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An Oct. 5 softball game pitting the members of the Burleson Police Department against members of the Burleson Fire Department has evolved from a local rivalry into a fundraiser for the Port Arthur Police Department, whose members were devastated by Hurricane Ike.

The game is slated for 6:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Hidden Creek Sports Complex at 295 Hidden Creek Parkway (next to Hidden Creek Golf Course). Members of the Burleson Police Officers Association (BPOA) are asking residents and businesses to donate cash and gift cards, not clothing or food, at the police department (225 W. Renfro St) or at the game.

Port Arthur is located on the coast, 90 miles east of Houston. Port Arthur is home to three major refineries and boasts almost 60,000 residents.

After Hurricane Ike ripped through South Texas, members of the Port Arthur Police Department were still there serving and protecting, even though 18 officers and their families were left homeless. Everything in their homes was destroyed.

If a gift card is donated, please note on the gift card the dollar value of the card and save or attach a copy of the receipt. Gift cards from places such as Home Depot, Lowe's, Wal-Mart, Target and other major chains are appreciated. Donations can be turned in to officers Mike Owen, Shaun Kellum, Jae Berg, Shawn Martin or Jody Trumble or come out and support the softball game and drop off your donation.

For more information about this release, call the public information office at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.