

What's In Your Station? By "Safety John"

Dallas Fire-Rescue Department, Texas Hazmat 4

The Dallas Fire-Rescue Department has 55 stations located throughout 380 square miles. The growing population of their response area is currently 1,188,000. The Dallas Fire-Rescue operates 54 Engines, 21 Trucks, 5 ARFF units, 32 Rescue Paramedic units with 9 additional Rescue Paramedic units staffed during peak need times. Dallas's Hazmat team is stationed at their Station 4 which is geographically in the center of the city close to two major interstates. As a note, Station 4 was first opened in 1894 and rebuilt in 1953. Today the firefighters at station 4 are prepared to carry their 110 year history into their future. In addition to the Hazmat team Station 4 houses an Engine, a Truck and the Chief of the 1st Battalion. All firefighters at Station 4 are certified at the Hazmat Technicians by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.



The Hazmat Team has four specialized vehicles at their disposal. Hazmat 4 is the main hazmat response vehicle, Decon 1, the FAST (Foam Application Support Unit) and the DMST (Dallas Medical Strike Team) Van. Hazmat 4 is cross staffed by the crew of 5 from Engine 4 and responds to Hazmat Incidents along with Ladder 4. Hazmat 4 has the normal hazmat gear including an expanded command cab with an extensive library. Closed circuit TV is provided from the entry team to the Hazmat rig. As a note Hazmat 4 is the only unit in Dallas proper to have a light tower and is sometimes called for their lighting capabilities. Decon 1 is a large fifth wheeled trailer equipped to handle any decontamination needs. The FAST unit resembles New York Cities Bridge Extrication Units. The FAST is utilized where foaming applications are needed and it carries both high and low expansion generators and various foaming nozzles. Last is their DMST van that is available to respond to WMD emergencies and carries a large amount of pharmaceuticals.

During 2003 Hazmat 4 responded to over two hundred hazmat related incidents. Included in their duties in Dallas proper, Hazmat 4 responds to both automatic and mutual aids with numerous surrounding jurisdictions. As for funding, the majority of the Hazmat funding comes from the local City Storm Water department, thus greatly supplementing the Fire Departments capabilities.

For more information see their web page at www.dallasfirerescue.com





