



## EMERGENCY PREVENTION DIVISION

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www.WestlakeFD.org www.Oakhillfire.org

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05/23/2008

**Re:** Request for assistance in notifying homebuilders of new code amendment in Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3 requiring builders to offer the installation of a residential fire sprinkler systems as an option to buyers.

**Authority:** Texas Health and Safety Code § 775.036, 2006 International Fire Code, and the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety 101 Code 2006.

To whom it may concern,

The Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3, also known as the Oak Hill Fire Department, has a mission to protect the lives and property of the community. To this end, the District's Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to the Fire Code that mandates builders offer installing a residential fire sprinkler system to all new home buyers within our District. The amendment requires that builders provide future buyers with a residential fire sprinkler education packet developed by our Department. The buyer is asked to review this packet and decide whether to have a fire sprinkler system installed. The builder is required to obtain documentation of the buyer's decision by having him / her complete a form contained in the packet. The builder shall then send the completed form to our office for filing.

We would like to ask for your assistance in disseminating this information to local builders so that they are aware of the new ESD 3 requirement. This process will allow new buyers to make an informed decision regarding the sprinkler installation option prior to the construction of their new home. In an effort to make the education packets easily accessible, we have posted the education packet as a downloadable PDF on our department website ([www.oakhillfire.org](http://www.oakhillfire.org)). There will also be copies available at our prevention office should someone not have the ability to download the information from our website. We plan to host our first annual builder and contractor meeting to discuss the new requirement and answer any questions. An invitation to the meeting will be sent out separately.

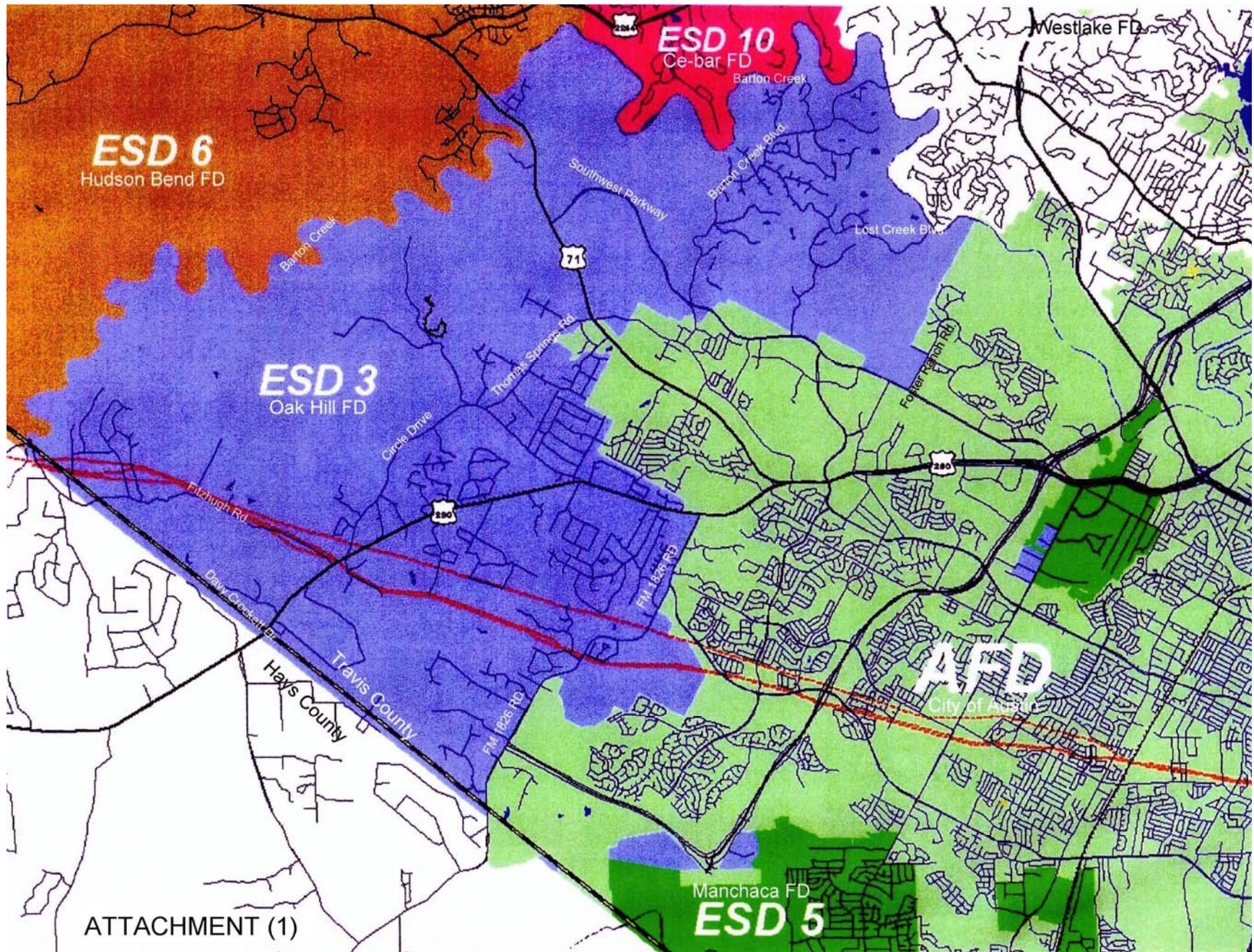
I would like to thank all of the stakeholders who provided valuable input during our consideration process of the amendment. We look forward to working with each of you to make our community a safer place to live by allowing the buyers of all new homes the ability to consider the option of installing a fire sprinkler system in their new home. I am providing two attachments to this letter. The first is a map of our jurisdiction to help you become more familiar with the boundaries of our community. The second is a copy of the District's Fire Code Amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lacey". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and "L".

District Chief Mike Lacey  
Fire Marshal  
Emergency Prevention Division  
Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3 & 9

cc: File



ATTACHMENT (1)

**Section 903.2.7.1 Group R-3 Sprinkler Option.** Builders shall offer an NFPA 13D compliant sprinkler system to be installed throughout new buildings and structures classified as Group R-3 (One – and two family dwellings and townhouses) occupancies as an option when the installation is not required by any other section of the International Fire Code. It shall be the responsibility of the builder of the project to be constructed to provide information about residential fire sprinklers to a homeowner in the form and detail as required by the fire code official. It shall be the responsibility of the builder of the project to be constructed to provide proof that the homeowner has reviewed the information and elected to install or not install the sprinkler system in a form and detail as required by the fire code official.

ATTACHMENT (2)