

EMS Profile: Cedar Park Fire Department



From left: Battalion Chief Larry Mulrain, Firefighter David Henderson, Firefighter Michael Sweeney, Firefighter Taylor Selden, Firefighter Jeremy House, Firefighter Tom O'Brien, Firefighter Frank Sykora, Driver/Engineer Mickey O'Riley, Firefighter Sean Kepler, Lt. Mike Wofford, Driver/Engineer Martin Wenzel, Firefighter Aston Bowers, Lt. Brian Jackson and Firefighter Rick Barrios.

Number of Personnel: The Cedar Park Fire Department has 58 employees and three fire stations that serve a population of 65,000. There is a fire chief, an assistant chief, three line battalion chiefs, a battalion chief over training, a fire marshal, nine lieutenants, a fire inspector, nine driver/engineers, 28 firefighters, two code enforcement officers and two administrative assistants. All engine companies are staffed with a minimum of four personnel, and each shift has minimum staffing of 13 on duty. The department has three engines, a ladder tower, a rescue truck, two hazardous materials units, a tanker, three brush trucks, a swiftwater/dive trailer and four command vehicles.

How many years of service as a first responder group: The organization was founded in 1972 as a volunteer fire department. Cedar Park

borders Northwest Austin and Round Rock to the west. In 1990, the population was 5,000. Today, the population within the city limits is 45,000 and the ETJ has another 20,000. The fire department services the city and ETJ. Over the past 10 years, Cedar Park has been among the top 10 fastest-growing small cities in the United States. In 1995, the first paid firefighters were hired, which made the organization a combination fire department. By 2001, the department was staffed entirely by paid personnel. Williamson County EMS provides ALS and transport. The personnel in the fire department are certified to EMT-

B as a minimum. Dr. Stephen Benold is the medical director for the fire department and Williamson County EMS and provides our personnel with progressive protocols.

Number of calls per year: In 2005, the department responded to 3,328 emergency calls. Of this total, 2,377 (71 percent of the total call volume) were EMS incidents and vehicle accidents. All EMS calls get an engine company and a Williamson County EMS unit at a minimum.

Current Projects: Due to the continued rapid growth, a fourth fire station has been approved to be located on the east side of the city. It is scheduled to open in February 2008. The City Council and city management are strong supporters of the fire department. Williamson County EMS has received additional funding to staff a second ambulance within Cedar Park beginning in March 2007. A recent grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services was used to purchase six new AEDs and additional training AEDs. A fifth fire station is master-planned for the north side of the city and is expected to open within the next five years. Training is constant within the department to improve EMS skills and firefighter safety. A \$750,000 training facility was completed in 2005. We will soon be providing CPR training in the community. The Department is a partner in the Shattered Dreams Program for high school students. A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been developed that will provide assistance during disasters and currently has 26 trained members. Twenty citizens have already signed up for the next CERT class.

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