



BERGHEIM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2019 marks the 10th anniversary of your Bergheim Volunteer Fire Department. The Department has grown significantly in those years - as has our community. We continue to need help (and, yes, that means money) to keep up with the growth.

Our fundraiser this year is a “virtual” fundraiser - no event. The goal is to raise \$250,000 to help pay for a new fire engine to further serve the growing eastern Kendall County. Thanks to a \$200,000 Texas Forest Service Grant, approximately one third of the engine is being paid for. Fire engines are expensive! This one costs over \$500,000. The raised money will pay for both the remainder of the basic engine and the equipment to have it operationally ready upon delivery.

How can you donate? The easiest way is to send a check to the Bergheim VFD, PO Box 4141, Bergheim, TX 78004. Donations are tax deductible, and corporate matching gifts and stock are always welcome. If you have questions, send a message through the “Contact Us” section of our website or email bergheimvfd@gvtc.com.

Our firefighting cadre are anxious to be invited to your group’s event or meeting to provide more information about the Department. To schedule a date, send a message through the “Contact Us” section of our website, email bergheimvfd@gvtc.com or talk to one of the Board or Department officers. About 10-20% of every neighborhood has been contributing, and we hope to reach a broader number than that.

Here are a few facts about your Bergheim VFD:

- It is all volunteer, with a volunteer Chief and 25 volunteer firefighters. The current Chief is a professional firefighter in San Antonio.
- It serves 56 square miles of eastern Kendall County, including 11 neighborhoods and numerous individual homes, ranches and businesses, for a total of about 2,000 addresses. A new middle school and more neighborhoods are coming soon to the service area.
- In 2018, the Department responded to 250 calls, many of these medical emergencies. There are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics volunteering as first responders for medical emergencies. Kendall County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) now has an ambulance at the Fire Station 24/7 for faster service.
- The Department currently operates with seven apparatus: a Command vehicle, a Squad vehicle, two pumper/tenders (soon to be three with the new engine), a tender and two brush trucks. This allows the Department to respond quickly to any type of emergency.
- The Department has been able to lower the service areas ISO rating (Insurance Services Office) from a 10 (the worst) to a 4 rating for homes located within 5 road miles of a station. Two unmanned substations are currently under construction to help lower the entire areas ISO rating. Better ISO ratings can lead to lower insurance premiums.
- Operating expenses are about \$100,000 per year, with most funded by Kendall County. Capital costs, such as for new engines and equipment, are funded by your donations and grants.
- Call 911 for all emergencies. The caller’s address determines which fire department is dispatched. Bergheim VFD also supports other fire departments in larger emergencies.