Driver/Engineer Maggie McGraw, CSFD's first female firefighter, was promoted to Lieutenant and credited with being the department's first female Company Officer. Firefighter Jeff Kuydendall was promoted to Driver/Engineer.

FEBRUARY 11 Mutual Aid request by Brazos County Volunteer Fire Department Precinct 1 to structure fire at 4713 Nantucket Drive. Crews assisted in extinguishing fire; the structure received heavy damage with no injuries reported. This fire was the first in a series of arson fires in the area.

FEBRUARY 16 Mutual Aid request from the Brazos County Volunteer Fire Department, Precinct 3 to a structure fire on Linda Lane in the Harvey Hillside subdivision. CSFD unit, the first on the scene, employed exterior and interior fire control tactics to control the fire. The structure received heavy fire damage with no injuries reported. This was the second fire in a series that showed suspicious origins.



Firefighters wait for water to fill the fire hose before entering the house fire at 2717 Red Hill. CSFD

FEBRUARY 22 Structure fire at 2717 Red Hill Drive. Intense smoke was pouring from the structure on unit's arrival. Fire was quickly extinguished with minor fire damage and serious smoke damage. This was the third suspicious fire in February. One arrest was made in March with subsequent arson conviction and sentencing of 75 years in prison.

MAY 31 Burn injury at 134 Luther. A child was burned when his clothes ignited while playing with a cigarette lighter. The child's father extinguished the fire, and the child was transported to Brazos Valley Medical Center for treatment.

JUNE 2 Structure fire at 308 Bolton. A cigarette smoldering in a chair resulted in the death of the home's 68-year-old male occupant.

AUGUST 19 Structure fire at the Varsity

II Apartments at 100 George Bush. The fire required all CSFD units and two fire units from Bryan Fire Department to control. The fire was caused when a male threw gasoline on two occupants of one apartment, then ignited the gasoline. Both occupants received severe burns, one fatally. The male assailant was later arrested, convicted of capital murder, and sentenced to death.

SEPTEMBER 16 Structure fire at 2918 Camille. The fire, of unknown origin, started in the attached garage of a large 2-story

residential structure. All CSFD Units and personnel were required in the containment and extinguishing of the large fire. The fire was contained to the garage area and kept from the main portion of the house. The fire was under control in approximately one hour. Two firefighters received minor burns, and were treated and later released from Brazos Valley Medical Center.

SEPTEMBER 30 Structure fire at 1008 Bayou Woods. The fire was intentionally set to cover up another crime. Firefighters entering the house found the body of a 20-year-old female victim. The fire was quickly extinguished. A suspect was later arrested and convicted of capital murder.



Both BFD and CSFD Arial trucks were needed to stop the arson fire at the Varsity II Apartments. CSFD

OCTOBER 28 Structure fire at U-Rent-M Building at 2301 Texas Avenue. Firefighters found the fire rapidly intensifying in the rear of the building, which soon involved highly flammable chemicals stored in plastic containers. The source of the fire was believed to be

employee accidentally igniting material with a cutting torch. Two units from the Bryan Fire Department assisted CSFD in extinguishing the fire. There were no injuries at this fire.

1995

In 1995, College Station Fire Department and the Bryan Fire Department agreed to begin an Automatic Aid program in which each city's nearest or readily available fire or ambulance emergency unit would be dispatched to shared border areas. The department purchased automatic defibrillators for all fire engines, beginning the advanced life support engine crew concept. The hazardous materials response program received a \$3,000 donation from Union Pacific Resources to purchase much needed equipment and supplies for hazardous materials mitigation efforts. A tactical information planning system (TIPS) program began in 1995, giving firefighters the ability to plan in advance for emergencies. In the fall, CSFD celebrated 25 years of service to the citizens of College Station and surrounding communities.



CSFD Haz-Mat Team member approaches chemical tanker rollover to attempt a secondary assessment for controlling the leak. CSFD

JANUARY 31 Responded to report of structure fire at 811 Harvey Road. The large flame column at the rear of the structure was from the owner firing up his barbecue pit.

FEBRUARY 2 Structure fire at Building 385 (TAMU). There was a report of smoke on the third floor. The subsequent investigation revealed a steam pipe had ruptured, venting steam that created the "smoke."

APRIL 13 Hazardous material incident at Building 521, Heldenfels Hall (TAMU). A demonstration using alcohol exploded, injuring a student. The University Safety Office remedied the incident.

APRIL 19 Mutual Aid request from BFD to a hazardous material spill at FM 2818 and Independence. CSFD Haz-Mat Team assisted BFD in the mitigation of the chemical spill at this tank truck rollover in Bryan.

MAY 4 Fuel spill at the intersection of Lewis and Bizzell streets. Propane fuel tank fell from a vehicle, activating the tank's pressure relief valve.

JUNE 1 Aircraft emergency at Easterwood Airport. Pilot practicing touch-and-go landings ran off the runway, flipping his plane upside down. The pilot was uninjured.

OCTOBER 7 CSFD celebrate its 25th anniversary with a muster and reunion during Fire Prevention Week at the city's Central Park.



Firefighter Larry Wentrcek, left, and Lieutenant Timothy Fickey, right, obtain information from the uninjured pilot after his aircraft emergency at Easterwood Airport. *CSFD*



















































College Station Fire Department October 1995



College Station Fire Department Organization Operations Division

The College Station Fire Department Operations Division provides emergency services such as suppression, ALS medical service, and hazardous materials response within the 33-square-mile city limits of College Station. Included within our city limits is Texas A&M University. The population of College Station is 58,000, while the enrollment at A&M adds an additional 40,000 to the population depending on CSFD services. The total value of property protected by the Department exceeds \$3 billion.

The fire department also provides fire and hazardous materials response to the Brazos County through mutual aid agreements with five Brazos County Volunteer departments. Through a separate agreement with the Brazos County Commissioners, the College Station Fire Department provides primary ALS medical response to the southern portion of Brazos County.

Hazardous materials response is to the Technician level with mitigation responsibilities. There are six Technicians per shift with paging capability for off-duty personnel to respond. A 1977 1500gpm pumper has been converted into a hazardous materials response unit.

In March, 1995, the College Station and Bryan Fire Departments entered into an automatic aid agreement whereby, regardless of city limits, the closest unit responds to requests for service. In some parts of the city, response times have been reduced by as much as two minutes. Each agency automatically has the resources of the other agency available.

The College Station Fire Department employs seventy-eight personnel with sixty-six being assigned to Operations. Working twenty-four hour shifts, there are twenty-two personnel assigned to each of the three shifts. The shift change is at 0700 each morning.

College Station currently operates three fire station facilities, with Fire Administration being located at Fire Station No. 1. The Operations Division staffs on a daily basis three engine companies with a minimum staffing of four, with two of the engines being ALS equipped, two ALS ambulances, one 100' ladder tower with a minimum staffing of three, and Shift Commander's vehicle.

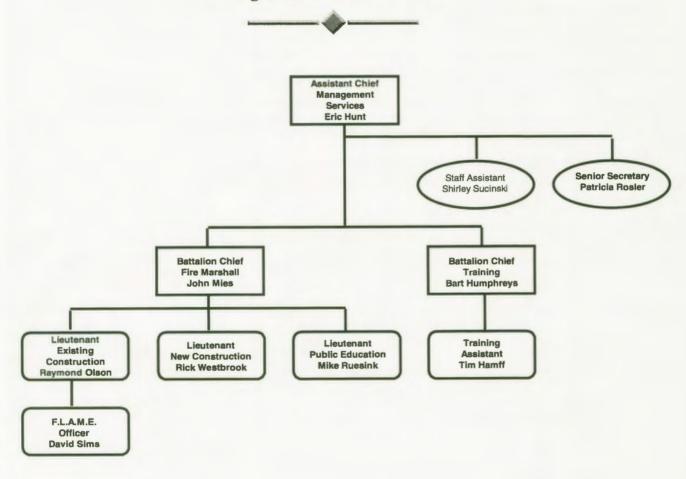
Major Apparatus Within the College Station Fire Department

Apparatus	Capacity	Brand GMC	
1993 Suburban	Shift Commander's vehicle		
1995 Pumper (on order)	1250 gpm	Emergency One	
1993 Pumper	1250 gpm	Becker/Freightliner	
1991 Pumper	1500 gmp	Pierce Lance	
1981 Pumper	1500 gpm	Pierce	
1981 Pumper	1250 gpm	American LaFrance	
1977 Pumper	1500 gpm	Pierce (converted to haz mat)	
1981 Booster	250 gpm	Pierce	
1995 Ambulance (2)	2 ½ tons	Freightliner/Southern	
1991 Ambulance	Type I	Ford/Collins	
1989 Ambulance	Type I	Ford/Collins	

Management Services Division

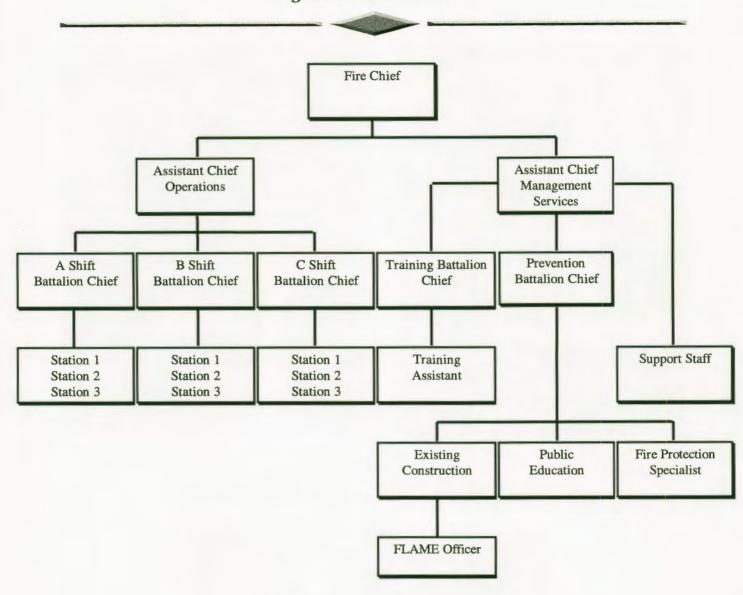
The Management Service Division was created in response to a self-imposed downsizing of upper management. Separate Assistant Chiefs, prior to the downsizing, managed the divisions of Fire Prevention and Training. The two divisions are now grouped together along with support staff and are managed by the Assistant Chief of Management Services.

Management Services Division Organizational Chart



The Management Services Division has primary responsibility for the overall Fire Department Budget, Personnel Issues, Fire Prevention, Public Education, and Internal Training. The primary areas of responsibility in the ICS System are Finance, Logistics, Public Information and Safety.

College Station Fire Department Organizational Chart



Community Awareness





Upper left: Students visit CSFD's fire safety education trailer house to learn how to prevent home fires. CSFD

Upper right: "Sparky", the educational mascot gets a kiss from a fan. CSFD

Below: Firefighter "Frank" entertains children at a Christmas party. CSFD



Administration



William Kennedy
Fire Chief
7/27/92



David Giordano
Asst. Chief - Operations
5/16/77



Eric Hurt
Asst. Chief - Management Services
6/4/81

Support Staff



Shirley Siccinski Staff Assistant 3/10/86



Patricia Rosier Senior Secretary 9/25/89

Prevention



Jon Mies
Battalion Chief / Paramedic
4/3/80



Rick Westbrook
Lieutenant
9/16/84



Mike Ruesink
Lieutenant
11/6/82



Raymond Olson Lieutenant 6/17/82



David Sims FLAME Officer 4/22/93

Training



Bart Humphreys
Battalion Chief
2/23/79



Lee Gillum FFI / Paramedic 3/11/91

Medical



Dr. Joe JonesMedical Director



Thomas Goehl Battalion Chief 7/27/78



Morgan Cook
Lieutenant
3/21/74



Rodney O'Connor
Lieutenant
12/1/72



Greg Rodgers
Lieutenant
9/3/88



Bobby Rogers
Lieutenant
5/12/78





Billy Bradshaw
Driver / Eng. / Paramedic
3/3/88



Brad Clark Firefighter I 3/1/79



Jim Connor
Driver / Engineer
9/3/80



Lori Ellen
Firefighter I / Paramedic
11/1/89



Paul Gunnels
Driver / Eng. / Paramedic
9/1/90



Chris Kelly Firefighter III 8/4/95



Tim Kinchloe
Firefighter III / Paramedic
6/26/95



Dan McNeill Firefighter I 3/3/88



David Moore Firefighter I 8/18/78



Kristin Mosby
Firefighter I / Paramedic
9/3/90



Paul Place Firefighter I 8/18/79



Andy Ramirez
Firefighter I
12/7/79



Darryl Smith
Firefighter I / Paramedic
10/15/91



Louis Solis Driver / Eng. 8/17/82



Bobby Stanford Firefighter I 10/16/83



Tim Valdez
Firefighter III / Paramedic
8/8/94



Richard Weisser
Firefighter I
2/12/92

"A" Shift Group Photo





"B" Shift



George Spain
Battalion Chief
1/2/79



Steve Hisaw Lieutenant 9/3/81



Fred Rapczyk
Lieutenant / Paramedic
5/1/78



Terry Thigpin
Lieutenant
5/1/77



Rodney Zalobny
Lieutenant
7/23/76





Chris Beasley
Driver / Engineer
2/17/80



Mike Carruth
Firefighter I / Paramedic
12/16/87



Jerry Duffy
Firefighter I / Paramedic
7/1/82



Bobby Fickey Firefighter I 10/2/82



Ernie Goode Firefighter II / Paramedic 10/21/94



Tim Hamff Firefighter I 8/20/92



Matt Harmon
Driver / Engineer
12/17/87



Greg Janda
Driver / Engineer
3/3/88



Shawn Kucera
Firefighter III / Paramedic
8/4/95



Janet Laffey Firefighter II 8/19/94



Randy Martin Firefighter II 11/14/94



Lance Norwood
Firefighter I / Paramedic
9/2/90



Ed Phillips
Firefighter I
9/5/84



Paul Powell
Firefighter I
12/1/85



Tom Reed
Driver / Engineer
6/18/83



James Sears
Firefighter II / EMT
10/4/93



Marvin Wagener
Firefighter I / Paramedic
10/1/91

"B" Shift Group Photo





"C" Shift



Tom Thraen
Battalion Chief
7/10/78



Tim Fickey Lieutenant 4/3/75



Maggie McGraw Lieutenant 9/17/79



Pat Quinlan Lieutenant 12/26/79



Gary Stevener
Lieutenant
8/1/78



Doug Arndt
Driver / Engineer
9/12/81



Jim Barker
Driver / Eng. / Paramedic
10/18/85



Andy Jones
Firefighter I / Paramedic
1/21/84



Jeff Kuykendall Driver / Engineer 12/3/85



David LooneyFirefighter I / Paramedic
3/22/93



Jim Mack Firefighter I 9/4/88



Anthony Marino
Firefighter I / Paramedic
9/2/88



Jim Morris
Firefighter I / Paramedic
7/2/85



Robert Mumford
Firefighter I / Paramedic
6/21/93





David Novak Firefighter I 4/25/88



Bobby Rhodes Firefighter I 11/18/81



George Rosier
Driver / Engineer
3/1/79



Steve Smith Firefighter I 10/17/85



Bill Walton
Firefighter I / Paramedic
1/1/79



Johnny Ward Firefighter I 1/14/80



Joe Warren Firefighter I 6/7/84



Larry Wentrcek
Firefighter I
5/1/79

"C" Shift Group Photo

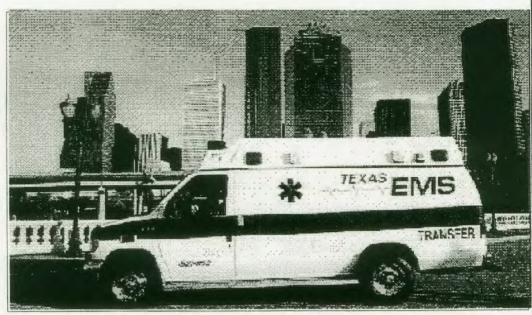




TEXAS EMS AMBULANCE



Bryan/College Station (409) 823-6555 Toll Free 1-800-366-6165

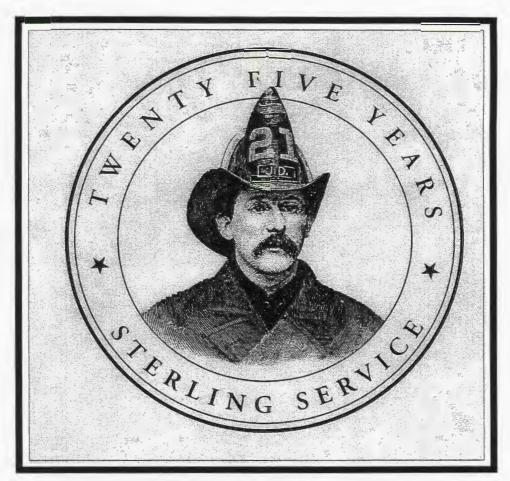


Texas EMS Ambulance Corporation is a Houston-based, family-owned and operated business.

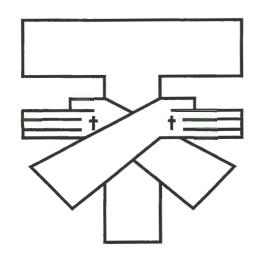
We have been providing services for the Houston are 365 days a year, 24 hours a day since 1986. Texas EMS is one of the Houston area's largest private ambulance services with a fleet of new model ambulances equipped with high-tech medical equipment, maintained and staffed by highly-trained, certified, courteous personnel.

We have 24-hour ambulances stationed in Houston, Hitchcock, Angleton, Richmond, and Bryan-College Station, and have contracts with some of the areas largest hospitals.

Texas EMS would like to congratulate College Station Fire Department for their 25th Anniversary and look forward to the next 25 years.



We are proud to offer sincere congratulations to the College Station Fire Department on their Silver Anniversary. The dedication and quality service of these men and women have earned the College Station Fire Department its "sterling" reputation.



St. Joseph

Regional Health Center

Sisters of St. Francis

A Member of St. Francis Services Corporation E.O.E. M/F/H/A/V 2801 Franciscan Drive * PO Box 993 * Bryan, TX * 77805-0993

As with health care, Public Safety takes a special dedication and commitment to the community.

St. Joseph Regional Health Center is proud to salute the men and women of The College Station Fire Department for 25 years of outstanding dedication to protecting and serving our community.



Scott & White Clinic, College Station and College Station Fire Department Working together to protect the lives of Brazos Valley citizens.



FDIG

1600 University Drive College Station, Texas 77840 409-691-3300 800-291-1212

Scott & White Clinic in the Bryan/College Station area serve patients who have BlueCross/Blue Shield, the Scott & White Health Plan and other insurance plans.

Personalized, comprehensive high quality health care enhanced by research and education.

What Do You Say

To People Who've
Risked Their Lives

Every Day For 25 Years?

A simple "Thank You" just doesn't seem to be enough.

First American Bank salutes the men and women of The College Station Fire Department for 25 years of outstanding dedication to protecting and serving our community.







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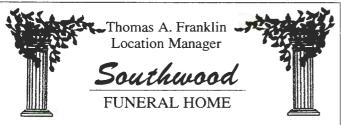
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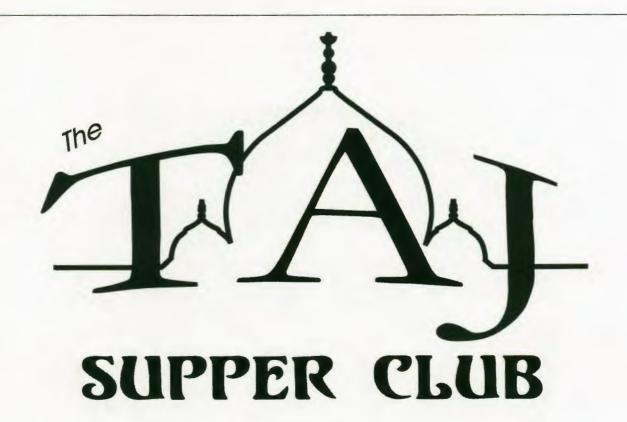
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