



HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 48 FIRE/EMS/RESCUE



Harris County Emergency Services District (ESD) No. 48 is in service and prepared to take care of our community in their time of need. Our department is in the process of preparing for all possible scenarios regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, from response to emergency calls to how to care for our department members and their families.

All Harris County ESD No. 48 stations and offices are closed to the public for tours, public relations events and station visits. Our community is wonderful and supportive of our first responders, but we ask that you not drop off any homemade/donated food items as they will not be accepted. All community education classes have been postponed for the next 30 days and additional postponement will be announced as needed.

How can you help? This is a question we get asked rather often in disaster situations. Here are some ways that the community can assist us in effectively doing our job as well as helping prevent the spread of disease:

- Please do not come to the station if you have an emergency. Call 911 and let us come to you. While all our stations are staffed, the crews may be out on another emergency. Calling 911 assures that you will receive the closest available ambulance or fire truck.
- Please do not call 911 unless it is a true emergency. The Emergency Services and hospital systems will be stretched thin and we need to keep our Emergency Medical Services and Fire units in service for those who need us the most.
- Practice Social Distancing. The more we can prolong the spread of COVID-19, the less strain it will put on our healthcare system.
- If you are sick, stay home. Do not show up at the hospital or call 911 just to be tested. If you are experiencing a fever, cough, sore throat, headache and fatigue, call your doctor or utilize the telemedicine options within your hospital system of choice. We are still in the midst of flu season and allergy season has just begun. Many of these conditions have similar symptoms.
- If you do not have a doctor or you would like the most up to date information on COVID-19 for Harris County, you can go to <http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>. This site has resources and phone numbers that can answer your questions related to COVID-19 as well as resources for those without doctors or health insurance.

In conclusion, we ask that everyone exercise patience and be kind to one another. This time will be an inconvenience for everyone, but it will be life changing for many for a variety of reasons. Our department will update our residents as we get new information. If you have questions, you can always reach out to us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HCESD48/> and we will do our best to answer your questions as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief

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