

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

**Fort Worth Fire Department, Texas
Hazmat**

The Fort Worth Fire Department began its history in 1873 with a formation of a volunteer fire brigade. Growth over the past 125 years the city now has just over a half million people in an area of 313 square miles. With 745 firefighters the FWFD responds to over 57,000 emergencies calls annually. Like most departments, 60% of all responses are EMS related. Fort Worth's long history also has a history of over 100 year utilizing white fire apparatus. This came about in 1903 during a competition between the companies to compete at the Texas State Fair. Hose Company 5 won the city title and was informed that they needed to use a reserve apparatus since they were leaving the city. The members request a new paint job and when the painter inquired to ask what color the response was any color as long as it is the best looking pumper at the fair. The rest is history, White Fire Trucks.



Fort Worth's Hazmat response is spread out between Station 2, their primary hazmat station, and five satellite stations. Station 2 houses an Engine, Tower, Heavy Rescue Squad, Battalion Chief and numerous hazmat vehicles. Squad 2, a 1997 American LaFrance Heavy Rescue style unit handles all special operations from trench and high rise rescue to hazmat. In addition to Squad 2, the station houses Support 2, Hazmat Trailer 2, Rehab 2 and a full size tractor trailer hazmat unit. Squad 2 carries normal heavy rescue equipment and basic hazmat response. For hazmat incidents Support 2 responds with the Squad and pulls the Hazmat Trailer. Rehab 2 is available upon request for hazmat responses and other major incidents. Both Support 2 and Rehab 2 are staffed 24/7 with a driver. The larger trailer is special called on major incidents. As with Squad 2, both Engine 2 and Tower 2 have their crew trained at the Technician level. The Battalion Chief in charge of the Hazmat Team is housed at this station. In the City, five Engines had minimal hazmat gear that respond to minor incidents and back up Station 2 as needed. The department also has a large fifth wheeled trailer capable of deconing 10 people at once. An unusually task for most Fire Departments, Fort Worth operates a Bomb Squad. Also stationed at Station 2, the two vehicle team is available to respond with their special apparatus.

