



Champions Emergency Services District

Harris County ESD 29 – 12730 Champion Forest Drive – Houston, TX 77066
281.444.2014 – fax: 281.444.1524 – esd29.org

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Champions ESD Welcomes Water Tanker Truck

Changes in Insurance Rating Parameters Along with Commercial Growth in Non-Hydrant Areas Prompt Fire Department to Focus on Water Supply Demands.

Champions ESD has taken delivery of a new vehicle designed to transport large amounts of water to the scene of a fire. Tanker 12 will be housed at Station #1 on Champion Forest Drive until the completion of the new Station #2 on Cutten Road near Cypress Creek Parkway. Tanker 12 is equipped to carry 3,000 gallons of water and other firefighting equipment to the scene of an emergency.



The need for this truck was noted by District officials following preparations for a re-grade from the Insurance Services Office, or ISO, which is currently underway. ISO visits fire districts periodically and, based on an extensive set of criteria, issues a fire protection classification rating (PPC) for that District. Champions ESD is currently rated a 3 on a scale ranging from 1 (best) to 10 (least protection). The ability of a fire department to deliver a sustained water supply at the scene of a fire is a critical part of a district's PPC. 40% of an ISO grade is related to that ability to deliver a water supply. Recent rule changes from ISO stipulate that no building in a fire district may be farther than 1000' from the closest fire hydrant without causing a reduction in PPC rating. Such a reduction could cause significant changes to insurance premiums. "Ideally, it is our long-term hope that the property owners in our District who are graded as non-hydrant areas seek out agreements with surrounding MUD's for water," said Champions ESD Commissioner David Parker. "Champions ESD has made the decision to be proactive by purchasing this specialty piece of equipment to give those customers in the non-hydrant areas the best level of service possible.

Tanker 12 was purchased through Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. at a cost of \$300,000. The tanker will be dispatched to any known fire event at a structure that is in excess of 1,000 feet from a municipal water supply. Crews will be able to deploy a 3,000 gallon portable tank from which water can be pumped to the fire by a fire engine. With the assistance of tankers from neighboring fire departments a "water shuttle" can be developed to keep the portable tank fully supplied without interruption.

"This is an important tool for our tool box," said Fire Chief Dan Shelor. "With the explosive growth of commercial development in areas without fire hydrants, coupled with data showing that fires are growing faster than ever before, getting water to a fire quickly is a high priority. This piece of equipment will help us be more effective."

For more information about the Champions Emergency Services District, please visit our website at esd29.org.