



MULDOON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

OCTOBER 5, 2009



FIRE CHIEF'S CALL REPORTS

June -- September, 2009

The Muldoon firefighters have completed at least fifty-five (55) response calls at this time, compared to a total of forty-one (41) calls during the previous year. The majority of incidents in recent months were fire-related, occurring during all times of the day and night. Thankfully, recent rains have reduced the likelihood of fires caused by sparks from vehicles or trains, cigarettes tossed on roadside (some landed IN the driver's truck or trailer bed), hay balers overheating, welders working without a spotter, and faulty transformer poles. Lightning strikes, remain a threat, so please stay vigilant. It is interesting to note that one fire call was dispatched to Muldoon VFD from a sighting made by the Texas Forest Service during a heightened air surveillance period this summer. Early reporting of that fire prevented the loss of many acres of ranchland.

Current Safety tips from the Muldoon Command Staff

Every minute counts when firefighters are responding to a call for help—fire, medical, farm accidents, or other rescue efforts are all expedited with clear directions to the site. Firefighters rely upon distraught callers to give detailed directions, when it could be possible to convey a 9-1-1 address that is well marked at the site and can be located quickly on a key map carried by all firefighters. **YOU can help responders by working with your neighbors to increase the posting of the blue/silver reflective 9-1-1 signs to guide emergency responders.** For information, call Gaye Wunsch at 979-702-0700, or e-mail to muldoon.vfd@gmail.com.

MEET THE FIREFIGHTERS



Lieutenant Chris McCoy, 27 years old, was born and raised in West Point. He and his wife Melinda have a daughter Raelynn, 7 yrs old, and a son Brayden, 2 yrs old. They reside near his parents, Johnny Sr. and Sandra McCoy. His brother, [MVFD Chief] Johnny McCoy, Jr.'s, and sister Carrie Hill's families are also neighbors in West Point.

As one of the founding firefighters for the current Muldoon VFD organization, McCoy completed Levels I, II, and III of the TEEX Fire Officer Program at Texas A & M, and served as a lieutenant for MVFD during the initial four years of the Department. McCoy has been a certified EMT for six years, serving in Fayette County's EMS for four years before leaving to pursue new job opportunities. He is currently employed by Complete Production Services, as safety coordinator for the South Texas Region, maintaining his office in West Point.

As a firefighter and 1st responder, Lt. McCoy finds special personal reward in being able to help people in need, especially during emergencies when he can apply his training and experience in critical situations. After his return to the West Point area, McCoy has re-established his position along-side his fellow firefighters, and was recently promoted to resume his role as a lieutenant.

Lt. McCoy gets excited when he looks at the amount of progress made within Muldoon VFD in recent years. With a chuckle, he recalls earlier equipment failures with an old grass truck on the way to a fire, traveling with his brother Johnny. Once they had a blowout while traveling at full speed, then at another time, the front tire literally came off the truck. He just laughs at the thought, and expresses gratitude that the community has provided the level of support needed recently to secure safer, more effective trucks and apparatus. Muldoon VFD is very fortunate to have Chris McCoy back home in West Point.



Terry Vaughan, 69 years old, is the senior member of the MVFD firefighter operations, but he asks no special favors when answering calls. Vaughan joined MVFD in 2007, when recruited by longtime Cistern resident, Rosie Boehnke, to help serve the Cistern area residents in need. He and his wife Doris, and their daughter Ashley, 9 yrs old, have lived in the Cistern area for nine years. He also has a son Andrew, 41 yrs old, living in Hutto, Texas. Prior to leaving the Lake Travis area, he had been employed by TWA as a customer service agent, before becoming a custom furniture and cabinet maker for thirty-five years. He has continued his career as a furniture and cabinet maker, with Rustic Cedar Cabins of Smithville as his primary client.

Vaughan, who is drawn to any kind of situation where he can be of help, began his public service when serving for 12 years with the Harris County Sheriff's Citizen Academy. During that period, he became acquainted with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a program created to provide adult advocates for children who are found in dangerous situations. CASA volunteers provide a constant support for children who are removed from their homes for varying lengths of time.

Early in his association with MVFD, Vaughan's skills with shop tools came in handy, as he became primary custodian of the booster truck housed on Jeddo Road. As a Muldoon VFD 1st responder, Vaughan has often performed emergency repairs on the 40 yr old apparatus in order to keep it in service. Vaughan feels that his future service to the MVFD will be primarily as a 1st responder for medical calls, the Cistern area. He plans to acquire more training for medical calls, and other personal emergencies, to be able to help victims before EMS or other emergency response personnel arrive on the scene. He is actively seeking volunteers from the Cistern area to join MVFD and serve as a team member with him. Firefighter safety regulations and emergency procedures generally require two firefighters for safe, effective response.



Charles Vinklarek, 45 yrs old, is the son of Eugene and Grace Vinklarek of Cistern. He has one son, Clayton, 7 yrs old. Charles has lived in the Cistern area his entire life. He works for Kleiber Tractor & Equipment, Inc., in La Grange, as their pick-up and delivery driver for products serviced or sold there.

Vinklarek's career as a volunteer firefighter began before he was old enough to be a full-fledged firefighter. His father was a part of the original community group that formed the Cistern area fire department during the late 1970's. He remembers the purchase of their first fire truck, from the Weimar fire department. The shed on Jeddo Road where the new Cistern Station now stands, was home to their first truck. Too young to serve, Charles would help with clean up, do repairs, or whatever odd jobs he could, around the station. Charles has a story about every truck that has been acquired by Cistern and Muldoon fire departments, as he has personally worked on all of them at times throughout the years, keeping them in service.

As soon as he became 18 years of age, he began his service as a firefighter, which he has continued without interruption, to date. He still helps with repairs to the equipment, but he is most proud of training he has received throughout his years as a firefighter. The most extensive program he attended was the Texas Forest Service wildland firefighting training held at Camp Swift in Bastrop. The training offered at this 12,000 acre site is now the 2nd largest program of its kind in America. Vinklarek completed the program along with Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr., and fellow firefighter Stephen Kelly.



Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church Annual Fundraiser



This year, members of the Cistern area Catholic Church elected to support Muldoon VFD's efforts to complete the Cistern fire station. In recognition of their commitment to donate 10% of this year's profits to the Cistern station, Muldoon VFD assembled a team of at least ten (10) volunteers to help with their fundraiser. Firefighter Fred Hernandez enjoyed his role, working in children's games.



Ron Wunsch, MVFD President, accepts a check for \$2,715.78 from David Urban, picnic chairman, and Rev. Joseph M. Hybner. Also pictured, L-R, are Rosie Boehnke, Eugene Vinklerek, Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr., Grace Vinklerek, Della Mae Urban, Terry Vaughan, Tim Seubert, and Henry Migl.

"The TALE of TWO TRUCKS"

The two vehicles below are still in the MVFD fleet, even though they are 30 and 40 years old, and long ago failed to meet the safety guidelines now in place for fire fighter apparatus-- but the Muldoon VFD had no other affordable options to replace them, UNTIL NOW!



1969 Booster Truck at Cistern



1979 Pumper at Muldoon

During the past decade, there have been several government-sponsored programs to assist fire departments in upgrading their equipment to meet the newer safety guidelines. However, departments without sufficient population base and resources, such as ours, have had difficulties in qualifying for grants to purchase new trucks. Also, grants usually require matching funds that exceeded this department's capabilities – UNTIL NOW!

During the past three years, Muldoon VFD has diligently pursued secondary resources to locate affordable used trucks that meet most safety standards and provide safer, more reliable transport to response calls. Finally, a secondary market has emerged, fed by apparatus being replaced in larger, well-funded urban areas, to make it affordable to upgrade our equipment. Recently, our firefighters negotiated the purchase of a "gently used" 1998 rescue pumper and drove it into town just in time to report to a fire scene! The fire department secured a 4-year loan to pay for the balance owed, in excess of savings in hand. AND... here it is!



1998 Freightliner/Southern Coach Commercial Rescue Pumper

Incredibly, the same source used for acquiring this rescue pumper has agreed to terms on the purchase of a second pumper that is almost identical to this one, for an even deeper discounted price. Firefighter Doug Iannelli, who trains our firefighters on the use of firefighter apparatus, was thrilled to learn it would be possible to manage two pumpers with the same configuration and equipment, to minimize confusion and streamline future training. In fact, he stated that these two pumpers are newer than the ones assigned to his present fire station in his day job as an Austin firefighter. Iannelli has been smiling for weeks, knowing how much our Department's capabilities will be increased. The new pumpers also have room to carry rescue tools, so MVFD has just secured a 75% matching grant from Texas Forest Service to purchase a set. Grant requests are also going out to acquire a second set, if possible.

The main concern for MVFD firefighters and community service volunteers is, of course, the needed funding to accept this unusual opportunity. Prosperity Bank has again agreed to help with another 4-year loan, and several supporters within the MVFD community have pledged to help. Department officers have committed to continue fundraising to retire this debt earlier than the 4-year period, if at all possible.

Distribution of Apparatus: After receiving the second rescue pumper within the next two weeks, MVFD firefighters will initiate a plan to house one rescue pumper in each of its two stations, along with a "quick-attack" grass truck at each location.

Volunteer Firefighters Needed!

With the completion of the MVFD Cistern Station and the acquisition of adequate equipment to place at that location, the next question is, "Who will be available to drive those trucks?" As the Muldoon – Cistern area continues to grow in population and assimilate new landowners who are unfamiliar with this area, it becomes more important that we recruit more volunteer responders.

MVFD's fourteen (14) veteran firefighters are anxious to share their passion for emergency response work with residents who are willing to volunteer their time to learn. At this time, we have three (3) firefighters living closer to the Cistern station, and eleven (11) more who can reach the Muldoon station in less time. Therefore, our immediate need is in the Cistern area, but the proximity between the two stations allows all firefighters to provide support from either location.

Remember, most emergencies occur during the evenings and weekends when most people are at home, so your day job would not prevent you from serving. If you have flexibility in your day job hours, your availability would be used, *but not abused*. So please consider what you might be able to do, to serve your community. Anyone who lives within 20 miles of the MVFD station, is at least 18 yrs of age, and is in general good health is welcome to apply to join this outstanding team. Training is held one Saturday (usually the 3rd) per month. Contact Chief McCoy at 979-966-8805, if you are interested, or e-mail to: muldoon.vfd@gmail.com You may also observe training anytime, with no obligation.



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Flatonia American Legion Post No. 94 led the Muldoon Community Park 4th of July parade. MVFD firefighters and community service members assisted in managing the parade, community meal, and auction, prior to conducting its raffle drawing.

4th of JULY Raffle WINNERS!

This year's raffle was the third of its kind, and another sell-out! Many thanks to all of you who supported this fundraiser by selling tickets, purchasing tickets, and donating your time to generate much needed funds. The winning tickets were drawn at the conclusion of the annual Muldoon 4th of July parade, picnic, and auction.

And the winners are...four lucky ladies!

1ST PRIZE – Kawasaki mule won by Anita Rainosek (L-below) of Flatonia, who bought her winning ticket #0903 from firefighter Fred Hernandez.

2ND PRIZE – Cub Cadet riding lawnmower won by Maricela Grifaldo (R-below), ticket #0966, also bought from Hernandez.



Ed Koslosky, Sr. (C-above), of ELK Tractor & Supply assisted Rainosek and Grifaldo in claiming their prizes.



3RD PRIZE – Kenmore gas grill won by Marcella Teague of Alvarado, TX, who purchased her winning ticket #0509 from Betty Danner at the Cistern Store.

Marcella, with husband Billy D. Teague (at left), claimed her prize at the Muldoon station. The grill was donated by Harold and Virginia Boehnke, longtime Muldoon VFD community service members and volunteers.

4TH PRIZE – STIHL 14" Saw 

Winner Supt. Alice Smith of Flatonia also bought her lucky ticket #0195 from Fred Hernandez!

Fred Hernandez was the top firefighter ticket seller, with 76 tickets sold. He was only surpassed by volunteer supporter Rosie Boehnke, who sold 82 tickets. A total of twenty-six MVFD firefighters and volunteers participated to make this year's raffle the *best ever!*

Muldoon Fire Dept CISTERN STATION 7729 Jeddo Road



Muldoon VFD Cistern Station 7729 Jeddo Rd OPEN HOUSE

Saturday
October 17th
11:00 am

Celebrate with
Ceremonies, Sausage
Wraps,
and Tour!

Even an extremely hot summer didn't deter C.J. Ermis and his crew from completing the new fire station in late July. The Precinct 3 road construction crew directed by Commissioner James Kubecka, has built an improved parking area and entrance ramp, with paving to be done in the near future. On September 26th, a team of MVFD firefighters and volunteers, supported with the expert help of Mel Ott and Josh King, completed the interior build-out, wiring and installation of a flag pole donated by Woodmen of the World, and declared that construction was now complete, inside-and-out!

The ceremonies on October 17th will begin with a dedication led by the Woodmen of the World, followed by a sausage wrap lunch with drinks and desserts. V & V Products, Inc. has donated the sausage for the event. Muldoon VFD firefighters and community service members will answer questions and provide information about the project. Some of the descendants of Starkes S. Cockrill, Sr., who originally donated the land for public use, will be present, as well. A plaque has been placed on the building to recognize their historic gift to the community.

The cost of construction for this new station is being met by a combination of revenues from previous fundraisers and ongoing donations. The following individuals and organizations have made contributions of \$500 or more, as recognized on the permanent donor board displayed on the right sidewall of the building, visible from Hwy 95. These contributors are:

- BRONZE (\$500-\$999):** Five Star Ranch
B & B Charcoal Co.
Jerry, Minnie, & Bret Parker
- SILVER (\$1,000-\$2,499):** V & V Products, Inc.
- GOLD (\$2,500-\$4,999):** Harbich Family
Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church

Muldoon VFD donors may select from either the Cistern station donor board, or the original Muldoon donor board to have their donation acknowledged for a 2-year period. A recent donation at the Bronze level from Harold & Linda Streicher has been posted at the Muldoon station. Anyone wishing to make a donation to be acknowledged at either station may contact Ron Wunsch, at 979-247-4684 to make arrangements, or simply mail your donation to MVFD, P O Box 133, Muldoon, TX 78949.

BURN BAN STATUS: Outdoor burning is allowed at this time; however, all outdoor "controlled burns" should follow established guidelines. Call Sheriff's Dispatcher at 979-968-5856 in advance of lighting your fire, leaving a phone number where you can be reached *during the burn*. Any sign of smoke or flames may trigger a passerby to report it, so dispatchers may reach you to confirm your burn to prevent volunteer firefighters from unnecessarily launching resources to investigate. Always wear protective clothing and have firefighting supplies at hand. It is *always* illegal to light fires, other than small, attended campfires, after dark.



MULDOON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
P. O. Box 133, Muldoon, TX 78949

CONTACT INFORMATION

(Data to be maintained in a secure, confidential MVFD location.)

Date submitted:
MO / DAY / YEAR

RESIDENT/OWNER NAME(S):

E-MAIL Address(es):

MAILING ADDRESS:

PROPERTY LOCATION(S): "911" entry* address(es)

*NOTE: If your property entrance is not marked with a posted 9-1-1 address sign, please contact Rural Addressing Office at Fayette County Courthouse in LaGrange, 979-968-6436, to obtain an address and ID sign to post at the entrance to your property/residence. This information is critical for community emergency personnel use.

TELEPHONE:
Day:
Night:
Cell:
Other:

PROPERTY TENANT(S) Other than landowner and family
Name:
E-mail:
Telephone:
Type of Residence, if any:

Improvements: List structures or other property that would be vulnerable to fire or storm weather/flood damage.

(continue on back of page if needed)

Critical Support: In order to serve our community better, it would help to know the following:

Do you have a clean water source (pond, pool, water well) accessible for refill of tanker trucks?
No Yes (Explain type and location)

Does someone at your location have special needs or use oxygen breathing apparatus? No Yes (ex: blind, deaf, dementia, limited mobility, transportation)
Explain:

Communication: Please deliver MVFD newsletters and other critical area safety information to:

- E-mail address(es) as shown above (FREE service), OR
Please continue to send a newsletter via US Mail to address above (frequency limited due to cost).

Membership: All landowners and residents who complete this form to identify themselves are considered community members of the fire department and are encouraged to attend monthly general meetings and any events. Volunteer support is appreciated at all MVFD functions. If you wish to become an active firefighter, a community service officer, or a member of our new incident support team, please check here to receive a background check authorization form. Firefighter Community officer Incident support team

Volunteer: I am willing to support the program in one or more of the following ways:

- Purchase raffle tickets Provide baked goods for fundraisers
Sell raffle tickets Prepare snacks for monthly general meeting
Help prepare or serve community meal Prepare meal for firefighter training day
Donate or solicit auction items Assembly of newsletter mailing

Funding: The MVFD receives about 1/3 of its financial support from various equipment grants and a share (7%) of Fayette County funds designated for all area fire departments. Utilities, fuel, insurance, repairs, maintenance, supplies, refurbishment of firefighter equipment, and community outreach programs must be funded by donations and seasonal fundraisers. Please indicate how you can help:

- Check enclosed in the amount of: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$200 Other Amt:
I will pledge \$ per year. Please send annual reminder.
Please contact me about a Contributor Board donation of \$500 or more, to be on public display for 2 years.

Additional comments, questions, or concerns: (use reverse side if needed)



MULDOON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT, INC.
 P. O. BOX 133
 MULDOON, TEXAS 78949

MVFD Cistern Station OPEN HOUSE
 Sat, Oct. 17th 11:00 am



Directory for Quick Reference

Fire Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr 979-966-8805
 President Ron Wunsch 979-247-4684
 Vice-President Timothy Seubert 979-247-4280
 Secretary (currently vacant)
 Treasurer Jo Brunner 361-865-3771
 Chaplain Mike Hostetter 979-247-4299
 Newsletter Gaye Wunsch 979-702-0700
 Muldoon Fire Station (leave message) 361-865-0176
 Muldoon VFD, P. O. Box 133, Muldoon, TX 78949
 Location: 333 N 3rd Street, Muldoon
 Website <http://www.muldoonfiredept.org>
 E-mail muldoon.vfd@gmail.com
 Cistern Station 7729 Jeddo Road @ Hwy 95
Fayette County Sheriff –Dispatcher 979-968-5856
 (to report ALL controlled burns, prior to ignition)

ALL EMERGENCIES ----- CALL 9-1-1

✂ **Clip and Save....**

Calendar of Events			
Sat	Oct. 17	11:00 am	Cistern Station Open House
Thurs	Nov. 5	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting
Thurs	Nov 26	Holiday	THANKSGIVING
Thurs	Dec. 3	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting
Friday	Dec. 25	Holiday	CHRISTMAS
Friday	Jan. 1	Holiday	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Thurs	Jan 7	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting
Thurs	Feb 4	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting
Thurs	Mar 4	7:00 pm	Monthly General Meeting