

YOUR VOICE, OUR COMMUNITY

Klein is growing. Keep safety growing faster.



Harris County ESD 16, Klein Fire Department protects and serves our community by minimizing the loss of life or property from fire, medical or other emergencies. We strive to meet and exceed the needs and expectations of our community and our response partners. Every day. Every way. Every one.

INVESTING IN SAFETY: THE FUTURE OF FIRE PROTECTION IN KLEIN

Our Story and Our Mission

Our story began in 1951, when a handful of neighbors in Klein saw a need and stepped up to protect their community. With little more than determination and a shared sense of responsibility, these volunteers laid the foundation for what would become the Klein Fire Department. Over the decades, as our community grew from quiet neighborhoods in farmland into a thriving part of northern Harris County, we grew too—expanding our services, training, and resources to meet the needs of the people we serve.

Today, under Harris County Emergency Services District 16, the Klein Fire Department proudly covers a 49-square-mile area, responding to thousands of calls each year. From house fires to medical emergencies, from rescuing families in distress to supporting disaster recovery, our mission remains the same: to protect life and property with courage, honor, and integrity.

What makes us unique isn't just our history—it's our connection to the community. Our firefighters and first responders are your neighbors, friends, and family members. We are guided by a locally elected board that ensures accountability and transparency, and we operate under the laws of the State of Texas to keep Klein safe and prepared for whatever challenges come our way.

Klein is growing—and with growth comes new challenges. More homes, more businesses, more traffic, and more people mean greater demands on our emergency services. To keep up, we must ensure our fire department has the resources to maintain the high level of protection our community expects and deserves.

That's why the upcoming election on adjusting the tax rate cap is so important. Updating the maximum limit allows Klein Fire Department to budget appropriately, keeping pace with rising call volumes, modern equipment needs, and the staffing required to respond quickly when every second counts. This isn't about expanding beyond our means—it's about preserving the safety standard our community has relied on for decades.

Your support helps keep response times strong, protects our growing neighborhoods, and ensures that every family, school, and business in Klein remains safe and prepared. Together, we can continue building a resilient, well-equipped fire service that grows with our community.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's keep safety growing faster—together.

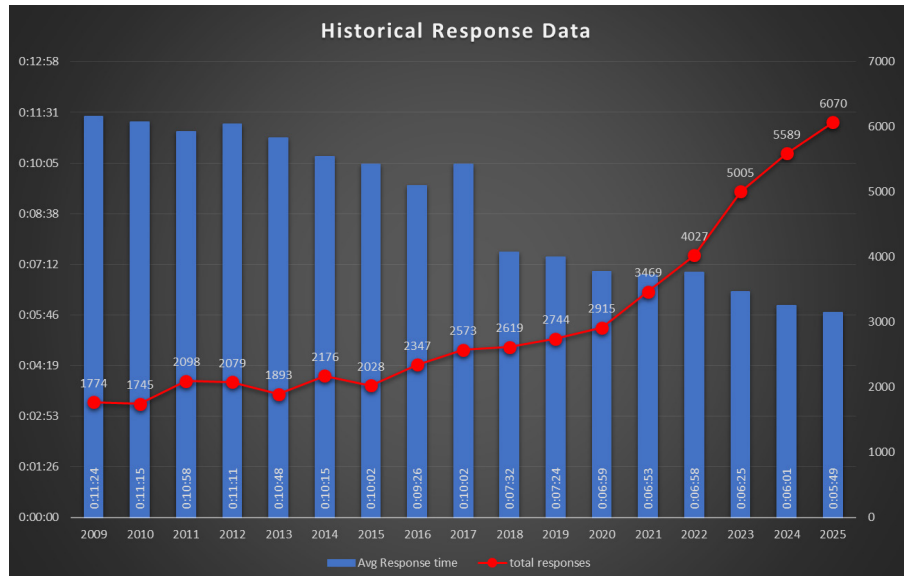


Growth is calling. We must answer.

Why We're Talking About Growth and Safety

Klein is not the same community it was 5 or 10 years ago. Families are moving in, businesses are growing, and new neighborhoods, schools, and roads are being built. With this growth, our fire department is answering more emergencies than ever—calls have increased 75% in five years, and our population now exceeds 200,000. Every new home, apartment, and business adds to the need for fast, reliable emergency response.

We've worked hard to keep you safe by adding full-time firefighters, improving training, and upgrading equipment, which helped reduce our average response time from 10 minutes in 2015 to about 6 minutes today, while maintaining an ISO 2 rating that can help lower insurance costs. But costs have risen sharply—a fire truck that was \$375,000 in 2010 now costs over \$1.3 million—and our funding has not kept pace with Klein's growth. The upcoming referendum in May's election is our chance to plan together so safety grows with our community. Your input will help guide decisions about staffing, equipment, and emergency response in the years ahead.



Historic Call Volume & Response Times

- 2010 → 1,745 calls for service
- 2025 → 6,070 calls for service

➤ That is a 248% increase in calls for service in 15 years!

Average Response Time:

- 2015 → ~10 minutes
- 2025 → ≤ 6 minutes

Why it matters: Faster response times save lives and property. We've worked hard to improve, but growth means we need to keep pace.

Public Safety & Population Growth

- **Current Population:** Over 200,000 residents
- **New apartments since 2015:** 6,784 units, with 3,897 apartment units built since 2020.
- **More coming:** 500+ units planned or under construction

Impact: More people = more calls, more traffic, and more need for emergency services.

What We've Accomplished So Far

- Reduced response times
- Updated fire trucks and rescue vehicles
- Added advanced extrication tools and protective gear
- Increased firefighter training
- Transitioned to a combination of volunteer, part-time, and full-time staff

The Challenge Ahead

- Fire truck costs have skyrocketed:
 - **2010:** Pumper = \$375K
Ladder = \$500K
 - **2024:** Pumper = \$1.3M
Ladder = \$2.2M
- By 2030, costs will rise another 30% (a 370% increase since 2010!)

Did You Know?

- Maintaining an ISO 2 Rating helps lower homeowners' insurance costs.
- All 8 fire stations now operate 24/7, thanks to staffing improvements.
- Specialized training in high-water rescue and extrication is critical due to flooding and major highway crashes.



Protecting Klein Community's Future

Challenges Posed by Aging Infrastructure and Rising Costs

Our current revenue is unable to support the present level of service going forward. ESD 16 faces significant challenges due to its aging infrastructure, including fire stations and emergency apparatus. At the same time, we are experiencing increased costs across all aspects of our operations. More than 80% of our current revenue is allocated to staffing and related expenses. This allocation means that, without additional funding, we will not be able to maintain staffing at all eight fire stations in the future.

This situation is especially concerning as our annual call volume continues to rise, and the emergencies we respond to are becoming more complex. Our crews are dispatched to a wide range of incidents, from structure fires and aircraft emergencies to natural disasters and medical crises such as overdoses and cardiac events. The demand for our services has never been higher.

In addition, maintaining a low ISO rating—which helps determine local property insurance costs—depends on our ability to provide highly trained personnel, maintain modern equipment, and ensure rapid response times. Without sufficient resources, our capacity to meet these critical standards and protect our community's safety is at risk.

Current Funding Limits

Harris County ESD 16, Klein Fire Department is funded primarily through property taxes. By state law, Texas Emergency Services Districts can levy a maximum of \$0.10 for every \$100 of property value. Despite responsible fiscal management, the surging costs associated with staffing, apparatus, fuel, and technology have outpaced the revenue generated primarily through property taxes. With the district's tax rate at approximately \$0.05 per \$100 of property valuation—half of the legal limit and significantly lower than all neighboring districts—the resources required to maintain our existing emergency services are no longer sustainable. The recent introduction of debt service in 2025 to keep pace with growth further emphasizes the strain on our budget and the urgent need to address this funding shortfall.

The Importance of an Adjustment

- **Population Growth:** More homes, businesses, and traffic mean more emergencies.
- **Equipment & Facilities:** Fire engines, training, equipment, and stations require continuous funding and ongoing investment.
- **Staffing:** Recruiting and retaining skilled firefighters is essential to operational effectiveness.

- **Peer Comparison:** Other Harris County ESDs operate near the legal limit of 10 cents to meet similar demands.

Peer Comparisons Harris & Montgomery County ESDs (2025)		
		Tax Rate per \$100
ESD 16	Klein Fire Department	0.050000
ESD 7	Spring Fire Department	0.100000
ESD 13	Cypress Creek Fire Department	0.100000
ESD 17	Little York Fire Department	0.100000
ESD 20	Northwest Volunteer Fire Department	0.099814
ESD 21	Cypress Rosehill	0.100000
ESD 29	Champions Fire Department	0.100000
MCESD 1	North Montgomery County Fire Department	0.100000
MCESD 7	East Montgomery County Fire Department	0.100000

Insight: ESD 16's ~0.050 is roughly half of peers (~0.10).

Securing Our Community's Future: Next Steps

A modest tax-cap adjustment will allow us to:

- Maintain fast, reliable emergency response
- Modernize aging equipment and facilities
- Maintain a low ISO rating, helping homeowners save money by lowering their insurance premiums.

Ensuring Trust Through Transparent and Accountable Actions

We are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of transparency and accountability in every aspect of our operations. To foster trust within our community, we make all budgets, audits, and tax notices readily available for public review. This open access ensures that residents can see exactly how resources are allocated and used to support emergency services.

Any proposed increase will strictly adhere to Texas Truth-in-Taxation laws, including conducting public hearings to gather input and address concerns, and, when necessary, seeking voter approval before any changes are implemented. These steps are taken to make sure that the community remains fully informed and involved in decisions that impact funding for emergency services.

Protecting What Matters Most: Your Safety Comes First

Every dollar invested in emergency services saves both lives and property. As our community continues to grow, it is essential to provide firefighters with the resources they need to protect you and your family.



Let's keep safety growing faster—together.



Your Safety. Your Voice. Your Community.

Your support helps the Klein Fire Department:

- Maintain fast response times
- Staff all 8 stations 24/7/365
- Replace aging trucks and equipment
- Ensure training meets the standards of a high-volume, modern department
- **Protect every neighborhood, family & business**

Thank you for being part of the Klein community and for supporting the firefighters who are proud to serve you. As our community grows, we remain committed to transparency, accountability, and the highest standards of emergency service.

Have questions about the May 2nd election? Email us at: info@hcesd16.org

Polling Locations

Station 36
18822 N. Eldridge Pkwy
Tomball, TX 77377

Station 38
9600 Crescent Clover Dr.
Spring, TX 77379

Early Voting Dates

April 20, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Election Day

May 2
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Harris County ESD No. 16 • Klein Fire Department
Protecting our community since 1951



HARRIS COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT