



MULDOON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

March 14, 2011



2010 Summary Report -- Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr.



After handling a record 71 response calls during 2009, it was a relief to experience a 58% reduction in call volume for 2010. The total of 30 response calls processed from Muldoon and/or Cistern stations combined this past year were: 12 first responder (medical), 8 grass/brush fires, 6 structure fires, 2 vehicle fires, and 2 emergency service calls (gas leak, electrical). The firefighters credit our residents for the significant reduction in the number of fires, as other departments in Fayette County didn't fare as well in 2010. Thus far, 2011 has also been very quiet within our 139 sq. mi. response area--only one brush fire call to date. In contrast, several fire departments in Fayette County have fought multiple grass fires that have resulted in serious loss of hay crops and other property.

The firefighters very much appreciate your diligence in following the burn ban guidelines and practicing safe burns during periods when the burn ban is lifted. If you have any questions or concerns before initiating a burn, you may call Chief McCoy at 979-966-8805 to request a firefighter consultation. Remember, the #1 cause of grass/brush fires burning out of control is leaving a fire unattended.

MVFD is currently served by 14 active volunteer firefighters:

Chief Johnny McCoy, Jr.	Fred Hernandez*	Charles Vinklarek
Lt. Chris McCoy*	Terry Vaughan*	Paul Splawn
Lt. Shay Iannelli	Mark Miles*	James Ivy
Lt. Melody McCoy	Douglas Iannelli	Terry Courier
Stephen Kelly*	Carlos Martinez	

Plus, in training:

Pedro Moreno -- Cody Goodman -- Chris Moreno

When you see these firefighters, thank them for their dedication and service to our community!

***Reported to 50%-77% of all response calls in 2010.**

We are actively seeking additional firefighters, especially from the western (Cistern) area of our territory, to assist in handling response calls throughout our area. We are also seeking fire truck drivers. Training continues on a monthly basis (3rd Saturday), assimilating new recruits on an ongoing basis. Please contact Chief McCoy at 979-966-8805 if you are interested in becoming a firefighter or driver. Men and women, 18+ yrs of age are eligible.

2010 Census Data – Muldoon area is growing!

Data just released from the Fayette County Judge's Office confirms what we have suspected during recent years: Our MVFD designated service area's residential population is growing at a faster pace than any other fire district within Fayette County, except for the portion of Smithville VFD that lies in our county—and also adjoins MVFD. The Muldoon area grew from 705 to 954 residents, a 35.3% increase since 2000. This new number does not include numerous landowners who are not permanent residents of Fayette County—although many of them are active in weekend projects, and participate in local area functions. From among *all* ten fire departments within Fayette County, Muldoon VFD's assigned 139 sq. mile territory remains second only in size to that of La Grange VFD's 231 sq. mile area territory! For more information, see our www.muldoonfiredept.org website.



BURN BAN IS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT!

Burn Ban flags are displayed at both stations, and the Muldoon Community Park. To be added to our MVFD e-mail burn ban notification list, send an e-mail request to: muldoon.vfd@gmail.com.

From the President -- Ron Wunsch



With the support of our community of landowners and residents, our Department has paid all construction costs for the new Cistern area station and significantly reduced the bank loan debt created to purchase two engine trucks during 2009. This year, we are seeking support to acquire a water supply tanker and perform some needed building expansion at the Muldoon station. We also need to improve firefighter radio communication tools, and secure updated protective clothing and personal gear so that we meet all safety standards. Without the support of a city government's resources, our fire department relies on volunteer donations for its primary revenue source. Fayette County allocates approximately \$7,000 each year to our Department, as part of an allocation of \$150,000 set aside for the ten fire departments within Fayette County. We also have limited state resources (that will be shrinking during this legislative session) for specific needs, on a grant application basis. The majority of our \$40,000 annual operating and capital costs must be secured through local fundraisers. Our generous residents/landowners have done a phenomenal job of answering the needs of our hard working firefighters! AND, the firefighters have done an exceptional job of protecting us: meeting medical, safety, and fire suppression needs.

The Community Service volunteers within our fire district are organized to manage the non-firefighter operations for the Department, including finances, insurance, communication, and fundraising activities. If you are interested in participating with your neighbors to help keep our area as safe as possible, please join us at our monthly meeting, held on the 1st Thursday evening of each month, at 7:00 pm, in the Muldoon station at the intersection of FM 2237 & FM 154. Our newly elected officers for 2011 are listed on the outer cover of this newsletter for your quick reference.

It's PICNIC TIME! -- Saturday, April 30th

This year's fundraiser will follow the same format as previous years. Please join us! **See enclosed flyer.**

Volunteers: If you are available *during the event* to keep everything running smoothly, just tap a MVFD volunteer on the shoulder and ask where you can help, such as set-up, clean-up, monitoring the food tables, and helping with the auctions. This is a fun way to get to know your neighbors, so join us! Contact any of the following members to sign up in advance for:

- ★ Set-up & clean-up Ron Wunsch 979-702-0960
- ★ Auction donations/mgt. Tim Seubert 979-247-4280
- ★ Cashier's table Jo Brunner 361-865-3771
- ★ Cakes for Cake Walk Virginia Boehnke 830-839-4527

Auction Items: We DEFINITELY need everyone's help in rounding up auction items for the event. Please ask your favorite merchants for auction items or gift certificates (just show them the enclosed flyer), or you may have "like-new" unused items in your own home to share. Handmade items or specialty baked/canned foods are also a hit. ALL contributions are appreciated. Please call Tim Seubert with auction items you plan to bring, so that he can include them in our advance auction list for processing. We have set aside two Saturdays for delivery of items in advance: April 2nd and 16th, Noon–4:00 pm. To make other arrangements, contact Tim Seubert at 979-247-4280, or e-mail to tseuber@cvctx.com.





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Major Contributors – Station Donor Signs

Since the inception of our donor board program in 2009, we have received over \$23,000 in donations recognized on our two donor boards. Your generosity has made it possible to complete the Cistern station expansion, and improve our truck fleet to serve our 139 sq.mi. area in an efficient, prompt manner. All donations of \$500 or more are eligible to be acknowledged, with a minimum of two years recognition. Any retired donor signs will be permanently replicated on a special plaque mounted inside each station.

Thanks once again, to our growing list of honored donors:

LEVEL (\$ minimum)	DONOR
MULDOON STATION	
PLATINUM (\$5,000+)	(none)
GOLD (\$2,500+)	Fayette Truck & Auto (Danny Mathews) Bar Nothing Ranch
SILVER (\$1,000+)	In Memory of Jerry Alexander
BRONZE (\$500+)	Sterling Bank Whitley Ranches Carolyn & Joe Bailey Harold & Linda Streicher Sanford & Mannie Charitable Trust
CISTERN STATION	
PLATINUM (\$5,000+)	(none)
GOLD (\$2,500+)	Harbich Family Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church V & V Products, Inc.
SILVER (\$1,000+)	Triple B Ranch – Lloyd & Jo Brunner Five Star Ranch
BRONZE (\$500+)	B & B Charcoal Jerry, Minnie & Bret Parker A.D. Vinklerek Bruce Brunner Family Council of the Magickal Arts

Anyone who wishes to make a contribution to be honored at either station may contact Ron Wunsch, at 979-247-4684 to make arrangements. Or, you may mail your donation to MVFD, P O Box 133, Muldoon, TX 78949, and a board member will contact you.

MEET THE FIREFIGHTERS

We are proud to recognize selected firefighters in each issue of our newsletter, as space allows. If you have missed prior issues, you may find them on our website at: www.muldoonfiredept.org



CARLOS MARTINEZ: Carlos is known as a man of few words. But ask him about being a firefighter and a smile comes to his face. A graduate of Flatonia High School, Carlos enrolled in the Police Academy at Victoria College, but later decided that police work was not for him. When friend and fellow Muldoon VFD firefighter, Fred Hernandez, invited Carlos to join the Department, he jumped at the chance. He is now certified as a First Responder and has completed SFFMA Certified Intro. Firefighter training.

Carlos, who was born in Galveston, grew up in Flatonia. At age 27, he now lives in La Grange with his wife, Kortni. Carlos and Kortni are the proud parents of two children, Lani, 2 yrs, and Shawn, 1 yr. Carlos is employed by BWI Companies, Inc. in Schulenburg. As a warehouse team member, he can be found out in the warehouse pulling orders and loading trucks.

Carlos joined the Muldoon VFD in 2007. In addition to the monthly training provided by the department, he has completed the Texas Basic Fire Training School in College Station. When asked about his role in the department, Carlos stated that he is willing to fill whatever position is needed. He has served as a driver, firefighter,

and pump operator. His most memorable event as a firefighter was a brush fire south of Cistern, early in his service. It remains the largest fire he has ever experienced, and it involved the coordination of multiple resources to complete the job successfully.

If you get the chance to meet Carlos, just ask him what he likes about being a part of the Muldoon VFD. He'll smile and tell you that he enjoys all aspects of being a firefighter and the excitement of being on the scene.



PAUL SPLAWN is one of the original group of friends who began answering calls as a Muldoon VFD firefighter. He has seen a lot of changes since late 2000, when the Department was first officially recognized as the 10th fire department in Fayette County. At the age of 29, he is one of the youngest members with ten years of service. He is a First Responder and has also completed SFFMA Certified Basic Firefighter training.

A graduate of La Grange High School, Paul resides in West Point, with his wife Amber, and two young sons, Hayden Nathaniel (6 yrs.), and Kason Alexander (5 mos.). Paul is employed by Precision Resources as a dozer operator, assigned to the LCRA power plant. His heavy equipment skills have served him well as a firefighter, as Paul is comfortable with operating any "big toys you can play with, in the dirt," when working an emergency scene.

Paul enjoys the excitement of being a firefighter—and getting dirty! He describes his role on fire calls as being "anywhere he's needed." Using his heavy equipment skills, he has rescued farm equipment from encroaching fire, and utilized various types of equipment found on a scene, to fight fires when special conditions arise. But what he enjoys most about being a firefighter, is just being there to help when someone needs it.



TERRY COURRIER: How did Terry Courrier end up as a member of the Muldoon VFD after being born in Minnesota, spending his teenage years in Arizona, attending Trinity University in San Antonio and then living all over the world while working in the oil industry? He took a job in Houston where he met his wife, Sandy, who is a native Texan.

Tired of traveling all over the world, Terry and Sandy settled down in Houston. After hanging out with friends who were living in La Grange, they eventually decided to buy some property in the area. In 2000, they became weekenders, spending the next 10 years working on their place. Terry pinned a copy of the "Muldoon Blaze," a 2006 newsletter, to his workshop wall, promising himself that someday he would become a volunteer with the Muldoon VFD.

In 2010, when Terry retired from Schlumberger, they moved to Muldoon. Shortly after settling into their new home here, they celebrated the 4th of July at the Muldoon Community Park, and he decided it was time to become a firefighter. Terry is currently working his way through the firefighter training program, and has already responded to three calls. Terry and Sandy are both active with the MVFD Community Service team, adding valued skills to the Department and community.

MORE TO COME!

We will introduce our current young trainees in future issues.

Welcome aboard,

Pedro Moreno, Cody Goodman, and Chris Moreno!



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THEN.....4TH of JULY RAFFLE WINNERS - 2010



Better Danner, owner of the Cistern Country Store, drove away with another raffle winner last summer, with her winning ticket #1028, among the 12 tickets she bought. She now has a new John Deere Gator to park next to her riding mower won in 2008. Betty and her daughter Taffy continue to be avid supporters, offering the store as pick-up/delivery point for MVFD Cistern neighborhood needs, including regular sales of 9-1-1 address signs. Her store was also a welcome resource during construction of our Cistern station (shown in background) during the summer of 2010, located across the street from the store. "Congratulations, Betty!"

D.C. King, III, of Flatonia, purchased six tickets last year from firefighter Fred Hernandez, with lucky #0808 among them, to win his Weatherby .270 rifle. Hernandez is the current leader in winning ticket sales for our Department!



Elton Thornell, along with fellow volunteer firefighters, stopped in Schulenburg looking for food. They were returning to Pearland after attending training in the Victoria area when they found their meal. Kim Zapalac, a Muldoon supporter, had arranged raffle ticket sales at Andy's Food Mart, owned by Paul Zapalac. The raffle flyer caught Elton's sympathetic eye. Wanting to support his fellow firefighters, he purchased a single ticket for himself, as well as one each for his companions. His ticket #1065 was the winner for a 12 gauge O/U shotgun!



Muldoon volunteer Tim Nelsen, a retired salesman, continues to excel in his craft. Winning ticket #0381 for the 10/22Ruger .22 cal rifle was one of six tickets he sold to his community friend Howard Greedy, a landowner who regularly spends weekends in this area.



Once again, Fred Hernandez performed his magic, selling lucky #0249 among the six tickets bought by Madison Salazar, of Flatonia, who won a 16" Husqvarna chainsaw.



Finally, CONGRATULATIONS to Rosie Boehnke of Cistern, for being our top tickets seller in 2010. She sold 144 tickets!!

REMEMBER! You can do your part to help firefighters protect each of us in a variety of situations. Please review this checklist, created by your firefighters, based upon actual calls they have made in our area.

- Home / Emergency Access:** As you approach your home,
- Is your location clearly identified with blue/silver 9-1-1 address signs, visible from both directions, and road signs are present at key intersections, even on privately divided easements?
 - Are trees are trimmed along access roads, to allow vehicles up to 10' high to pass through without hitting limbs or other barriers to impede access to any potential emergency scene?
 - Maintain a well-trimmed 30ft wide "defensible space" around all structures, trim dry brush, grass, tree limbs, and debris.
 - Check smoke alarms and fire extinguishers every 6 months at each daylight savings time change.

- Vehicle:** To avoid needless accidents and injuries on our roads,
- Use safety belts for all passengers.
 - Do not text while driving—pull over if necessary to make calls.
 - Watch for deer or other animals, especially on country roads.

And NOW!.... 4TH of JULY RAFFLE - 2011

Last summer's raffle was another fundraising success, thanks to all the volunteers who sold raffle tickets, and to all of you supporters and risk-takers who bought tickets. We limited the sales of our raffle tickets to a total of 1400, so each purchase of only one ticket last year carried a 1-in-267 chance to win one of our five prizes. This year we are adding more prizes to increase your odds of success. With nine prizes, and a maximum of 1500 tickets to be sold, you will now have a 1-in-167 chance to win with each ticket you purchase. Those odds are probably better than any Texas lottery can offer you, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your ticket purchase costs will be spent for improving your community's safety! What a great deal!

This year's raffle tickets will be available for purchase in early May. To obtain tickets, you may (1) contact your favorite firefighter or community service volunteer to reserve your tickets for delivery when available; (2) send an e-mail to: muldoon.vfd@gmail.com to request a firefighter to contact you; or (3) call Gaye Wunsch at 979-247-4684 or 979-702-0700 to order by telephone. To spark your interest, here is an advance peek at the prizes secured for this year's blockbuster raffle:

- 1st Prize:** John Deere Gator TS 4x2 Utility Vehicle
 - 2nd Prize:** Ruger Mini-14 .223 cal Ranch Rifle
 - 3rd Prize:** 42" Diag Flat Screen TV
 - 4th Prize:** Apple iPad Wi-Fi 16 GB
 - 5th Prize:** \$300 VISA Gift Card
 - 6th Prize:** \$200 VISA Gift Card
 - 7th Prize:** Garcia 6600 BC Reel w/7' Rod
 - 8th Prize:** Garmin nüvi 265W/265WT GPS
 - 9th Prize:** Canon PowerShot A495 10.1 MP Digital Camera + 8GB Deluxe Accessory Kit
- Tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100**



As in the past, this drawing will take place at the conclusion of the Muldoon Community Park Association's 4th of July parade and picnic. We hope you will join in the fun again this year, and enter the parade. Remember, any spirited entry is welcome: as pedestrians, horseback riders, or passengers on anything that will move safely down the protected parade route in the heart of Muldoon, you can be in this parade!

Fires / General Safety:

- It is always illegal to have an active flaming fire after dark, so be sure to ignite (when legal) large fires early in the day.
- If you are working alone in your pastures, carry a cell phone with you, or notify someone of your location. Be accountable to someone for your own safety!
- Don't leave your property until all fires are fully extinguished, and there is a safe margin of fully burned space around the fire. (If you are a weekend visitor, *burn early—when legal!*)
- Don't leave vehicles parked near tall grass or underbrush.
- Don't store combustible materials or gasoline-powered equipment near hay bales.

STAY SAFE OUT THERE!!