

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **WESTLAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Travis County Emergency Service District #9  
1011 Westlake Dr.

West Lake Hills, TX 78746

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Headquarters 512-327-9405

## **OAK HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Travis County Emergency Service District #3  
4111 Barton Creek Blvd.

Austin, TX 78735

[www.oakhillfire.org](http://www.oakhillfire.org)

Headquarters 512-288-5534

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### **New Era for Southwest Travis County – Strategic Agreement Developed**

**December 15, 2006** – Citizens within southwest Travis County will see a new approach in their fire protection service delivery model. Oak Hill Fire Department and Westlake Fire Department have entered into a strategic agreement to provide greater coordination and utilization of resources for both districts. This innovative approach also allows for a larger, more robust training program and fire prevention staff than either could realize if acting alone.

“Our goal is to improve service levels by leveraging the appropriate capabilities of both Emergency Services District #9 (ESD #9) and Emergency Services District #3 (ESD #3) to ensure that we are using the taxpayer’s resources most effectively for both districts” explains David Altounian, President of the Board of Commissioners for Travis County ESD #9.

Travis County ESD #3 Board of Commissioners President David Luther says "Under the new ESD #3-Oak Hill and ESD #9-Westlake joint management agreement, both departments will share a command staff, training division, and code inspection division. This innovative cross-services arrangement will result in substantial savings to both Emergency Service Districts through a more efficient management structure and the more closely coordinated joint operations will improve response capability and service in the areas served by the districts."

Fire departments within Travis County are governed by emergency services districts which oversee the financial aspects within the department to ensure appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. This group of dedicated citizens from the community works closely with the Travis County Commissioner responsible for the geographic area of Travis County in which their department is located.

Travis County ESD #3 will continue to oversee the financial aspects of the Oak Hill Fire Department and likewise, Travis County ESD #9 will continue to oversee the financial aspects of the Westlake Fire Department. Both departments will maintain their historical names as well as their front line staff, apparatus, facilities and budgets.

Travis County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty, Precinct 3 states "I have always been a supporter of new ideas that bring more efficient delivery of services to Travis County residents. The cooperation between Travis County ESD #3 and ESD #9 is an excellent example of how county boards and commissions can leverage available resources to provide the best possible services."

While many departments throughout Travis County have automatic or mutual aid agreements with one another, allowing them to call for additional personnel or resources during significant events, the agreement between the Westlake Fire Department and the Oak Hill Fire Department takes that cooperation to another level.

For more information, please contact the on-duty PIO via pager at 935-7979.