



Station 61: 17061 Rolling
Creek Dr., Houston, TX., 77090

Station 62: 4362 Louetta Rd.,
Spring, TX., 77388

Station 63: 21455 Imperial
Valley, Houston, TX., 77073

**FALL
2026**

Emergencies Dial:
911

Website:

<https://www.ponderosavfd.org>
<https://www.esd28.com>

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
PonderosaFD/](https://www.facebook.com/PonderosaFD/)

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(281) 444-8465

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(281) 444-8052

September: The Month We Remember *Why First Responders Matter*

Every September, we pause to remember the day when firefighters, police officers, and EMTs became the face of courage for an entire nation.

On September 11, 2001, thousands of first responders ran into burning towers, collapsing buildings, and smoke-filled streets. They climbed unstable stairwells, carried strangers down dozens of flights of stairs, and stayed until the last possible moment – many never came home.

We remember them because they showed us what service truly means; they proved that courage is not abstract; and they ran toward danger so others could live. And today, 25 years later, their legacy lives on in every firefighter, every constable, every EMT, and every dispatcher who answers a call of distress in our community.

But here is the truth we must face as citizens:

The danger first responders face now does not always come from the emergency; it comes from us, the citizens, **our carelessness, distraction, impatience, and recklessness on our own roads and in our own neighborhoods.**

September is the month we remember but remembering means nothing if we do not change how we, as citizens and as a community, behave.

Here is a unifying message from Dispatchers, Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement:

“Don’t let ‘your worst day’ be our ‘last day’.”

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Harris County Emergency Services District No. 28 (ESD 28)

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In our *Summer 2025 edition*, we introduced readers of the district to the women of the ESD 28 board—



Shirley Jauma,
Secretary,



Erika Smiley,
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Two steady, long-serving voices who have helped guide the district with clarity, organization, and unwavering commitment.

In this edition, we turn the spotlight to the men of the board. Each brings his own history, humor, and perspective to the table, from lifelong Houstonians to community-rooted leaders who quietly show up year after year. Their personalities are as distinct as their paths to service, and together they form the other half of the district leadership.

Duty, Pride, Commitment



Ken Koenig
Treasurer, ESD #28

Ken is a Texan through and through —born at St. Joseph Hospital in downtown Houston and raised in Bellaire. “Which is just Houston with extra trees,” he says with a big smile.

Ken remains proudly rooted in the community he serves. Standing six feet, two inches tall and carrying the easy confidence of someone who has lived his entire life in the Houston area, Ken brings both experience and personality to the ESD 28 board.

He graduated from Bellaire High School and earned his accounting degree from the University of Houston. Ken spent two decades in corporate accounting, managing departments focused on budgeting, financial analysis, and treasury operations.

Eventually, he launched his own business, selling and supporting accounting software, blending technical expertise with hands-on problem-solving.

Ken’s path to ESD 28 began the way many good Texas stories do, with a neighbor knocking on the door. Chief Fred Windisch invited him to an ESD meeting because the board needed a Treasurer. Ken agreed, reluctantly, unsure how a fire department operated or what an ESD was.

After that first meeting, Ken went home and told his wife, *“I think they were speaking English, but I’m not entirely sure.”*

The acronyms were flying, and the learning curve was steep. But he kept showing up. Month after month, he listened, learned, and was eventually nominated to serve as a commissioner. Ken joined the board in 2017 and hasn’t looked back or missed a step since.

Highlights of Service

—In 2018, ESD 28 operated on a \$4.3 million budget and carried \$4.9 million in debt. As of 2026, the budget has grown to \$8.6 million, and the district is completely debt-free.

—The department is taking delivery of three new replacement fire engines in September 2026, a total of \$3.3 million, all purchased with cash.

—ESD #28, in partnership with four neighboring departments, is building a new 911 call center. The district’s full financial contribution has already been secured in an investment account.

—Additional apparatus purchases are planned, and funds have already been allocated to cover them upon delivery.

Ken is honored to work alongside the dedicated members of the ESD 28 board and the Ponderosa Fire Department; each committed to providing the strongest possible fire protection and community support.



Dan Dronberger
Vice President, ESD 28

Dan was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1934. His early years were shaped by aviation.



Michael Jenkins
President, ESD 28

Michael arrived in Texas from the Pacific Northwest, having grown up in Bellingham, Washington.

His grammar school sat next to Orville Wright's estate, where Orville remained active among the students. Dan met him several times, a small but cherished claim of fame. Over the course of his life, he would also meet three U.S. Presidents.

His family moved to California in 1944, and he grew up in Oakland. He graduated from Stanford University in 1956, with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Just weeks later, in June, he married Sue Bruce, his partner in life, until her passing in 2006.

Dan joined Shell Oil Company in August 1956, but by December he had been drafted into the military. He spent two years stationed at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, and at Douglas Aircraft Company in Los Angeles. After completing his service, he returned to Shell in retail sales, beginning a career that would take him across the country.

With Sue and their two boys, Danford lived in San Francisco, Reno, Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles, and finally Houston in 1973. *"If I counted correctly,"* he says, *"we moved 10 times before settling in Houston."* He held numerous managerial positions at Shell and retired in 1993. In retirement, he and Sue traveled extensively until her passing. Today, he enjoys a quieter life at home with his dog.

Dan's connection to the Ponderosa community began in 1977, when he was asked to join the *"Shellized"* Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Department as Treasurer. He served in that role throughout the 1980s, including during the transition from a volunteer department to the Rural Fire Prevention District (RFPD), a taxing authority. In the 1990s, the RFPD converted to an elected Emergency Service District No. 28 to expand its taxing authority and better serve the community.

Today, Dan continues his long legacy of service as Vice President of Harris County ESD 28, bringing decades of experience, historical perspective, and steady leadership to the district.

In a family for whom community service was simply a way of life. His father's deep commitment to volunteer work shaped Michael's sense of responsibility. By high school, he was already following in his father's footsteps.

Along with many of his friends, Michael volunteered with the Lake Samish Volunteer Fire Department, responding to house and brush fires throughout the area.

That early experience taught him the value of teamwork, readiness, and service, lessons that would stay with him for decades.

After high school, Michael served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He worked as a photo lab specialist, developing films and producing photographs documenting military activities. Though he speaks sparingly of this period, his service remains an important part of his life and a quiet source of pride.

Michael's volunteer work extended beyond the fire service. He spent two weeks at a local Easter Seals Camp, assisting children with disabilities in swimming, boating, and softball, an experience he describes as one of the most meaningful and joyful of his life.

In 1983, while his two daughters were learning to swim at the Southeast YMCA in Portland, Oregon, Michael began volunteering on fundraising projects, including Christmas tree sales. His dedication led to an appointment with the Southeast Portland YMCA Board of Directors, where he served as secretary for five years.

During this period, he also volunteered with Operation Santa Claus, delivering toys and full Christmas dinners to families in need and often alongside his father, who dressed as Santa. The children's smiles, he recalls, were unforgettable.

Continued next page...

Professionally, Michael's career spanned several states and industries. He began at Intalco Aluminum in Bellingham, then moved to Queens, New York, to work with Berkey Marketing. Later, in Oregon, he owned and operated a camera repair business, combining technical skills with customer service.

After relocating to Texas for a job offer with PMI Auctions, he was constantly on the road or in the air, leaving little time to engage with the community.

Michael's commitment to service continued after he moved to Ponderosa. In 2015, he joined the Ponderosa Forest Maintenance Association Board of Directors. The following year, his fellow board members elected him, President.

During his tenure, he led the development of Canyon Creek Park on Harris County Flood Control property. He worked closely with volunteers and community partners to improve neighborhood parks, support community events, and address issues important to Ponderosa Forest residents.

In 2019, Michael was appointed to the Harris County Emergency Services District No. 28 Board of Commissioners and selected as Board President in 2020. In this role, he supports the district's mission to provide high-quality emergency services to the community.

Michael also contributed to planning efforts that led to the formation of the Texas Emergency Communication Center (TECC). When the committee's governing board was established in 2021, he was honored to be named its first president, helping to organize the board and strengthen collaboration among participating agencies.

Michael believes strong communities are built by people who listen, work together, and give back. He considers it a privilege to serve, and remains committed to supporting projects and organizations that make a positive difference in his neighbors' lives and the community.

*Community, Service,
Stewardship*



**Texas Emergency
Communications
Center (TECC)**

Five Years of Answering the Call: Texas Emergency Communications Center Celebrates a New Milestone

When someone calls 911 for a fire or medical emergency, most people understandably think about the fire engine or ambulance that will soon arrive. What they may not consider is what happens in the minutes before those responders reach the scene, or the people working behind the scenes to keep every part of the emergency response connected.

For residents across North Harris County, that work happens at the Texas Emergency Communications Center, or TECC. On September 2, 2026, TECC will celebrate five years of service to the community.

The center opened in 2021 to create a regional emergency communications center for a rapidly growing portion of North Harris County. Today, TECC provides 911 dispatch services for the Champions, Klein, Cypress Creek, Ponderosa, Spring, and Jersey Village fire departments and operates as a Secondary Public Safety Answering Point within the Greater Harris County 911 Emergency Network.

Five Years of Growth

TECC began with a relatively small team working from its current facility in Spring. In less than a year, the center achieved one of the most significant accomplishments available to a fire communications center:

***Designation— Accredited Center of
Excellence— through the International
Academies of Emergency Dispatch.***

At the time of TECC's accreditation in 2022, it was only the 64th fire communications center in the world to hold the designation. Over the past five years, TECC has continued to grow alongside the communities it serves.

The past five years have tested the center in ways that cannot always be recreated in training. TECC's dispatchers have worked through hurricanes, severe weather, widespread power outages, and periods of extraordinary call volume while continuing to support fire departments and residents around the clock.

Preparing for the Next Chapter

As the region continues to grow, so does the demand placed on its emergency communications system. TECC's current facility was an important starting point, but it was never intended to be the organization's permanent home.

TECC is now in the design process for a new, purpose-built 911 communications center. The new facility is being planned with significantly more room for dispatch operations and will provide the infrastructure needed to support TECC during natural disasters and large-scale emergencies when maintaining communications is especially critical.

Resiliency is a central goal of the project. Plans include redundant emergency power, protected technology and communications systems, hardened areas for severe weather, and space that will allow personnel to remain at the facility during extended emergency operations.

Just as importantly, the new center is being designed for the future. North Harris County is no longer the community it was five years ago, and it will continue to change. A permanent regional communications center will enable TECC to grow alongside the communities it serves rather than simply react to growth after it occurs.

The People Behind the Headset



Technology is an important part of 911, but the heart of an emergency communications center is still its people.

The organization has expanded its workforce, strengthened operations, and invested in the dispatchers and systems needed to meet the increasing demands of emergency communications.

TECC's public safety telecommunicators work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They often speak to people during some of the most frightening moments of their lives, and they remain on the phone providing lifesaving instructions while offering reassurance and support when callers need it most.

Residents may never know the name of the dispatcher who answered their call or heard the radio traffic that followed. In many cases, which is exactly how the system is supposed to work, behind every response is someone gathering information, making decisions, and helping coordinate the resources that arrive at the caller's door.

The Next Chapter

As TECC approaches its fifth anniversary, there is much to celebrate, but even more lies ahead. What began in 2021 as a partnership created to provide a better, more unified approach to emergency communications has grown into an established regional 911 center serving six fire departments and more than half a million North Harris County residents.

Whether it's from today's dispatch floor or from a new, purpose-built 911 center in the future, TECC's mission remains simple: ***save lives, protect property, and assist the community in their time of need.***



To learn more about the Texas Emergency Communications Center, visit texasecc.org.



Harris County Emergency Services District No. 11 Mobile Healthcare

“ESD 11 is the largest 911 ambulance-only emergency services district in Texas,” states Jordan Anderson, CEO.

Covering more than 177 square miles and serving 700,000 plus residents, ESD 11 provides advanced life support



and emergency medical care throughout new and established neighborhoods, commercial corridors, industrial facilities, and major highways.

ESD 11 provides ambulance coverage for Ponderosa Fire Department, Spring Fire Department, Klein Fire Department, Champions Fire Department, and Cypress Creek Fire Department. They also cover portions of The Woodlands Fire Department, Eastex Fire Department, Little York Fire Department, and Northwest Fire Department, ensuring a consistent, high-quality emergency medical response throughout the region.

Legacy of Service: From CCEMS to ESD 11

Before ESD 11 Mobile Healthcare, ambulance services in the area were provided by Cypress Creek EMS (CCEMS), a nonprofit organization that began serving the community in 1975. In 2004, voters approved creating Harris County ESD 11 to levy a tax subsidy to support reliable ambulance coverage. For two decades, ESD 11 provided funding while CCEMS delivered emergency medical services.

After 45 years of service, CCEMS transitioned out of ambulance operations, and on September 1, 2021, Harris County ESD 11 Mobile Healthcare officially began providing ambulance coverage directly.

Residents experienced a seamless transition, with state-of-the-art healthcare, modern equipment, and reliable response times. The most visible change was the shift from red ambulances and uniforms to ESD 11's signature white ambulances and gray paramedic uniforms.

Responding to 68,000 Emergencies Each Year...

ESD 11 is standing by and ready for 911 dispatch calls at Ponderosa Fire Department headquarters, Station #61.



Paramedics provide advanced life support, emergency medical treatment, and transportation for patients experiencing traumatic injuries, cardiac emergencies, strokes, respiratory illnesses, and other urgent medical conditions.

A paramedic's day is never predictable. A single shift may include the birth of a child, the loss of a loved one, and everything in between. The paramedics respond to gunshot wounds, stab wounds, severe medical crises—and sometimes even minor injuries like a bad paper cut. As many paramedics say:

“They wish bad things didn’t happen to people, but when they do, their calling is to be there and make a positive difference.”

ESD 11 paramedics are highly trained and licensed by the State of Texas, with additional certifications in trauma care, CPR, pediatrics, advanced life support, and more.

Prepared for Emergencies— and Disasters

ESD 11 is built on redundancy, readiness, and resilience. The public expects emergency medical responses not only during everyday crises but also during disasters.

ESD 11 responds even when the news reports that roads are impassable. Through ice storms, floods, and extreme heat, ESD 11 continues operations while much of Harris County shelters “in place.”

Transport operations are suspended only when winds exceed 55 mph, a testament to the district's commitment to serving the community under the most challenging conditions.

Measuring Success by Impact

Every ambulance dispatched, every patient treated, and every family assisted represents an opportunity to make a meaningful difference during someone's most difficult moment. ESD 11's mission is rooted in safety, compassion, and dependability.

As the community continues to grow, Harris County ESD 11 remains focused on delivering exceptional prehospital care while earning the trust and confidence of the residents who depend on it every day.

Meet Jordan Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Harris County ESD 11 Mobile Healthcare



Jordan Anderson has dedicated more than 20 years to emergency medical services, building a career defined by clinical excellence, operational leadership, and a deep commitment to serving communities across Texas.

His EMS journey began in 2003 while attending Texas A&M University, where he worked as an EMT-B on an ambulance and at special events.

He graduated in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He immediately stepped into full-time paramedic work with St. Joseph EMS, covering 911 operations in Burleson and Grimes Counties and providing interfacility transfers throughout the St. Joseph system.

Jordan spent the next 13 years at the Montgomery County Hospital District, serving as a paramedic, Logistics Manager, and Assistant Chief-Clinical. In that role, he helped implement new clinical protocols, medications, equipment, software systems, and training programs, and contributed to the district's achievement of CAAS Accreditation. His work strengthened clinical performance and modernized EMS operations for one of the region's most active systems.

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic began, Jordan became CEO of Sterling EMS in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Under his leadership, Sterling expanded into the San Antonio market, more than doubled its call volume, and improved operational efficiency and financial performance, all while navigating unprecedented challenges in emergency healthcare.

Jordan later joined the initial management team at Harris County ESD 11 Mobile Healthcare, returning to the Houston area to help build one of the largest 911 ambulance-only emergency services districts in Texas. He first served as Clinical Practice Manager, creating and tracking clinical performance metrics, and was soon promoted to Chief Quality Officer. During this period, he earned his MBA from Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

In June 2025, Jordan was appointed CEO of ESD 11. As CEO, he is committed to improving the quality of care, enhancing patient experience, reducing costs, and providing the best possible work environment for EMS professionals. Under his leadership, ESD 11 responds to about 68,000 emergency calls annually, delivering advanced life support, emergency medical treatment, and compassionate care to residents across 177 square miles.

Jordan is board-certified as a Critical Care Paramedic (CCP-C) by the International Board of Specialty Certification and completed the Critical Care Emergency Medical Transport Program (CCEMTP) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Paramedic Executives (FACPE).

Beyond his professional work, Jordan enjoys camping and sailing with his family. He also volunteers with the Montgomery County chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, helping build and deliver beds to children in need, continuing the spirit of service that has defined his career.

***When you dial 911
"Your Care." "Our Priority."
ESD 11***



The Ponderosa Fire Departments



Station #61
PFD Headquarters

“Respect”



“Honor”



Station #62

“Duty”



“Commitment”



Station #63
Curtis J. Cook
Training Facility

“Pride”



The Administrative *Heart* of the District

Behind every fire station, every emergency response, and every firefighter who steps onto a truck, there is a headquarters team keeping the entire operation moving. At Ponderosa Fire Department, that heartbeat has long been carried by Office Manager Dana Schmanski, whose steady leadership and compassionate presence have shaped the department through years of growth and change.

This year, Dana is joined by Ann Marie Vazquez, Administrative Assistant, who brings fresh energy, strong clinical experience, and a deep commitment to community service. Together, they represent the continuity and future of Ponderosa’s administrative team — one legacy built over decades and one new chapter beginning with purpose.

Dana Schmanski,
Office Manager—
The steady heartbeat of the
Ponderosa Fire Department.



If you spend even five minutes with Dana Schmanski, you understand why she is so loved at the Ponderosa Fire Department. She carries a warmth that instantly settles a room. A calm, kind, compassionate presence that has supported this department through decades of change, growth, and challenge.

A fourth-generation Texan born in Houston, Dana met her husband Bob in 1991. They have been married for 33 years and are proud parents of three children: Matthew, Jared, and Madison.

In their earlier years, Dana didn’t know Bob was a volunteer firefighter until the day the station tones sounded in their townhouse, and he sprinted out the door— “142 running steps to the fire station,” he proudly said. That moment marked the beginning of a life shaped by service, sacrifice, and shared purpose.

As a Fire Protection Engineer and OSU alumnus, Bob began volunteering with the Ponderosa Fire Department in 1985. During his years with Ponderosa (affectionately known as “Pondy”), he served as Captain at Ponderosa’s Station 62, trained firefighters on Lukas’s extrication tools, and served as a District Chief 60. Bob and Dana built lifelong professional and personal relationships during his tenure and soon through hers.

Bob's long service with Ponderosa meant missed holidays, late-night calls, and the constant readiness that comes with being a firefighter. During Tropical Storm Allison, Bob rushed home to get their bass boat to assist in rescues. Before leaving again, he placed a yardstick in the yard and told Dana. "If the water reaches this, call me." It was simple, creative communication—and a perfect reflection of how the two of them navigate life: steady, practical, two hearts in sync, helping others.

Dana's own professional path began in accounting. At 22, while attending night school at San Jacinto College, she taught herself DOS and helped launch a small printing business— her first role as an office manager. She later became a licensed health and life insurance agent, but her connection to Ponderosa grew steadily through the years.

In 2009, after an accident involving Theresa—Ponderosa's longtime administrative manager—Dana stepped in to help with payroll and bookkeeping "for a few weeks." In 2012, Dana stepped in again. And in 2016, when Theresa retired, Dana officially became Ponderosa's full-time Office Manager, a role she had been unknowingly preparing for all along.

Her service has extended far beyond paperwork. Dana has watched junior firefighters grow up, get married, and start families. She has decorated fire trucks for weddings, hosted baby showers, assisted with REHAB during major structure fires, and once even drove Equipment 62 to an apartment fire ("Don't tell Fred— all the 'hands' were at the fire").

Over the past decade, Dana has been part of Ponderosa's transformation from a volunteer department into a combination department now employing 45 full-time firefighters, 25 part-time firefighters, and 10 volunteers. Her steady leadership, institutional knowledge, and gentle presence helped shape the department into what it is today.

Dana makes everyone feel at ease, the voice people trust, the calm in the storm, and the heart behind the operations. Her dedication continues to be one of Ponderosa's greatest strengths.

Meet Ann Marie Vazquez, Administrative Assistant—

a new Face of Ponderosa's Administrative Team



Following in the footsteps of strong administrative leadership, Ann Marie Vazquez joins the Ponderosa Fire Department with a deep commitment to service and a genuine love for helping others. A longtime Texan, Ann Marie, has always been drawn to others, hands-on work, and the camaraderie of team-based environments —qualities that naturally led her to patient care and emergency medicine.

Inspired by her sister-in-law, a career firefighter paramedic, Ann Marie completed her EMT-B training in Massachusetts. She built more than a decade of experience as an ER Tech and ER Secretary at UMASS Memorial Hospital, as well as a Medical Assistant at Marlboro Internal Medicine. Her background gives her a unique understanding of the fast-paced, high-stakes world of emergency response.

She joined the Ponderosa Fire Department this year, 2026, to support office management and learn the inner workings of the fire station —how the team communicates, how operations flow, and how the department serves the community behind the scenes. Her goal is to grow into the role with the same dedication and heart that has defined Ponderosa's administrative team for years.

Outside of work, Ann Marie enjoys traveling with her husband, her high school sweetheart of 33 years. She loves spending time with her two grandsons, playing pickleball, and working on her golf game with neighbors. Friends describe her as outgoing, dependable, and always willing to help —qualities that make her a natural fit for Ponderosa's culture of service.

Ann Marie brings energy, strong experience, and a genuine love for community. A welcome addition to the Ponderosa Fire Department and a continuation of the tradition that Dana and Theresa built.

The Unified Message from Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement...

“Don’t let ‘your worst day’ be our ‘last day’.”

Ponderosa Fire, The Constable’s Office, The Harris County Sheriff’s Office, and ESD 11 have an expanding presence in our community and districts. Firefighters, Constables, and EMTs are working more closely than ever before. They all share one message.

“Don’t let ‘your worst day’ be our ‘last day’.”

When you call 911, you expect help to arrive quickly from trained professionals, with safety and care. But those professionals cannot reach you if they are blocked, ignored, or struck by reckless drivers.

Fire trucks are not small. They cannot stop quickly, swerve, or go around you. This year, a drunk driver slammed into a Ponderosa fire truck responding to help someone else, causing severe damage, putting the truck out of commission for over a year, and putting firefighters’ lives at risk. All because one driver believed her moment mattered more than everyone else’s safety. This is not acceptable, nor is it “just how people drive now.”

This is a crisis of responsibility.

Constables and Sheriff Deputy’s respond to crashes, disturbances, traffic stops, and violent calls. They stand in the roadway to protect victims and secure scenes. One distracted driver can kill them; an angry driver can injure them. An impatient driver can destroy the safety of an entire scene—

and their lives depend on your awareness.

EMTs kneel beside patients at intersections, on highways, in parking lots, and on sidewalks. They treat people who are bleeding, unconscious, or dying while cars fly past inches away. They cannot watch for traffic; they cannot protect themselves while protecting someone else.

Your responsibility is to protect them.

Neighborhood Streets are NOT Parking Lots

One of the fastest-growing dangers to emergency responses in our neighborhoods is how residents park. Fire trucks cannot navigate streets when cars are parked on both sides of the road, squeezed into tight curves, blocking corners, or left halfway in the street.

A fire truck is not a compact car and cannot “squeeze through,” “just go around,” or “fit if you try.” When you park on both sides of a residential street, you create a choke point that can completely stop emergency response.

That delay can cost a home, a business, or a life. Parking on the grass is not a solution—it destroys drainage, damages utilities, impedes access to your home, and still leaves the street blocked.

If you live in a neighborhood, park in your driveway rather than on both sides of the street. Don’t park halfway in the road, and don’t park in a way that narrows the lane.

Your driveway is the safest place for your vehicle, and the street is the most dangerous place for someone else’s emergency; firefighters cannot save lives if they cannot reach them.



Phones Down, Eyes Up

Another growing danger on our roads is distracted driving, especially texting while driving.

Firefighters, Constables, Sheriff Deputy’s, and EMTs see it every day: drivers drifting across lanes, slowing unpredictably, weaving through traffic, or failing to notice emergency vehicles because their eyes are on a screen rather than the road.

First responders know what you’re doing when your car moves like that, and it is dangerous. Use your Bluetooth, use your dashboard’s hands-free technology, use your speakerphone, or turn on the Do Not Disturb feature on your phone when driving; hold all calls and texts until the vehicle stops moving. **Don’t just think about it; learn how to use your hands-free technology and put it to use.**

Driving with one hand on the wheel and the other on your phone is unsafe for you, your passengers, and others on the road. Distracted driving is responsible for countless accidents, near-misses, and preventable tragedies. And with school starting, this message becomes even more urgent.

Do not use your phone in School Zones; keep your eyes on the road, hands on the wheel, and watch for children. Their safety depends on your attention. **Distracted driving is not an inconvenience—it is a threat.** And it is one we can eliminate simply by driving responsibly.



MOVE RIGHT →→→→→ FOR SIRENS AND LIGHTS

1. Stay Calm and Pay Attention.
2. Signal Immediately.
3. Move to the RIGHT and STOP.
4. Stay Stopped Until ALL Emergency Vehicles Have Passed.
5. Do NOT Block Intersections.
6. Do NOT Follow Emergency Vehicles.
7. Do NOT Try to “Beat” Them Through Traffic.

This is not a courtesy; it is the **LAW**, it is safety, and it is how you protect the people who are trying to protect you.

Thoughtlessness has consequences, and every time someone refuses to move over, refuses to signal, drives aggressively, or behaves recklessly, THEY are MAKING the CHOICE.

*“My time is more important—
than someone else’s life.”*

There is no good end to this kind of behavior, no victory, justification, or excuse. It puts citizens’ and first responders’ lives at risk.

It wastes taxpayer money, destroys emergency vehicles, and delays matters by seconds when every second counts.



Your responsibility is simple:

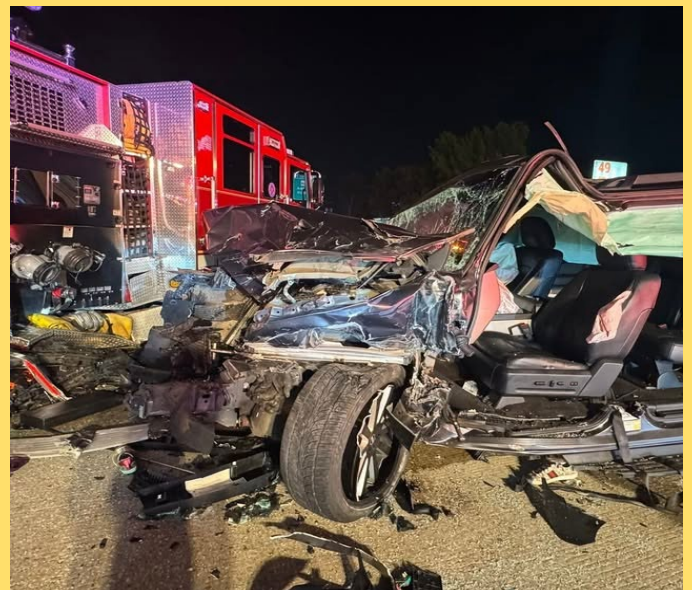
- Drive safely.
- Signal.
- Slow down.
- Move over.
- Park in your driveway.
- Put your phone down.
- Pay attention.
- Respect the road.
- Respect the people who protect you.



First Responders are there to help you—
when you’re having
the ‘worst day of your life’

don’t let it be ‘their last day.’

Be safe, Be courteous, Be aware.



PONDEROSA FIREFIGHTER

HARRIS COUNTY ESD #28

17061 Rolling Creek Dr.
Houston, TX 77090



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