



BEXAR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT No. 2

BEXAR COUNTY 2 FIRE DEPARTMENT



Bexar County 2 Fire Department Response to COVID-19

March 14, 2020

As the department which provides Fire, EMS, and First-Response to Bexar County ESD No. 2 and 6, it is our duty to remain prepared to provide an effective and efficient response to emergencies; as well as to enhance the safety and well-being of those who reside, visit, and travel through our district.

Our Command Staff has been involved with the COVID-19 response since the early stages. We have been engaged with the local health authority and are following response and personal protection guidelines as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We also remain in continued contact with County Commissioner Chico Rodriguez' Office, with him being committed to helping the community during this pandemic.

It is also recognized that our response must be sustainable. As part of our Continuity of Operations Planning, we have made temporary changes to our response and practices to protect both the public and our staff, as well as to maximize the number of healthy personnel available to respond to an emergency. We are restricting multi-company training and drills to one station at a time, cancelling any non-essential department gatherings, and utilizing video conferencing versus in-person meetings when practical. As an industry standard we are already committed to proper hand hygiene, have means in place to limit communicable disease exposure, and ensure that our medical equipment is cleaned after every patient contact.

Some of the temporary changes you may see include:

- 911 screening of illness/travel history
- Awake patients will be initially assessed from 6ft away
- Waves or fist bumps will replace handshakes
- Suspension of public relation events
- Suspension of station tours
- Screening of visitors to fire stations

As part of the health system, we must also work to limit a surge to the Emergency Departments. With physician guidance we may limit non-emergency EMS transports as needed. For those being transported, we will restrict family or friend riders unless necessary (parents/guardians/wards excluded) and suggest limiting visitors at the hospital.

This is dynamic situation, but as the fire service, this is what we plan and prepare for. Since 1972 when our roots were planted, our department has strived to provide exceptional service to our citizens, and we will remain the public safety entity with whom you can trust your lives and property with. For further information regarding our response, please visit www.bc2fd.org where we will post pertinent information as it becomes available.

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