



## **SAFE-D's 2019 Legislative Platform**

### **SAFE-D's LEGISLATIVE VISION**

- SAFE-D will work for legislative outcomes that preserve or enhance the authority of Emergency Services Districts to provide the first line of defense for their communities in natural disasters and other emergencies.
- Emergency Services Districts are created by voters to provide more reliable funding for fire protection and emergency medical services. As a result, the primary mission of Emergency Services Districts is to protect the lives and property of their citizens when they are threatened by emergencies. In order to accomplish this critical and essential function, Emergency Services Districts must have a predictable, reliable and adequate level of revenue, and SAFE-D must oppose any efforts to diminish this revenue.

### **SAFE-D's LEGISLATIVE GOALS**

- SAFE-D will oppose property tax reform proposals that restrict Emergency Services Districts from accomplishing the mission given to them by voters — protecting Texans' lives and property.
- SAFE-D will strive to preserve emergency services districts' access to sales tax revenues to assure resources necessary for the safety of their citizens.
- SAFE-D will propose and support legislation to allow emergency services districts to provide Mobile Integrated Healthcare/Community Paramedicine to reduce the taxpayers' cost of emergency medical services.
- SAFE-D will propose and support legislation to clarify ESDs' exclusive ability to designate the service providers necessary to accomplish the mission given to the districts by the voters who created them.
- SAFE-D will support efforts to simplify reporting requirements for the mutual benefit of state agencies and ESDs.
- SAFE-D will support efforts to increase funding for TIFMAS disaster response.
- SAFE-D will support efforts to assure that funds collected from insurance company assessments for the Rural Fire Department Assistance Fund are fully distributed to address fire department needs.
- SAFE-D will monitor efforts to create or repurpose an agency to oversee statewide firefighting efforts and will work to preserve local control of taxpayer-provided resources.