

# CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2023 Annual Report



City of Mount Pleasant Fire Department  
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Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455  
903-575-4144

# Message from the Fire Chief

I am pleased to present the Mount Pleasant Fire Department's 2023 Annual Report for your review. It provides a summary of the activities and achievements of our members, as well as some statistical comparisons from years past.

We are fortunate to serve under the leadership of the Mayor, City Council and City Manager that want the best possible fire/rescue services for our citizens.



Going in to 2023 we were glad to have the fire protection agreement with the county in place for another 10 years and continue to grow our department to provide the best possible fire protection for the city as well as the county. However, only a few months into the year the county wanted to renegotiate the agreement and after months of trying, an agreement could not be reached. The county terminated the negotiations and executed the one year out clause in the agreement ending Mount Pleasant Fire Department providing fire protection for the county after September 30, 2024, which needless to say was very disappointing.

The city began working on what steps would need to be taken due to the loss of the \$1.3 million dollars of revenue from the county. 6 firefighter positions would need to be eliminated from the FY 24-25 budget. Knowing this, some of our firefighters have already left for other jobs, which reduces the number of firefighters on duty to respond to calls.

Our city continues to grow with new homes, town homes, apartments, hotel, hospital, shopping center, etc. being built which, over time, will help replace the lost revenue from the county through additional tax revenue. This will help to provide funding to restore the eliminated firefighter positions in the future.

However, in the meantime, the Mount Pleasant Fire Department will strive to provide the best possible fire protection services to the citizens of Mount Pleasant as well as those passing through or visiting our city.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature in red ink.

# MPFD Vision

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department is committed to providing trained and knowledgeable personnel prepared to respond to our growing community's needs. We strive to improve our organization, allowing us to provide the highest level of service possible to those in need.



# MPFD Mission Statement

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department is dedicated to protecting lives, property and community resources through prevention, preparation, response, and mitigation.

# MPFD Core Values



We will be guided by the following set of values:

**Commitment**-Dedication to our personal convictions for service to each other and the community.

**Accountability**-Holding ourselves and others accountable to a code of ethics derived from our own core values.

**Innovation**-Adapting to changing needs and technology, while respecting tradition.

**Service**-A calling to provide thoughtful customer care that exceeds expectations.



# Accomplishments

- Continued purchasing P-25 Compliant portable radios in order to migrate to the 700-meg radio system. P-25 is the standard established by the State.
- Continued the health and wellness program providing full body scans for firefighters to help determine if there are health issues that need to be addressed.



- Continued the program to provide every firefighter a second set of structural firefighting protective clothing to reduce their exposure to cancer causing contaminants from fighting a structure fire.

- A Citizens Fire Academy was held where



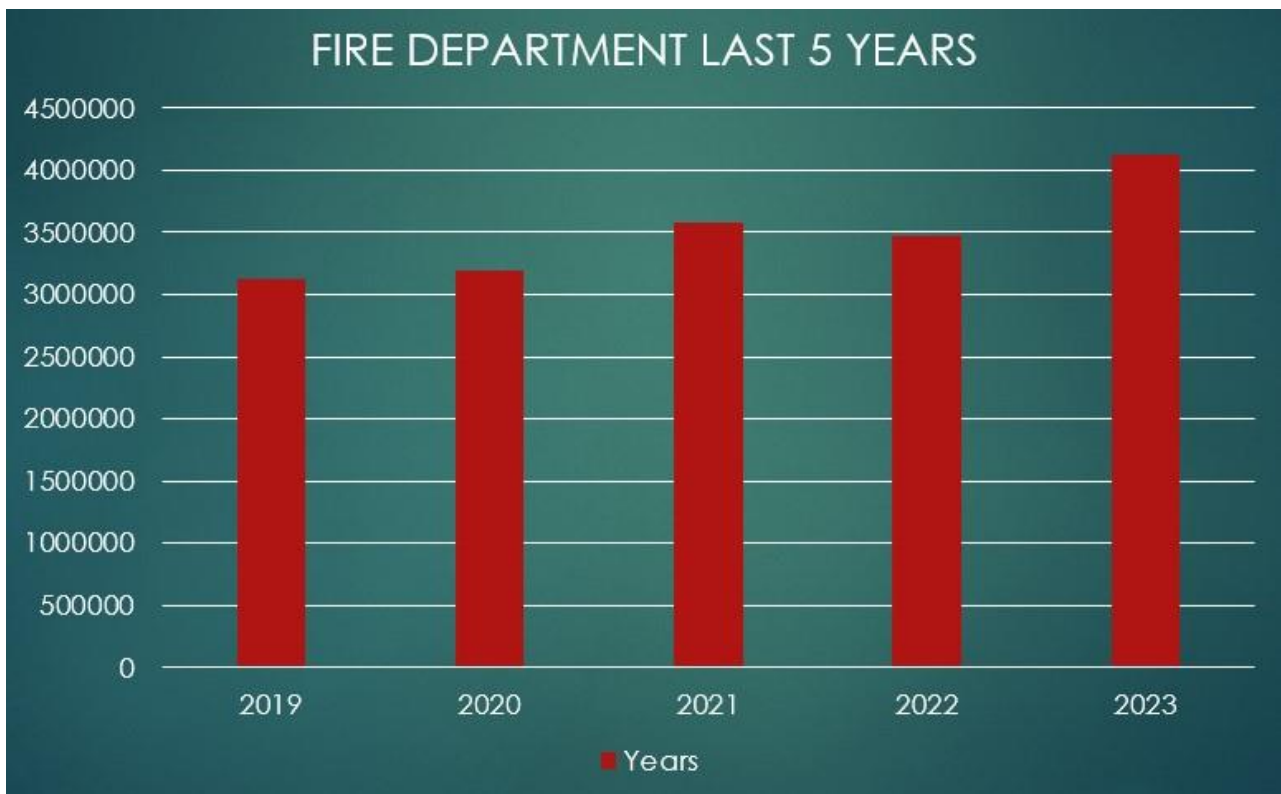
participants had the opportunity to learn about what firefighters do on the fire ground as well as at the station between calls.

- In partnership with Northeast Texas Community college, the 21<sup>st</sup> Fire Academy Class was conducted. The academy trains students to become firefighters for certification through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. Once they are certified they are eligible to go to work as career firefighters in Texas.



# Budget

The Fiscal Year 22-23 Fire Department budget was \$4,118,166 which includes the \$1.3 million Titus County contributed as part of the County Fire Protection Agreement with the City. **NOTE:** *Since the fire protection agreement with county ends September 30, 2024, the city will have to make adjustments to compensate for losing the \$1.3 million in revenue from the county. The adjustments will include eliminating 6 firefighter positions before October 1, 2024.*



# Personnel Years of Service

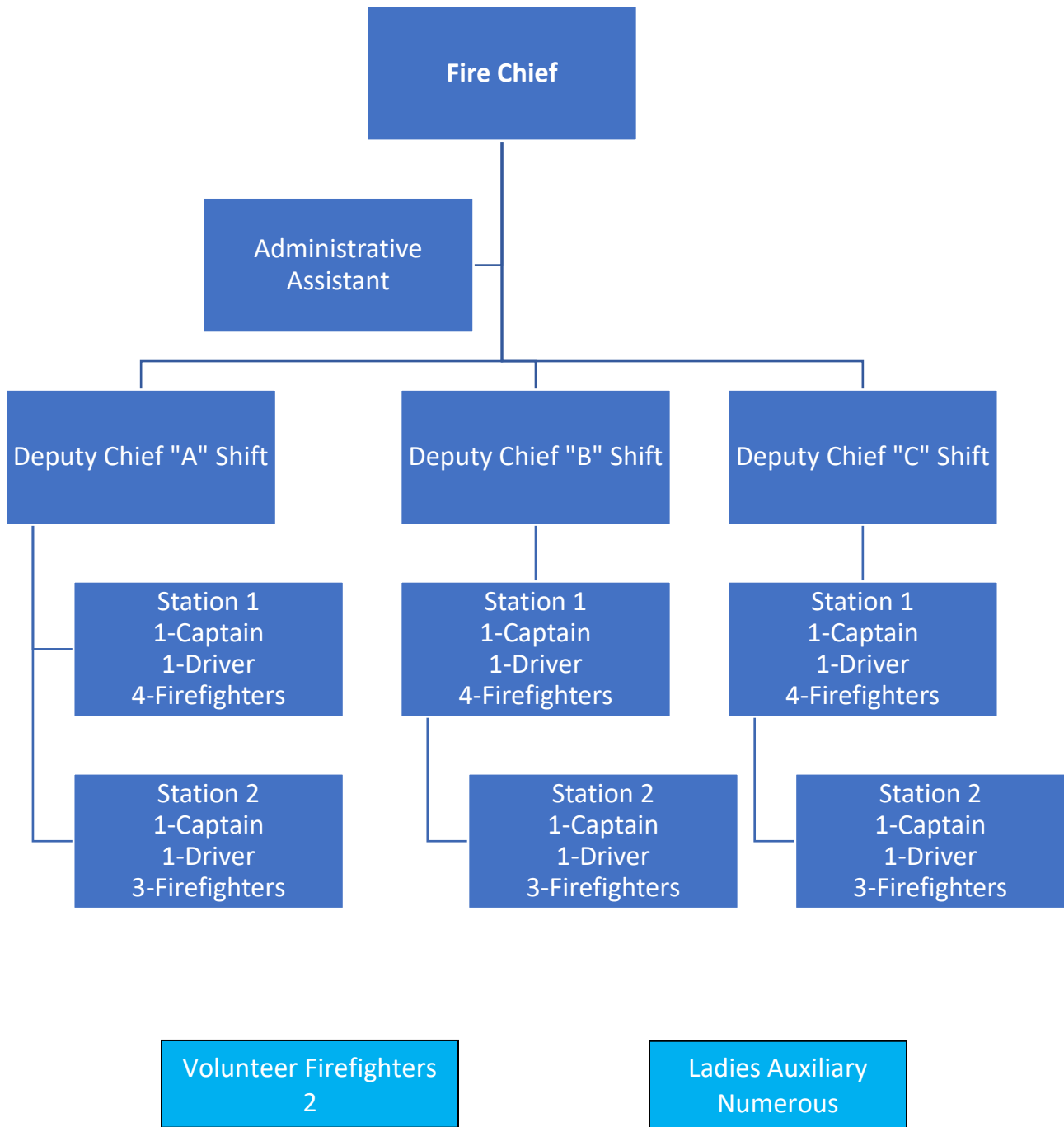
The Mount Pleasant Fire Department is fortunate to have officers and firefighters with many years of experience and training to provide fire/rescue for our residents as well as those who choose to travel through and/or stop and visit our community.

Command Staff	Years of Service	Firefighters	Years of Service
McRae, Larry	49	Sanders, Casey	27
Beard, Danny	36	Rosewell, Kenny	25
Eubanks, Brad	29	Riley, James	23
Decker, Adam	28	Cook, Adam	21
Singletary, Brandon	27	Hughes, Shannon	21
Hart, Eric	25	Craig, Cody	13
Rodriguez, Aristeo	25	Williams, Aaron	12
Clark, Otis	24	Brown, Kirk	9
Fry, Phil	21	Nugent, Aaron	9
Dunn, Nick	12	Sitzes, Adrian	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	Pipes, Ranson	7
<b>Average</b>	<b>27.6</b>	Daniels, Caleb	6
		Hall, Lance	6
		*Parkerson, JP	6
		Russell, Riley	4
		*Baker, Zachary	3
		Jackson, Jakob	3
		Collins, Jace	3
		Jessee, Trevor	3
		Hickey, Adam	2
		*Brown, Jacob	2
		Noll, Brandon	2
		Sessums, Connor	2
		Stockinger, Bradley	1
		Bassett, Josh	1
		Higginbotham, Chase	1
		Evans, Charles	1
		<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>
		<b>Average</b>	<b>8.2</b>

**COMBINED YEARS OF SERVICE  
497 YEARS  
AVERAGE COMBINED YEARS  
OF SERVICE  
13.4 YEARS**

\*These firefighters have already left the department for other jobs.

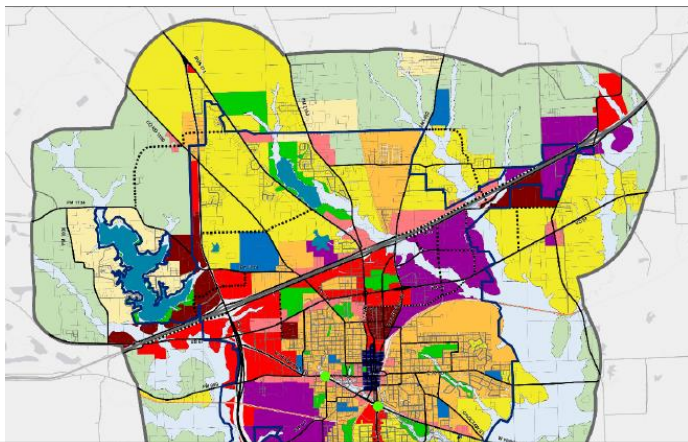
# Org Chart



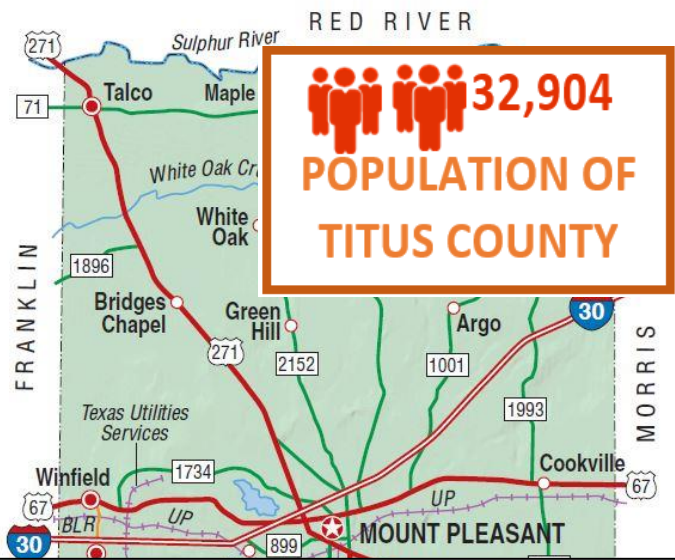
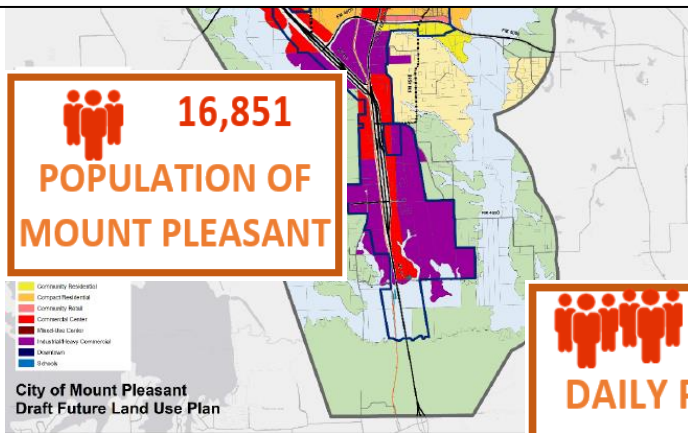


# Population/Areas Served

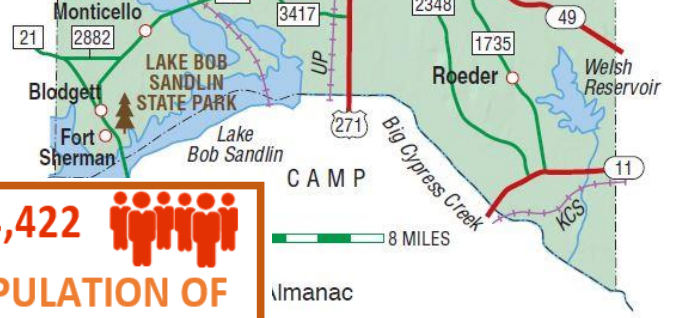
The City of Mount Pleasant and Titus County continues to attract new residents and businesses. Our proximity to mid-size cities such as Longview, Tyler and Texarkana as well as the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex provides easy access to what those locations have to offer, without having to live there. The access to transportation routes like I-30, Highways 271 and 49 are attractive to businesses. Mount Pleasant and Titus also have many things that draw people in daily. Mount Pleasant is a hub for Northeast Texas with a retail trade area population of 106,000. MPFD must be ready and able to meet the needs of our community.



City of Mount Pleasant-16 square miles



Titus County-426 square miles





# City/County Fire Protection Agreement

The Mt. Pleasant Fire Department has provided fire protection for the unincorporated area of Titus County for over 50 years. In 1997 the City entered into a Fire Protection Agreement with Titus County that outlined the responsibilities for the City and County as well as the cost to the county for the service. Over the years the agreement was renewed several times along with some amendments as well. The agreement set to expire in 2020 was extended 2 years and expired in 2022.



After months of negotiation, which included Judge Elect Cooper, the City and County agreed on a 10-year agreement in December of 2022. The county would pay the city \$1.3 million for the first two years and would negotiate the amount for the next 8 years. The county would also share the cost of purchasing new fire apparatus when needed, providing the city gives the county a 2-year notice of the need. The county would continue to get a response of 6-8 firefighters and multiple pieces of apparatus, which exceeded the requirements of the previous agreements.



However, the new County Judge and Commissioner took office in January 2023 and during the May 8, 2023, commissioners court meeting voted to send the City a new proposal. Negotiations began again with many offers back and forth between the City and County.

During the September 25, 2023, Commissioners Court meeting the court, in a 3-2 split vote, voted to execute the one year out clause in the agreement which would end the agreement on September 30, 2024. The court said they would continue to negotiate with the City but at the same time would pursue starting a county fire department.

The City's last offer was \$980,000 for the first year with a 3.5% increase for the next nine years. The County would have no other obligation other than the monthly payments and would know exactly what the cost of fire protection would be for the next 10 years. However, the County rejected the City's offer and during the December 11, 2023, court meeting voted to cease negotiations with the City and start a county fire department.

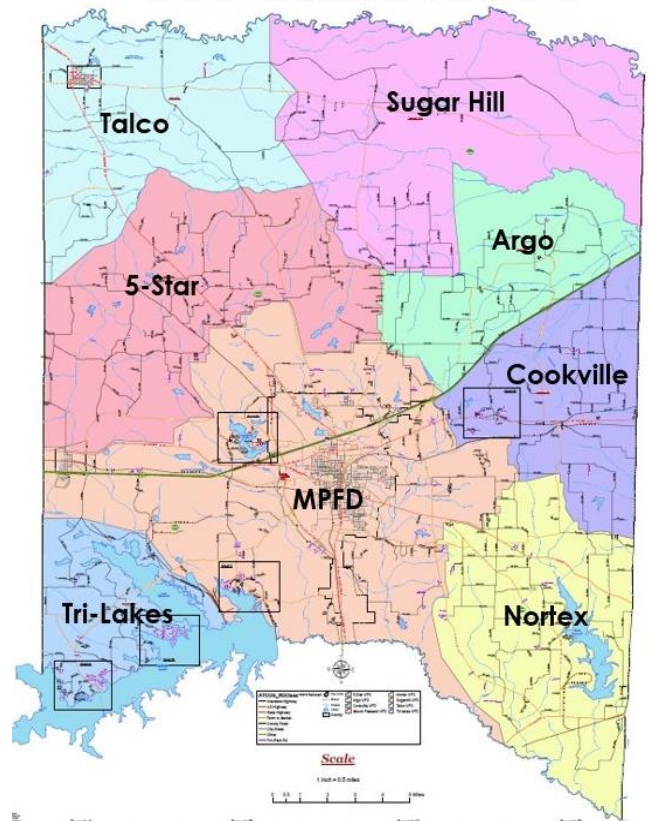
# Map with County Fire Districts

The County is divided into 8 fire districts, as shown on the map. MPFD is responsible for all incidents that occur in its district. MPFD is also responsible for the structure fires, vehicle accidents and any other incidents, other than grass and vehicle fires, in all the county fire districts, except for the Talco Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) district.

In 2014 the Winfield VFD disbanded due to lack of members. In 2021 the Sugar Hill VFD almost met the same fate. In 2018 the Argo VFD was formed in the area north of Interstate 30 that was once covered by the Cookville VFD. The VFDs are responsible for the vehicle and grass fires that occur in their districts. If the VFDs are not able to respond to the call or need assistance, MPFD will respond.

Just like VFDs across the State and Nation, our county VFDs struggle to get members that will dedicate the time and effort required to be an active and productive member of the department. MPFD appreciates the members of the county VFDs that do dedicate their time and effort to providing fire and rescue services to the citizens.

After September 30, 2024, MPFD will not be responsible for the incidents occurring in the MPFD county fire district.



# Response to Incidents

**These are only incidents where MPFD responded.**

## Response to Incidents City/County Combined

Incident Type	2022	2023	% up or down
Structure Fire	48	34	29.1%-
Vehicle Fire	34	34	0%
Grass Fire	159	70	55.9%-
MVA	208	192	7.6%-
EMS 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder	94	112	19.1%+
Vehicle Extrication	21	20	0.4%
False Alarms	157	163	3.8%+
Misc.	368	403	9.5%+
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1089</b>	<b>1028</b>	<b>5.6%-</b>

## Response to City Incidents Only

Incident Type	2022	2023	% up or down
Structure Fire	23	16	30.4%-
Vehicle Fire	14	15	7.1%+
Grass Fire	23	25	8.6%=
MVA	116	106	8.6%-
EMS 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder	83	97	16.8%=
Vehicle Extrication	7	7	0%
False Alarms	123	133	8.1+
Misc.	263	309	17.4%+
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>8.5%-</b>

**Response to County Incidents Only**

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>% up or down</b>
Structure Fire	25	18	28.8%-
Vehicle Fire	20	19	5.0%-
Grass Fire	136	45	66.9%-
MVA	92	86	6.5%-
EMS 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder	11	15	36.3%+
Vehicle Extrication	14	13	7.1%-
False Alarms	34	30	8.8%+
Misc.	105	94	46.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>26.7%-</b>

<b>INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO BY EACH MPFD STATION</b>	
<b>CENTRAL STATION</b>	<b>STATION 2</b>
<b>528</b>	<b>490</b>

**OVERLAPPING INCIDENTS**

Overlapping Incidents are those that occur at the same time as another incident. When this occurs, it could result in a delayed response, or no response to the overlapping call(s), if resources are already committed to the first incident and are unable to be released to respond to the overlapping incident(s).

**In 2023 155 (15.08%) of 1028 calls overlapped.**  
**In 2022 177 (16.25%) of 1089 calls overlapped.**



## Response to Significant Incidents-City

Type of Incident	Number of Incidents	Avg. Time per Incident	Total Avg. Time Spent on Incidents
Structure Fire	16	2 hours	32
Vehicle Fire	15		
Grass Fire	25	.75 hours	19
MVA	106	.75 hours	80
EMS	97		
Extrication	7	1 hour	7
False Alarms	133		
Misc.	309		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>708 (68.8%)</b> <b>154 (48.7%)</b>		<b>138 (43.1%)</b>

This is the amount/% of the 1,028 total incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 316 total significant incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 320 total hours spent on significant incidents in the city & county.

## Response to Significant Incidents-County

Type of Incident	Number of Incidents	Avg. Time per Incident	Total Avg. Time Spent on Incidents
Structure Fire	18	2 hours	36
Vehicle Fire	19		
Grass Fire	45	1.5 hours	68
MVA	86	.75 hours	65
EMS	15		
Extrication	13	1 hour	13
False Alarms	30		
Misc.	94		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>320 (31.1%)</b> <b>162 (51.2%)</b>		<b>182(56.8%)</b>

This is the amount/% of the 1,028 total incidents in the city & county.

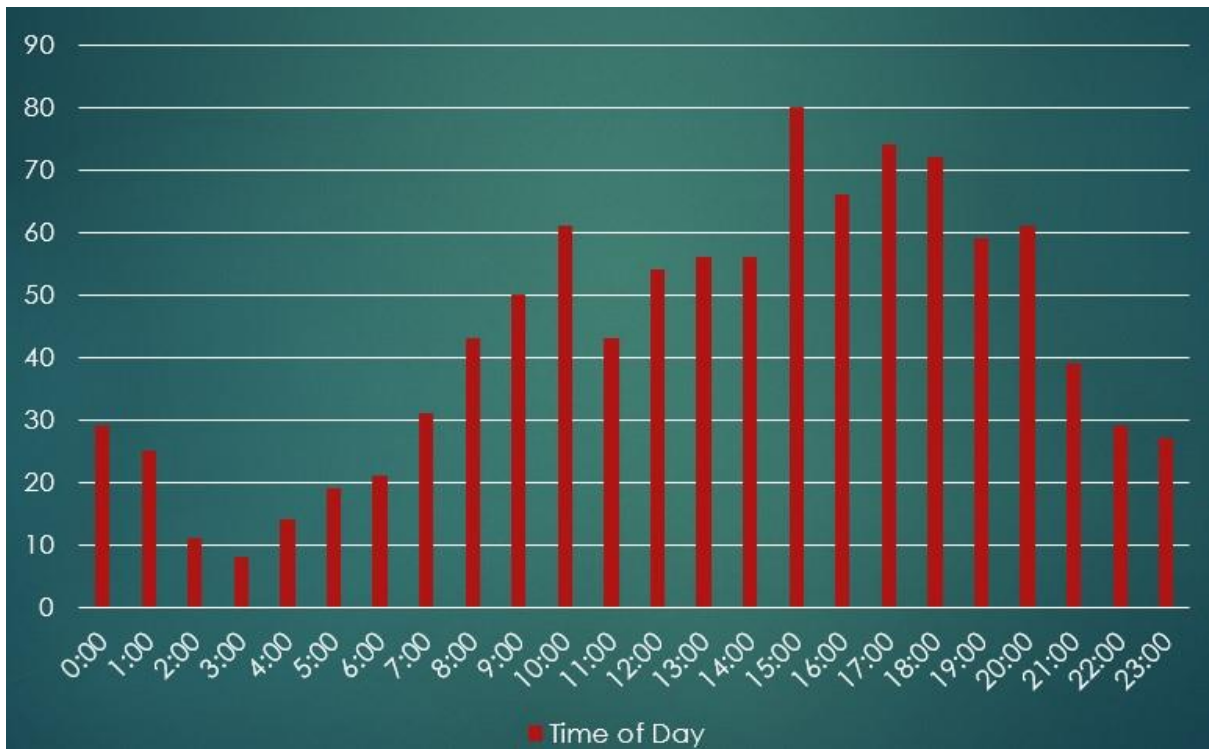
This is the amount/% of the 316 significant total incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 493 total hours spent on significant incidents in the city & county.

## Busiest Day of the Week



## Busiest Time of Day



# National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Response Times Standard for Structure Fires

NFPA response time standards for structure fires in cities are different from those for structure fires in rural areas.



**NATIONAL  
FIRE CODES®**

**City**-Standard is for the first arriving unit to arrive within 4 minutes of being dispatched 90% of the time. MPFD met the standard 92.3% of the time in 2023. The average response time was 4 minutes 0 seconds.

**Rural**-Standard is for the first arriving unit to arrive within 14 minutes 80% of the time. MPFD met the standard 88.0% of the time in 2023. The average response time was 10 minutes 45 seconds.

# Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS)



The Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) is coordinated by the Texas A&M Forest Service. TIFMAS is the framework through which fire & rescue agencies work together to provide support for incidents as diverse as hurricanes and wildfires. Local resources, including personnel and apparatus, are deployed at the request of the State to provide assistance. As a partner agency, the Mount Pleasant Fire Department has

deployed personnel and equipment as State assets since the beginning of TIFMAS and have played critical roles in major fires across Texas.

The State of Texas reimburses local governments for the cost of providing the resources and pays the costs of overtime to backfill those deployed so there is no expense to the City, in fact the City comes out on the positive side of the ledger. Additionally, the State has provided the Mount Pleasant Fire Department, at no cost, with a Type 6 Brush Truck to use during deployments. It can also be used to respond to fires locally when needed.

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department was not deployed to any incidents during 2023.



# Fire Stations

## Central Fire Station

Central Fire Station is located at 728 East Ferguson Road. It was



built in March 2001. It has administrative offices, living quarters, workout area, training room, male and female locker rooms, and apparatus bay.

## Fire Station 2

Station 2 is located at 1900 North Jefferson. It was originally built as the National Guard Armory in the 40's or 50's. However, in 2004 it was remodeled as a fire



station. It has living quarters, training room, male and female locker rooms, workout area, Captains office and apparatus bay. It also houses the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for Mount Pleasant.

The living area of the station was remodeled in 2022, which included new kitchen cabinets flooring and painting.

# Apparatus/Equipment

CENTRAL STATION		
Apparatus/Equipment	Year	Assignment
Ford F-150	2016	900 (Fire Chief)
Ford F-150	2021	C-1 (Deputy Chief)
Pierce Contender	2015	Engine 1
Pierce Saber	2008	Rescue 1
Spartan Gladiator	1996	Quint 1
Ford F-550	2013	Brush-13
**Ford F-350	2015	Brush-17
*Pierce Saber	2003	Reserve Engine
Ford F-350	2022	Support 11(tow vehicle)
Forest River	2009	Air Trailer
John Deere	1992	Plow
International	1990	Plow Transport
Continental Cargo	2009	Dive Trailer
Chevy Tahoe	2021	C-2

STATION 2		
Apparatus/Equipment	Year	Assignment
Pierce Saber	2020	Engine 2
Ford F-350	2020	Brush 15
Ford F-350	2017	Brush 18
Pierce	2002	Blocker 1
Chevy Silverado 1500	2021	C-3
*Ford F-350	2010	C-4 (tow vehicle for ICP)
Southfork	2020	Rescue Boat
WLCR	2005	Fire Prevention/rehab
*Forest River	2009	Mobile ICP
Ford/Boyer	1936	'36 Antique fire truck

\*These vehicles belong to the county.

\*\*Only the cab and chassis belong to the county.

# Public Fire Education

MPFD conducted fire prevention/safety programs in the 8 elementary schools in Mt. Pleasant and Titus County which includes approximately 1,800 students. Numerous station tours are provided for school groups throughout the year.



Fire extinguisher training is provided to local businesses, schools, etc., numerous times each year so they can put out a small fire before it gets out of control.

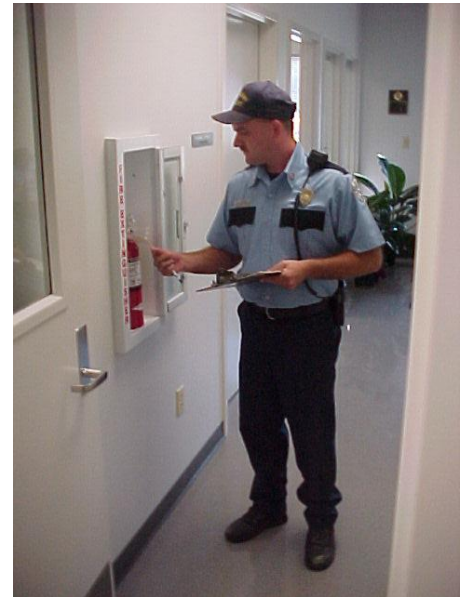




# Inspections/Pre-Fire Planning

Each year the Mount Pleasant Fire Department conducts inspections to ensure buildings are safe, find and eliminate fire hazards to hopefully prevent fires from occurring. Inspection includes multi-family residential units, commercial/business and mixed-use occupancies. There are 9 Texas Commission on Fire Protection certified fire inspectors in the department.

332 inspections were conducted in 2023.



In conjunction with the fire inspections, pre-fire planning is also conducted. A quality pre-fire plan offers advance knowledge of important issues such as building construction, building layout, hazardous materials storage, fire alarm or fire suppression system capabilities and special occupancy concerns.

The information is placed in a computer software program that can be accessed from the mobile devices in the command vehicles and engines in the event of a fire at the location.

## Building and Plan Review

MPFD is part of the City's Development Review Committee (DRC). It is made up of representatives of the Planning, Building, Code Enforcement, Streets, Utilities, Engineering, and Inspections departments. The DRC meets with developers to make sure the needs of departments are met and allows the developer to ask questions, so they are clear on what is expected from the City for the project. This allows any issues there might with the project to be addressed at the beginning and not after it is underway, which could delay the project.



# Technical Rescue

## Vehicle Extrication

Of the significant incidents MPFD responds to, the number of vehicle accidents is at the top of the list. We have state-of-the-art rescue tools and equipment and personnel trained and experienced in vehicle extrication. Fighting a structure fire is dangerous but conducting vehicle extrication on the Interstate or other major highways is more dangerous. At structure fires, based on the size-up, we will decide if placing our personnel in harm's way is justified or not. On a vehicle accident with people trapped, we have no choice but to go to work to rescue them. We attempt to make the scene as safe as possible, but we have had numerous close calls while operating at vehicle accidents due to driver inattention. **In 2023 20 people were extricated from vehicles involved in vehicle accidents in.**



## Water Rescue

Mt. Pleasant Fire Department provides the citizens of Mt. Pleasant and Titus County with a water rescue and recovery dive team. We currently have 14 certified divers equipped with a rescue boat, and water rescue/dive trailer loaded with a wide array of equipment used for dive operations. In our jurisdiction, we cover various creeks, rivers, ponds, lakes, and water ways and also provide mutual aid to surrounding counties. The dive team has mandatory annual open water training in local swimming pools and lakes in Titus County. In 2023 MPFD responded to a total of six water search and rescue related calls that occurred both day and night. The dive team completed five training sessions during 2023. The dive team is subject to be called out at any time of the year for water rescue incidents.



## High Angle

High angle rescue is a specialized skill that members have trained on for years. Although the number of incidents is small, the complexity of these calls requires ongoing training to keep our personnel proficient in the skills needed for the task. We have a number of areas in our county such as water towers, multi-story buildings and industrial complexes where there is potential for our services.



# Training

The Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) regulates career fire departments and firefighters in Texas. Most of the other States do not have any regulatory authority over fire departments and firefighters. For a person to become a career firefighter in Texas they must complete a Basic Structural Firefighter training academy consisting of approximately 478 hours of classroom and hands on training.



In addition to the initial training, firefighters must have a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education training annually to maintain their certifications and employment. Our department believes every day is a training day. Training may be as little as discussing an article from a fire service periodical around the kitchen table to multi hour training sessions with all on duty personnel participating in live fire evolutions. **A total of 3,007 hours of training were obtained by members this year.** TCFP offers numerous other certifications, and our members routinely take advantage of obtaining them. Listed below are certifications that were obtained this year by members:

3-Intermediate firefighter  
3-Driver/Operator  
1-Fire Instructor 1  
1-Fire Investigator  
1-Intermediate Fire Inspector

1-Incident Safety Officer  
1-Fire Officer 1  
1-Paramedic

**NOTE:** There is no State regulatory agency in Texas for volunteer firefighters and departments. Volunteer firefighters are not required to have any training however, the county fire chiefs agree that volunteer firefighters need to be trained. MPFD has provided training opportunities to all the county volunteer firefighters through on-line, classroom and hands-on training.

# Insurance Service Office (ISO)

ISO collects information on fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. ISO analyzes the relevant data using their Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). They then assign a Public Protection Classification (PPC) from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally speaking represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program doesn't meet the ISO's minimum criteria.



The program provides a countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting facilities, equipment, personnel, and training. The PPC provides incentives and rewards by securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services. The FSRS considers four areas of a community's fire suppression system:

## Fire Department

- Training
- Number of personnel
- Response to Emergencies
- Maintenance and Testing of Equipment

## Water Supply

- Sufficient Water Supply
- Fire Hydrant Inspection and Testing
- Number and Location of Hydrants

## Emergency Communications

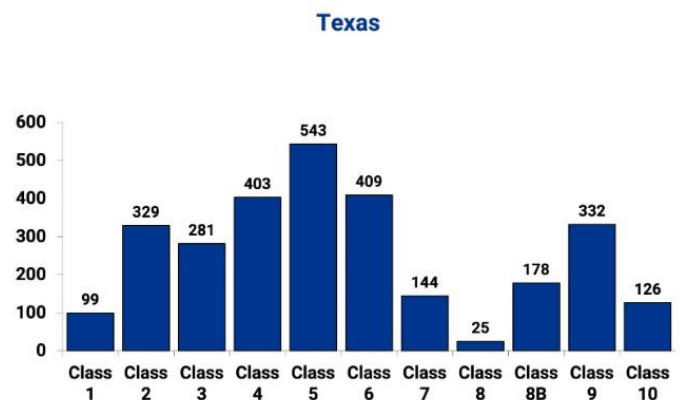
- Emergency Reporting
- Communications Center
- Number of Telecommunicators
- Computer Aided Dispatch
- Dispatch Circuits

## Community Risk Reduction

- Fire Prevention
- Fire Safety Education
- Fire Investigation

The residents inside the City of Mount Pleasant enjoy a Class 3 rating. As shown on the graph below, only 281 locations in the State have achieved a Class 3 rating.

The County Fire District outside the City that MPFD is responsible for has a split classification of 3/9. The 3 applies to property within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant and 5 miles of one of our fire stations. The 9 would apply for the rest.





# Emergency Management

By Texas Law the County Judge of a County and/or the Mayor of a City are designated as the Emergency Management Director for their jurisdiction. They usually appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) to take care of the day-to-day operations and to serve as an adviser to them during a major disaster. Except for the counties/cities with large populations, most of the County Judges and Mayors agree to appoint one person to serve as the EMC for whole county and they operate under one Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).



In years past Titus County followed the best practices described above and had one Emergency Management Plan that included all the cities in the County as well as the unincorporated areas of the county. For the past 18 years the Mt. Pleasant Fire Chief served as the EMC for the entire county. However, with the election of the new County Judge he decided the county needed their own Emergency Management Plan and EMC. So as of August 2023, the Mt. Pleasant Fire Chief was replaced with a new EMC for the county and the county established their own EOP.

The City of Mt. Pleasant has established an EOP for the city and the Mt. Pleasant Fire Chief serves as the EMC.



The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is in MPFD Fire Station #2. In the event of a disaster this is where leaders would come to support the units operating in the field.

One of the responsibilities of the EMC is to prepare the community to respond to disasters such as tornados, ice storms, school shootings, etc. This is accomplished by working together and developing relationships prior to a disaster occurring by conducting exercises.

Every year since 2004 we have conducted annual exercises to prepare our community. In May 2023, the Mt. Pleasant Fire Chief serving as the Countywide EMC, developed a full-scale exercise for an active shooter in a school. It involved approximately 200 people from City, County and MPISD law enforcement, EMS, Fire and hospital personnel along with the students, staff and administration from MPISD. Clicking on the link below will reveal a video documenting the exercise.

<https://mpcity.net/protecting-our-students-and-community>





*“When duty calls, ‘tis ours to obey.”*

*Established 1903*



