

Medina Volunteer Fire Department



Dear Neighbors, Friends and Supporters,

Since the era of “Bucket Brigades”, neighbors have helped neighbors extinguish fires threatening their land, homes, and businesses. Emergency assistance has changed by leaps and bounds over the years - what remains the same is rural areas like ours still rely completely on volunteers during an emergency. According to the National Fire Protection Association, 69 percent of firefighters in the United States are “unpaid” volunteers.

In 1974 the Medina Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) was established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. MVFD covers roughly 390 square miles of Bandera County and also has mutual aid agreements with Bandera, Kerr, Kendall, Medina, Uvalde and Real counties. MVFD started with a handful of volunteers but has grown to over 40 members:

The officers and directors oversee departmental operations. Ten (10) Fire Fighters have Fire Fighter I skills for structure and wildfire suppression. Three (3) Fire Fighters are certified at Level II and our Chief and Assistant Chief plus four (4) Fire Fighters are certified at Level III with advanced suppression skills specific to chemical and petroleum fires. Several crew members have re-certified at high angle and swift water rescue. Four (4) EMT's are based in Medina, which greatly improves the response time for critical medical and trauma emergencies.

MVFD's fleet of emergency response vehicles is one of the best in our area. The newest, our Wildland Brush Truck carries 400 gallons of water and is capable of navigating through brush country to carry Fire Fighters closer to a fire scene for an initial attack. Our Water Tender Truck carries 4000 gallons of water and although it can stand alone at a structure fire, is also capable of refilling smaller brush trucks at the scene. The First Response Rescue Truck is equipped to respond to rescues and medical or trauma emergencies – this vehicle along with air medical services significantly improves the outcome of medical and trauma emergencies.

All our buildings, fire fighting vehicles and safety equipment are constantly monitored, inspected and maintained, for the most part by our volunteers. The annual cost to keep our station running is about \$80,000—the current building and truck liabilities is about \$190,000. Currently we are in need of new extrication equipment at a cost of approximately \$40,000. Extrication equipment is essential in the event of a rescue from a vehicular accident or forcible entry during a structure fire. Each one of our Fire Fighters is issued a set of bunker gear and wildland gear. This equipment is essential in keeping our Fire Fighters safe and unless damaged should be replaced every 10 years - currently at a cost of about \$4,000 for each set. We need to replace at least 5 each year.



Fire Prevention at Medina School

Bandera County continues to honor our efforts but provides no financial help other than \$1500 annually for EMT First Responder assistance. The lion's share of the department's financial support is entirely due to the continued generosity of our neighbors, friends, supporters, annual fundraisers, and grants – our emergency response success is due to the unpaid Fire Fighters, EMT's and First Responders who dedicate countless hours responding to an emergency at any given moment, sometimes leaving their job and forgoing their normal income to respond to an incident. “They answer your calls with great pride and a genuine sense of urgency.” MVFD has responded to over 133 calls so far this year.

Educating the public and school safety is always important to MVFD. For the last several years, during Fire Prevention Week, the MVFD Chief and a few Fire Fighters spend the day with Medina School's Elementary and Junior High students talking with them about fire safety and what they can do in case of an emergency. MVFD also cooperates with MISD in their overall School Safety Plan.

During a substantial rainfall, several Fire Fighters will stand watch at low water crossings. They are in continuous communication with Bandera County officials informing them when crossings are unsafe to cross – just another way these folks are dedicated to keeping our community safe.

We need your donation to help defray the costs to keep our equipment maintained and Fire Fighters safe while they stand vigil in our community. Please give generously to support our operations and pay off our debt.

Visit our website, medinavfd.com where there is a PayPal feature - or if you prefer our mailing address is PO Box 1650, Medina, Texas 78055.



Wildland Brush Truck

2018 Officers

Medina Volunteer Fire Department

Medina VFD

To Serve and Protect

President: Lee Bailey
Vice President: Charlie Walker
Treasurer: Loni Culp
Secretary: Linda Barton
Fire Chief: Shane Keese
Sgt. At Arms: Jason Berry

Director #1: Daryl Burger
Director #2: Don Gillett
Director #3: Fred Sides
Director #4: Craig Knight
Director #5: Clay Walker
Director #6: Donny Rambin



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PO Box 1650
Medina, Texas 78055

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