



# Klein Volunteer Fire Department



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## Our new equipment

We are happy to introduce one of our newest apparatus to the KVFD fleet.

The Heavy Utility Vehicle is a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV) 2.5 ton 4x4 truck that was



acquired through a government surplus program. The vehicle's primary purpose is to supplement our Special Services Swift Water Rescue Team and Rescue Boats during high water events where evacuations might be necessary. The Department also plans on purchasing a removable pump and water tank for the truck that will allow it to assist with large brush fires if needed. By adding this vehicle to our fleet of apparatus, we

can move more people and equipment faster.

Another recent purchase for the department was an inflatable boat and a flat bottom connector boat. The motors of both boats will have a safety guard to help prevent the prop from cutting victims who are in the water as well as inhibit debris from interfering with the operation of the motor. These boats have been placed in service and are available to serve the residents of Harris



County ESD No. 16 and to provide mutual aid to our neighbors when requested.



### How to become a Firefighter?

Want to become a Firefighter? See page 2 for more information on how to become a firefighter and give back to your community.

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### Meet your Firefighters

Get to know some of the members at our stations.

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# Join our Family

## What does it take to be a Firefighter?



**No previous experience is needed.** KVFD firefighters pride themselves on a strong foundation of training that begins on the first day. While formal training to ride is eventually required, new members can ride in a limited capacity after receiving basic in-house training.

**Initial formal training** consists of the Essentials of Firefighting class taught at our Administration facility, training building, and at our Stations. This class is approximately 72 hours, and spans a total of four months. Students receive instruction in theory of fire behavior and suppression, forcible entry, ventilation, property salvage, basic hazardous materials training, as well as first aid and CPR. Most of the class is hands-on and successful completion results in becoming a Basic Firefighter. Upon completing the Essentials of Firefighting class, members are welcome to take additional specialty classes that are applicable to our operations that interest them. Such classes include vehicle rescue, rope rescue, hazardous materials, and advanced firefighting operations.



**Weekly maintenance and training nights** are held every Monday night from 7-9pm. Officers and senior firefighters conduct drills to sharpen everyone's skills or to try out a new procedure.

**If you are at least 18 years of age,** and this interest you, stop by one of our stations on a Monday evening, introduce yourself, meet your firefighters, and fill out an application.

*Live Fire for our recruits that recently completed our Basic Class. This was held at Cypress Creek Fire Station 24 on October 22, 2016*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Visit us: [www.Kleinfire.org](http://www.Kleinfire.org)

Don't forget to like us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/kleinfiredept](https://www.facebook.com/kleinfiredept)

## Meet Your Station Officers

### Station 31

18337 Stuebner Airline Rd.  
Spring, TX 77379

### Senior Captain

Evan Schroeder

### Station 32

14640 Gladebrook Dr.  
Houston, TX 77068

### Senior Captain

Gemma Smith

### Station 33

9755 Landry Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77070

### Senior Captain

Matt Pentifallo

### Station 34

16810 Squyres Rd.  
Klein, TX 77379

### Senior Captain

Joe Rocha

### Station 35

8230 Spring Stuebner Rd.  
Tomball, TX 77375

### Senior Captain

Chris Wheeler

### Station 36

18822 N. Eldridge Pkwy  
Tomball, TX 77377

### Senior Captain

Bryan Romero

### Station 37

19302 T.C. Jester Blvd.  
Spring, TX 77379

### Senior Captain

Kevin Hughes

# FIREFIGHTERS

Fueled by Fire\*Driven by Courage

# Station Staffing

In the summer of 2015 Klein VFD began staffing Station 1 on nights and weekends with a crew of 4 firefighters. This model allowed us to supplement our on-call service delivery to the community by getting additional resources on the road to emergencies quicker. This model allows Klein to not only respond more efficiently, but also provides additional manpower on scene of larger incidents when needed. This program has since increased to 2 stations staffed during weekend days, allowing for further flexibility while our community is out and about enjoying their weekend activities.

In addition, Harris County ESD #16 purchased a new 2016 Pierce Velocity pumper for these staffed crews to respond in. This provides a newer, more capable apparatus for these crews to further supplement our on-call firefighters when responding to all types of emergencies throughout our response district. With the immense growth we are seeing in our community, these additional resources and programs help us continue our mission of providing quality service to the Klein community.

## Station 8

### Planned Future Development

Station 8 will be located at 9600 Crescent Clover Drive, near the intersection of Champions Forest and Crescent Clover. The facility location is in response to rapid growth in the area.

The project involves construction of an approximately 10,900-square-foot fire station to provide space for overnight sleeping, dining, three-bay vehicle drive-through, equipment storage and public meeting/training room. Construction is funded by the Sales Tax Proposition approved in 2015.



# did you know

Do you know about Texas **Move Over/Slow Down law**? The Move Over/Slow Down Law, which traditionally has required drivers to yield to police, fire and emergency vehicles, has been expanded to provide that same protection for Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) workers. Effective Sept. 1, 2013, drivers must now move over or slow down when approaching TxDOT workers and vehicles that are stopped with overhead flashing blue or amber lights.



## What to do when an Emergency Vehicle approaches

Drivers should always be on the lookout for emergency vehicles. In modern cars with air conditioning and stereos, drivers may not hear an approaching emergency vehicle. Often, police agencies, not wanting to warn a prowler of their approach, will respond with lights only and no siren.

- **In your lane** - If an emergency vehicle is approaching in your lane, pull over to the nearest edge of the roadway and clear an opening. Seconds count in an emergency situation and any delay could be deadly to the persons requiring aid.
- **In the opposite lane** – If an emergency vehicle is approaching in the opposite lane, be prepared to slow or stop if the vehicle needs to turn into your lane.



# FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

- Have at least a 2-A:10-B:C rated fire extinguisher on every level & supplementary units for specific locations, such as the kitchen (NFPA recommendation).
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 911 in case of a fire or emergency.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly, change batteries as needed, and replace alarms every 10 years.
- Practice a home fire escape plan regularly with the entire family during the day and night.
- Check the gauge on your fire extinguisher monthly to be sure it is pressurized.
- Keep a fire extinguisher within reach to help create a path to safety or put out a small, contained fire. Always call the fire department before you try to extinguish a fire yourself!



## HOME FIRE SAFETY

A Guide to Household Fire Safety and Prevention

HOUSEHOLD FIRES ARE DANGEROUS, DESTRUCTIVE, AND ALL TOO COMMON.

### SMOKE DETECTORS

Check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors twice a year.

### CHIMNEYS

Approximately 15% of chimney fires are caused by creosote buildup.

- Keep chimneys clear and vented. A dirty chimney builds up an insulator deposits that can easily catch a newspaper spark and cause a dangerous, destructive fire.

### DRYERS

Dryers and washing machines are involved in 1 out of every 24 US home structure fires.

- Clean lint screens before every load.
- The buildup of lint is responsible for an average of 4.448 fires each year.
- Avoid overloading the dryer. Motors under strain can overheat easily and start fires.

### SPACE HEATERS

Always rely on a central heating system to heat your home. Space heaters account for around 17% of home heating fires.

- Keep plenty of space around any space heater. If it is portable, make sure it is at least 3 feet away from the wall.

### IN THE KITCHEN

Approximately 14% of home fires start in the kitchen.

- Never leave a lit stove or range unattended.
- Always keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach of the stove.
- Oil splatters and grease account for 37% of kitchen fires, so keep them sizzling clean!

### IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

Brainstorm at least 2 ways to escape from each room in your home, and decide on a meeting spot outside and away from the house.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember P.A.S.S.: Pull the pin, aim the nozzle, Squeeze the handle, and Sweep from side to side.

Sources: [http://www.nfpa.org/~media/Press/Research/Fire%20Deaths/home\\_heating\\_fires\\_chart.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/~media/Press/Research/Fire%20Deaths/home_heating_fires_chart.pdf)  
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**ARBE ILLA**  
A R T I S T S

# About Klein Volunteer Fire Department

Originally known as the **Klein Volunteer Firefighters Association, Inc.**, **Klein Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.** (KVFD or 'the Department'), is a non-profit corporation formed by the original landowners of the Klein community in northwest Harris County. Their self-charter was to provide fire protection for the community in a 120 square mile rural area. Today KVFD is contracted by Harris County Emergency Services District No. 16 (HCESD #16 or 'the District') to provide fire and rescue services for the citizens who reside in and pass through HCESD #16. The district is now primarily suburban, and comprises approximately 50 square miles and is home to approximately 139,000 residents.

**Five (5) elected district commissioners** are empowered by the state of Texas to provision fire and rescue emergency services for the district. They can contract for services, create a fire department, and set tax rates (not to exceed \$0.10 per \$100 property valuation) to fund the provided services. Voters in the district must approve increases in the tax rate up to the maximum allowed. The district also collects a 1% Sales and Use Tax from businesses operating in the district which are not within a City of Houston Limited Partnership Annexation (LPA) zone.

## Fire and Rescue Services

**Ten (10) corporate officers, eight (8) of whom make up the board of directors**, operate the company. The board is tasked with determining the direction and course of the company. The Board of Directors consist of a President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Treasurer and a Secretary. Each corporate officer has chartered responsibilities related to the operation of the company. The Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and two (2) District Fire Chiefs are charged with tactical operation of the department. Each station is operated by a Senior Captain, Captain and Lieutenant.

**The department has four (4) full time employees** to manage the day-to-day operation of the company and approximately 60 commissioned part-time fire fighters who provide coverage during the day time hours when a minimum number of volunteers are available. Volunteers provide full-time coverage during the evening, nighttime and weekend time frames.

**The department operates 7 stations (8<sup>th</sup> station under construction)** within the district each with a first out engine and specialized support apparatus. In general, the department operates:

- 9 Fire Engines
- 3 Aerial Apparatus
- 2 Heavy Rescue Trucks
- 2 Tanker Trucks
- 2 Grass/Brush Trucks
- 1 Special Services Support Truck
- 1 Command/Rehab Truck
- 1 Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV)
- 1 UTV
- 2 Inflatable Boats & 2 Aluminium Hull Boats
- Various miscellaneous support vehicles

**The department has automatic and mutual aid agreements** with Cypress Creek Emergency Medical Services and with each fire department that abuts the district. These include Spring VFD, Ponderosa VFD, Little York VFD, Cypress Creek VFD, Cy-Fair VFD and Tomball FD. The department also has mutual aid agreements with all other departments in Harris and Montgomery Counties. These agreements ensure that all citizens in north Harris County receive prompt and timely service and adequate resources to manage their emergency incident.

## RECENT NEWS



Recently Klein VFD became a Safe Sitter Site. Safe Sitter® prepares students to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Students learn life-saving skills such as how to rescue someone who's choking, and helpful information like what to do if there's severe weather. The lessons are filled with fun activities and role-playing exercises. Students even get to use CPR manikins to practice choking rescue!

We provide all student materials, snacks throughout the day, and pizza for lunch. To register email Brittney at [bhoover@kleinfireddept.com](mailto:bhoover@kleinfireddept.com)



What is Nextdoor? Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all your lives better in the real world. And it's free.

Thousands of neighborhoods are already using Nextdoor to build happier, safer places to call home.

Look for important news, updates, and safety tips.