



**Hays County Emergency Services District #3
SOUTH HAYS FIRE DEPARTMENT
TEXAS FIRE ACADEMY
3528 Hunter Road
San Marcos, TX 78666**



Press Release March 22, 2024

The Hays County ESD 3 Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce the hiring of South Hays ESD 3 Fire District's next Fire Chief, Scott J. Ridenour. Chief Ridenour will join the department starting April 1st, 2024 from Joint Base San Antonio, Fire Emergency Services where he served as Deputy Fire Chief. Originally born and raised in Logansport, Indiana Chief Ridenour brings 34 years of experience having joined the United States Air Force in 1990 and served 11 years active duty, before continuing his services as a civilian. His career has seen him serve in various positions and locations ranging from oversees in Germany and Kosovo, and the last 22 years at Joint Base San Antonio. His leadership and experience saw oversight of a department of 216 firefighters and average 4500 annual responses for the USAF's largest Joint Base. He has previous experience working with 17 mutual aid partners and vast knowledge of emergency response experience. Ridenour will retire from civil service on March 30th, 2024.

Ridenour, states "he is thrilled to be a part of the South Hays team and looking forward to being a servant to the Hays County citizens and working with this great team of professional men and women whose goals to protect the community are its highest priority. The department has begun the transition to a partial paid department and the positive energy he has seen from the firefighters, thus far, shows the future of the department and the protection of the citizens is the goal of its members." Ridenour also wanted to take a moment to thank the service of current Fire Chief Bob Simonson for setting the goals and taking South Hays in the direction of meeting the needs of the community and setting a positive role. Ridenour stated, "Chief Simonson's leadership set the bar high and established a standard of excellence I intend to carry forward. I am looking forward to getting to know the members and the surrounding community departments, while continuing to build the mutual aid bonds already in place and making sure the department has the resources and equipment to operate safely".

The Board of Commissioners and Fire Chief Simonson conducted a three-month recruitment and hiring process placing the candidates through a third-party Assessment Center that required live scenario and documented tasks of real-world related issues. The candidate finalist was also subject to an extensive interview process conducted by the ESD #3 board and a thorough background investigation.

Ridenour holds certifications from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection as a Master Structural Firefighter, Fire Officer 4, Fire instructor 3, Hazardous Materials Incident Command, Basic Fire Inspector and is a certified Texas Department of Health Safety Emergency Medical Technician. He holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Science from Southern Columbia University and TEEKs Fire Service Chief Executive Officer. In addition, he is graduate of the USAF Non-Commission Officer Academy and Airman Leadership Schools. Ridenour received an Honorable discharge from USAF and recipient of two civilian Achievement Medals, USAF Commendation medal and Airman Achievement medal. He was named Joint Base San Antonio's Supervisor of the year in 2012.

Ridenour is married to his wife Brenda, they have five adult aged children and an adopted Staffordshire Terroir "Ollie". Away from work Scott and Brenda enjoy spending time with family and friends, all sports & auto racing, barbeques, music, and traveling to anywhere warm and with beaches. The board and employees of Emergency Services District 3 are excited to welcome Chief Ridenour.

512.754.7963

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