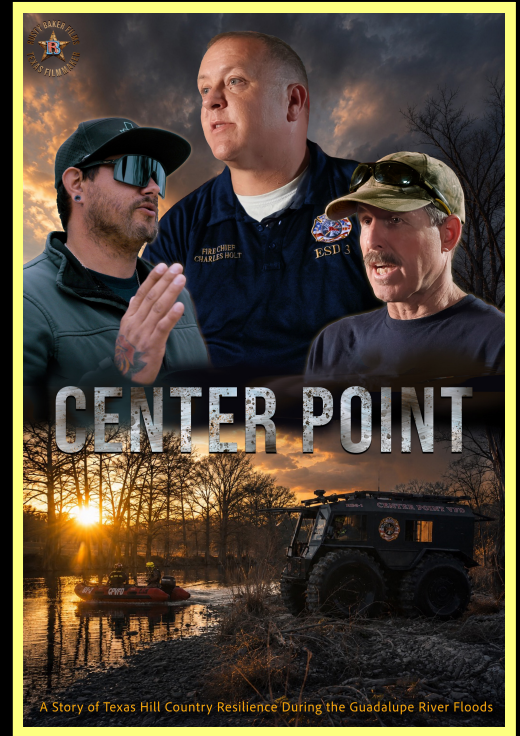


CENTER POINT

A Documentary Short by Rusty Baker (14:10)

Volunteer rescuers from Center Point confront dangerous floodwaters, debris and destruction to rescue campers, proving that courage still runs deep in small-town Texas.



Center Point firefighter, Travis Cranford, searches for victims in the floodwaters of the Guadalupe River on July 4, 2025.

Photo by Razor Dobbs, Center Point VFD

The Story

On July 4, 2025, a catastrophic flash flood surges along the Guadalupe River, tearing through the Texas Hill Country, killing 135 people and leaving widespread devastation in its wake. As the waters rise and chaos engulfs the town of Center Point, a small crew of volunteer firefighters mobilizes, rescuing dozens from the raging current and evacuating nearly 400 residents to higher ground.

In the aftermath, the Center Point Volunteer Fire Department continues to train, rebuild, and prepare for whatever emergency comes next—knowing the next call could come at any moment.

Director's Statement



In the aftermath of the devastating floods along the Guadalupe River, much of the public conversation centered on blame—who failed, what went wrong, and why more wasn't done. Those are important questions. But as I followed the coverage here in Texas, I couldn't shake the feeling that something essential was being overlooked.

I went looking for the rest of the story. What I encountered, was a small group of local volunteers—unpaid, unassuming, and deeply rooted in their community—who stepped forward when the water rose. Without recognition or hesitation, they acted with clarity, skill, and compassion, helping to rescue neighbors and protect their town in the middle of chaos.

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Texas Filmmaker
Filmed in Texas

www.rustybakerfilm.com

The Voices



Larry Littrell: The assistant fire chief who braved the rushing floodwaters to save a family.

Travis Cranford: The swift-water rescuer who couldn't save the very next family they found.

Charles Holt: The fire chief who led the effort to evacuate 375 Center Point residents.

- Centers on the Guadalupe River and the Texas Hill Country, not as a backdrop, but as a force that shapes the story.
- Highlights volunteer service, rural emergency response, and the reality of small communities facing large-scale disasters.
- Connects disaster recovery with Texas values: neighbor helping neighbor, grit, humility, and selfless action.
- Offers festival audiences a grounded, human-centered story about resilience after a historic flood.

Texas Hill Country Strong



The Filmmaker



Rusty Baker is a Dallas native, retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major, disabled veteran, former combat photojournalist, and documentary filmmaker. In 2025, He returned to UNT's film school after 26 years to pursue an MFA in Documentary Production & Studies. His work focuses on service, recovery, veterans, and Texas communities whose stories deserve careful attention.

Center Point serves as his first-year MFA film.

Contact

E-mail – rusty.baker@yahoo.com

Website – www.rustybakerfilm.com

Trailer Link – youtube.com/c/rustybakerfilm

