The Safety Festival’s purpose is to familiarize residents with useful safety information, as well as the daily responsibilities of ESD 48 and other neighboring fire and EMS departments through a variety of fun activities.

Festival activities will include:
- Ladder truck tours and ambulance tours
- Life Flight helicopter viewing
- Fire and EMS exhibits and demonstrations, including car fire and extrication demos
- A “Fire Fighters Combat Challenge”
- An inflatable play area (Kid Zone)

For more information visit: www.safetyfestkaty.com
YOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT IS HERE FOR FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WITHIN YOUR DISTRICT—LEARN MORE ABOUT US IN OUR FIRST ISSUE!

WWW.HCESD48.ORG
Bret Fossum is no stranger to the world of emergency services. He grew up in eastern North Dakota, where his Dad served as the fire chief of a rural fire department. During this time, Bret was a junior volunteer who gleaned invaluable institutional knowledge as he served to help protect the community in which he lived.

Bret is a Registered Professional Geologist in the state of Texas and holds a B.S. degree in Geological Engineering from the University of North Dakota. He has been employed by ConocoPhillips as a geologist for the past 34 years where he has held a number of global positions. Other professional accomplishments include being an active member of the UND Harold Hamm School of Geology and Geological Engineering corporate advisory board and the Oklahoma State University corporate advisory board. Bret is also a Certified Petroleum Geologist with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, where he is a member of the AAPG Department of Professional Affairs, a group dedicated to promoting ethical behavior in the oil and gas industry.

Bret has been a resident of the West Houston area since 1987 and is dedicated to preserving an environment of safety within his community. Bret joined the ESD 48 Board of Directors in 2015.
Marshall Kramer is the current President of the ESD48 board of commissioners. He was one of the founding members of the local fire department. As HCESD #48 Board President he helps oversee the day to day operations of the HCESD #48 Fire Department.

He began serving as a volunteer in the late 1970’s where he earned the nickname “Marshall Marshal.” After volunteering as a fire fighter he began working full-time for the Harris County Fire Marshals Office. During his 30-year tenure, Marshall rose through the ranks, earning the position of Assistant Chief Fire Marshal of Harris County.

Upon retiring from the Harris County Fire Marshal’s Office, Marshall was elected to the Board or Commissioners of ESD48 in 2012.

Marshall and his wife of 52-years have lived in the Nottingham Country and Memorial Parkway subdivisions of the Katy area since the mid-1970s. They have two daughters and a wonderful heritage of grandchildren.
Sam Henderson was born in Odessa Texas. He got married and moved to the Katy area in 1980 as a resident of Williamsburg Colony. Mr. Henderson has 3 daughters that are married and a total of 4 grandchildren.

All of the Henderson family live within the district with his grandchildren a regular fixture at the open house of the fire station. Sam got his start with the Katy Fire Department then moved on to the West I-10 station where he worked under a number of administrations. Mr. Henderson has since retired but is still active with the team as a commissioner, and was elected to the HCESD #48 Board of Directors in 2014. Sam is currently working on a plan to develop a safety and awareness program.

David Schwoegl

David is currently a construction manager for the Southwest Zone of the Little Cesar’s Pizza franchise group. He was a graduate of Sam Houston State University and was an active volunteer with the West I-10 Fire Department. David eventually went on to become a station captain and was also a member of the Executive Board. David was elected to the HCESD #48 Board of Directors in 2014.

Mr. Schwoegl is married with 3 boys. David sees the growth of the Greater Katy area as the ESD48’s main challenge and is intent on making sure the growth is managed correctly.
Derrick Hughes began volunteering with the HCESD #48 in 1983. He proceeded through the ranks to Assistant District Chief and then in 1998 when ESD48 went through reorganization, he chose to join the West I-10 Fire department, where he held the position of Station Captain.

Derrick is now retired from active firefighting duty. Derrick joined the HCESD #48 Board of Directors in 2013. Derrick was born and raised in Southwest Houston and moved to the unincorporated West Harris County in 1983 with his wife Kira, and two children. He is a Safety Professional with Shell Oil Company and supports the Transaction and Projects group for non-hydrocarbon capital projects in the United States and Latin America.

HCESD 48 COMMISIONER ELECTION SCHEDULE

This election is to elect Commissioners of HCESD 48

Early Voting Times:  Election Day:
April 25<sup>th</sup> — May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016  May 7th 7am-7pm
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm &
Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm

VOTING LOCATIONS:
Harris County MUD 81
805 Hidden Canyon, Katy, Texas 77450

Franz Road Storefront
19818 Franz Road, Katy, Texas 77449
Emergency Service Districts are very similar to school districts, library districts, or MUD districts. However they are unique in that they are an independent governmental entity and not an extension or department of the county’s government. These special districts are created when residents of an area petition for an election to create an ESD. The petition is then considered by the county commissioners during a hearing on the matter. If the commissioner’s court believes the special district is necessary to provide services then it will grant the petition for an election.

The Commissioners of HCESD #48 are elected to these positions and server 4 year terms. The ESD board must also meet at least once a month and all meetings are subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Some ESDs provide services to the public by contracting with an independent service provider such as an ambulance service or fire department. Others prefer to take on the role of overseeing the management of the services and they will function as the sole service provider. HCESD #48 became its own fire department in 2015.
HCESD 48 CONTAINS 5 FIRE STATIONS

HCESD 48 INCLUDES THREE AMBULANCES WHICH ARE STAFFED 24/7 WITH PARAMEDICS. A FOURTH AMBULANCE IS STAFFED 12 HOURS A DAY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CAPABILITIES TO HANDLE PEAK-TIME EMERGENCIES.

WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY 50 EMT EMPLOYEES.
Under the Texas Constitution ESDs may levy a tax rate of no more than 10 cents per $100 of property value in their district. ESDs also have the ability to collect sales tax after approval by the voters. HCESD #48 currently levies $0.0890/$100 ad valorem property tax and collects a 1% sales tax.

In several analyses that compare the tax effort to that of a municipality funding its fire department versus an Emergency Service District, the municipality’s costs were around two times higher than the maximum tax rate that an ESD can charge.
Many years ago in unincorporated areas fire and emergency medical service agencies existed on donations and fundraisers alone. ESD’s have now ushered in more local control by the citizens and the ESD commissioners are able to focus on service delivery within the financial resources available. It provides a more equitable system where all properties are assessed at the same rate.

Our main office is located in Station #3:
1773 Westgreen Blvd., Katy, TX 77450
Phone: 281-578-2518
Email: info@esd48fire.org
PREVENTION FOR FIRE DISASTERS **STARTS WITH PREPARATION AND KNOWLEDGE.** DO YOU KNOW THE MOST COMMON CAUSES AND WAYS TO AVOID A RESIDENTIAL FIRE?

**TOP CAUSES OF HOME FIRES**

- **ELECTRICAL**: 7%
- **HEATING**: 13%
- **COOKING**: 50%
COOKING IS THE BIGGEST CAUSE OF HOME FIRES AND FIRE INJURIES. YOU CAN HELP PREVENT COOKING FIRES BY FOLLOWING THESE TIPS:

- When cooking, stay in the kitchen and keep an eye on the stove.
- Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Keep towels, pot holders, curtains, and paper products away from the stove.
- Stand by your pan: If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.
- Watch what you are cooking: Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.
- Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby: Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.

HAVE A “KID-FREE ZONE” OF AT LEAST 3FT AROUND THE STOVE AND AREAS WHERE HOT FOOD/DRINK IS PREPARED OR CARRIED

- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove, then no one can bump them or pull them over.
- If oil is smoking or on fire never throw water or use a fire extinguisher on the burning oil
ELECTRIC HEATERS ARE HIGH-WATTAGE APPLIANCES THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO IGNITE NEARBY COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS, TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING THEM INSIDE YOUR HOME.

- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from space heaters.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Get your chimney cleaned or inspected annually if you plan to use it.
OVER 47,000 HOME FIRES IN THE U.S ARE CAUSED BY ELECTRICAL FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION EACH YEAR. HELP LOWER YOUR ELECTRICAL FIRE RISK BY IMPLEMENTING THESE TIPS INTO YOUR HOME.

- Replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- In homes with small children, make sure your home has tamper-resistant (TR) receptacles.
- Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician so you do not have to use extension cords.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- Don’t remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-conductor outlet.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp’s recommended wattage.

ROUGHLY 3,300 HOME FIRES ORIGINATE FROM IMPROPERLY USED EXTENSION CORDS EACH YEAR.
HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 48

PRE-1984
First Fire Station: The first station at 22125 Kingsland Blvd became operational on April 1, 1980. The VFD personnel consisted mostly of women during the day and men and women at night.

1984
In 1984, HCESD #48 was created by a public election as a rural fire district.

1987
Texas Voters Authorize Emergency Services Districts (ESDs): Over the years demands for fire and emergency services were rising across Texas. In response to increased growth and demand, Texans voted to authorize creation of emergency services districts (ESD) in 1987. Emergency services districts allow for more flexible management and increased funding for emergency services than did rural fire prevention districts. Formation of the ESD allowed taxes to be levied on both residential and commercial properties in our community.
We are currently building a new Station 5 that will be centrally located in the area it serves (on Morton Road between Mason Road and Raintree Village Drive). The Station 5 complex will not only be a state of the art fire station but is also the site of our future ESD48 administration offices and of our repair and support services facility. What’s more, when we open Fire Station 5 in the summer of 2016, it will be staffed around the clock.

We are committed to deliver excellence to the people we serve by providing a highly experienced emergency response team and state of the art equipment. HCESD 48 Fire Department is a full-spectrum life safety agency protecting people who live, work, and play in our community.

Department EMS ambulances transport people to area hospitals each day. The firefighters and EMS professionals respond to traffic accidents, medical and fire emergencies, and provide public education. Everyone at HCESD 48 Fire Department is dedicated to your safety. Each day we come to work and consider it a privilege to protect and serve.