

**Interlocal Service Agreement Between Travis County Emergency Services
District #3 (Oak Hill Fire Department) and Travis County Emergency
Services District #9 (Westlake Fire Department)
Q & A**

When will the Interlocal Service Agreement (ISA) go into effect?

The ISA has been approved of and signed by each ESD board, and goes into effect December 15th, 2006.

When was there opportunity for public input?

Each ESD posted public meetings to discuss the adoption of the ISA as part of their regularly posted Board meetings. ESD #9 discussed and approved the ISA at a posted Board meeting November 14th and ESD #3 discussed and approved the ISA at a special meeting November 18th, 2006.

What impact does the ISA create for the taxpayers of each emergency services district?

Since each district will maintain their own separate budgets and pay for their own costs, there will be no tax impact caused by the ISA. As a matter of fact, some cost savings will be realized by sharing some strategic resources instead of each district duplicating them.

Won't the Westlake Fire Chief essentially become a half-time chief even though ESD #9 will have to pay the entire Fire Chief's salary?

The full-time Westlake Fire Chief will have more people to supervise under the agreement but will benefit from the assistance of three full-time Assistant Chiefs to assist with the work load. With this larger management structure, the overall division of labor will be much improved.

Will one Board have veto power over another? Which Board will have the final say with regard to service levels and deploying personnel?

Each ESD Board will retain the same authority as it had before the agreement. Each Board will have the same amount of human and physical resources as it had before the agreement. The only change will be that the Chief Officers will work in concert with each other to bring the most efficient emergency response services possible.

If either ESD Board finds that the agreement causes their district to lose out on service levels or that their employees are not being deployed effectively, they have the right to discontinue the agreement.

After the agreement goes into effect, would Oak Hill supervisors then be managing Westlake Fire Department employees and vice versa? How could Oak Hill supervisors direct Westlake personnel who are paid by a different entity?

Yes. Oak Hill supervisors will be managing Westlake Fire Department employees and vice versa. This will be done through the traditional chain of command that has existed in fire departments throughout time. Areas of responsibility will be based on functionality instead of where the employee gets a paycheck from.

The Westlake Fire Chief will supervise three Assistant Fire Chiefs.

One Oak Hill Assistant Fire Chief will supervise all the administrative functions of the Oak Hill Fire Department as well as the combined training functions for both departments.

Another Westlake Assistant Fire Chief will supervise all the administrative functions of the Westlake Fire Department as well as the combined fire prevention functions for both departments.

The other Oak Hill Assistant Fire Chief will supervise all the operational emergency response functions of both departments with the help of three Westlake Shift Commanders.

Will Westlake personnel be relocated to Oak Hill? Will Oak Hill personnel be relocated to Oak Hill? If so, how would this affect response times in each Emergency Service District?

The two Oak Hill stations will remain open and fully staffed with Oak Hill personnel as they are now. The two Westlake stations will remain open and fully staffed with Westlake personnel as they are now. There will be no affect on response times in either ESD.