



## COLLIN COUNTY

FIRE MARSHAL  
825 N. McDonald Street  
Suite 140  
McKinney, Texas 75069  
[www.collincountytx.gov](http://www.collincountytx.gov)

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April 14, 2009

TO: Judge Keith Self

FROM: Steven M. Deffibaugh

RE: Response from Fire Departments serving Collin County to Wildland Fires

Judge Self,

On afternoon of Thursday, April 9, 2008 I notification of an urgent request from fire departments in DFW area to provide support to the already over burdened fire departments in a 12 county area west of the DFW area. This situation prompted the activation of TIFMAS (Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System). As result I sent out the urgent request to all the fire departments serving Collin County and also requested Collin County Sheriff's dispatch to send out a page to all the fire departments it dispatches for notifying them of the email sent.

Within less than two hours two task forces assembled for immediate deployment to a staging area in Wise County. The task forces were comprised of both Career and Volunteer Fire Departments serving Collin County, it should be noted Frisco FD responded with a task force formed by Denton County.

Over a period of Easter Weekend, 60 fire departments from 9 counties answered the call for mutual aid.

It had been discussed over the past several months at the Collin County Fire Chiefs' Meeting for strike teams and/of task forces be formed and on the ready for emergency deployment throughout the State with the thought of having the resources filter through the Collin County Fire Marshal's Office so as to know what is being deployed and to insure our own County was not left unprotected.

Although several departments did deploy, I was informed by departments who could not deploy, they would stand at the ready to provide mutual aid anywhere within Collin County and especially for the departments deploying. This whole effort was a team work from all 23 fire departments serving Collin County.

I have been told it was because of the increased funding Collin County has provided over the last couple of years, which made it possible for departments to acquire better equipment, which allowed them to participate in requests for mutual aid such as this.

Task Force 1 leader was Wylie FD Captain Robert Ballard, Task Force 2 leader was Celina Asst Chief Kyle Mills and Task Force 3 leader (which was formed on Friday, but was not deployed) was Princeton Asst Chief Derek Borg.

CCTF 1 was made of Murphy Fire Department, Wylie Fire Department and Nevada Volunteer Fire Department

CCTF 2 was made up of Celina Fire Department, Prosper Fire Department, Lowry Crossing Volunteer Fire Department, Princeton Volunteer Fire Department and Plano Fire Department

CCTF 3 was made up of Celina Fire Department, Weston Volunteer Fire Department, Melissa Volunteer Fire Department, Princeton Volunteer Fire Department, Farmersville Volunteer Fire Department and one department from Grayson County - Gunter Fire Department

Department who were ready to respond on Thursday, but never deployed or assigned to a task force were Fairview Volunteer Fire Department, Anna Volunteer Fire Department and Melissa Volunteer Fire Department