

## EMS Profile: Friendswood VFD EMS

Standing, from left: Robert Ebert, LP; Greg Hagerty, EMT-I; Kris Kern, LP; Lisa Camp, LP; Andrew Chalk, EMT-P; Robbie Williams (retired); Letha Camp, EMT-P; Ken Camp (retired); Rick McFee, LP. Kneeling from left: Tyrone Clark, EMT; Van Williams, LP; Daniel Dunham, EMT.



**Number of Personnel:** Friendswood VFD EMS (FVFD EMS) has a staff of 53 volunteer members (13 licensed paramedics; 13 paramedics; six intermediates; and 21 EMTs) and 16 part-time employees (15 paramedics and 5 EMTs) led by EMS Chief Lisa M. Camp, BA, LP. The volunteer members cover the weeknight and weekend shifts, and the 16 part-time employees provide staffing for the day shifts. FVFD EMS has one full-time employee, Captain Greg Hagerty, who oversees the daily operations for the paid day personnel.

**Years of service, number of units, and number of calls:** FVFD EMS was organized in 1972 as a division of the Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department. The division started with a 1960s model Ford station wagon converted into an ambulance. Van Williams worked with city council for funding and received the first Type I ambulance in 1973. He then organized EMT classes and brought certified EMTs onto the ambulances. Other founding members, Letha Camp and Robbie Williams, along with other women in the division, were the backbone of the daytime response until

the early 1990s when part-time, paid, day-shift paramedics began handling the increasing call volume. EMT Ken Camp is credited with organizing the FVFD EMS in the 1950s and worked with EMS until his retirement after 44 years of service to the community.

Today the FVFD EMS has three Type I Frazer units that are BLS with MICU capability available in the city 24/7. There are four first responder vehicles equipped with BLS supplies and AEDs; one supervisor vehicle staffed with ALS equipment; and one chief's vehicle equipped with ALS equipment. In 2007 FVFD EMS responded to 2,083 9-1-1 calls in the 27-square-mile radius for the City of Friendswood.

Currently Rick McFee, LP, oversees the management of the FVFD EMS organization as president. Assistant Chief Andrew Yee maintains a preventive vehicle maintenance program. FVFD EMS offered over 100 hours of continuing education credit last year under the direction of Assistant Chief Kris Kern, DSHS's 2007 EMS Educator of the Year. In 1997, the FVFD EMS began offering the volunteer members a pension program.

FVFD EMS is currently under the medical direction of Oscar Boultinghouse, MD. Working with FVFD EMS, Dr. Boultinghouse has developed a STEMI protocol that is providing Plavix and Heparin to patients who meet the qualifications in the field. FVFD EMS is participating in ICE (Induced Cooling by EMS) therapeutic hypothermia trial protocol with League City EMS, CLEMC and Alvin EMS, transporting patients to Clear Lake Regional Medical Center. This study is under the direction of Dr. Abel Longoria.

**Current activities:** FVFD EMS is very active in the community, providing community CPR classes, free childhood vaccination clinics, photo ID kits, car seat inspections, Vial of Life program, safety clown and puppet education program. FVFD EMS started a bike medic program in 1996 and currently has ten members on the team. In 2007 FVFD EMS partnered with College of the Mainland and Friendswood High School HOSA program to teach the EMT program to the HOSA students during the spring semester.

FVFD EMS received the Greater Houston EMS Council award for Public Information in 2007 and was honored to receive the DSHS Volunteer EMS Provider of the Year award in 2001 and 2007. FVFD EMS is supported by the mayor, city council and the citizens of Friendswood. Recently FVFD EMS was honored to receive a resolution from State Representative Larry Taylor thanking EMS for its dedication to the citizens of Friendswood. ★



Texas Department of State Health Services  
Office of EMS Trauma/Systems MC 1876  
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Austin, Texas 78714-9347

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