

CITY OF MOUNT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT



2025 Annual Report



City of Mount Pleasant Fire Department
728 East Ferguson Road
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455
903-575-4144

Message from the Fire Chief

I am pleased to present the Mount Pleasant Fire Department's 2025 Annual Report. This report highlights the activities, accomplishments, and dedication of our members, while also providing important statistical comparisons of prior years that help illustrate the evolving demands placed on our department.

We are fortunate to serve a community that values public safety and supports high-quality fire and rescue services. The continued leadership and commitment of our Mayor, City Council, and City Manager allow us to focus on delivering the best possible service to the citizens of Mount Pleasant and the surrounding areas.



2025 marked the second year of providing fire protection services to Titus County under the fire protection agreement between the City and County, which included a 50 percent reduction in funding from the previous agreement. Despite these financial challenges, the department was able to restore one of the five firefighter positions, helping us better meet service demands while maintaining operational readiness.

As reflected in this report, overall incident activity increased by 7.8 percent in 2025. Notably, incidents within Titus County rose by 17.1 percent, compared to a 3.1 percent increase within the city. This continued growth in call volume underscores the expanding service demands placed on our personnel and resources.

The City of Mount Pleasant experienced continued growth throughout 2025. The development projects such as Anderson Town Crossing, new and expanding apartment complexes, 2 national chain stores chose to come to Mount Pleasant and increased other retail activity are reshaping our community. The new CHRISTUS medical facility was largely completed in 2025 and is scheduled to open in February 2026, while plans for several new hotels were submitted with construction expected to begin in 2026. These developments, along with increased vehicle traffic and visitors, will continue to impact the demand for fire and emergency services.

Despite these challenges, the members of the Mount Pleasant Fire Department remain committed to professionalism, preparedness, and service. I am proud of their dedication and resilience as they adapt to growth, increased call volume, and evolving community needs. It is an honor to serve alongside such a capable and committed team, and we look forward to continuing to protect and serve our community in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

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

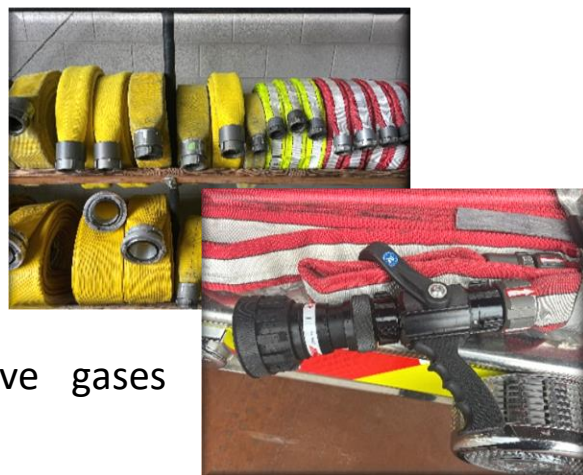
- Continued the purchase of **P-25–compliant portable radios** to support migration to the **700 MHz radio system**. P-25 is the communications standard established by the State. The 700 MHz radios provide improved in-building coverage and greater transmission range.
- Discussions were continued with the Titus County Sheriff's Department, Titus Regional EMS, as well as the city and county school districts and college, regarding migration to the 700 MHz radio system owned and operated by the Mount Pleasant Police Department. The ultimate goal is to establish a Central Dispatch Center within the Police Department to provide seamless, coordinated dispatching for first responders serving both the City and the County. Communication challenges have consistently been identified as one of the top one to three areas needing improvement in after-action reviews from exercises and real-world incidents. Migration of all first responders to the 700 MHz system will virtually eliminate these communication issues.



- Continued the program that gives every firefighter a second set of turnout gear. This helps reduce exposure to cancer-causing contaminants after fighting structure fires. Cancer is one of the leading causes of firefighter deaths.
- Updated the alerting systems in both stations that is used to alert the firefighters of a call.

- Purchased new hoses and nozzles that allow applying water more efficiently to fires.

- Purchased gas monitoring meters to be better prepared when responding to incidents where toxic and/or explosive gases may be involved.



- Replaced out of date thermal imaging cameras with new ones that provide more accurate readings/view. The cameras allow firefighters to “see thru smoke” by detecting heat. These make locating victims in a fire quicker and/or helps find hot spots that might not otherwise be detected.



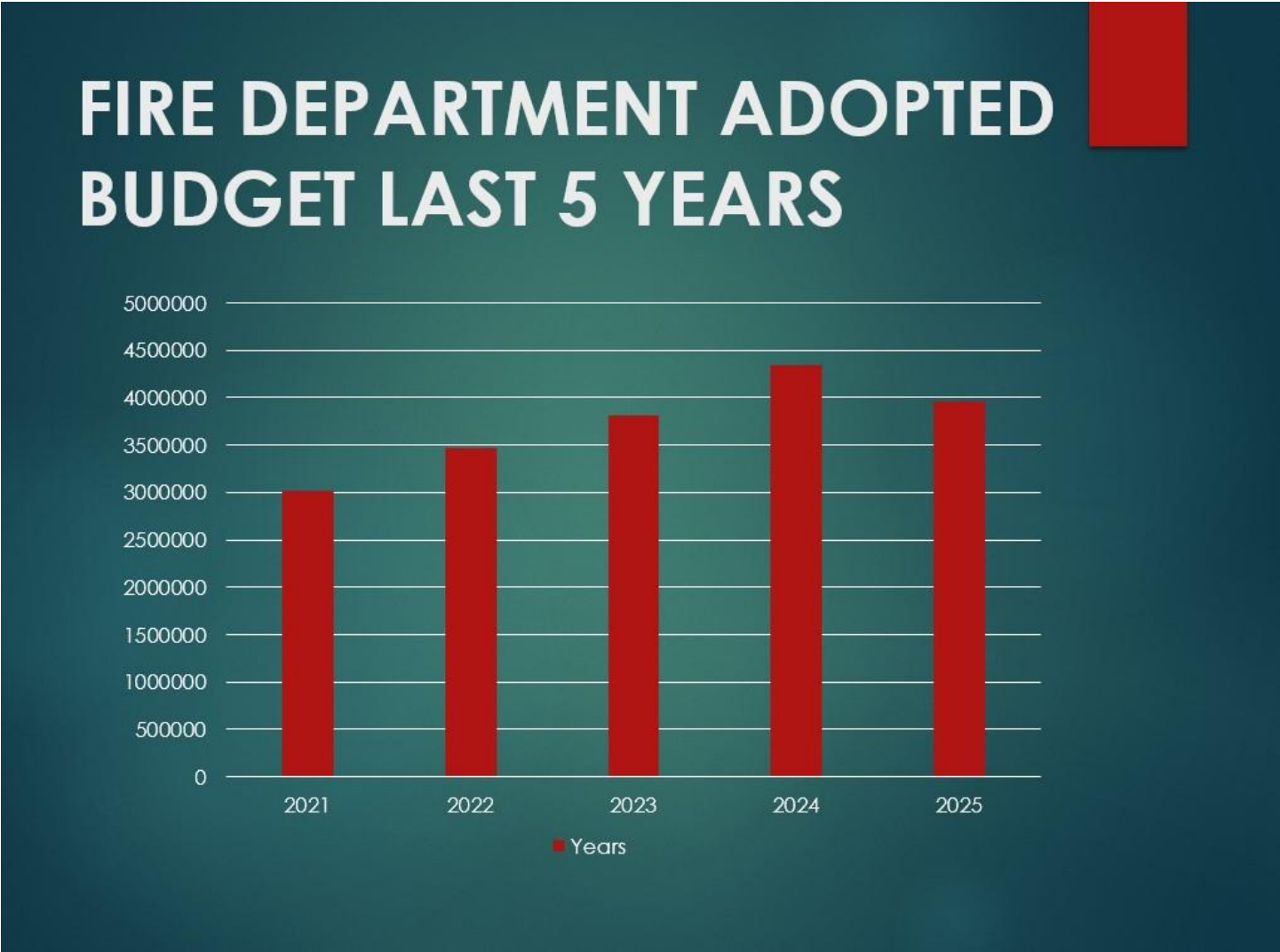
- Filled one of the five positions we lost when funding was reduced. Peyton Willis is our newest firefighter.



Budget

2025 marked the second consecutive year that the City received \$650,000 less from Titus County for providing fire protection services within the county. As a result, the Fire Department’s budget was reduced to \$3,965,568 for 2025—approximately a 9% decrease from the 2024 budget, as illustrated in the graph below.

Under the current fire protection agreement, the amount paid by the county to the City remains fixed for the full ten-year term unless both parties agree to an increase. If county funding is not increased, the City will be responsible for absorbing any future cost increases necessary to operate the Fire Department safely and efficiently.

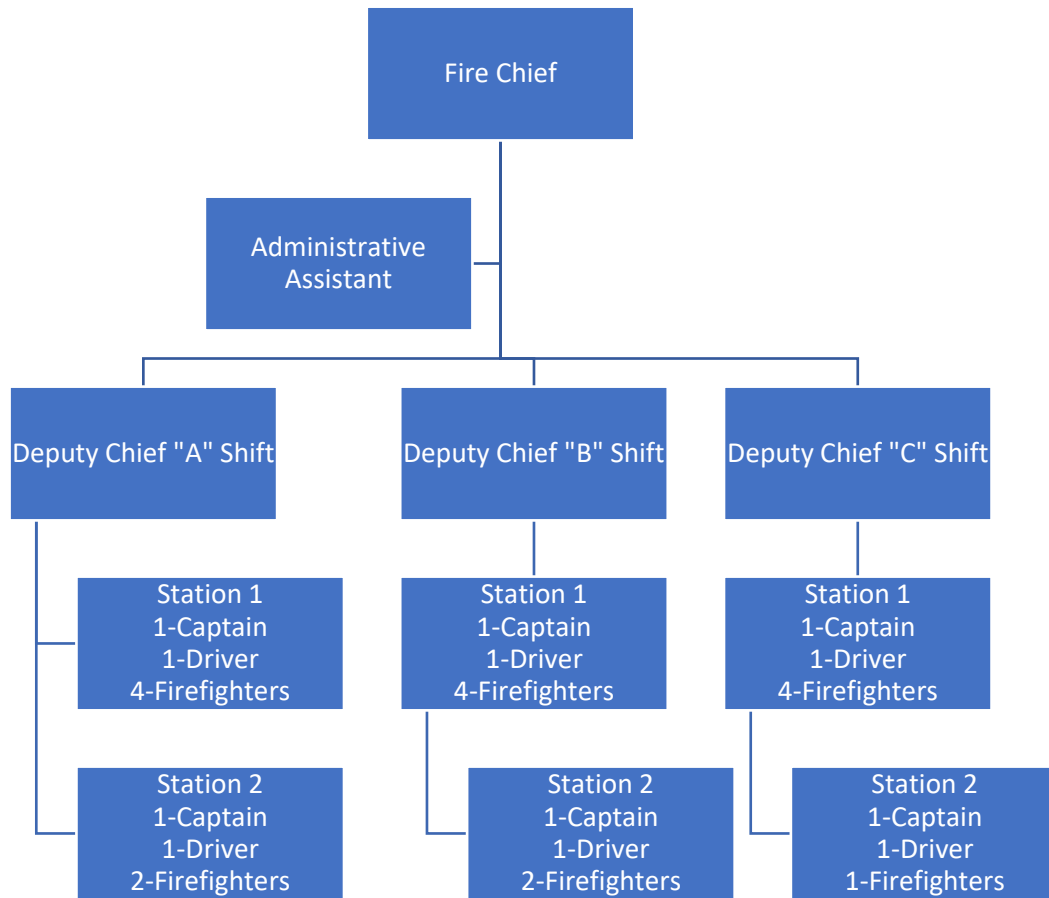


Personnel Years of Service

The Mount Pleasant Fire Department is fortunate to have officers and firefighters with many years of experience and training to provide fire/rescue services for our community 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	51	Rosewell, Kenny	27
Beard, Danny	38	Riley, James	25
Eubanks, Brad	33	Fry, Phil	23
Decker, Adam	30	Cook, Adam	23
Sanders, Casey	29	Hughes, Shannon	23
Hart, Eric	27	Craig, Cody	15
Rodriguez Aristeo	27	Williams, Aaron	14
Clark, Otis	26	Brown, Kirk	11
Dunn, Nick	14	Sitzes, Adrian	12
Pipes, Ranson	10	Daniels, Caleb	8
Total	285	Hall, Lance	8
Average	28.5	Stockinger, Bradley	8
COMBINED YEARS OF SERVICE 528.4 YEARS AVERAGE COMBINED YEARS OF SERVICE 15.1 YEARS		Russell, Riley	6
		Jessee, Trevor	6
		Collins, Jace	5
		Sessums, Connor	4
		Noll, Brandon	3
		Hickey, Adam	3
		Higginbotham, Chase	3
		Bassett, Josh	2
		Evans, Charles	2
		Cowan, Cannon	.6
		Hughes, Dylan	.6
		Willis, Peyton	.2
		Total	216
		Average	9.8

Org Chart*



Volunteer Firefighters
2

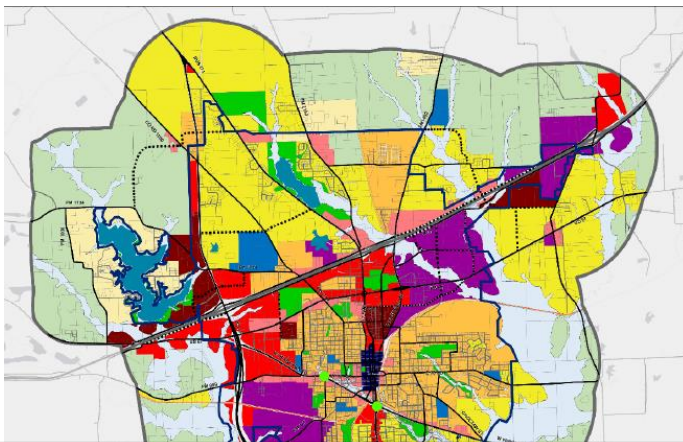
Ladies Auxiliary
Numerous

*Due to the loss of 4 firefighter positions, 2 shifts have 11 on duty and 1 shift has 10 on duty.

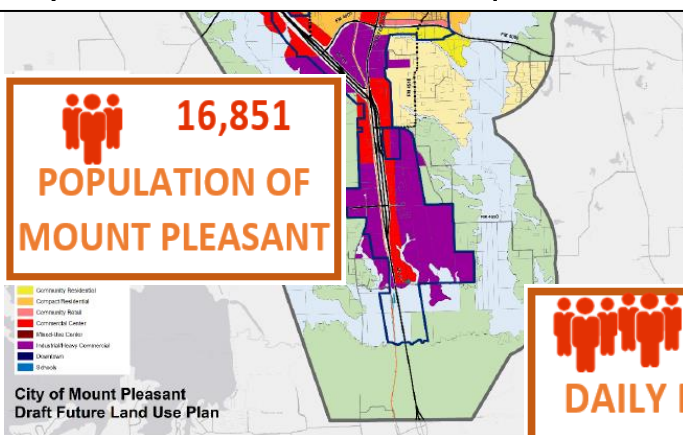
MINIMUM STAFFING IS 8 FIREFIGHTERS ON DUTY

Population/Areas Served

The City of Mount Pleasant and Titus County continue 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 County also have many things that draw people daily. Mount Pleasant is a hub for Northeast Texas with a retail trade area population of 106,000. MPFD



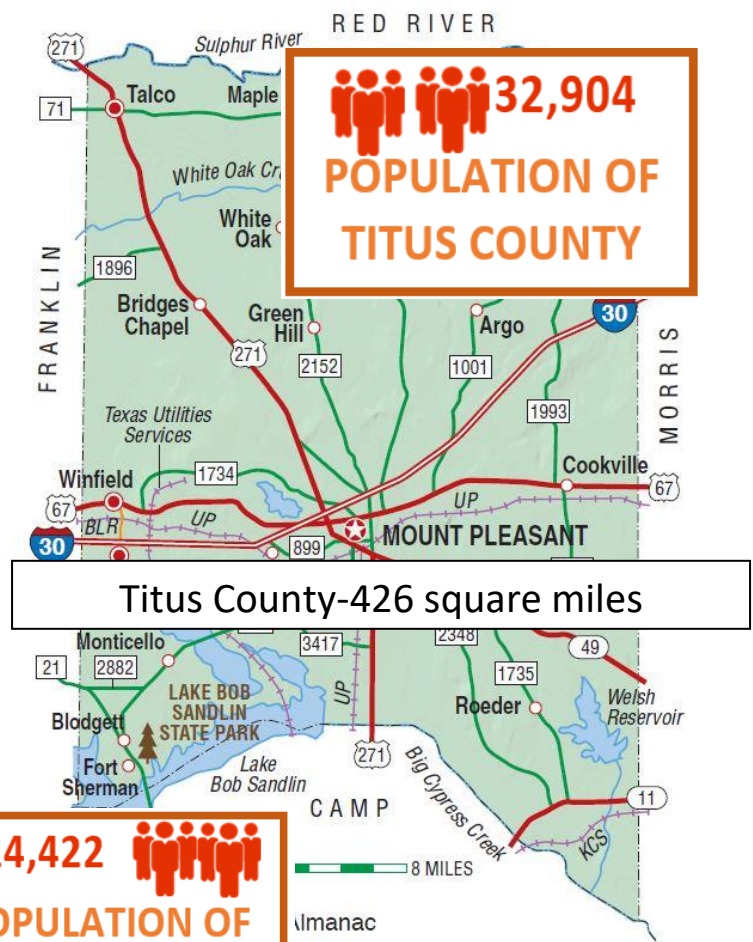
City of Mount Pleasant-16 square miles



16,851
POPULATION OF
MOUNT PLEASANT

City of Mount Pleasant
Draft Future Land Use Plan

24,422
DAILY POPULATION OF
MOUNT PLEASANT



Titus County-426 square miles

Response to Incidents

These are only incidents where MPFD responded.

Response to Incidents City/County Combined

Incident Type	2024	2025	% up or down
Structure Fire	50	34	-32.0%
Vehicle Fire	37	32	-13.5%
Grass Fire	66	102	+54.5%
MVA	200	167	-16.5%
EMS 1 st Responder	114	98	-14.0%
Vehicle Extrication	14	18	+28.6%
False Alarms	118	135	+14.4%
Misc.	289	371	+28.4%
TOTAL	888	957	+7.8%

Response to City Incidents Only

Incident Type	2024	2025	% up or down
Structure Fire	21	17	-19.0%
Vehicle Fire	18	13	-27.8%
Grass Fire	19	23	+21.1%
MVA	114	91	-20.2%
EMS 1 st Responder	91	86	-5.5%
Vehicle Extrication	6	4	-33.3%
False Alarms	100	113	+13.8%
Misc.	220	260	+18.2%
TOTAL	589	607	+3.1%

Response to County Incidents Only

Incident Type	2024	2025	% up or down
Structure Fire	29	17	-41.4%
Vehicle Fire	18	19	+5.6%
Grass Fire	47	79	+68.1%
MVA	86	76	-11.6%
EMS 1 st Responder	23	12	-47.8%
Vehicle Extrication	8	14	+75.0%
False Alarms	18	22	+22.2%
Misc.	70	111	+58.6%
TOTAL	299	350	+17.1%

INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO BY EACH MPFD STATION

CENTRAL STATION	STATION 2
465	492

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 2025 70 (7.31%) of 957 calls overlapped
In 2024 98 (11.04%) of 888 calls overlapped

⋮

Response to Significant Incidents-City

TOTAL CITY INCIDENTS 2025

Type of Incident	Number of Incidents	Avg. Time per Incident	Total Avg. Time Spent on Incidents
Structure Fire	17	2 hours	34
Vehicle Fire	13		
Grass Fire	23	.75 hours	17
MVA	91	.75 hours	68
EMS	86		
Extrication	4	1 hour	4
False Alarms	113		
Misc.	260		
TOTAL	607 (63.4%) 135 (42.1%)		123 (35.4%)

This is the amount/% of the 957 total incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 321 total significant incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 347 total hours spent on significant incidents in the city & county.

Response to Significant Incidents-County

TOTAL COUNTY INCIDENTS 2025

Type of Incident	Number of Incidents	Avg. Time per Incident	Total Avg. Time Spent on Incidents
Structure Fire	17	2 hours	34
Vehicle Fire	19		
Grass Fire	79	1.5 hours	119
MVA	76	.75 hours	57
EMS	12		
Extrication	14	1 hour	14
False Alarms	22		
Misc.	111		
TOTAL	350 (36.6%) 186 (57.9%)		224 (64.6%)

This is the amount/% of the 957 total incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 321 total significant incidents in the city & county.

This is the amount/% of the 347 total hours spent on significant incidents in the city & county.

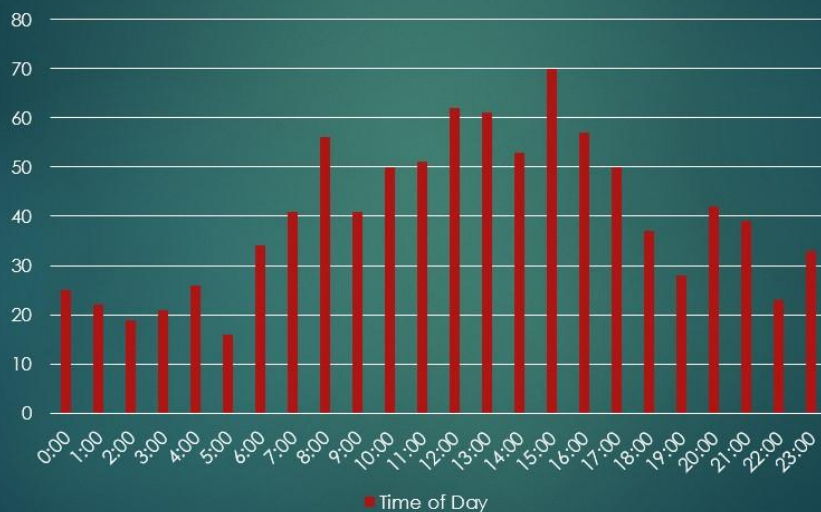
Busiest Day of the Week

Busiest day of the week 2025



Busiest Time of Day

Busiest Time of Day 2025



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 88.2% of the time in 2025. The average response time was 4 minutes 39 seconds.

Rural-Standard is for the first arriving unit to arrive within 14 minutes 80% of the time. MPFD met the standard 88.2% of the time in 2025. The average response time was 9 minutes 57 seconds.

Structure & Grass Fire Causes/Outcome

Structure Fire-City	
*Saved:	88.2%
Causes:	Cooking, Electrical, Smoking, Candles, Undetermined
Fatalities:	None
Structure Fire-County	
*Saved:	58.8%
Causes:	Cooking, Electrical, Smoking, Candles, Undetermined
Fatalities:	None
Grass Fires-City	
Control Burns	62.5%
Other	Lighting, side of road, arson, flat tire, undetermined
Grass Fires-County	
Control Burns	59.0%
Other	Side of road, electrical arc, equipment, undetermined

*Not necessarily occupiable, but belonging such guns, photo albums, prom/wedding dresses, keep sakes that could not be replaced were saved.

Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS)



The Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) is a statewide mutual-aid program that allows Texas fire departments to share personnel, apparatus, and equipment during large-scale emergencies when local resources are overwhelmed. TIFMAS supports responses to wildfires as well as all-hazards incidents, including hurricanes, floods, and other major disasters.

TIFMAS is managed by the Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) and activated through and supported by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). Participating fire departments provide trained and certified resources, which are deployed and coordinated at the regional and state levels. This statewide framework allows departments to assist one another efficiently without the need for separate local mutual-aid agreements.

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.

As a partner agency, the Mount Pleasant Fire Department has deployed personnel and equipment as state assets since TIFMAS was established in 2011. The department has played a vital role in numerous major emergency responses across Texas. Most recently, in 2025, the Mount Pleasant Fire Department deployed resources to assist with response and recovery efforts following the catastrophic flooding in Kerrville.

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.



Repairs were made to the roof and area around the windows on the south side in 2025 to stop leaks during rain events.

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
Southfork	2020	Rescue Boat
WLCR	2005	Fire Prevention/rehab
Ford/Boyer	1936	'36 Antique fire truck

*This vehicle belongs 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 2,500 students. Numerous station tours are provided for school groups throughout the year.



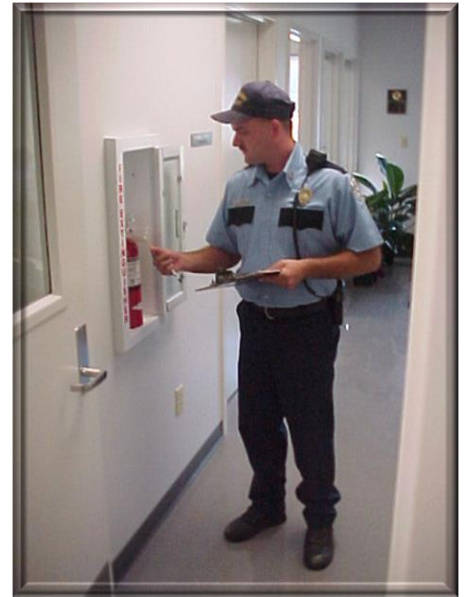
Fire extinguisher training is provided to local businesses, schools, etc., numerous times each year so they can put out a small fire before it gets out of control.



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 11 Texas Commission on Fire Protection certified fire inspectors in the department.

294 inspections were conducted in 2025. Inspections are scheduled every 1, 2, or 3 years depending on whether the occupancy is classified as low, moderate or high risk.



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 mobile devices in the command vehicles and engines in the event of a fire at the location.

Building and Plan Review

MPFD is an active participant in the City's Development Review Committee (DRC), working alongside Planning, Building, Code Enforcement, Streets, Utilities, Engineering, and Inspections. By meeting with developers early in the planning process, the committee helps ensure projects meet City requirements while allowing questions to be addressed upfront. This early collaboration helps prevent delays, supports responsible development, and contributes to safe, well-planned growth in the community.

Technical Rescue

Vehicle Accidents/Extrication



MPFD takes extensive measures to secure accident scenes, including apparatus placement, traffic control, and coordination with law enforcement. 58% of the significant incidents we responded to in 2025 were motor vehicle accidents. Despite these efforts, driver inattention continues to create dangerous situations, resulting in numerous close calls for emergency responders. In 2025, MPFD firefighters

extricated 18 people from vehicles involved in motor vehicle accidents, highlighting both the frequency of these incidents and the critical role the department plays in protecting lives on our roadways.

Water Rescue

The Mt. Pleasant Fire Department provides the citizens of Mt. Pleasant and Titus County with a dedicated water rescue and recovery dive team. The team consists of 14 certified divers and is fully equipped with a rescue boat and a water rescue/dive trailer stocked with a wide range of specialized diving and rescue equipment.



Within our jurisdiction, the team responds to incidents involving creeks, rivers, ponds, lakes, and other waterways, and also provides mutual aid to surrounding counties when requested. Fortunately, the department did not respond to any water-related incidents in 2025. However, the dive team remains on call year-round and is available at any time for water rescue or recovery operations.

High Angle Rescue



High-angle rescue is a highly specialized capability requiring extensive and ongoing training. While the number of high-angle rescue incidents remains low, the complexity and risk associated with these operations necessitate continued training to maintain personnel proficiency and operational readiness. The city and county contains several locations where high-angle rescue services may be required,

including water towers, multi-story buildings, and industrial facilities. No high-angle rescue incidents were recorded in 2025.

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 2,634 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:

2-Intermediate firefighter	1-Fire Officer 1
5-Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations	1-Fire Officer 2
5-Rope Rescue Technician	1-Fire Instructor 1

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 provides training opportunities to all the county volunteer firefighters through on-line, classroom and hands-on training.

(rest of page intentionally left blank)

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

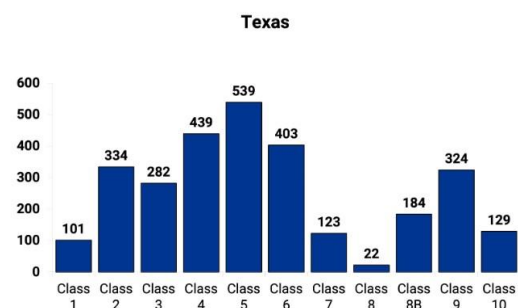
- Emergency Reporting
- Communications Center
- Number of Telecommunicators
- Computer Aided Dispatch
- Dispatch Circuits

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 282 locations in the State have achieved a Class 3 rating.

Almost all insurance companies use the PPC rating in determining insurance rates.



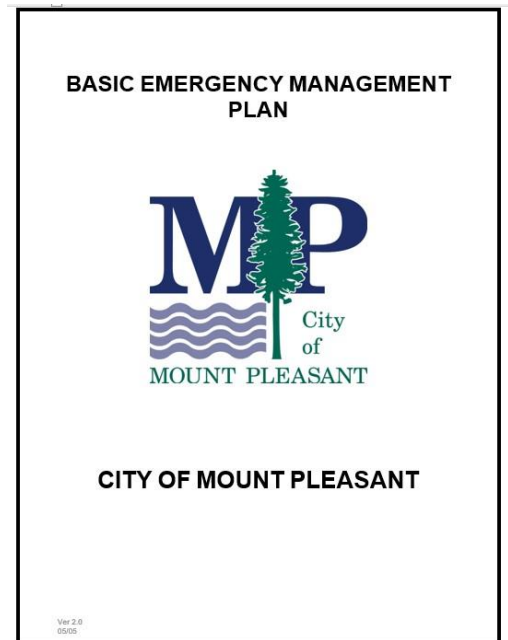
Emergency Management

Under Texas law, the Mayor of a city is designated as the Emergency Management Director and is responsible for maintaining emergency management programs within their jurisdiction. The Mayor may appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) to manage day-to-day emergency management operations and to serve as an advisor during major disasters and other emergency-related matters. The Mayor of the City of Mount Pleasant has appointed the Fire Chief to serve as the City's Emergency Management Coordinator.

One of the primary responsibilities of the EMC is to ensure the community is prepared to respond effectively to disasters such as tornadoes, ice storms, and active shooter incidents. This preparedness is achieved through collaboration, planning, and relationship-building among city departments and partner agencies before an incident occurs, as well as through regular training and exercises.

Emergency management operations for the City of Mount Pleasant are conducted in accordance with the City's Emergency Management Basic Plan and its 22 Functional Annexes. This plan is reviewed annually by local officials and is submitted to the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) every five years for approval.

The City operates an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at Fire Station #2. During major incidents, such as a tornado, city department directors, along with hospital and EMS leadership, assemble at the EOC to coordinate and manage the response. The EOC is equipped with a backup generator, radios, telephones, satellite phones, internet access, maps, and display monitors to



Emergency Management (cont.)



support situational awareness and decision-making. In the event of a complete failure of internet and phone services, the EOC maintains radio capabilities programmed to communicate with all Emergency Operations Centers within the Ark-Tex Council of Governments' nine-county region. An alternate EOC may be established at Central Fire Station if needed, and a Mobile

Command Post is available for deployment to an incident scene when required.

Since 2004, the City of Mount Pleasant has conducted at least one emergency management exercise annually. These exercises have ranged from tabletop exercises to full-scale exercises. Tabletop exercises are conducted in a low-stress environment where participants discuss simulated emergency scenarios to evaluate plans and procedures and identify areas for improvement. Six exercises conducted as early as 2006 focused on responses to active shooter incidents. Functional exercises expand on tabletop exercises by simulating the movement of personnel and resources, while full-scale exercises involve real personnel and equipment to create the most realistic training environment possible. In 2025, the City conducted a functional exercise focused on EOC operations.

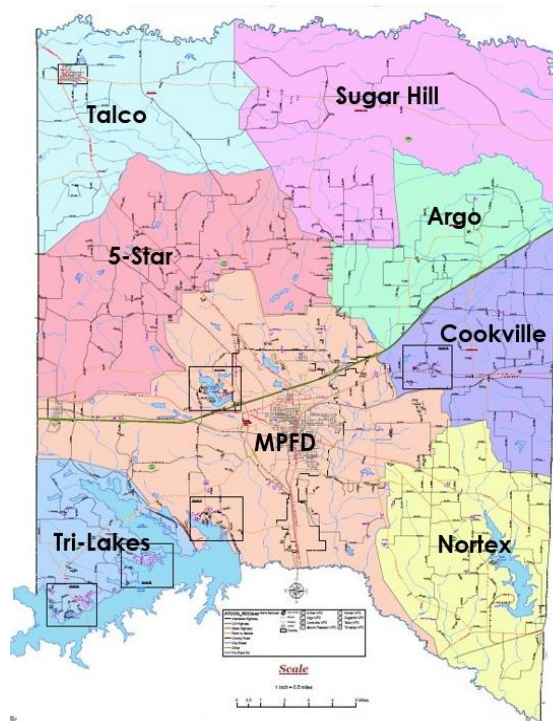
County Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs)

The county is divided into eight fire districts, as illustrated on the accompanying map. MPFD is responsible for responding to all incidents occurring within its district. In addition, MPFD provides response to structure fires, vehicle accidents, and all other emergency incidents—excluding grass and vehicle fires—throughout all county fire districts.

Over the past decade, several volunteer fire departments (VFDs) within the county have faced significant operational challenges. In 2014, the Winfield VFD disbanded due to a lack of membership. In 2021, the Sugar Hill VFD narrowly avoided a similar outcome. In 2018, the Argo VFD was established to provide coverage for the area north of Interstate 30 that was previously served by the Cookville VFD. County VFDs are primarily responsible for responding to grass and vehicle fires within their respective districts as well as providing support for MPFD at structure fires and motor vehicle accidents. When a VFD is unable to respond or requests assistance, MPFD will respond to the incident.

Like many volunteer fire departments across the state and nation, county VFDs continue to struggle with recruitment and retention of members willing to commit the significant time and effort required to remain active and effective. MPFD sincerely appreciates those volunteer firefighters who dedicate themselves to serving the citizens of the county through fire and rescue operations.

MPFD relies heavily on county volunteer firefighters to provide water supply through tanker operations for fires occurring in the county and, in some cases, within portions of the city. MPFD depends on the volunteer fire departments to provide critical manpower at county incidents—particularly structure fires—since



County Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) (Cont.)

MPFD cannot deploy all on-duty personnel to incidents outside the city. However, of the 94 volunteer firefighters countywide, only 21 are trained for interior structural firefighting. Of those 21, only three responded consistently to county calls in 2025. Overall, only 24 of the 94 volunteer firefighters responded to 25 percent or more of county incidents.

To support volunteer departments, MPFD provides training opportunities through online coursework, classroom instruction, hands-on training at volunteer stations, and training conducted at MPFD facilities.

Despite these challenges, county VFDs and their members continue to do the best they can to provide fire protection services. Many volunteer firefighters serve in more than one department in order to help maintain coverage across the county.

City/County Fire Protection Agreement

2025 marked the second year of the Fire Protection Agreement with the County, under which the County’s annual payment to the City was reduced by 50 percent—from \$1.3 million to \$650,000—and fixed at that level for the full 10-year term of the agreement. Because the agreement includes no cost escalator, all future Fire Department budget increases are borne entirely by the City of Mt. Pleasant.

In 2025, call volume in the County increased by 17.1 percent, while calls within the City increased by only 3.1 percent. Despite the reduced funding, the department was able to restore one of the five firefighter positions; however, four of those positions remain unfilled.

MPFD responded to 350 calls in the County during 2025. Five or more firefighters responded to 175 of those calls (50 percent). Of the 17 structure fires responded to in the County, five or more firefighters were on scene for 16 incidents (94.1 percent). In many cases, these response numbers included off-duty MPFD firefighters.

It should be noted that National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) staffing guidelines significantly exceed these response levels. NFPA Standard 1710 (career departments) recommends 15 firefighters for a structure fire response, while NFPA Standard 1720 (volunteer departments) recommends 10 firefighters.

Response Time Performance (14 Minutes or Less, which is the national standard for mainly structure fires as illustrated in NFPA Standard 1720 Table 4.3.2 below)

MPFD continues to demonstrate strong response time performance across all incident types:

- **All Incident Types:** 303 calls, 259 responses of 14 minutes or less (85.4%)
- **Structure Fires:** 17 calls, 15 responses of 14 minutes or less (88.2%)
- **Grass Fires:** 79 calls, 67 responses of 14 minutes or less (84.9%)
- **Vehicle Accidents:** 76 calls, 70 responses of 14 minutes or less (92.1%)
- **Vehicle Extrication:** 14 calls, 14 responses of 14 minutes or less (100%)

NFPA Standard 1720 – Staffing and Response Time Objectives for Structure Fires

Under NFPA Standard 1720 (Table 4.3.2), recommended minimum staffing and response time objectives are as follows:

- **Rural Areas** (less than 500 people per square mile):
Minimum staffing of 6 firefighters, 14-minute response time, 80 percent compliance

City/County Fire Protection Agreement (cont.)

-
- **Remote Areas** (travel distance greater than 8 miles): Minimum staffing of 4 firefighters, response time established by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), 90 percent compliance
-

Currently, MPFD staffs a maximum of 11 firefighters on duty on 2 shifts and 10 on the other, with a minimum staffing level of 8. When MPFD responds to incidents in the County, only four firefighters—and at times as few as three—remain available to respond to incidents within the City. To maintain a minimum City coverage of four on-duty firefighters, no more than seven firefighters may respond to a County incident when staffing is at maximum, and no more than four firefighters when staffing is at the minimum level.

As a result, there are insufficient on-duty firefighters to safely and effectively manage a working structure fire in the County, while also maintaining adequate response capability within the City should a simultaneous incident occur. This response model presents a **high-critical risk** during working structure fires or concurrent incidents, significantly compromising life safety, firefighter safety, and property conservation.

In 2016, the City and County jointly funded a Fire Protection Study to assess the resources needed to provide adequate fire protection services. That study identified the need for an additional fire station and an increase in staffing to 45 firefighters. Staffing levels were subsequently increased to 36 firefighters—nine short of the recommended level—before the plan was halted and staffing levels were later reduced.

Bottom line is, there are not enough on duty firefighters to safely and effectively handle a working structure fire in the county nor enough left in the city to handle a structure fire should one occur while firefighters are working on an incident in the county.

The QR code and link below connects to the 2016 study.

<https://mpcity.net/wp-content/uploads/City-County-Fire-Protection-Study-2016.pdf>





“When duty calls, ‘tis ours to obey.”

Established 1903

