

How does Oak Hill Fire Department Compare?

There are many metrics to characterize a fire department's capability and service. Arguably the three key are 1) its response time performance, 2) its fire insurance Property Protection Class rating by the independent Insurance Services Organization, Inc. and 3) its staffing structure. Travis County Emergency Services District #3 / Oak Hill Fire Department measures up well in all three categories.

I. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERFORMANCE (2008)

a. Emergency Response Time* (minutes)

(Interval between dispatch and arrival on-scene)

	<u>Average</u>
Oak Hill Fire Department (overall)	5:18
Oak Hill Fire Department (Barton Creek Area)	5:12
Austin Fire Department	4:34

* Very dependent on fire station density: Austin fire stations are located with an approximate 1.5 mile service radius; ESD#3/Oak Hill stations have a 5 mile service radius.

b. Fraction of Emergency Responses in 8 minutes or less

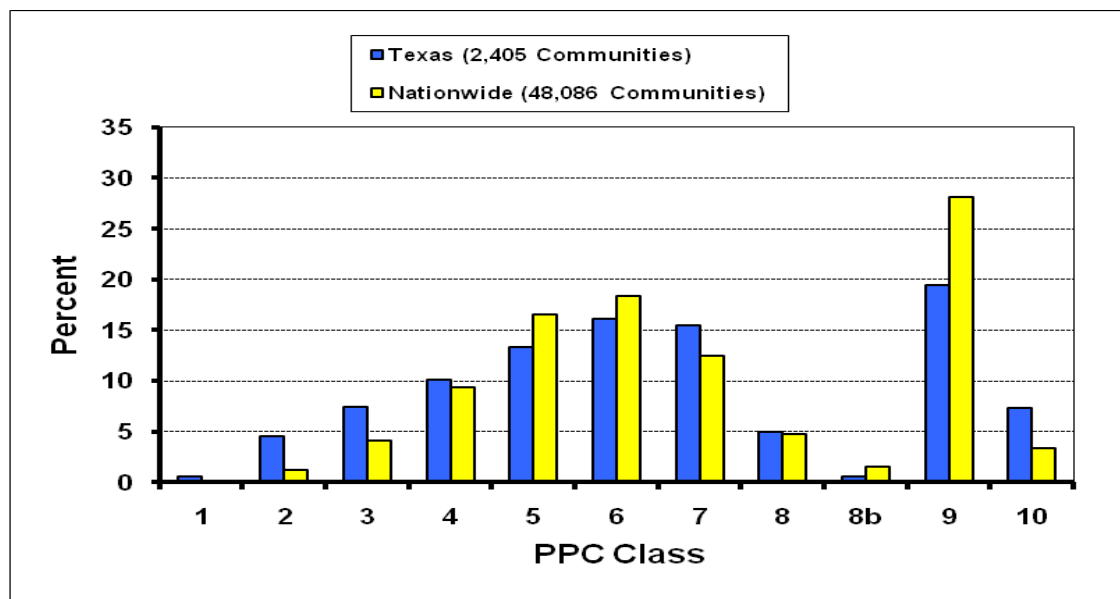
	<u>Percent</u>
Oak Hill Fire Department (All District)	94
Oak Hill Fire Department (Barton Creek Area)	96
Austin Fire Department	84
National Standard	80

II. PROPERTY PROTECTION CLASS (PPC) RATING

The PPC rating determines fire insurance rates. The Department's PPC rating is a split **2/8b**** (effective July 1, 2009). For served areas within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant the Class 2 rating indicates a rating better than 97% of communities nationwide. The City of Austin's PPC rating is 2.

Distribution of Communities by PPC Class

Percentage in Classification



** Class 1 is superior; Class 10 is no fire protection. The first rating relates to areas within 1000 ft. of a fire hydrant and 5 miles of a fire station; the second relates to areas outside 1000 ft. of a fire hydrant but within 5 miles of a fire station. 40% of the rating is based on available fire water supply.

III. DEPARTMENT STAFFING STRUCTURE

Travis County Emergency Services District #3 has chosen to staff the Oak Hill Fire Department with state certified, full-time paid, career fire and emergency medical professionals. Volunteers remain an important compliment to the department's operations but the desired service delivery to the community is not dependent on them. Only 8% of fire departments nationwide are staffed exclusively with career firefighters and only 14% with mostly or all career staffing.

Nationwide Fire Department Staffing Structure

Fraction in Classification

	<u>Percent</u>
All Career	8
Mostly Career	6
Mostly Volunteer	17
All Volunteer	70

Source: NFPA; 2006 data

The District has also chosen to staff each engine company with a minimum of 4 career, state certified firefighters. This is the standard recommended by the National Fire Protection Association. Oak Hill Fire Department is one of only two of the 12 Emergency Services District fire departments in Travis County which staffs to this level. The City of Austin's fire department staffs most engine companies with 4 minimum firefighters per engine company.