



# CITY OF HORSESHOE BAY

**PRESS RELEASE MARCH 20, 2020**

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By Fire Chief Brent Batla and City Manager Stan R. Farmer

During these unsettling times, I would like to provide an update to the community regarding the state of the Fire and Emergency Management Departments for Horseshoe Bay. The Fire Department is staffed, trained, equipped, and stands ready to respond to any emergencies. As First Responders, we are proud to stand at the tip of the spear in helping our Country, State, and Community through this global crisis. Our community is blessed to have some of the best personnel that I have had the privilege to work with throughout my 25+ year career in the Fire Service. We have altered our response protocols to include the use of a greater level of personal protective equipment on any medical call that indicates symptoms that are common with COVID-19. If you see us dressed up, it does NOT mean that a person is positive for the virus. We just have to treat all calls with caution so that we can preserve our response capabilities and prevent further spread. With that in mind, we have limited access to fire stations and discontinued non mission critical activities such as pre-fire planning and fire inspections. We continue to offer life safety services such as helping with smoke detector battery changes.

The City Emergency Management team has been quite busy with frequent teleconference meetings at the City, County, and State levels. This ensures an excellent flow of the latest information at all levels. It is important that we are able to communicate to our citizens in a timely manner and I would like to briefly discuss that process. To disseminate emergency information, we have several avenues:

- 1) WarnCentralTexas.org is our primary system, (previously called "Code Red"),
- 2) The top banner of our city web site [horseshoe-bay-tx.gov](http://horseshoe-bay-tx.gov), titled COVID-19 INFORMATION, and
- 3) Email sent to the POA presidents that they can then forward to each of their contacts

I would like to discuss the primary method which is WarnCentralTexas.org. This is the system that we will use for any urgent emergency message. It is critical that you sign up for this free service if you would like to receive these messages per your preferred method, i.e. text, cell, email. To do so, please do the following: Go to [warncentraltexas.org](http://warncentraltexas.org) and click on the "Get Alerts" button.

Next, the web site will redirect you to the sign-up page in 8 seconds. Click on “Create an Account” and enter your information.

Thank you for helping us to ensure that our information can be passed to you in an accurate and timely manner. We will get through this together as a community of *People Helping People*.