**ESD Q&A**

**Question: What is an Emergency Services District (ESD)?**

**Answer:** An ESD is a local political subdivision that may provide fire, rescue, EMS, and other emergency services. Complete information about ESDs may be found in Chapter 775 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

**Question: How is an ESD governed?**

**Answer:** An ESD is governed by 5 commissioners appointed by the County.

**Question: How many ESDs are there in Texas?**

**Answer:** Currently there are 334 ESDs in 94 counties.

**Question: Why create an ESD?**

**Answer:** ESDs are primarily created in rural areas to ensure RELIABLE funding of local fire, emergency medical response, rescue and other emergency services.

**Question: How does an ESD receive its money?**

**Answer:** An ESD can impose up to a 10 cent/ $100 ad-valorem tax upon its residents based on the appraised value of one’s land/home. This approach creates an equity among residents. Everyone pays a fair share instead of depending upon donations only.

**Question: What benefits will a resident receive with an ESD?**

**Answer:** 1. Faster response times

 2. Experienced personnel

 3. Peace of mind

 4. Fairness

 5. Potential for lower homeowner insurance rates

 6. Positioning for the future

**Question: What does an ESD look like?**

**Answer:** ESDs can be modeled primarily in three ways.

1. ESD Centered: the ESD hires fire department employees, runs the business, gives the fire department an allowance.
2. Fire Department Centered: the contracted fire department hires its own personnel; and the ESD oversees the fire department.
3. Combination of (1) and (2) above: e.g. ESD hires Fire Chief and he/she runs the department.

**Question: Why is ICVFD seeking to become an ESD at this time?**

**Answer:** ICVFD is seeking to become an ESD to ensure financial stability, to assist with asset replacements and personnel issues. ICVFD is being proactive. ICVFD has experienced a 15% increase in calls every year with decreases in donations. ICVFD is looking to the future. An ESD will allow ICVFD to sustain the level of professionalism and care that ICVFD currently provides to our entire fire district (60 square miles).