
Downtown Safety Forum
October 15, 2026
8:30 am - 9:30 am

Today's Agenda

- Announcements
- AFD Battalion Chief Tim Krcmarik
- APD DTAC Lt. Eric Cleveland
- Upcoming Conferences and Events
- Open Q&A



HAPPY Y'ALLIDAYS

Celebrate holiday magic downtown.

Want free holiday promotion for your business?

Join the ATX Holidays campaign on the XOXO Downtown Austin App, running from 11/23 to 1/4.
What you get (free!):
✨ Your own highlight on the XOXO Downtown Austin App
📣 Shout-outs on DAA social media and paid marketing
🎁 ATX Holidays campaign materials delivered to your door

How to join:
Email communication@downtownaustin.com by 11/16 with:

- Holiday specials or deals (with dates and details)
- Holiday events or activations (title, date(s), photo, one-sentence description, and event link)

Then display your ATX Holidays materials once the campaign begins. We'll deliver them in November.

Shoppers can text "ATX HOLIDAYS" to 512-890-3099 or scan the QR codes to explore participating businesses.

📅 Deadline: 11/16



Chief Tim Krcmarik

Battalion Chief
Austin Fire Department

Elevator Rescue

How Austin Fire Responds and What You Can Do to Help

Overview:

- There are thousands of elevators in the City of Austin, and Austin Fire responds to elevator emergencies everyday.
- The majority of these calls are for occupants trapped in a stalled elevator.
- Although elevator emergencies are commonplace, we take them seriously and have a broad range of rescue tactics that range from simple to highly complex.
- Our initial response is 1 Truck and 1 Engine (8 FFs total).



Where We Begin:

- Firefighters responding to an elevator emergency gather all the intel we can while en route to the call.
  - How many occupants are trapped?
  - What floor are they on?
  - Is there a true emergency? (FIIPPS)
  - Is the elevator stuck due to mechanical or electrical failure?
  - Has an elevator tech been called?



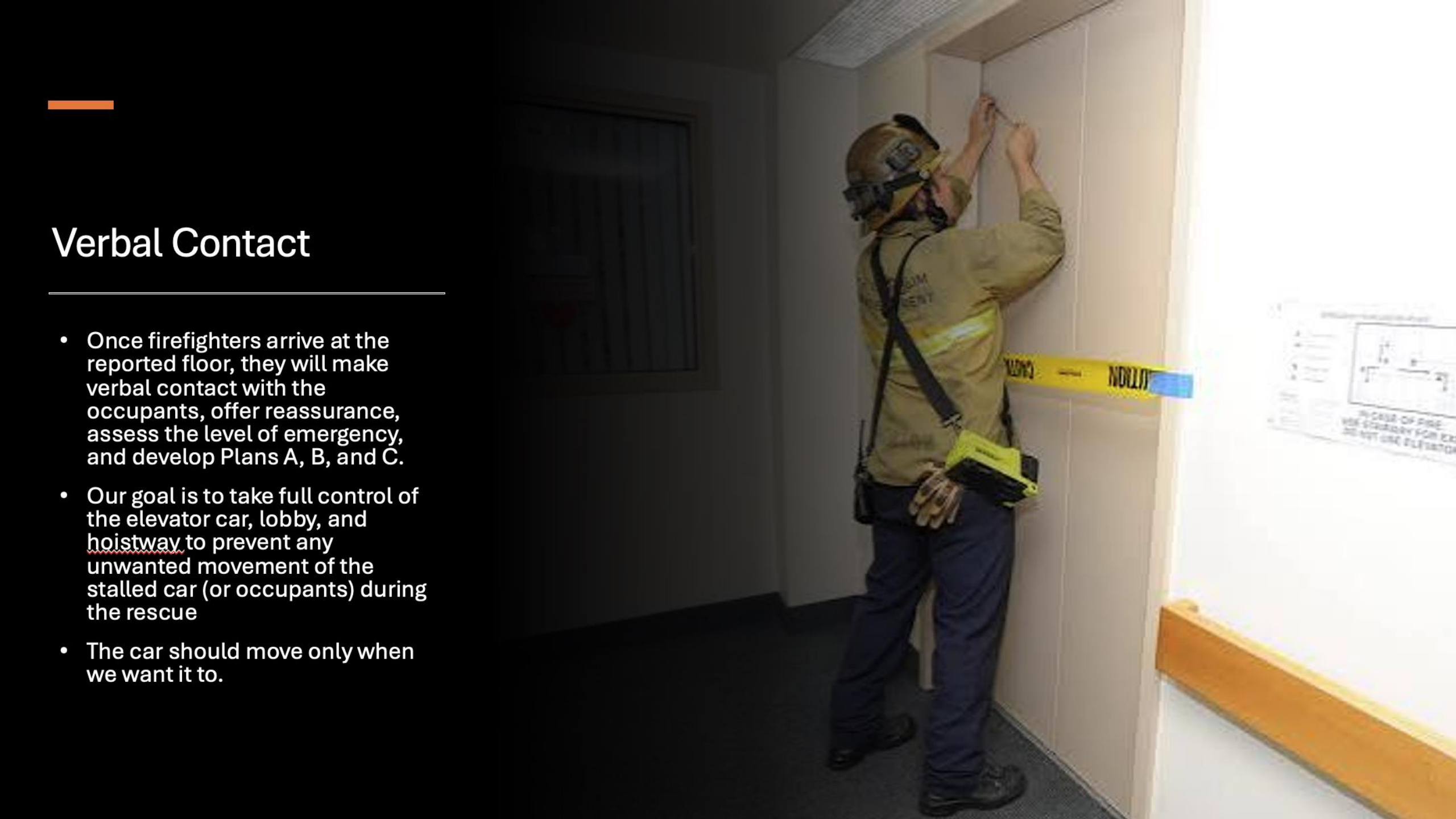
When We Arrive on Scene:

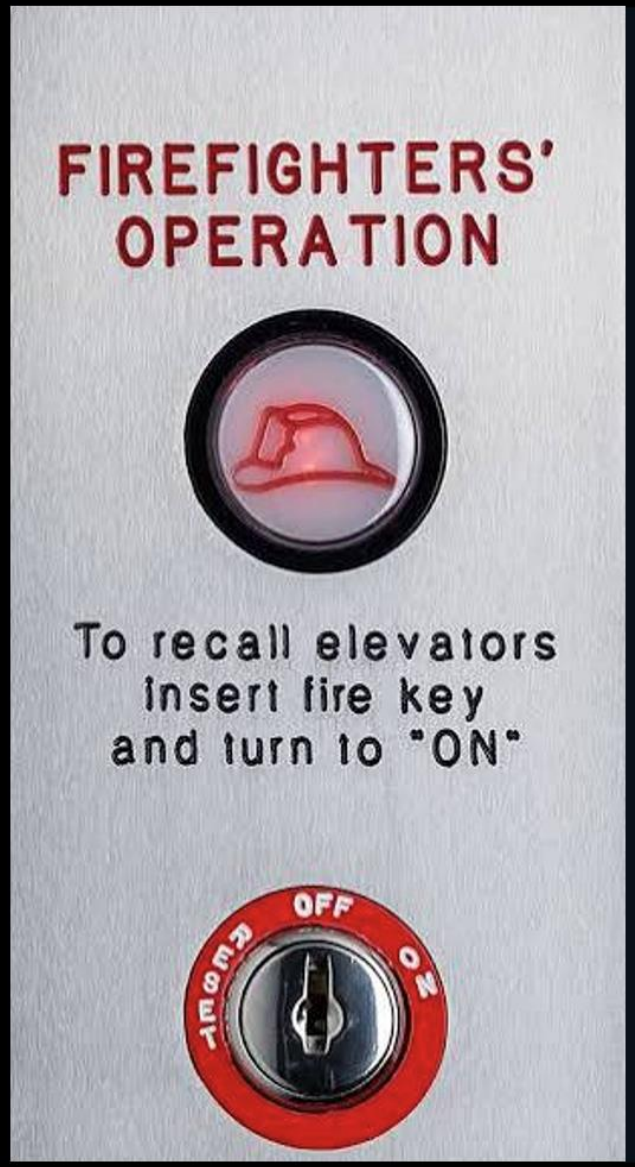
- First, we make contact with a building representative (maintenance, management, engineer, security).
- We confirm what we know, gather additional intel, and ensure an elevator tech is en route.
- Next, we split into teams:
  - Machine Room
  - Lobby
  - Origin Floor
  - Floor Above
  - Floor Below



Verbal Contact

- Once firefighters arrive at the reported floor, they will make verbal contact with the occupants, offer reassurance, assess the level of emergency, and develop Plans A, B, and C.
- Our goal is to take full control of the elevator car, lobby, and hoistway to prevent any unwanted movement of the stalled car (or occupants) during the rescue
- The car should move only when we want it to.





The Rescue:

- Simple to Complex:
  - An elevator tech plugs into the elevator's computer, takes full control, and drives the car to the lobby.
  - Hard reset (like your phone)
  - Recall from the lobby (FF Controls)
  - Door Pop
    - Lockout/tagout (Machine Room)
  - 90% of elevator emergencies are resolved by one of the above





The Other 10% of the Time:

- Occasionally, elevator rescues become more technical where crews must enter the hoistway to rescue trapped occupants via the hatch on top of the car.
- Blind shafts
- Broken door mechanisms

- In these cases, Austin Fire will upgrade the call type to a Rescue Task Force and bring in Special Operations crews to assist.
- Our Spec Ops folks love this.



It’s Your Lucky Day!

- What to do if you’re trapped in a stalled elevator:
  - Take a breath, these things happen everyday.
  - A stalled elevator is inconvenient, and only very rarely an immediate danger. Help is on the way.
  - Use your cellphone to call 911 or use the emergency phone/box in the elevator car—somebody should answer.



We Got You!

- Early in the rescue, you may be prompted by firefighters to press/hold the Door Open and Floor buttons at the same time. This sometimes prompts the elevator to stop misbehaving.
- If that doesn't work, sit back and relax; we'll have you out shortly.



Questions? Comments?

BC Tim Krcmarik

timothy.Krcmarik@austintexas.gov



Lt. Eric Cleveland

APD Downtown Area Command

When to Call 911 vs 311

Calling 911 vs 311

Austin

- If a suspect is on scene, you should **call 911**
- If the suspect has left and is still in the immediate area, you should **call 911**
- If you call 311 and **it is an emergency**, you will be immediately **transferred to 911**
- If the suspect is not on scene and a significant period-of-time has lapsed and there is no imminent danger, you should **call 311**

Online Reporting vs Phone

- If **all** the below are met, file an online report
  - You are **17 years old or older**
  - You **have a valid email address**
  - The type of offense is **eligible for online reporting**
    - List of approved offenses at https://www.austintexas.gov/services/file-police/report
- If any of the above are **not** met, report by phone
  - Call 311 or 512-974-2000

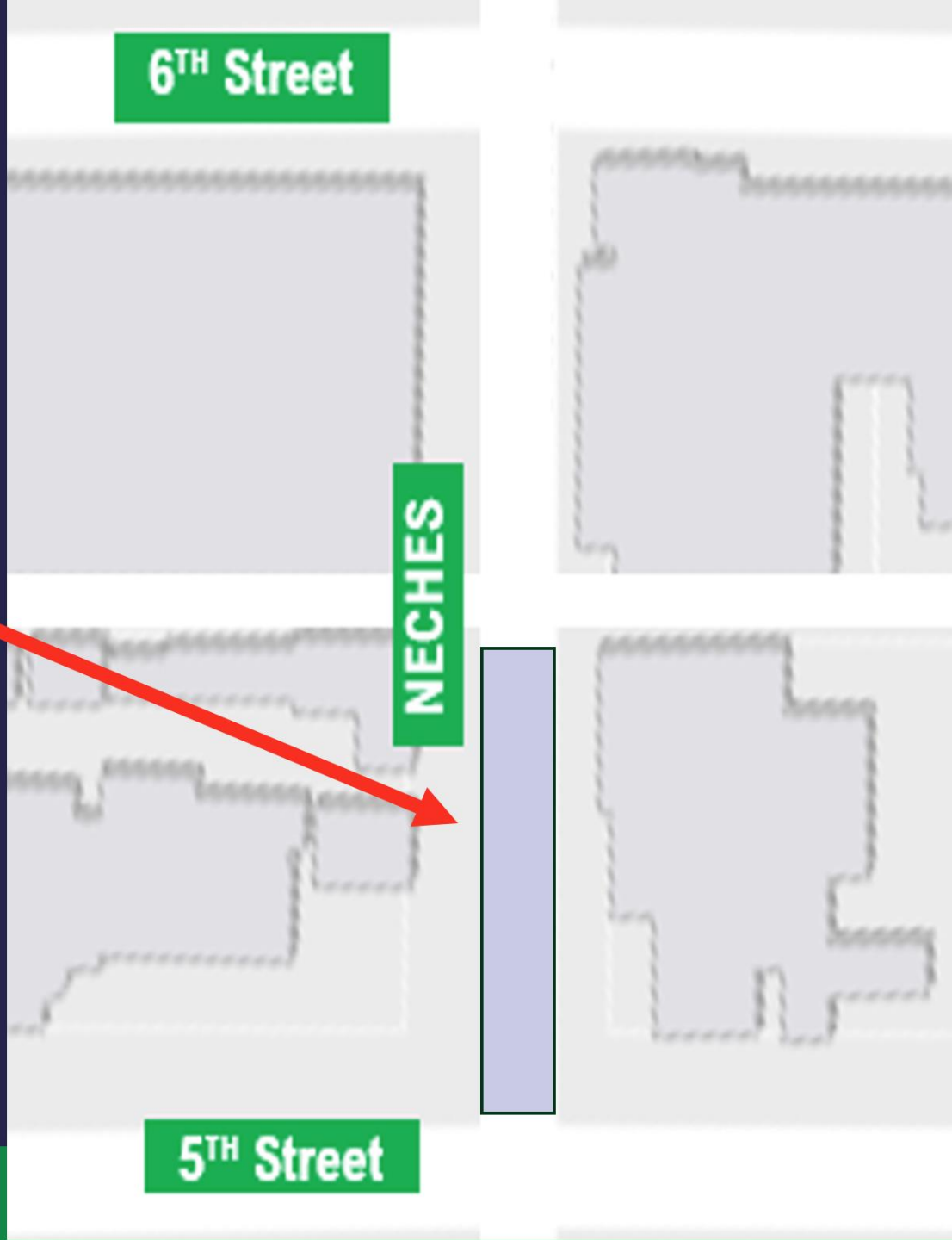
If there is immediate danger to people or property, a crime is in progress, or the suspect is still on scene – call 911

Parking & Towing Update

Parking & Towing

- There are plans to change parking in the 500 block of **Neches** between 5TH street and the south alley to tow-away from 9pm – 3am on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

- The 500 block of **Neches** between the south alley and 6TH street have already been changed to tow-away from 9pm – 3am on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.



Parking & Towing

- Parking in posted no parking / tow away zones on **6th street** continues to be an ongoing issue. This generally results in additional personnel required to impound vehicles on weekends.

- TPW will be adding additional white delineators to 6th street to provide ***additional physical barriers*** to parking in these no parking zones on 6TH street.



Street Closure Criteria

Street Closure Criteria

- The metric for determining the need for a safety closure is primarily a consideration for pedestrian safety based on the crowd density on the sidewalks.

- Before each closure, we must answer this question: **“Is the then existing or imminent crowd density on the sidewalk incompatible with the sidewalk capacity?”**



Street Closure Criteria

Can the sidewalks reasonably contain the people?

- This is less a question about how convenient it is to navigate the sidewalk.
- The sidewalk can be busy but still navigable.
- When pedestrians must step out of an area of pedestrian safety to navigate due to crowd density—that is generally when it is necessary to execute a safety closure.



Vehicle Incursion Mitigation

Incursion Mitigation

- APD utilizes Meridian barriers as area denial measures to prevent vehicle incursions into the streets when we perform safety closures.
- These barriers are used in conjunction with Type III traffic barricades warning motorists of traffic closures to vehicles.
- The ramps are ADA compliant, but cyclists should use caution when crossing through at higher speeds



Incursion Mitigation

- Not all locations where these devices are placed are fully open to cyclists or scooters.
- Cyclists and scooters should use caution when approaching locations where barriers are placed.
- Designated openings will be present that are intended for pedestrians, ADA access, cyclists or scooters.

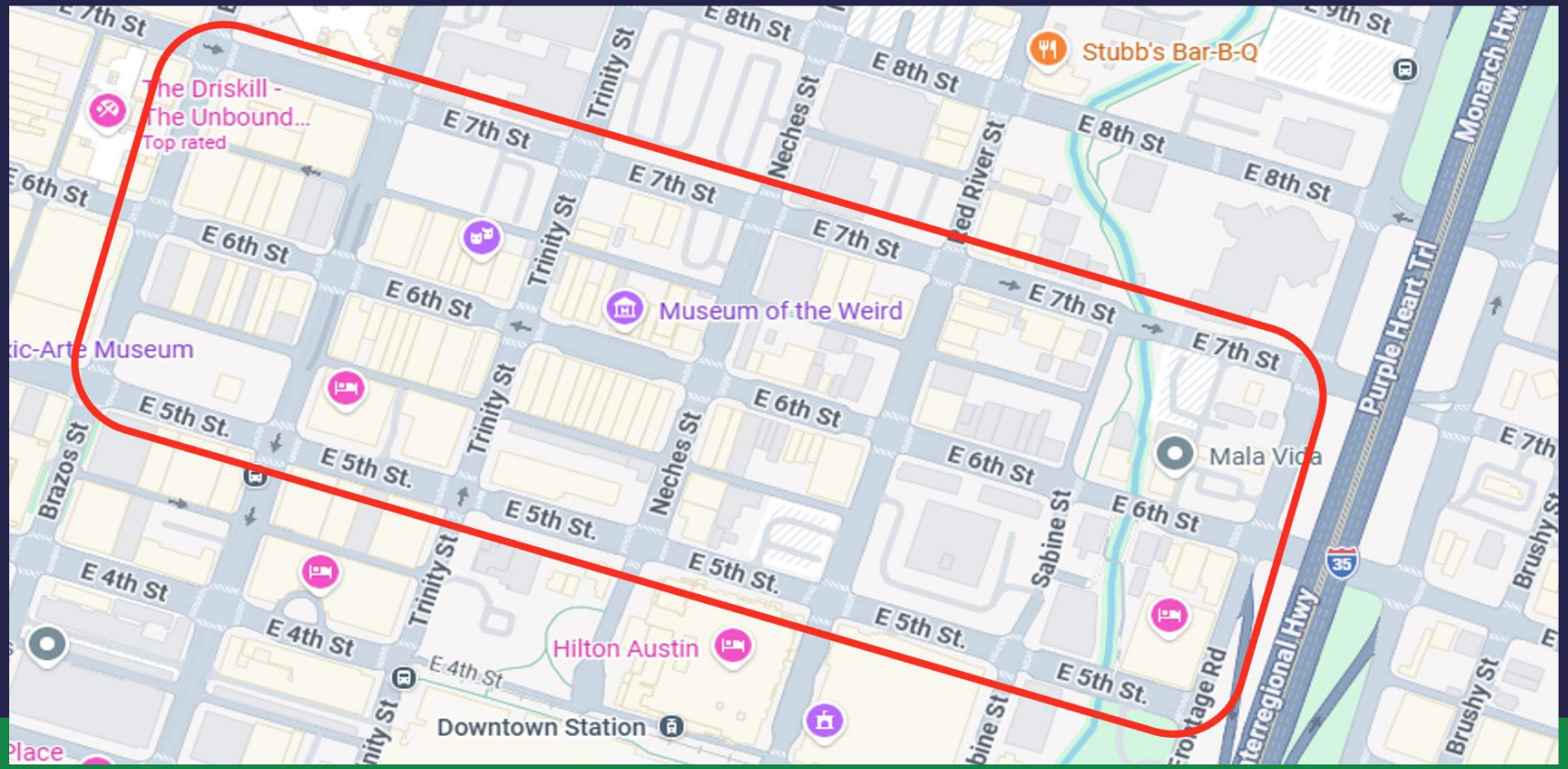


Halloween 2026

EVENT ACTION PLAN

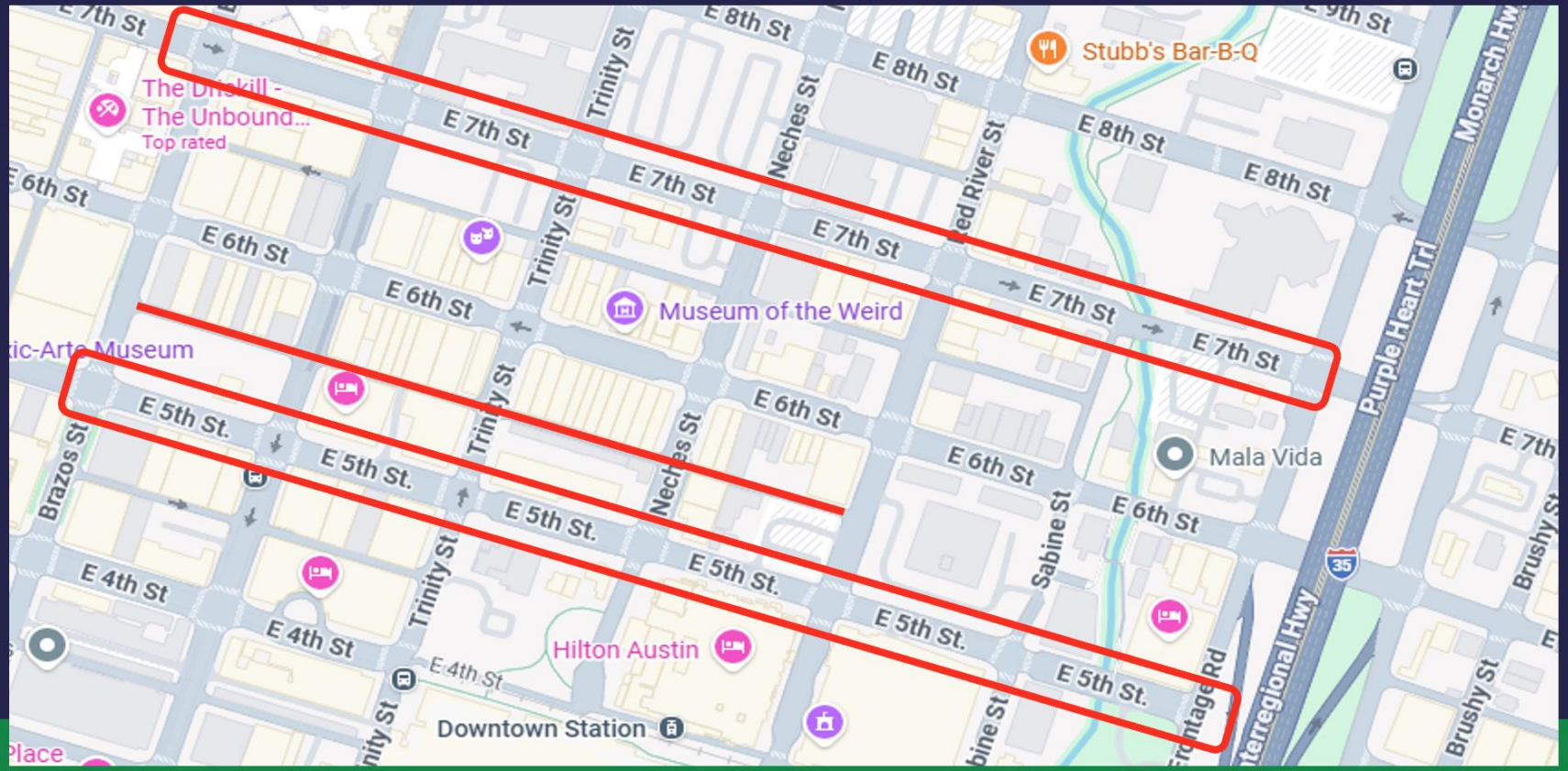
Traffic Closure

- Traffic Closure begins at **5:30pm** on Saturday, October 31, 2026.
- Complete Traffic Closure from **IH35 SB SVRD to Brazos St** and **5th St to 7th St**.



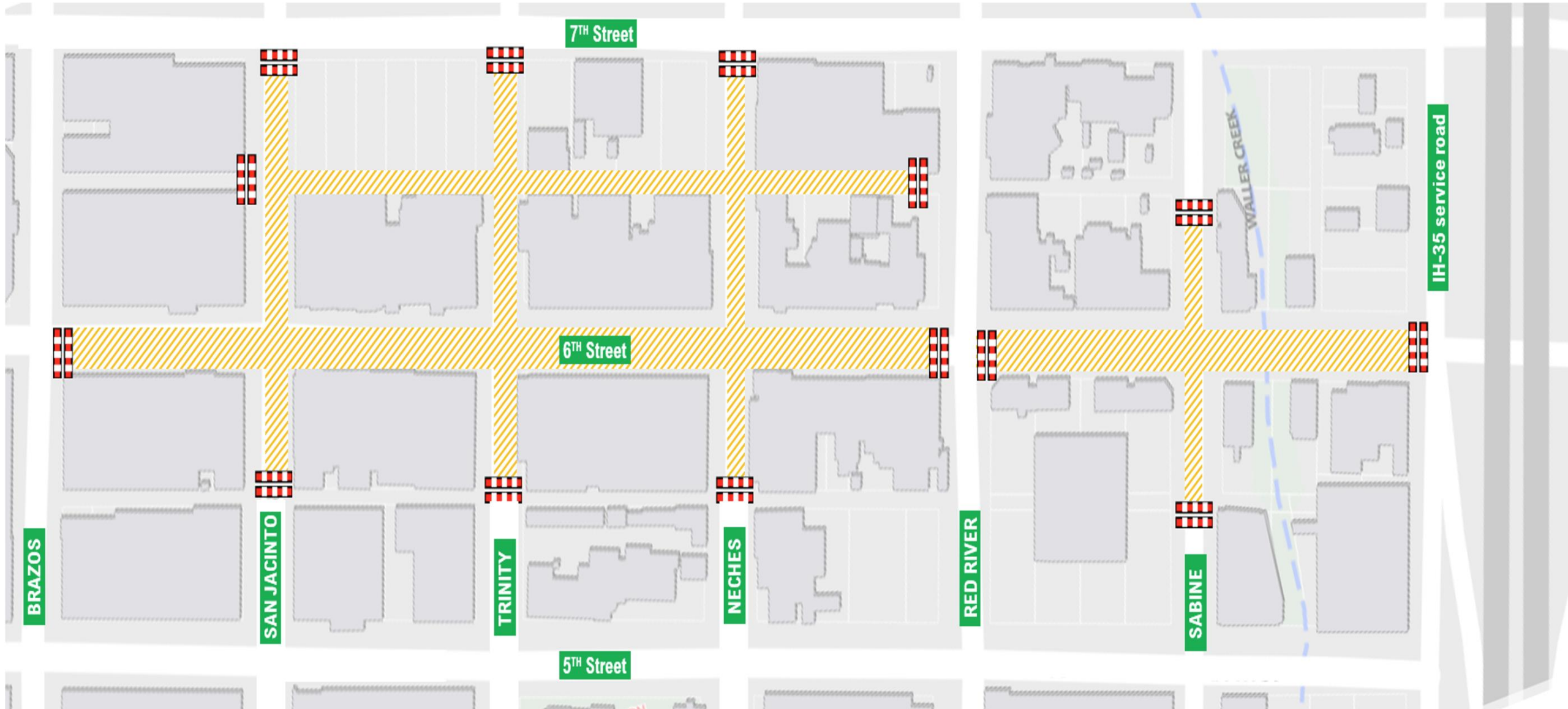
Traffic Closure

- **5th St** and **7th St** will be open to vehicle traffic.
- **6th St South Alley:** musicians, loading-unloading, thru traffic only for valet



Traffic Closure

Austin



Streets Remaining Open

- 5th St
- 7th St
- 8th St
- IH35 SVRD
- Red River St
- Brazos St



Public Safety Resources

Unified Command

Austin Police Department

Austin-Travis County EMS

Austin Fire Department

Fire Marshals – AFD

PACE Teams

Austin Police Patrols

- Foot & Bike Patrol
- ATV & Polaris Units
- Marked Police Cruisers
- Unmarked Police Vehicles
- Rapid Response Units

Austin EMS Staffing

- **Rapid Response Units**
  - Motorcycles
  - Polaris SRV
  - Polaris Ambulance

- **Medical Treatment / Triage Trailer at the Public Safety Zone**

APD CAST & CASTMED

Joint-Agency Rapid Response Teams

APD and Austin-Travis County EMS will have our joint-agency Counter Assault Strike Team (CAST) resources for this event.

Formula 1 2026

OCTOBER 22-25, 2026

Downtown Events

Austin

October 22-25: Nightly F1 Parties

- Mayfair Nightclub, 501 W 6th St #300
- Thu, October 22 @ 10:00pm – 2:00am
- Fri, October 23 @ 3:00pm – 2:00am
- Sat, October 24 @ 1:00pm – 10:00pm
- Sun, October 25 @ 3:00pm – 10:00pm

Sat, October 24: Grand Prixview LIVE with Guenther Steiner & The Red Flags Podcast

- ACL Live, 310 W Willie Nelson Blvd
- 9:00pm

Upcoming Events

October
15–17 / Straumann USA – 2026 Neodent Symposium @ JW Marriott
16–17 / Hot Luck Festival @ Various Locations
18 / Austin Symphony Orchestra – Halloween Children's Concert @ Long Center
22–25 / Formula 1 United States Grand Prix @ Circuit of The Americas
23 / San Antonio Spurs vs. Houston Rockets @ Moody Center
24 / Viva la Vida Fest @ Mexic-Arte Museum
25–November 5 / Austin Film Festival @ Downtown Austin
26–29 / Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center – 2026 Americas Fall Summit @ JW Marriott
31–Nov 4 / Freddie Mac – 2026 Connect Conference @ Hilton Austin
31–Nov 5 / Intelisys – 2026 Channel Connect @ Fairmont Austin
31–Nov 5 / Diversified Communications – 2026 IOFM @ JW Marriott Austin

November
3–6 / TX Self Storage Assoc. – 2026 Big Ideas in Storage Annual Convention & Trade Show @ JW Marriott Austin
3–13 / Boston Consulting Group – NAMR Regional FAC w November WWOM 2026 @ Various Hotels
9–12 / 2026 Conference on Robotic Learning @ Various Locations Expanding UT and Downtown
10–15 / Educator Resources, Inc. – FALL 2026: International Learning & the Brain Conference @ Hilton Austin
11–18 / National Association of Subrogation Professionals – 2026 Confidential Annual Meeting @ JW Marriott
13–19 / National Adult Protective Services Association – 2026 NAPSA Conference @ Hilton Austin
17–18 / iConnections – TomorrowX Summit 2026 @ Various Hotel

Open Q&A

November Downtown Safety Forum

Thursday, November 19, 2026, 8:30 AM