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Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com



The Burleson Fire Department will officially open Fire Station #3 with a grand opening ceremony slated for Wednesday, Sept. 23. The festivities will take place, 10 a.m.-noon, at 245 Lakewood Dr. Refreshments will be served.

Six career firefighters were hired to staff the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 9,990 square-foot station features a workout room, kitchen, sleeping quarters for seven, a lieutenant's office and an apparatus bay. The additional firefighters bring the fire department's force to one chief, two battalion fire chiefs, an administrative secretary, 30 career firefighters, and six volunteer firefighters. Three of the department's current firefighters - Steve Burchette, Casey Davis and Josh Jacobs - were promoted to lieutenant and six - Shelby Stone, Shane Mobley, Jake Hopps, Matt Moseley, Scott Johns and Chuck Martinez - were promoted to driver to staff the three stations.

The residences and businesses in south Burleson are reaping the benefits of the newest fire station, but the dollars are on the shoulders of those who shop in Burleson. The \$2.217 million funding for the station on Lakewood Drive, north of Hwy. 174, is coming from 4A half cent sales tax funds (the station was adopted as a 4A project in 2001; the land was adopted as a 4A project in 2002). That means everyone who eats, shops, and plays in Burleson, has chipped in on the structure. The City's newest station is providing fire and emergency response to the southwest part of the city, which includes North Joshua Elementary and Caddo Grove Elementary, both in the Joshua Independent School District.

Fire Station #1, located on Alsbury Boulevard, was built in 2003 using general obligation bond money. Fire Station #2 and the fire training tower, located on Memorial Plaza, were built in 1995 and expanded in 2003, also courtesy of half cent sales tax funds. The Burleson Fire Department's district includes more than 24 square miles and more than 34,000 residents.

Station 1 is staffed with four firefighters per shift. Station 2 and Station 3 are staffed with three career firefighters per shift. Volunteer firefighters are assigned to Station 1.