



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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City of Copperas Cove

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Citizens Fire Academy Begins October 8, 2009

COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS – The Copperas Cove Fire Department will be holding its 2009 Citizens Fire Academy beginning on October 8, 2009. Through classroom presentation and hands on exercises, citizens will achieve a basic understanding of the tactics and strategies of firefighting and rescue operations, an enhanced awareness of the department's capabilities, as well as insight into the day-to-day operations of the fire department. The program aims to educate citizens about the dangers of fire and the benefits of fire prevention through a continued cooperative relationship.

The course is seven weeks long, with three hour sessions per week. Classes will be held on Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Central Fire Station Training Room located at 415 S. Main Street. The final graduation session will be on Saturday, November 21, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Participants must live or work within the response district of the Copperas Cove Fire Department, be at least 18 years old, complete an application, submit to a background check, and sign a liability waiver. Participants are encouraged to take part in all practical demonstrations, however, physical limitations of applicants will not be considered a reason for exclusion from the academy. Topics and activities include:

- Overview of Public Service Programs
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Fire Behavior/Fire Science
- Response Procedures/Tactics
- Pump Operations/Hose Handling
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and Personal Alert Safety Systems
- Emergency Medical Services
- Thermal Imager
- Fire Prevention/Fire Investigation
- Emergency Management
- Station and Emergency Communications Center Tours, Ride-outs

Citizens Fire Academy provides an enjoyable, interactive atmosphere in which fire department members and citizens can share information and concerns. All citizens with an interest in the fire service are encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact Battalion Chief Mike Fleming at (254) 547-2514.

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