

P O N D E R O S A  
**FIREFIGHTER**  
HARRIS COUNTY ESD # 28

Station 61: 17061 Rolling Creek Dr., Houston, TX., 77090

Station 62: 4362 Louetta Rd., Spring, TX., 77388

Station 63: 21455 Imperial Valley, Houston, TX., 77073

This everyday item is found in our kitchens, garages, and bathroom drawers. However, this harmless object can be one of the deadliest items that often goes unnoticed. While we occasionally talk to our children about it, we give little thought to what happens after we discard it in the trash or drop it on the ground.

The item in question is a match. We often assume that safety concerning matches is common knowledge. Have you ever considered who is responsible for teaching others about match safety, matchbook safety, or the safety of butane and propane lighters? The answer is everyone.



Matches and lighters can easily ignite flammable materials, leading to uncontrolled fires. We tend to believe that we've fully extinguished a match or safely put away a lighter, but we often overlook the associated risks.

It's crucial to remember that a lighter still burns after you've lifted your finger from the trigger. Additionally, matchsticks can remain hot even after they've burned out, and butane/propane lighters can still be hot after you release the trigger. The combustion of a match head can also release harmful fumes, such as sulfur dioxide, which can irritate the respiratory system.

To ensure safety, please blow out the match and douse it in water before throwing it in the trash. Let your butane or propane lighter cool down before placing it back in a drawer. All it takes is a spark to ignite a fire, and with spring approaching and more time is spent outdoors for neighborhood gatherings, fire safety becomes even more important. Let's all be courteous, mindful, and safe.

I'm not alive, but I can grow. I don't have lungs, but I need air. I can crawl when I am fed. What am I?

*Fire*

# Harris County Emergency Services District #28

## Budget for 2025

Harris County Emergency Services District #28 (ESD #28) is pleased to present the adopted 2025 Budget. The Budget begins the year with an expected fund balance of \$7.7 million. The revenues for 2025 include: Ad Valorem Tax (Property Tax) - \$4.9 million, Sales Tax - \$3.2 million, Other Income - \$80 thousand and Interest Income - \$405 thousand for a total \$8.6 million. After allowing for operating expenses and capital expenditures, ESD #28, the expected surplus of \$433 thousand with an expected Fund Balance of \$8.1 million at year end.

The Fund Balance contains a savings account for future capital expenditures. With the cost of the replacement cost of the 6 Pierce Fire Trucks owned by ESD \$28 is \$8.1 million, the fund balance is reasonable.

Fire Trucks have a 4-to-5-year delivery date depending on the model. A Pumper has a 4-year delivery whereas a Tower has a 5-year delivery. ESD #28 placed an order for 3 new pumpers in October 2022 which will be delivered second quarter of 2026. They were purchased to replace 3 pumpers purchased in 2018. The cost of the 3 new pumpers is \$3.3 million with \$2 million paid on deposit and the estimated sale price of the 3 old pumpers is \$900 thousand. The budget also includes \$353 thousand for the balloon payment on the old pumpers' lease. With the payment of the balloon payment, ESD #28 will be debt free.

Truck	Acquisition Date	Service Life	Replacement Date	Lead Time	Order Date
Pumper - Spare	2023	8 Years	2031	4 Years	2027
Pumper	2025	8 Years	2033	4 Years	2029
Pumper	2025	8 Years	2033	4 Years	2029
Pumper	2025	8 Years	2033	4 Years	2029
Tower	2020	11 Years	2031	5 Years	2026

The fire trucks are purchased and paid in full with cash. We could lease the trucks but that would increase the cost of ownership by the interest for the lease which would reduce the operating funds available for fighting fires.

The ESD entered a partnership with 4 other ESD's in the area to form a 911 call center after the demise of Cypress Creek EMS. Currently, the call center is renting space, but the call center has budgeted \$10 million to build a new building for the call center. ESD #28's portion is \$2 million which is planned for 2028 to 2029.

# Harris County Emergency Services District #28

## 2025 Approved Budget

### Version 3 - Approved 09/19/2024

Ordinary Income/Expense	2024 Budget Version 2	YTD Comparison Through	2025 Budget Version 3	Key
Income	8/21/2023	7/31/2024	9/19/2024	Percentages
40000 · Receipts				
40300 · Penalty and Interest	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 17,264.25	\$ 30,000.00	0.00%
41106 · Tax Receipts Current Year	\$ 4,650,000.00	\$ 4,483,770.85	\$ 4,915,000.00	5.70%
40600 · Tax Receipts Previous Yrs	\$ 40,000.00	\$ (5,131.21)	\$ 20,000.00	-50.00%
41300 · Sales Tax Revenue	\$ 3,100,000.00	\$ 1,230,725.39	\$ 3,200,000.00	3.23%
<b>Total 40000 · Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 7,820,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,726,629.28</b>	<b>\$ 8,165,000.00</b>	<b>4.41%</b>
53800 · Misc. Revenue	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 110,329.36	\$ 30,000.00	100.00%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 7,835,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,836,958.64</b>	<b>\$ 8,195,000.00</b>	<b>4.59%</b>
<b>Expenses - Oper</b> 60000 · Expenses				
64300 - Gate Station 61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
60200 · Harris County Appraisal District	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 20,826.00	\$ 42,000.00	5.00%
60250 · Tax Collector's Fees	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	-100.00%
60300 · Legal Fees				
60350 · Delinquent Tax Attorney Fee	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 5,996.26	\$ 15,000.00	7.14%
60351 · Election Expenses	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	0.00%
60352 · Legal Notices	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 59.80	\$ 5,000.00	0.00%
60353 · Legal Fees - General	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 8,404.38	\$ 29,000.00	7.41%
<b>Total · Legal Fees</b>	<b>\$ 96,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,460.44</b>	<b>\$ 99,000.00</b>	<b>3.13%</b>
60400 · Audit Fees	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	0.00%
60500 - Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,875.00	\$ 5,000.00	0.00%
60600 · Ponderosa Vol. Fire Assoc.	\$ 5,800,000.00	\$ 3,050,000.00	\$ 6,600,000.00	13.79%
60610 - Cares Act Refund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
60615 - Cares Act Draw	\$ -	\$ 113,334.52	\$ -	0.00%
60651 - TECC Operating Expenses	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 158,771.04	\$ 225,000.00	0.00%
60700 · Insurance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,696.92	\$ 3,000.00	0.00%
60800 - Bank Charges	\$ 500.00	\$ 247.00	\$ 500.00	0.00%
60900 - District Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 27,146.90	\$ -	0.00%
61100 · SA FE-D Annual Dues	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	0.00%
61111 · SA FE-D Conference	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,085.12	\$ 5,000.00	0.00%
<b>Total · SA FE-D</b>	<b>\$ 6,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,085.12</b>	<b>\$ 6,200.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
61600 - Website	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,288.00	\$ 1,400.00	0.00%
61700 - Maint. & Repairs Sta. 63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
61200 · TX DOT Traffic Preemption	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 36,083.36	\$ 42,000.00	5.00%
61300 - Traffic County		\$ -		
61500 · Sales Tax Consulting Service	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 3,294.00	\$ 62,500.00	13.64%
62500 · Miscellaneous	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.00%
65004 - Site Work		\$ -		0.00%
65009 - Communication s/Radio		\$ -		0.00%
66000 - Payroll Expenses	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,556.45	\$ 12,000.00	0.00%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 6,320,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,452,664.75</b>	<b>\$ 7,114,600.00</b>	<b>12.57%</b>
<b>Total Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,514,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,384,293.89</b>	<b>\$ 1,080,400.00</b>	<b>-28.68%</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
80000 - Other Income				
80100 · Interest Inc Bank Ck A cct.	\$ 340,000.00	\$ 250,237.30	\$ 400,000.00	17.65%
80101 · Interest Inc MM Accts.	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,253.29	\$ 5,500.00	0.00%
<b>Total · Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 345,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 254,490.59</b>	<b>\$ 405,500.00</b>	<b>17.37%</b>
<b>Projected Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,860,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,638,784.48</b>	<b>\$ 1,485,900.00</b>	<b>-20.13%</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
60650 - TECC Capital Expenditures	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 36,630.43	\$ 100,000.00	0.00%
60602 - Pierce Trucks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 753,000.00	100.00%
65000 - Capital Outlay (Contingency)	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	-33.33%
<b>Total Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 400,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,630.43</b>	<b>\$ 1,053,000.00</b>	<b>163.25%</b>
<b>Total Budget Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 1,460,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,602,154.05</b>	<b>\$ 432,900.00</b>	



## Ponderosa Fire Department Station 61



Stay in touch with Ponderosa Fire Department on Facebook. Be sure to turn on notifications to get updated postings.

<https://www.facebook.com/PonderosaFD/>

### What about those Flammable,



### and Combustible materials in your GARAGE?

Garages often contain various flammable and combustible items that can pose a fire hazard if not handled properly. Here are some common items found in garages and tips for fire safety:

1. **Gasoline and Fuel:** Store gasoline and other fuels in approved containers and keep them away from ignition sources. Ensure the containers are tightly sealed and stored in a well-ventilated area.

2. **Propane Tanks:** Store propane tanks outside the garage in a well-ventilated area. Never store them inside the house or garage.

3. **Paints and Solvents:** Keep paints, solvents, and other flammable liquids in their original containers with tightly closed lids. Store them in a cool, dry place away from heat sources.

4. **Aerosol Cans:** Store aerosol cans in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and heat sources. Avoid puncturing or exposing them to high temperatures.

5. **Rags and Cloths:** Oily or solvent-soaked rags can spontaneously combust. Store them in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid and dispose of them properly.

6. **Firewood and Paper:** Keep firewood, paper, and other combustible materials away from heat sources and electrical equipment.

7. **Electrical Equipment:** Ensure that electrical equipment and tools are in good working condition. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and use extension cords rated for the intended use. Discard old extension cords that are brittle and stiff.

8. **Muriatic Acid:** is also known as hydrochloric acid and is highly corrosive. This substance should be stored with caution. It can cause severe burns and damage to the skin, eyes, and lungs if not handled properly. Store this acid in a well-ventilated area away from any sources of ignition or heat such as furnaces or power outlets.



**9. Fire Extinguisher:** Keep a fire extinguisher in the garage and ensure it is easily accessible. Make sure everyone in the household knows where it is as and how to use it.

By following these fire safety tips, you can help prevent accidents and ensure a safer environment in your garage. Let's all be neighborly and take the necessary precautions to keep our communities, neighborhoods, homes, and families safe.

**Oh, but...**

### **What if I want to dispose of the hazardous items I have in my garage?**

In Harris County, you can dispose of hazardous products at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility. This facility is located at 6900 Hahl Road, Houston, TX 77040. It operates by appointment only, so be sure to schedule a visit in advance.

For more information on the proper disposal of household hazardous waste, including flammable products, you can visit the Harris County Household Waste website. They provide guidelines on safe handling and disposal of various hazardous materials to ensure the safety of the community and the environment.

<https://www.eng.hctx.net>



Garage safety is as important as house safety. Discard expired and hazardous waste to keep our communities safe.

**This is not a do-it-yourself project.** Please contact: <https://www.eng.hctx.net/Consultants/Household-Hazardous/Household-Hazardous-Waste>

**Ponderosa Fire Department Station 61 and 62 assisted Spring Fire Department with a residential fire. The coordinated efforts were instrumental in controlling the fire and ensuring the safety of the residents.**

Here are a few reminders to stay safe with the use of space heaters.

Always plug a space heater directly into a wall outlet- NEVER use an extension cord or power strip.

Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from anything combustible: blankets, furniture, curtains, or paper.

Never leave space heaters unattended-turn them off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Make sure your space heater has an automatic shut-off feature in case it topples over.



FACEBOOK/ Ponderosa Fire Department January 8, 2025



# Ponderosa Fire Department Station 62



Station 62 assisted Spring Fire Department with a fully involved garage fire with multiple exposures. The crews completed a quick knock down of the garage and kept the fire from spreading to the house.

One of the many reasons to keep your garages clean and organized. Know where your combustibles and flammables are kept and let the fire fighters know what you have in your garage. Communication is always essential.



FACEBOOK/Ponderosa FD Station #62 January, 23, 2018

## Combustible vs Flammable

**What is combustibility?** It is the ability of a material to catch on fire and burn when exposed to heat or flame under certain conditions. Combustible materials are those that can catch fire, but they require a higher temperature to ignite. These materials have a flashpoint above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Combustibles will not ignite as easily as flammable substances but, given enough heat or an open flame, these materials will burn.

### Examples:



**What is flammability?** It is the ability for the material to ignite or burn at lower temperatures, with a flashpoint below 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

This lower threshold means the object can catch fire more readily and at room temperature, making them more dangerous in environments where sparks or static electricity may be present.

### Examples:





# Ponderosa Fire Department Stats for 2024

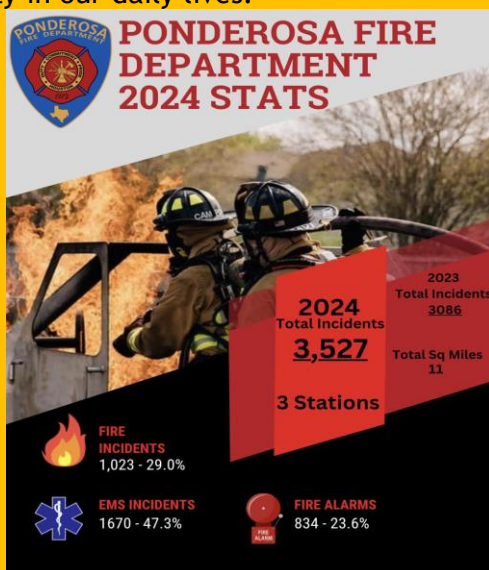
THANK YOU for the dedication and hard work of the Ponderosa Fire Department. Who with grit, determination, and fearlessness has kept us safe throughout 2024.

There were **1,023 calls for fire incidents**. These are situations where a fire has occurred or there has been a threat of fire. House and apartment fires, wildfires, and vehicle fires, fall into this category.

The **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** had **1,670 incidents**. These involve medical emergencies where firefighters provide fire aid, CPR, or other medical assistance.

**Fire alarm calls are triggered by fire alarm systems and this occurred 834 times for 2024**. These can be false alarms, a system malfunction, or an actual fire threat that needs to be investigated. Ponderosa Fire Department is actively working to reduce the number of false fire alarms by educating the community on proper alarm maintenance and usage and billing users for repeat calls for service.

**Calls are steadily increasing every year**, reflecting the growing needs of our community. This increase in calls highlights the importance of community awareness and preparedness. By working together and staying informed, we can help reduce emergencies and ensure a safer environment for everyone. Let's continue to support our firefighters and make safety a priority in our daily lives.



You can find this information and more on [FACEBOOK](#)/ Ponderosa Fire Department

## Here is a recollection of a 911 emergency incident from 2024.

An early morning call was dispatched to the parking lot of HCA Houston Northwest for a vehicle fire. Engine 61 responded swiftly and arrived on scene to find a vehicle engulfed in flames, with the fire threatening an adjacent vehicle. The crew immediately initiated extinguishment efforts, working efficiently to control and suppress the fire. Thanks to the rapid response of the Ponderosa Fire Department, the fire was contained quickly, limiting further damage to nearby vehicles and property.



Photos courtesy of Ponderosa Fire Department



## Ponderosa Fire Department Station 63



### Seven new firefighters onboarded fall of 2024!

Old and new firefighters met to ensure everyone is prepared to be deployed to their respective stations for dispatched calls. These pictures capture the various fire hose stretches, which included learning different techniques for deploying and handling fire hoses efficiently in various scenarios. Ponderosa Fire Department is proud to see the team grow and are looking forward to experiencing what the new members bring to our communities.





Ponderosa Fire Department had a productive training session using Tower 61. The focus was on the parapet ladder and the cone hitch drill. The parapet ladder training helps firefighters safely access rooftops with parapet walls, while the cone hitch drill increases familiarity and confidence in handling aerial equipment during rescue operations. This comprehensive training ensures our team is well prepared for various emergency situations.



## Fire Resistant, Fireproof, Flame Retardant Do YOU know the DIFFERENCE?

If something is **fire-resistant**, it can withstand incredibly high temperatures before it begins to burn. Often, these materials are treated with chemicals to make them stronger. As a result, it takes a long time for these types of items to burn if a fire breaks out.

Although these items can resist fire and its effects, it does not make them fireproof. A fire-resistant material can catch on fire when directly exposed to a flame.

So, if materials are fire-resistant and are not **fireproof** then what is fireproof? Technically nothing is entirely fireproof since everything has a burning point. Even a fire-resistant object can burn at incredibly high temperatures.

If something is **flame-retardant**, it will help slow the flames spread and reduce smoke. This is especially helpful as it can keep a fire contained for a limited time in a specific area of your home to give you more time to escape.

Flame-retardant items have a chemical coating that helps extinguish flames if they come in contact with the object. You can apply a flame-retardant blanket over wood, fabrics, cloth, carpets, curtains, draperies, stoves, grills to reduce flame propagation. You can even have your draperies and carpet sprayed with flame-retardant along with your wood items coated to reduce the threat of a fire burning quickly to give you time to get out when a fire begins.

### Which option is best?

Flame-retardant materials take a limited time to burn, fire-resistant materials can help protect a coated surface for a longer period, approximately two hours or more.

Most firefighters agree that fire resistance is best because it does not just slow the flames but also deters them. This can help lessen the damage often caused by fires since there will be more time to put it out especially when the items have a higher burn point.

Although fire-resistant materials often cost more than flame-retardant, they are worth the price because they do a superior job of protecting your property.

Fires are incredibly destructive and dangerous, but with fire-resistant materials, you can slow the spread of the flames and keep everyone safe. Firefighters wear fire-resistant materials when they fight fires. Safety first, family first.



### Fire fighters are more than just professionals who put out fires.

They are your family, your brothers and sisters who risk their lives every day to protect you and your community. They are the ones who run towards danger when everyone else runs away. They are the ones who sacrifice their time, their health, and sometimes their lives for the greater good. They are the ones who show courage, compassion, and dedication in the face of adversity.

**Why do we need fire fighters?** Because they are the heroes we depend on in times of crisis. Because they are the ones who save lives, property, and the environment. Because they are attempting to help you while you are having the worst day of your life. Because they are the ones who make our world a safer and better place. And BECAUSE they are the ones who inspire us to be brave, generous, and resilient.

**Support your firefighters!** They deserve our respect, our gratitude, and our help. They need our support and advocacy. They need us to stand with them, to cheer them on, and to thank them for their service.







Texas Emergency Communications Center, (TECC), has been recognized by The International Academies of Emergency dispatch as an Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) for emergency fire dispatching. ([facebook.com/txecc](https://www.facebook.com/txecc))

“Accreditation is a testament to the on-going commitment and high-quality work produced by our dispatchers every day,” said Lori Broadrick, TECC Executive Director. “Since opening our doors on September 2, 2021, the entire TECC team commits every day to ensure the citizens of North Harris County receive the best of the best when they dial 911 during a fire emergency. ACE validates that hard work.”

TECC is a non-profit corporation developed and funded by Harris County ESD No. 7 (Spring Fire Department), ESD No. 13 (Cypress Creek Fire Department), ESD No. 16 (Klein Fire Department), ESD No. 28 (Ponderosa Fire Department), and ESD No. 29 (Champions ESD) to dispatch fire, rescue, and emergency medical first responders.



Photos courtesy of TECC

## TAKE CHARGE OF BATTERY SAFETY

- Check battery-powered devices often for damage or abuse such as swelling or punctures.
- Listen for unusual hissing or popping sounds.
- Watch out for excessive heat or a strange odor.
- If you notice any of these warning signs, stop using the lithium-ion battery-powered device immediately.
- White or gray wispy smoke indicates there is immediate danger of fire.
- Responsibly dispose of old or damaged batteries by taking them to the nearest battery recycling center.
- Never discard batteries, chargers, or battery-powered devices in regular trash bins.
- Find out more about battery safety at <https://www.batteryfiresafety.org>.

With modern technology comes new risks. The fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) is advancing battery safety knowledge to help you use and enjoy your devices, safely.

Fires involving various lithium-ion battery powered products have been increasing at an alarming rate in the recent years and have resulted in numerous injuries and fatalities. These fires are fast, -so fast that you may only have seconds (not minutes) to escape.

In taking charge of your battery safety when purchasing lithium-ion battery-powered devices, but sure to look for products that are listed or safety certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to ensure they meet important safety requirements. Countless products sold online do not meet these critical safety standards.

Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions and only use the charging equipment that comes with the product. Store batteries away from extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, exits, and anything flammable. Do not modify the battery or the charger in any way.

**Buy, Re-charge, and Dispose Responsibly**



P O N D E R O S A

# FIREFIGHTER

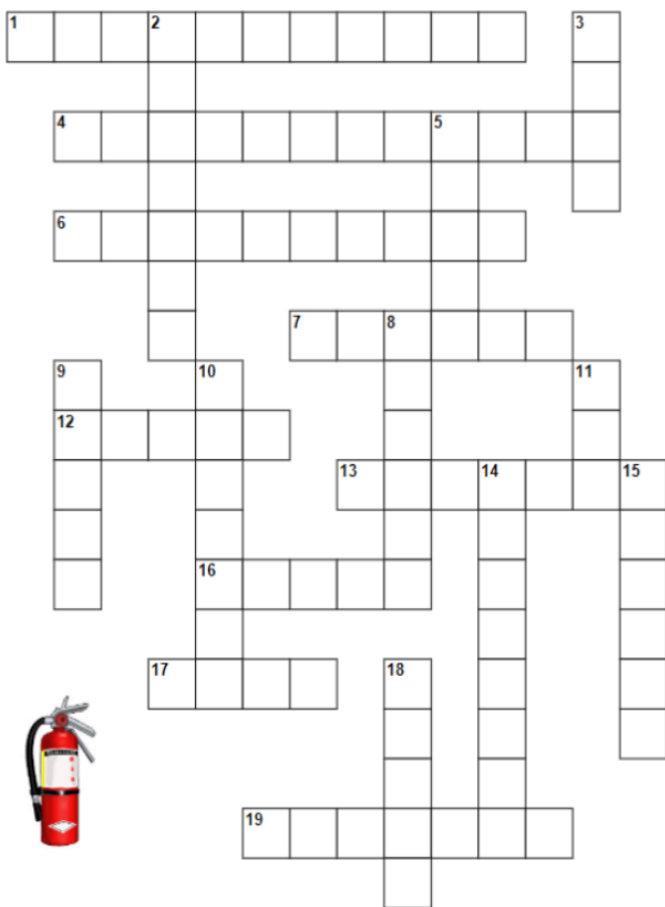
HARRIS COUNTY ESD #28

17061 Rolling Creek Dr.  
Houston, TX 77090



This publication is intended for the residents within the Ponderosa Fire Department service area. If you received this newsletter in error, we hope you still read it and utilize the fire safety information. Copyright 2025, ESD #28, Ponderosa Fire Department

## FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY



### ACROSS

- 1. A flammable substance is
- 4. Used to put out fire
- 6. Act or process of preventing
- 7. Protected from harm
- 12. Device that warns of some danger
- 13. Act of protecting
- 16. Quick action to notice and react
- 17. Form of energy that makes something very warm
- 19. Structure for passing smoke

### DOWN

- 2. Device that makes electricity using chemical reaction
- 3. Heat, smoke, and flames from object burning
- 5. Visible black, gray, or white gasses given off by something that is burning
- 8. Large area of land covered with many trees
- 9. Clear liquid that has no taste or odor
- 10. Heating fuel
- 11. Emergency Medical Services
- 14. Move away quickly from a dangerous place
- 15. Plan for two of these routes from each room
- 18. Mixture of burning gas and vapor that rises from an object on fire

1. Combustible, 2. Battery, 3. Fire, 4. Extinguisher, 5. Smoke, 6. Prevention, 7. Safety, 8. Forest, 9. Water, 10. Propane, 11. EMS, 12. Alarm, 13. Defense, 14. Evacuate, 15. Escape, 16. Alert, 17. Heat, 18. Flame, 19. Chimney