



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: All Officers and Members
From: Matthew White, Assistant Fire Chief *MW*
Through: Justin Wells, Executive Assistant Fire Chief *JW*
Subject: Discontinuation of IDA Alerts from OEC
Date: July 28, 2020

Mayor
Sylvester Turner

City Council

District A
Amy Peck

District B
Jerry Davis

District C
Abbie Kamin

District D
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

District E
Dave Martin

District F
Tiffany Thomas

District G
Greg Travis

District H
Karla Cisneros

District I
Robert Gallegos

District J
Edward Pollard

District K
Martha Castex-Tatum

At-Large 1
Mike Knox

At-Large 2
David Robinson

At-Large 3
Michael Kubosh

At-Large 4
Letitia Plummer

At-Large 5
Sallie Alcorn

Controller,
Chris Brown

With the Houston area COVID-19 positivity rate near 25% and increasing difficulty for OEC Call Takers to obtain accurate information from the calling party, further attempts to “pre-screen” possible COVID-19 patients will cease and the “IDA” alert outlined in *Memorandum# 20-050* will no longer be utilized.

The prevalence of COVID-19 is high in the Houston area and COVID-19 cannot be “ruled out” in the field nor appropriately screened via OEC. In the best interest of HFD members’ health and wellbeing, all addresses and patients should be considered as possible COVID-19 positive places and patients. No attempts should be made or opinions formed to consider and treat any patient as “non-COVID”. HFD members should remain alert and cognizant that other persons on scene including family members may be COVID-19 positive even if the patient being evaluated/treated is not.

PPE selection and utilization should be determined in accordance with *General Order# 20-106* and as re-stated in *Memorandum# 20-182*. Any questions regarding this memorandum will be addressed through the chain of command.

20-204



Samuel Peña, Fire Chief
 1801 Smith Street, 7th Floor | Houston, Texas 77002 | (832) 394-6702
 “Courage, Commitment and Compassion”
www.houstontx.gov/fire

