

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 10, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Dallas Fire-Rescue Second HazMat Team**

Please accept this memorandum as an update to Dallas Fire-Rescue's (DFR) Hazardous Materials Response Team program.

DFR's Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) is the department's busiest Special Operations Team. The HMRT is comprised of ten (10) fully trained Hazardous Materials Response Technicians. The Team responds to various chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive calls throughout the city of Dallas. They are also available to provide mutual aid responses within the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Currently, the HMRT is housed at Fire Station 3, one of the busiest fire stations in Dallas. From January 2019 to December 2021, HazMat 03 responded to more than one thousand HazMat incidents, in addition to a high volume of fire and EMS responses. Consequently, this has created a dependency on mutual aid response from surrounding departments to provide HazMat coverage.

Numerous standards published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) call for an HMRT staffing level of at least 16 HazMat Technicians to adequately respond to the highest level of HazMat incidents (Level III). Therefore, to properly respond to such a significant incident, a second team would have to be called in from outside the City of Dallas.

Due to the heavy emergency response call volume and significant demand for HazMat response within the City of Dallas, DFR has recognized the need for a second HMRT. A second team is expected to enhance DFR's overall emergency response capabilities, increase the ability to mitigate HazMat incidents, and improve the overall safety for residents and first responders.

Through data analysis of historical incidents and the location of Tier Two business locations throughout the city, DFR has identified the optimal location for the two HMRTs:

- HazMat 03 will remain at Fire Station 3, located at 500 North Malcolm X Boulevard (Council District 2)

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- This location is strategically placed just South of the Central Business District with access to I-30, I-75, and I-35.
- Personnel staffing Fire Station 37, located at 6780 Greenville Avenue (Council District 13), will be trained to form the new second team.
 - This location is strategically located in the North, with access to Northwest Highway and I-75.
 - Needed apparatus and equipment for the second HMRT has already been obtained through Grant funding.
 - It is anticipated that this team will be trained and operational by March 2023

Questions and requests for further information may be directed to Fire Chief Dominique Artis at Dominique.artis@dallas.gov.



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Deputy City Manager

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Chris Caso, City Attorney
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Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
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