

April 14, 2025

ESD 1 Board Approves Fire Chief Succession Plan

At their regularly-scheduled April meeting, the Brazos County ESD 1 Board of Commissioners approved and implemented the next phase of its Leadership Succession Plan.

Effective May 1, 2025, David Cooper will become the Fire Chief and Head of Department, with overall responsibility for the mission, vision, long-range planning, and operational readiness of all personnel, paid and volunteer, in preparation for, response to, and recovery from fire, rescue, and medical emergencies. Chief Cooper is a 30-year veteran of the fire service and currently serves as an Assistant Chief with the District. Previously, he was with the Navasota Fire Department and Montgomery County ESD 1. Chief Cooper holds Advanced Firefighter and EMT-Basic certifications.

Former Fire Chief Mike Montgomery will assume a new role as General Manager for the District, with overall responsibility for the oversight and management of day-to-day business and administrative activities of the District, to include support of the Fire Chief and his staff. Montgomery is a 38-year veteran of the fire service and currently serves as Fire Chief of the District. Previously, he was with the Cy-Fair Fire Department, a member of Texas Task Force 1, and the Harris County Fire Marshal. He holds Master Firefighter, Fire Inspector, and Fire Investigator certifications.

Assistant Chief Chet Barker will continue in his role as second-in-command to Chief Cooper, primarily responsible for day-to-day operations and emergency response. Chief Barker is a 39-year veteran of the fire service and a founding member of the all-volunteer South Brazos County Fire Department. He is also a Captain with the College Station Fire Department. Barker holds Master Firefighter and EMT-Paramedic certifications.

“This transition is necessary to position the district for future community development, and to ensure the stability and accountability of District operations,” said ESD 1 Board President Rodger Stout. “The district is fortunate to be able to promote leadership of this quality from within, willing and ready to take on new roles and responsibilities.”

Brazos County Emergency Services District 1 provides fire, rescue, and emergency medical services and collects property and sales tax for the delivery of those services. Services are provided directly by the District, supplemented by a contract with the volunteers of the South Brazos County Fire Department. Predominantly rural in nature, the District is an ISO Class 5/5Y community, about 144 square miles in size, with a resident population of about 23,000.

For more information, contact Chief Cooper at 936-825-3014 or info@brazoscountyesd1.org.