



**June 10, 2026**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM CHIEF ROBERT KLEPAC**

### **BAY CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Bay City Volunteer Fire Department is aware of misinformation circulating on social media regarding our response to the residential structure fire that occurred on June 8, 2026, at 3005 Rugeley. Specifically, claims have been made suggesting that firefighters were delayed in suppressing the fire because they did not have the proper equipment to access a fire hydrant. These claims are false.

The Bay City Volunteer Fire Department maintains the equipment necessary to perform firefighting operations, including the tools required to access and operate fire hydrants. During the June 8 incident, firefighters followed established procedures and operated in accordance with department training and accepted firefighting standards.

Upon arrival, firefighters encountered a rapidly developing fire and immediately began fire suppression operations. As crews assessed the scene, they identified additional hazards that required heightened safety precautions. Live ammunition inside the residence was being ignited by the fire, creating significant risks to emergency responders. Firefighters also identified a propane tank located in the garage area, which further increased the danger and complexity of the incident.

Despite these hazards, crews continued suppression efforts while maintaining the safety of firefighters, residents, and assisting personnel. As conditions escalated, mutual aid resources were requested from neighboring departments to ensure sufficient personnel and equipment were available to bring the fire under control.

The Bay City Volunteer Fire Department is extremely proud of the actions taken by our firefighters and our mutual aid partners during this incident. Their professionalism, training, and commitment to public safety helped prevent injuries and allowed emergency responders to operate effectively under challenging and hazardous conditions.

We encourage the public to rely on information provided through official sources and recognize that speculation on social media often does not reflect the facts of an emergency response. Our department remains committed to transparency, accountability, and the protection of the citizens we serve.

On behalf of the Bay City Volunteer Fire Department, I would like to thank our firefighters, mutual aid partners, law enforcement officers, Animal Control personnel, and the community members who supported response efforts during this incident.

Robert Klepac  
Fire Chief  
Bay City Volunteer Fire Department

*Bay City, Texas –*

For more information, please contact:

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