

## **El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 Horizon Fire Department sets budget for 2020-2021 year**

El Paso, Texas – El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 (ESD) No. 1 has announced its budget for the 2020-2021 year. The budget is set at \$3,924,805.00 and will help first responders in El Paso County ESD #1 protect property and lives in the communities they serve. ESDs are a political subdivision of the state of Texas similar to a school district or hospital district. Each ESD provides fire protection and emergency medical response in its local community.

“El Paso County Emergency Services District #1 is dedicated to the protection and preservation of property and life within our community,” said Chief Kris Menendez. We are confident the brave men and women that serve as first responders will continue to have what they need to fulfill their mission.”

ESDs are on the cutting edge of fire and EMS response and provide emergency services while spending anywhere from one third to one half of what municipalities spend when providing services of similar scope. If a resident in the ESD needs fire or EMS services, it is the ESD/Horizon Fire Department who will be providing the service rather than the city, county or state.

Funding for ESDs is constitutionally limited to the collection of property taxes – capped at 10 cents per \$100. In turn, this money is invested locally in fire engines, and fire stations, as well as personnel.

“We are working to keep our first responders and the communities they serve safe,” Cliff Avery, executive director for the Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts (SAFE-D), said. “ESDs offer incredible value to taxpayers and deliver high quality emergency services across Texas. COVID-19 and its impact has emphasized the importance of health and safety and this new budget will help us keep our promise to our communities.”

SAFE-D is the association supporting Texas ESDs and their first responders. SAFE-D member districts serve an estimated eight million Texans through emergency services across 251 districts. SAFE-D supports these ESDs with the mission of making Texans safer. Visit [www.epcesd1.com](http://www.epcesd1.com) to learn more.

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