

MAIN STATION TRUTH or CONSEQUENCES

MAIN STATION WILLIAMSBURG



TorC FIRE DEPARTMENT - The TorC fire department, located at 310 E. Ninth Street, was constructed in 2000 and the department occupied the building in 2001. Funds for the facility were obtained from the New Mexico State Legislature through the efforts of Sen. John Arthur Smith of Deming and Liz Bernal of the Council of Governments. The City donated 3 acres of land and secured a CDBG Grant to finish the project.

TorC Volunteer Fire Department Is a Class Act

The Truth or Consequences Volunteer Fire Department kicked off the 100th Year Anniversary of the City of TorC by celebrating their own accomplishment. With their upgrade to Class 2 by Insurance Service Organization (ISO) the TorC volunteer fire department is now rated among the top .021 percent of fire departments in the United States.



EBResort.com 401 & 402 Hwy. 195 ∙ Elephant Butte NM 87935 Only 1,060 out of 48,754 fire departments in the country are rated at Class 2 or higher. There are only 132 departments in the country that are rated at Class 1.

In the State of New Mexico, the TorC Fire Department is the only volunteer fire department that is rated Class 2. There are currently 2 departments rated at Class 1 in New Mexico; Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Only 7 out of 367 (.024%) departments in New Mexico are rated Class 2 or higher.

Other municipal departments in New Mexico rated Class 2 include: Artesia, Hobbs, Raton, Roswell and Los Alamos.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

The Truth or Consequences Volunteer Fire District, established Sept. 2, 1923, carries an Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating of Class 2, and has a roster of 30 firefighters.

C. W. Martin was the first fire chief of the Hot Springs Department (now Truth or Consequences), elected when the Department was organized. Other officers of the Department were Cecil Wilson, first captain; Gerald Caldwell, second captain; and Cecil Phillips, third captain.

Members of the Department were Elmer Keithly, Allie Heffernan, Ralph Doughty, Jake Caldwell, Dave Gray, George Lard, Claude Heffernan, J. W. Knox, Foster Shepherd, Pink Davis, Harry Kendall, John Oreaker, R. A. Howard, L. Petzner, Sam Matson, N. S. Sweeney Jr., who was secretary/treasurer, and Lon Grogan.

The exact date is not recorded, but at the second meeting, a \$5,000 fire at Hoyle's Confectionery was reported. The first was in early September 1923 as the second meeting was held upon the 20th day of that month.

Hoyle's Confectionery was located just west of what is now the post office and the fire station



OLD FIRE HALL - The TorC Volunteer Fire Department used to be located at #1 Date Street in a building donated by the American Legion in the Early 20s. This photo was taken in the early 50s just after the name change to Truth or Consequences from Hot Springs. An additional three truck bay was added to the front of the building in the late 50s, early 60s, and an addition bay was constructed to the North of the building in the mid-80s. The soda cart (located in front of the building) was part of one of the first fire trucks purchased by the department and is still a part of the department today. Today, this location is a parking lot.

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was just across the street in a shed.

The firemen had water in tanks on the rear of one of the original fire trucks, and used acid and soda for pressure.

Later, the Fire Department was housed in a shed just south of Valley Motor Supply (now Schaaf's Body Shop) before it was moved to South Date. The building was donated by the American Legion.

Allie Heffernan became chief in January 1924 and served two years. Leo Smith became chief in January 1926 and served until January 1927, when Cecil Wilson was named chief. Wilson served 19 years, longer than any other chief, and he resigned in January 1945.

Clyde Cole then became chief and served until he died Feb. 9, 1956. Johnnie Guthrie first became acting chief on Feb. 28, 1956, and then was named chief.

Guthrie headed the Department until January 1957, when Bob Helfrich was named to the post. Helfrich was chief until January 1960, when Alex Ramos was elected to the position.

Ramos served a year, then Bill Culver was elected chief and he served until September 1964, when Wayne Johnson was elected.

Wayne served as chief until 1969 when Tim

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110 North Broadway Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 Phone (575) 894-0572 E-mail: riobravofa@gmail.com Featuring Artists from the Southwest www.riobravofineartgallery.com Welborn was elected. Tim served until January 1971, when D.L. Scott was elected to the position, resigning in September of that year; his term was finished out by Keg Evans until January 1972.

While Welborn was chief, a sub station was constructed on South Broadway.

Leon Johnson was named chief succeeding Keg Evans and served as chief for five years, through 1976, when Jim Crownover was elected chief in January for the 1977 term.

Tim Welborn was reelected chief in January 1978 and he served in that capacity until March 1981, during that time the fire department went to class 8. When Welborn went to work in Alas-



Breakdown in ISO class ratings of Fire Departments in the United States.



ka, Assistant Chief Mike Tooley was moved up to the chief's position. The department moved to Class 7 in 1981, and then Class 6 in 1983. In 1986, the Fire Department was elevated to Class 5.

The TorC Department is equipped with several pumper trucks, the newest being a 1,000 gpm International pumper built by Becker. The department also has a 1250 GPM Telesqurt custom built by Grumman (provided through Monarch Equipment); a mini-pumper 1983 Chevrolet (built by B & S Fire), equipped with a 400 GPM Hale pump, has a 1977 model 1250 GPM Penfab (built by Clark) (now retired and out of service), a 1991 model International rescue/utility truck (built by Becker). This truck is equipped with a 4-bottle cascade system capable of filling 85 SCBA's on scene. A second mini-pumper was added to the fleet in 2006,

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ORIGINAL FIRE TRUCKS - Two of the original fire trucks purchased by the Hot Springs (Now TorC) Fire Department were funded through First National Bank (Now Bank of the Southwest). The truck next to the bank has the soda apparatus (which is still part of the fire department) attached in the rear of the truck.

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TorC Volunteer Fire Chief Paul E. Tooley

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which has foaming capabilities.

A new fire station was built in 2000 with the department moving into the facility at 310 E. Ninth Avenue in 2001. The facility is 9600 sq. ft., which is twice the size of the old station on South Date. Senator John Arthur Smith of Deming and Liz Bernal of the Council of Governments were instrumental in assisting with funding for building the facility.

Carl Teston took over as Chief of the department in January, 2007 after Mike Tooley stepped down after 25 years. Teston served in the capacity of Chief until January, 2008 when he stepped down and Paul E. Tooley took over as Chief.

Paul brought the department into the electronic age, installing an on-board computer in the utility truck so fire reports can be made in the field and are downloaded to the mainframe computer as soon as the truck is backed into the station. Tooley also installed individual computer training stations so personnel of the department can complete classes on their own.

During this time, two Thermal Imaging Cameras were purchased to assist with fire suppression and rescue.

In November of 2012, the TorC Fire District incorporated the Williamsburg District, which added another main fire station to the inventory. The department set a goal to obtain ISO Class 3. In 2013 the department added another Class A Pumper truck at a cost of \$220,000, paid for from State Fire Funds. It also received a \$100,000 grant to purchase 15 new 45-minute Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

On December 22, 2014, Fire and officials from TorC and Williamsburg, were notified by Insurance Service Organization that the new TorC Fire District had been elevated to Class 2, which went into effect April 1, 2015. TorC is the first all volunteer department in the State of



ADDITIONS - The two old 'twin' GMC fire trucks were located at the old station at #1 Date. The truck on the left is a 1963 GMC, and on the right is the 1954 GMC. TorC fire incorporated the Williamsburg fire department (right photo) in November, 2012. The Williamsurg station was converted to a Main Station for the TorC Department. In some cases, residents of Williamsburg reaped the benefits of the Class 2 rating by the TorC district in the form of lower insurance premiums.

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New Mexico to reach ISO Class 2.

A new burn building and training facility was purchased and installed on the fire grounds on Ninth Street in early 2016. Funding was obtained by \$100,000 grant and matching funds of \$112,000 from State Fire funds. With this addition and more improvements the TorC Fire Department has set its goal of reaching ISO Class 1.

Fire Extinguisher Maintenance Is Important For Everyone's Safety

You must ensure that:

•The extinguisher is not blocked by equipment, coats or other objects that could interfere with access in an emergency.

•The pressure is at the recommended level. On extinguishers equipped with a gauge, the needle should be in the green zone - not too high and not too low.

•The nozzle or other parts are not hindered in any way.

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Current members of the fire department include: Travis Atwell, Safety Officer Peter Baca, Dee Brown, Mel Cordell, Stacy Daves, Assistant Chief Ron Hoskins, Scott Huron, Jared Jankowski, Korie Jankowski, Mark Jankowski, Tim Johnson, Jason Knull, Doug Kohler, Kristal Kohler, Ernie Luna, Danny Mena, Duffy Purdom, Kurt Reck, Ed Rodriguez, Richard Sainz, Jamie Sanders, Sheryl Scott, First Captain Brad Spencer, Carl Teston, Chief Paul Tooley, Second Captain Neal Weeks, Denny Womack and Anthony Zagorski.



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•The pin and tamper seal (if it has one) are intact.

•There are no dents, leaks, rust, chemical deposits and/or other signs of abuse/wear. Wipe off any corrosive chemicals, oil, gunk etc. that may have deposited on the extinguisher.

Some manufacturers recommend shaking your dry chemical extinguishers once a month to prevent the powder from settling/packing.

Fire extinguishers should be pressure tested (a process called hydrostatic testing) after a number of years to ensure that the cylinder is safe to use. Consult your owner's manual, extinguisher label or the manufacturer to see when yours may need such testing. If the extinguisher is damaged or needs recharging, replace it immediately!

IMPORTANT: Recharge all extinguishers immediately

after use regardless of how much they were used.

What is the difference between a fire extinguisher inspection and fire extinguisher maintenance?

Fire Extinguisher INSPECTION

An inspection is a "quick check" to give reasonable assurance that a fire extinguisher is available, fully charged and operable. The value of an inspection lies in the frequency, regularity, and thoroughness with which it is conducted. The frequency will vary from hourly to monthly, based on the needs of the situation.



How to Test Smoke Alarms in Your Home

A smoke alarm is an inexpensive way to protect your family from smoke and fire injuries, but you must take the time to test it to ensure that it's working properly. A properly functioning smoke detector doubles your chance of surviving a fire by warning you of a dangerous situation before it's too late.

For minimum coverage, have at least one smoke detector or alarm on every level of your home and in every sleeping area. You can also add alarms to hallways outside every bedroom, the top and bottom of all stairways, and oftenforgotten places such as basements, attics, utility rooms, and garages.

There are two kinds of smoke detectors: •Battery-operated: These inexpensive units

Inspections should always be conducted when extinguishers are initially placed in service and thereafter at approximately 30-day intervals. **MAINTENANCE**

Fire extinguishers should be maintained at regular intervals (at least once a year), or when specifically indicated by an inspection. Maintenance is a "thorough check" of the extinguisher. It is intended to give maximum assurance that an extinguisher will operate effectively and safely. It includes a thorough examination and any necessary repair, recharging or replacement. It will normally reveal the need for hydrostatic testing of an extinguisher.

Read more about the importance of fire extinguisher maintenance and what can occur in the case of non-maintenance. Also learn why, when, and how to recharge fire extinguishers.



can easily be installed anywhere. They require frequent inspection to determine the condition of the battery.

•AC-powered: Installed by an electrician (or those with a good working knowledge of electricity), these units are much more dependable over the long haul due to their direct-wired power source. But they should have an independent battery backup so that they continue to operate during a blackout or an electrical fire that temporarily interrupts power. Some newer models have a hush-button feature that silences a nuisance false alarm and desensitizes the unit for a few minutes until the air clears, when it resets itself. Other high-end models have safety lights that come on when the alarm is activated.

All smoke detectors and alarms have a test button that, when pushed, causes the alarm to

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sound. Also, most detectors have either a blinking or a solid light that glows to let you know that the alarm is getting power.

Once a month, get up on a chair or use a broom handle for extra reach and push the test button. If you don't hear anything, then your battery is dead. If after changing the battery, the smoke detector is still not working, immediately replace it with a new one.

While battery-operated units have a builtin device that chirps when batteries get low, signaling the need for replacement, common wisdom dictates not waiting until that point. Batteries should be replaced twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall.

Never remove a battery from your smoke alarm for use in another item, such as a radio, toy, or TV remote. Many people do so with every intention of replacing them in short order, only to remember that they forgot while standing and watching their house burn down (if they were lucky enough to escape).

While you're up checking your battery every month, also brush or vacuum the alarm to keep dirt and dust out of the mechanism. Never use cleaning sprays or solvents that can enter the unit and contaminate sensors.

The button test ensures that the batteries are working. However, it doesn't tell you whether the detector is operating properly. To find out, put two or three lighted matches together (the wood kitchen type is best) and then blow out the flame, holding the matches so that the smoke wafts up toward the unit.

After a period of ten years, a smoke detector has endured more than 87,000 hours of continuous operation, during which time the internal sensors have probably become contaminated with dust, dirt, and air pollutant residues. If your alarm or detector is more than ten years old, consider replacing it to maintain optimal detection capabilities of deadly smoke in your home.

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