

West Lake Limestone VFD

And

Emergency Services District #2

e-NEWSLETTER – 2ND QTR. JUNE 2022

LOVE ME TENDER

We recently acquired a "new to us" apparatus to complete our water supply chain and it is now in service!



Four members of WLLVFD traveled to Streetsboro, Ohio to pick up our 1991 E1 Hurricane Water Tender that will carry 3000 gallons of water to large fires to refill the pumpers on-scene. They drove it back to our main fire station on FM 937 and arrived safely back on April 20.

A "tender" is a water tanker truck specifically designed to connect to our water supply to fill with water, travel to fire scenes, and connect to our pumpers to refill them onsite. This will save gas, time, and wear and tear on our pumpers as they will no longer have to "tag team" back and forth to the water supply sites to refill. This also allows better chance of structure survival in the event of a large fire.

Last Chance Designs in Buffalo put the new lettering and logos on the tender, which is now our #2500.

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

Back in September of 1996, a group of people - including Carl Sadler, Adam Collett, and Mike Thompson - met up to discuss beginning a fire department on the west side of the lake. At first, they began meeting in living rooms as there was no station yet. In the beginning, the department did not have trucks. Instead, they took their personal vehicles to fires and used hand tools and other equipment.



By the time the first truck was purchased for Westlake, a 1957 Ford (pictured above with Bill Fohlex and John Klein) from another volunteer fire department, a station had yet to be built and the apparatus was kept at someone's house. The truck could carry 100 gallons of

water. Unfortunately, the 1957 Ford did not last long as the engine blew after about a year and was not replaced.



West Lake's first tender was a 5-ton deuce and a half military truck that held 800 gallons in two 400-gallon pods with a pump on the bumper.

JULY 4 RAFFLE

Tickets are on sale for our July 4 Raffle. The price is \$20 per ticket or \$100 for 6 tickets. Each ticket gets you four chances to win one of these great prizes:

- AR15 Semi-automatic 223556 with 16" barrel, 1-30 round magazine, Sig Sauer optic scope from Black Cactus Armory valued at \$1400
- Landan's Fishing Guide Service on Lake Limestone good for 2 people within 1 year valued at \$400
- Two-night stay in the Tiny Home Castle at Liberty Rock (Running Branch) RV Park and Marina valued at \$300
- Car Wash and Detail from Complete Excellence Detailing by Cedric Smith valued at \$150

The drawing will be at 2pm July 4 at Station 1, 6614 FM 937.

MEET OUR REHAB TEAM

When fighting a fire, it is vital to have a team in place to make sure that the firefighters are well-hydrated and not suffering from

overheating and/or fatigue. Our Rehab Team comes out to fires and motor vehicle crashes in our emergency service district and adjoining districts with whom we have mutual aid.



Last year we acquired a 2011 Chevy Tahoe, #2509, that has been dedicated to our Rehab Team. It is now equipped with scene lights, a pop-up canopy for shade, chairs, blankets, water, and snacks as well as first aid equipment so our team is able to provide support to the firefighters.

They not only show up whenever we get called to fight a fire, on June 4 they deployed the unit to participate in a county-wide Search and Rescue Training at Fort Parker State Park where they provided rehab, snacks, water and brought lunch for the trainees.

We salute Sherry Solis, Sheryl Davis, Cathy Rayburn, and Tonya Copeland for giving their time on a moment's notice whenever they are needed!

TEXTING 911

Have you ever been in a situation where you needed help but could not call for that help without fear of being discovered?

Our Limestone County dispatch center has a feature called Text-to-911 in which you can send a text message instead of talking out loud. It allows you to discreetly call for help from police, fire, or EMS without alerting

anyone else that might be endangering you or others.

It also gives you the opportunity to call for help when you can't relay the information over the phone.

Here's what you need to know:

- Your text will be sent to the numbers "911".
- Your first message should include the address where you need police, fire, or EMS.
- Your next should have what you need police, fire, or EMS for.
- Messages should be short and not more than 160 characters.
- Follow instructions provided by the 911 operator
- Answer the 911 operator's questions.

TRAINING UPDATE

Debbie Gerrard and Austin Proctor have passed their national finals and are now certified Emergency Medical Responders. Debbie and Lesa Nobles will be starting online Emergency Medical Technician classes next month. Jeff Chavers, Walter Keaton, and Ray Marsh are now certified for CPR.

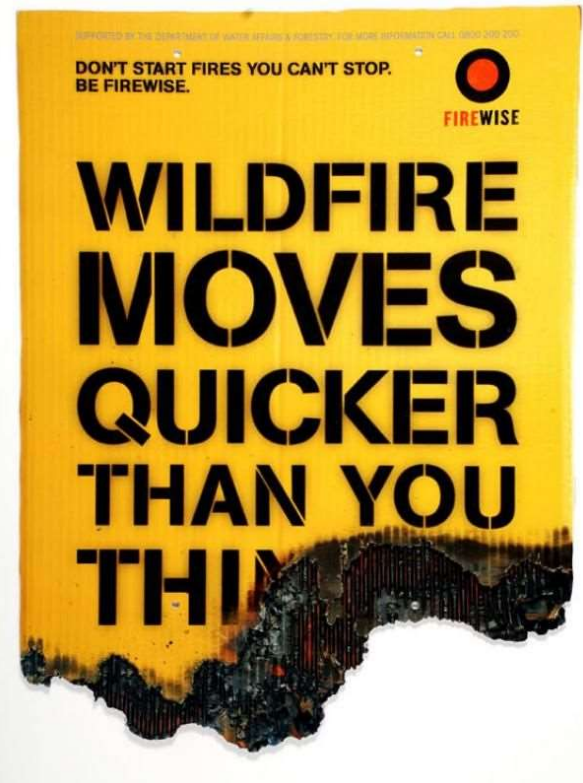
Several more members of WLLVFD have completed their certification as Wildland Firefighters. The Wildland Firefighter training is provided by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. The course is 32 hours of online training followed by 8 hours of hands-on training which our firefighters completed locally at the Groesbeck VFD.

The right gear is essential for the safety of wildland firefighters and the effectiveness of their firefighting efforts. Finding yourself fighting a blazing fire in the middle of a forest without a necessary piece of gear is a precarious situation, to say the least. As such, wildland firefighters must carefully pack their

bags with all the gear they may require while fighting wildfires.

The Limestone County ESD#2 Board of Commissioners recently voted to purchase \$13,500 worth of wildland firefighting gear for our Wildland Certified Firefighters so they will be fully equipped when they are called upon to fight wildfires. This gear includes pants, boots, shirts, hats, and goggles made specifically for personal protection while fighting wildfires.

Randy Denzer is trying to get a class scheduled for Incident Command Response training this summer so more of our firefighters can learn the strategies involved in fighting these enormous, devastating fires.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Fire Chief: David Nobles
(254) 729-0165; westlakelimestonevfd@gmail.com

ESD#2 Board President: Paul Loeffler
wllvdfire@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Tami Griffin
westlakeeso@gmail.com

Website: wllvdesd2.org