



TURTLE CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

290 Upper Turtle Creek Rd. • Kerrville, Texas 78028 • 830-257-3550 • www.tcvfdkerrco.org



Dear Neighbor,

We are a group of your neighbors who have been trained to help you in case of an emergency. The fire safety needs of our community are increasing daily – a growing population and uncertain weather conditions are key factors in this increase. We need your help today.

During the last calendar year we responded to 37 calls (as of 10-1-14):

8	Structure Fires
11	Wildland Fires
8	Major Vehicle Accidents
6	Hazmat
3	Mutual Aid With Other Agencies
1	Helicopter Landing Zone

Our current membership consists of eighteen (18) Active firefighters, four (4) reserves and two (2) non-firefighter members. This is not near enough firefighters for our area. We need your help in the form of volunteers and money to keep up with the growing needs of your fire department to be able to protect your life, your property and your family.

It takes a very special person to be a volunteer firefighter, and these dedicated individuals need your help and support to safely fight your fires. Please help us keep your department in operation with your generous donation today. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Or, you can visit our website, www.tcvfdkerrco.org, to make a donation.

Sincerely,

Wes Gordon, Chief

Eddie Doyle, Treasurer

P.S. To make locating your residence easier and faster during an emergency, please use 2" reflective letters on your mailbox/driveway. Also remove any old address numbers (pre-911).

**If you are not in the Turtle Creek Volunteer Fire Department area-
Please support *your* local Volunteer Fire Department**



Turtle Creek Volunteer Fire Department
290 Upper Turtle Creek Road, Kerrville, Tx 78028

Mark Your Calendar!

SATURDAY, MAY 2nd

The Club at Comanche Trace

**4 Person Scramble – Shotgun Start @ 1:30
Peoria Scoring System**

\$125.00 Per Player – (includes green fees, carts, range balls, food & prizes)

Individual Awards: 4 Closest to the Pin Prizes & Longest Drive

Special “Putting Contest” for all of the players.

Team Prizes: Peoria Scoring System

Pay Outs based on field of 20 Teams

Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm and Meal and Prizes after the tournament

Player’s Gift and a Goodie Bag

All players will also receive 2 Mulligans and 2 Prize Tickets with their player fee.

Additional prize tickets will be available to purchase at registration and during event.

SCHEDULE: 11:30am – 1:15pm	Registration & Lunch
1:30pm	Tee Time
6pm	Meal & Prizes

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS:

CHIEF SPONSOR **\$2,000.00**

Includes: Golf for 3 Teams (12 Players), On-site signage, Company Logo on all media, name on a tournament contest, recognition in the TCVFD yearly newsletter, website and the event program.

ASSISTANT CHIEF SPONSOR **\$1,500.00**

Includes: Golf for 2 Teams (8 Players), On-site signage, Company Logo on all media, name on a tournament contest, recognition in the TCVFD yearly newsletter, website and the event program.

CAPTAIN SPONSOR **\$1,000.00**

Includes: Funds will cover the expense in the tournament for food, drink, etc., Golf for 1 Team (4 Players), On-site signage, Company Logo on all media, name on a tournament contest, recognition in the TCVFD yearly newsletter, website and the event program.

FIRE-FIGHTER SPONSOR **\$ 750.00**

Includes: Golf for 1 Teams (Players), On-site signage, Company Logo on all media, name on a tournament contest, recognition in the TCVFD yearly newsletter, website and the event program.

BEVERAGE or LUNCH SPONSOR **\$ 500.00 each**

Includes: Sponsor Signage, Recognition in the TCVFD yearly newsletter, website and the event program.

HOLE SPONSOR **\$ 100.00**

Includes: Hole Sponsor Signage, Recognition in the TCVFD yearly newsletter, website and the event program.



Registration form and payment are due on/or before April 25, 2015.

MULCH FIRES

In September, Turtle Creek Volunteer Fire Department responded to a mulch pile fire in the Kerrville South area started from spontaneous combustion. Located in a canyon, the pile is 57 yards wide by 37 yards across. The mulch is being turned and mixed with non-flammable materials, but is estimated to continue smoldering for the next 6 months to a year.

Thousands of mulch fires are reported annually in every state. Mulch fires occur year-round but primarily in the summer when there is little rainfall. There has been a significant increase in mulch fires the past several years because of drought conditions.

Fire departments are frequently called out to extinguish smoldering fires in bark mulch. Often, this burning mulch is up against the side of a residential or commercial structure, where it is likely to be unnoticed. This burning/smoldering mulch may eventually ignite the underneath of the siding and then spread into the structural components of the building and cause extensive damage.

Another key factor in the increase of mulch fires has been the prohibitions on smoking indoors enacted by state/local governments and private businesses. Cigarette and cigar smokers often discard lighted smoking materials, including matches, into the landscaped areas as they enter buildings, which has been the cause of ignition for many mulch fires.



SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION

Authorities say spontaneous combustion also started the huge mulch fire near Helotes, Texas in 2007. It burned for three months, sending thick, choking smoke and ash into the air, driving residents from their homes, forcing school closures and ultimately costing taxpayers \$5.8 million to extinguish.

Spontaneous combustion occurs when a substance generates enough heat to ignite without an outside source. Since mulch is a wood product and is always decomposing, a large enough pile of it can build up enough heat and spontaneously combust, as happened in Kerrville South and Helotes.



Once combustion has begun in a mulch pile, the smoldering fire can become deep-seated and spread rapidly. The larger and taller the mulch pile, the greater the fire hazard and the more difficult a fire in such a pile will be to control. It is much better to have several smaller piles than one large pile.

PREVENTING MULCH FIRES

Some kinds of mulch are more combustible than others. In a study by The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute, cocoa hulls never ignited while rubber mulch showed flames in less than a minute. The researchers noted that with most mulches, fire smoldered under the surface of the mulch for some time before flames

appeared. Shredded mulch ignited quicker than chunky mulch. Dark mulch can heat more rapidly than lighter colored mulches. The researchers cited cocoa shells, medium pine bark nuggets and hardwood barks as the safest choices, especially in sites frequented by smokers.

To reduce the potential for a fire in landscaping mulch, have citizens and businesses follow these guidelines:

- When entering a business, if you see anything smoldering in a landscaped area, put it out if you can and report it to someone inside the building. If the burning material is not thoroughly wet down or removed, it may reignite.
- Be aware of the conditions that are favorable for mulch fires and increase surveillance of mulch beds in the afternoon, when fires are more likely to occur.
- Provide approved receptacles for smoking materials at all entrances to public buildings and in designated smoking areas. Do not use mulch in or near these areas.
- Provide a minimum 18-inch clearance between landscaped mulch beds and combustible building materials.
- Provide proper clearance for electric devices such as decorative lights by following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep landscaped mulch beds moist, if possible.
- Use noncombustible mulch such as rock or pea gravel around the gas meter and next to the combustible portions of the structure.
- Use only electrical devices and cords listed for outdoor use, and follow the manufacturer's specifications.
- Consider replacing landscaping mulch with decorative stone.

COMPOST PILES

During dry, hot, or windy weather conditions, carefully monitor compost piles which can potentially combust. Compost piles heat up when microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi, reproduce and break down organic material at a rapid pace. If materials in a very large compost pile are relatively dry, the pile may self-heat to a temperature high enough to spontaneously combust.

To reduce fire risks associated with compost piles, follow these safety measures during hot summer months.

- Compost piles should be no larger than 1 cubic yard.
- Turn piles weekly during high temperatures.
- Keep piles moist.
- A compost thermometer may be used but is not essential. If a thermometer is used, turn the pile when internal temperatures reach 160 degrees Fahrenheit.



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Don't Miss Our 4th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament Details Inside and Online!

PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATIONS TO:

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OR GO ONLINE TO WWW.TCVFDKERRCO.ORG!

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If you would prefer to designate your contribution to apply only for certain items, please designate your preference(s) below.

- _____
- General Funds

If you would like a receipt for tax purposes, please fill out & return. (For donations of \$100 or more only, please.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____