



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stronger Together: McAllen Welcomes International Firefighters
McAllen's International Firefighters Exchange Program brings neighboring fire agencies together to share expertise and expand training opportunities.

The City of McAllen welcomed 14 firefighters from Corregidora, Querétaro, and Reynosa, Tamaulipas, for a one-and-a-half-day training with the McAllen Fire Department. The exchange included hands-on instruction and specialized exercises in vehicle extraction, hose advancement, forcible entry, search and rescue, ventilation, and ladder operations.

McAllen Mayor Javier Villalobos welcomed the visiting firefighters and highlighted the opportunity to exchange emergency response knowledge and practices.

Launched in 2025 by the city's departments of International Relations and Fire in coordination with the Sister Cities program, the International Firefighters Exchange Program is hosting its third cohort. Two cohorts participated during the program's inaugural year.

Corregidora is not a Sister City of McAllen; however, the two cities established an official partnership through a memorandum of understanding signed July 29, 2025, by mayors Josué "Chepe" Guerrero and Javier Villalobos. The agreement provides a framework for cooperation in areas including technical assistance and the exchange of best practices.

McAllen and Reynosa also maintain a longstanding Sister City relationship, providing another avenue for continued cooperation. "Training together creates an opportunity for our firefighters to learn from one another and strengthen the skills they rely on every day. These partnerships are valuable because they help build stronger emergency response capabilities and support the communities we serve," said Mayor Javier Villalobos.

"Through this training, visiting firefighters are gaining practical experience with tactics and scenarios they can apply within their own departments. Our goal is for participants to return home with new knowledge to strengthen cross-border collaboration in public safety and emergency response, while fostering continued cooperation among regional fire agencies," said Fire Chief Juan A. Gloria.

The continued exchange reflects McAllen's commitment to developing professional relationships with neighboring border communities while creating opportunities for firefighters to learn directly from one another in a real-world training environment.

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About the City of McAllen

Founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1911, the City of McAllen has grown from a small agricultural community into one of the most vibrant and fastest growing cities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Known as the City of Palms, McAllen serves as a hub for international trade, retail, tourism, and culture in the Rio Grande Valley.

Today, the city employs more than 2,600 public servants across 41 departments, delivering essential services to a community of more than 150,000 residents. City leadership remains committed to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and enhancing quality of life through innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. For more information, visit www.mcallen.net