

HARTSVILLE/TROUSDALE COUNTY METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

**FIRST RESPONSE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

*Amber Russell, Chair*  
*Judy Kerr, Vice Chair*  
*Chris Gregory, Secretary*

*Linda Bruce*  
*Shane Burton*  
*Brian Crook*

*David Nollner*  
*David Thomas*  
*Steve Whittaker*

*Ex-Officio members by position, non-voting*

*Matt Batey, EMA/EMS*  
*Tim Moore, Rescue*

*Ken Buckmaster, Vol Fire*  
*Ray Russell, Sheriff*

*Wayland Cothron, Chief Dep*  
*Dr. CM Tripp, MD Med Ex*

MARCH 23, 2026 | 6:00 PM | TC COURTHOUSE

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Review minutes from February 23, 2026
3. **Department Reports**
  - A. EMS – *M Batey*
  - B. Rescue Squad – *T Moore*
  - C. Fire Department – *K Buckmaster*
    - 1) Burn Permits / Notice
    - 2) Storage Garage
4. Discussion Items
  - A. Other Discussion
5. Public Comments
6. Adjourn

**Monthly Reports Items:**

- Personnel/Staff
- Vehicle Fleet
- Call Reports
- Training Activities
- Maintenance Needs
- Budget concerns/requests
- Pending Grants



## FIRST RESPONSE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Meeting Date:** February 23, 2026, 6:30 p.m., Trousdale County Courthouse

**Present:** Amber Russell, Judy Kerr, Chris Gregory, David Nollner, Shane Burton, Steve Whittaker, Linda Bruce, David Thomas.

**Others Present:** EMS Director Matt Batey, Fire Chief Ken Buckmaster, Sheriff Ray Russell, Timmy Moore, Gina Duncan

Chairman Amber Russell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting were reviewed. **Motion to approve by Gregory, second by Burton. Motion approved.**

EMS Director Matt Batey presented department report. December 2025 numbers trending up on call volume, payments trending as normal. Department is fully staffed, Teresa Turner is helping two days per week with billing.

Chamber of Commerce has reached out about grant to pay for new ambulance. Maintenance needs include resurfacing floors. Budget - department running 7-8% below budget for the year.

State EMS grant received was \$30,000 instead of \$20,000, EMS is purchasing stairlift chairs and will have some funds left over.

Gregory noted 2025 budget request for remounted ambulance, asked if similar request in 2026 budget. Will depend on if EMS gets Chamber grant. Thomas asked if ambulance would have to be bid out, will depend on if one can be ordered from state collective.

Kerr asked about patient transports to Trousdale vs. other hospitals, asked who decides. Patient decides unless unable to, then "most appropriate" to meet patient needs.

Chairman Russell commented on hospital EMS proposal, saying looks like hospitals are looking to purchase smaller rural EMS units. Thomas added that Ascension St. Thomas does appear to be looking to buy Lifepoint hospitals in near future.

Timmy Moore presented Rescue Squad report, has 21 members and is fully staffed. Rescue 2 is in shop for recall services under warranty. Rescue answered 24 calls from December 1 through February 12. Two members are in EMT class, hoping to send six to swift-water training in May. Extrication class coming up as well. Rescue wants to add cameras outside its building. Also seeking grant, should hear in May at the earliest.

Thomas and Whittaker both extended personal thanks to Rescue Squad, fire department for efforts during recent ice storm. Multiple citizens have reached out to express thanks as well.

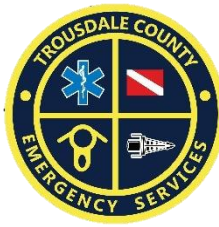
Fire Chief Ken Buckmaster presented department report. Six companies responded to RFQ for fire building, three look to be likeliest. Meetings scheduled for March and will then start bid process. Buckmaster said fire building would not interfere if county decided to put new jail on other Broadway property.

Thomas asked that fire stay in touch with mayor's office to make sure fill being brought in for other property would not divert water toward fire hall. Buckmaster said those conversations have already taken place. Fire hall is already elevated outside flood zone by 18 inches.

**Motion by Gregory to approve fire resolution for declaring surplus property and to defer discussion of burn permit ordinance until next meeting, second by Thomas. Motion approved.**

**Motion to adjourn by Kerr, second by Bruce. Motion approved.**

*Minutes presented by Chris Gregory.*



## TROUSDALE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

95 RIVER VALLEY DR | HARTSVILLE, TN 37074

615-374-9503 | 615-374-4383

**Matthew L Batey, Director / Chief**

matthew.batey@trousdalecountyttn.gov

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

EMS MONTHLY REPORT FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CALLS FOR THE MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PERSONS TRANSPORTED: \_\_\_\_\_

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSPORTED TO TROUSDALE MEDICAL: \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSFERRED FROM TROUSDALE MEDICAL \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER FACILITIES: \_\_\_\_\_

AMBULANCES STAFFED EACH DAY: \_\_\_\_\_

### CALLS BY TYPE

911 EMERGENCIES: \_\_\_\_\_

NON-EMERGENCIES: \_\_\_\_\_

DIALYSIS TRANSPORTS: \_\_\_\_\_

RESCUE ASSIST: \_\_\_\_\_





# HARTSVILLE / TROUSDALE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

219 Broadway | Hartsville, TN 37074

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## First Response Services Committee 3/23/2026

*As of 3/15/2026*

**Membership** – The Department has 25 active members. We will be holding at this number for a few months to determine if there is a need for additional members.

**Vehicle Fleet Needs** – Storage Building needed with vehicles being stored outside presently. Engineer RFQ closed February 13<sup>th</sup>. Current fleet consists of 2 engines, 2 tankers, 3 brush trucks, and 2 support vehicles all in good working order.

### CALL REPORT | Dec/1/2026 to March/15/2026

#### Total Calls-51

False Alarm	11	Controlled Burn	7	MVA	2
Grass Fire	12	Structure Fire	5	Gas Leak	0
Storm Damage	4	Vehicle Fire	4	Public Assist	5
Outbuilding Fire	0	Equipment Fire	1		

*A more detailed report will be attached.*

### Training Activities

- 6 hours monthly Using in-house trainers, Vector Solutions modules, and monthly preventative maintenance checklists for trucks and equipment.
- We will continue the monthly training activities with Pumper operations scheduled for March.
- 5 members attended TFACA Live Burn March 7th and 8th

**Maintenance Needs** – None

**Budget Concerns-** Storage Building needed with vehicles being stored outside presently.

**Burn permit** – Sample ordinance attached. Please provide input

**Other** – Cad to E-Dispatch for fire hall is being developed in cooperation with the Sheriff's department

**HTCVFD**  
**Statistics for Dec/1/2026 to Mar/15/2026**

Firefighters on call	400	Call Per Diem to Date	\$20,000.00
Daytime Call	36	Calls with loss	7
Nighttime call	15	Calls without loss	44
City	16	emergency response	30
County	35	non-emergency response	18
Average Response Time	6.96	canceled response	1
Manhours on Call	719.37	out of county response	2
Loss in Dollars	\$246,200.00	Day City	14
Mutual Aid to	4	Day County	22
Mutual Aid from	0	Night City	2
Loss in other county	\$0.00	Night County	13
Average Response Daytime	6.83	emergency response	6.63
Average Response Nighttime	7.27	non-emergency response	6.89
Average Response Day City	4.64	canceled response	4.00
Average Response Night City	4.50	out of county response	14.00
Average Response Day County	8.23	False Alarm Total	11
Average Response Night County	7.69	Controlled Burn Total	7
Average Fireman Daytime	7.39	MVA Total	2
Average Fireman Nighttime	8.93	Grass Fire Total	12
Average Fireman City Daytime	6.36	Structure Fire Total	5
Average Fireman County Daytime	8.05	Gas Leak Total	0
Average Fireman City Nighttime	8.00	Storm Damage Total	4
Average Fireman County Nighttime	9.08	Vehicle Fire Total	4
		Public Assist, 1 in another jurisdiction	5
		Outbuilding Fire	0
		Equipment fire	1



## [Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-306](#)

Current through the 2025 Regular Session.

***TN - Tennessee Code Annotated > Title 39 Criminal Offenses > Chapter 14 Offenses Against Property > Part 3 Arson — Explosives***

### **39-14-306. Setting fires at certain times without permit.**

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(a)

(1) It is unlawful for any person to start an open-air fire between October 15 and May 15, inclusive, within five hundred feet (500') of any forest, grasslands or woodlands without first securing a permit from the state forester or the state forester's duly authorized representative. Depending upon the potential for hazardous burning conditions, the state forester may prescribe a period other than October 15 to May 15 within which a permit must be obtained prior to starting an open-air fire.

(2) A violation of this subsection (a) is a Class C misdemeanor.

(b)

(1) In extreme fire hazard conditions, the commissioner of agriculture, in consultation with the state forester and the county mayors of impacted counties, may issue a burning ban prohibiting all open air fire in any area of the state.

(2) A violation of this subsection (b) is reckless burning and punishable as a Class A misdemeanor as provided in [§ 39-14-304](#).

(c) This section shall not apply to fires that may be set within the corporate limits of any incorporated town or city that has passed ordinances controlling the setting of fires.

## **History**

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[Acts 1989, ch. 591, § 1](#); [1991, ch. 46, § 2](#); [1999, ch. 209, § 1](#); [2008, ch. 786, § 2](#).

Annotations

## **Research References & Practice Aids**

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### **Cross-References.**

Controlled burns, burning woods, [§ 68-102-146](#).

Penalty for Class A and C misdemeanors, [§ 40-35-111](#).

Power to forbid starting fires during drought, [§ 8-1-1 8](#).

**Ken Buckmaster**

Tue, Feb 10, 3:31 PM (5 days ago)

<[ken.buckmaster@trousdalecountytn.gov](mailto:ken.buckmaster@trousdalecountytn.gov)>

to burnsafe.tn

Because the city of Hartsville Tennessee has an old burn ordinance I understand it is not handled by the burnsafe TN website. If the city were to abolish that ordinance and not put another one in place, would the burn safe TN website then handle burn permits for those people living inside the Hartsville city limits?

**BurnSafe TN**

Wed, Feb 11, 9:41 AM (4 days ago)

to me

Good Morning,

That is correct. Neither State burn permit nor burn ban laws apply to incorporated towns/cities which have established ordinances controlling the setting of fires. Hartsville may choose to rescind all ordinances controlling the setting of fires and we would begin issuing permits within the city. We have had multiple cities decide to turn permitting and burn ban implementation authority over to us in recent years. We have experienced that these changes are easier on all involved when they occur in the summer and there is ample time to educate the citizens of the respective city before permit season begins on October 15th.

**Wade Waters** | Assistant State Forester, Protection Director

Ellington Agricultural Center

406 Hogan Rd., Nashville, TN 37220

c. 615-761-7819 f. 615-837-5129

[wade.waters@tn.gov](mailto:wade.waters@tn.gov)

[TNWildlandFire.gov](http://TNWildlandFire.gov)