

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 4, 2025

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Severe Winds, Subsequent Wildfires Highlight Need For SAFD Support

Surge Staffing, Technological Upgrades Urgently Needed

San Antonio—An unknown number of fires broke out across San Antonio today, fueled by strong winds and dry conditions. Among the most critical incidents was a large brush fire on the city's far South Side, which required evacuations and a significant response from local firefighters. District 1 Council candidate, Julisa Medrano-Guerra is asking for more City support for firefighters, saying these incidents underscore the urgent need for surge staffing, additional resources, and the integration of advanced technology to improve emergency response during extreme weather conditions.

The fires, which threatened homes, businesses, and natural areas, highlight the challenges faced by first responders during high-risk periods. With windy conditions exacerbating the spread of flames, local firefighters worked tirelessly to protect lives and property.

Advocating for Change: Julisa Medrano-Guerra Calls for Action

"The fire department is something that often goes without attention until we are in a crisis," said Julisa. "As a business owner, I understand that we can't afford to be overstaffed, but I also understand surge staffing protocols that allow one to quickly deploy additional personnel during peak times. Based on what we've seen today, SAFD needs more support during high-risk conditions with surge staffing and the ability to strategically deploy before calls come in to reduce response times and stop the spread of wildfires."

Julisa also highlighted the potential of smartphones and modern technology to improve public safety during emergencies.

"We live in an age where smartphones are everywhere, and we should leverage that to keep people safe," she said. "City staff should immediately make ready an emergency alert system online so that they can send out an Amber Alert-style message to residents in affected areas, notifying them of nearby fires, evacuation routes, and safety precautions, in addition to advising the public of areas to avoid in order to not interfere with first responders."

The Role of Technology and Surge Staffing

Today's fires highlight the critical need for:

1. **Surge Staffing:** Additional personnel to ensure adequate coverage during high-risk periods.
2. **Pre-Deployment:** Creating a city-wide plan to dispatch response units during certain conditions before crisis events occur.
3. **Technological Innovation:** Tools such as smartphones, drones, real-time communication platforms, and GPS tracking to improve situational awareness and coordination.

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About Julisa Medrano-Guerra:

Julisa Medrano-Guerra is a District 1 City Council Candidate dedicated to bringing innovative solutions and fresh perspectives to San Antonio. With a focus on public safety, community engagement, and technological advancement, Julisa is committed to building a safer, stronger city for all residents.