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FORSYTH COUNTY

2006 Fire Department Annual Report

FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

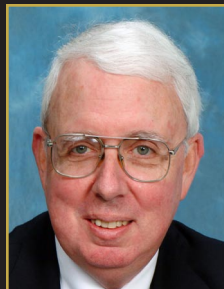
County Board of Commissioners



Charles Laughinghouse, Chairman
District One



David Richard, Vice Chairman
District Four



Jim Harrell, Secretary
District Three



Dr. Linda K. Ledbetter, Member
District Five



Brian Tam, Member
District Two

County Administration

**Rhonda
O'Connor,**
Interim County
Manager



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This annual report was prepared jointly by the Forsyth County Fire Department and the Forsyth County Department of Communications.



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COMMANDSTAFF



Danny D. Bowman
Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency Director

Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director Danny Bowman is responsible for all aspects of fire and rescue operations for Forsyth County, oversees all EMA operations and directs and advises on Homeland Security issues. Bowman joined the Forsyth County Fire Department as division fire chief in 2001, and he was promoted to assistant fire chief and EMA director in 2002. He has served as fire chief since July 2003. Starting his career as a firefighter for the Atlanta Fire Department in 1968, Bowman worked his way up the ranks, eventually serving in the chief administrator capacity for the newly formed Fulton County Fire Department and later as deputy fire chief, interim fire chief and battalion chief for Fulton County. He is active in the community and fire services industry, previously holding the position of president for both the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs and the Metropolitan Atlanta Area Fire Chiefs Association. Bowman also served on the Thompson Group, a Washington D.C. advisory panel for the Fair Labor and Standards Act.



Dwight Clark
Deputy Fire Chief

Deputy Fire Chief Dwight Clark oversees the Operations Division of the Forsyth County Fire Department. Clark joined the county in 2001, after working with the Georgia Fire Academy. He has extensive knowledge of rescue operations, and he is world-renowned as an expert in the field of vehicle extrication.



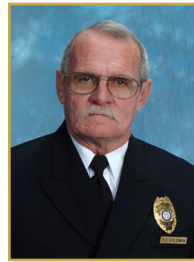
James Hildebrand
Battalion Chief, A-Shift

A-Shift Battalion Chief James Hildebrand joined the county's Fire Department in 2002, following service with the Fulton County and Atlanta Fire Departments. With over 35 years in fire services, he brings valuable experience to his supervisory duties of the A-Shift operations.



Anthony Chapman
Battalion Chief, B-Shift

B-Shift Battalion Chief Anthony Chapman has held the titles of firefighter, lieutenant, captain and acting training chief for the Forsyth County Fire Department since joining in 1995. Chapman was promoted to battalion chief in 2001. With over 20 years in fire services, he is well-prepared for the day-to-day supervision of the B-Shift operations.



Tommy Coleman
Battalion Chief, C-Shift

C-Shift Battalion Chief Tommy Coleman joined Forsyth County in 1993, serving as captain prior to his promotion to battalion chief. Previously working for the Atlanta and Roswell Fire Departments, Coleman has over 30 years in fire services. His years in fire service are an asset to his supervisory duties and oversight of the C-shift operations.



Steve Anderson
Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Steve Anderson manages and oversees the county's Fire/Explosive Investigative Unit. He also manages the Code Compliance/Enforcement Division of the Fire Marshal's Office. Anderson became Forsyth County's fire marshal in 1995, after serving with both the Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office and Stone Mountain Park Fire Department.



Lee Parker
Training Division Chief

Training Chief Lee Parker is responsible for training, conducting classes and ensuring all department personnel maintain state required training levels. Before joining Forsyth County in 1998, he was a staff instructor at the Georgia Fire Academy. Parker currently serves in the Air Force Reserves as a fire protection superintendent and was activated for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

2006 GOALS

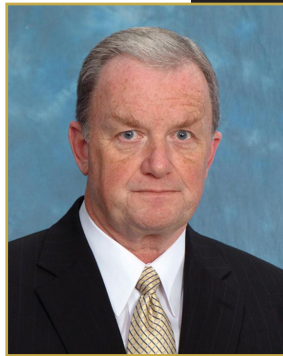
- 1 Prevent incidents from occurring through code enforcement, public education and fire prevention activities.
- 2 Mitigate hazards by handling all service requests in a professional manner.
- 3 Provide the highest quality of service in a professional and caring manner.
- 4 Encourage and support employee development, enhancing proficiency and professionalism.
- 5 Promote the health and safety of our employees.



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FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



“The Forsyth County Fire Department endeavors to keep up with the demand for emergency services for a population growing at an average annual rate of seven percent.”

It is with a great sense of pride that the Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report is published, highlighting the services provided to our citizens in 2006. The men and the women who make up your Fire Department are dedicated far beyond the usual “protection of life and property.” Long hours of training go into becoming proficient in modern firefighting and rescue techniques utilizing highly advanced tools of our trade.

The Forsyth County Fire Department endeavors to keep up with the demand for emergency services for a population growing at an average annual rate of seven percent. Our citizens expect their firefighters will arrive on scene quickly, fully trained and equipped to handle any emergency situation.

A designated “fire millage rate” coupled with funding from Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and impact fees fund the much-needed services. Since the 1970s, society has come to expect fire departments to be able to handle any and all conceivable emergency events. These include structural firefighting, deep water rescue, swift water rescue, high angle rescue, trench rescue, hazardous materials response, wildland firefighting and vehicle extrication, in addition to initiatives such as our child safety seat program and smoke detector outreach program.

This publication endeavors to convey the manner in which your Fire Department and county government are organized, a brief history of fire services in Forsyth County and a statistical overview of fire services provided in 2006.

Forsyth County’s current population is expected to grow from 150,000 to over 200,000 during the next five years. The Forsyth County Fire Department, which averages more than one major event (emergency) every hour, will endeavor to continue to provide its citizens with the services expected by modern society. I trust this publication will assist in understanding the manner in which those emergency services are provided.

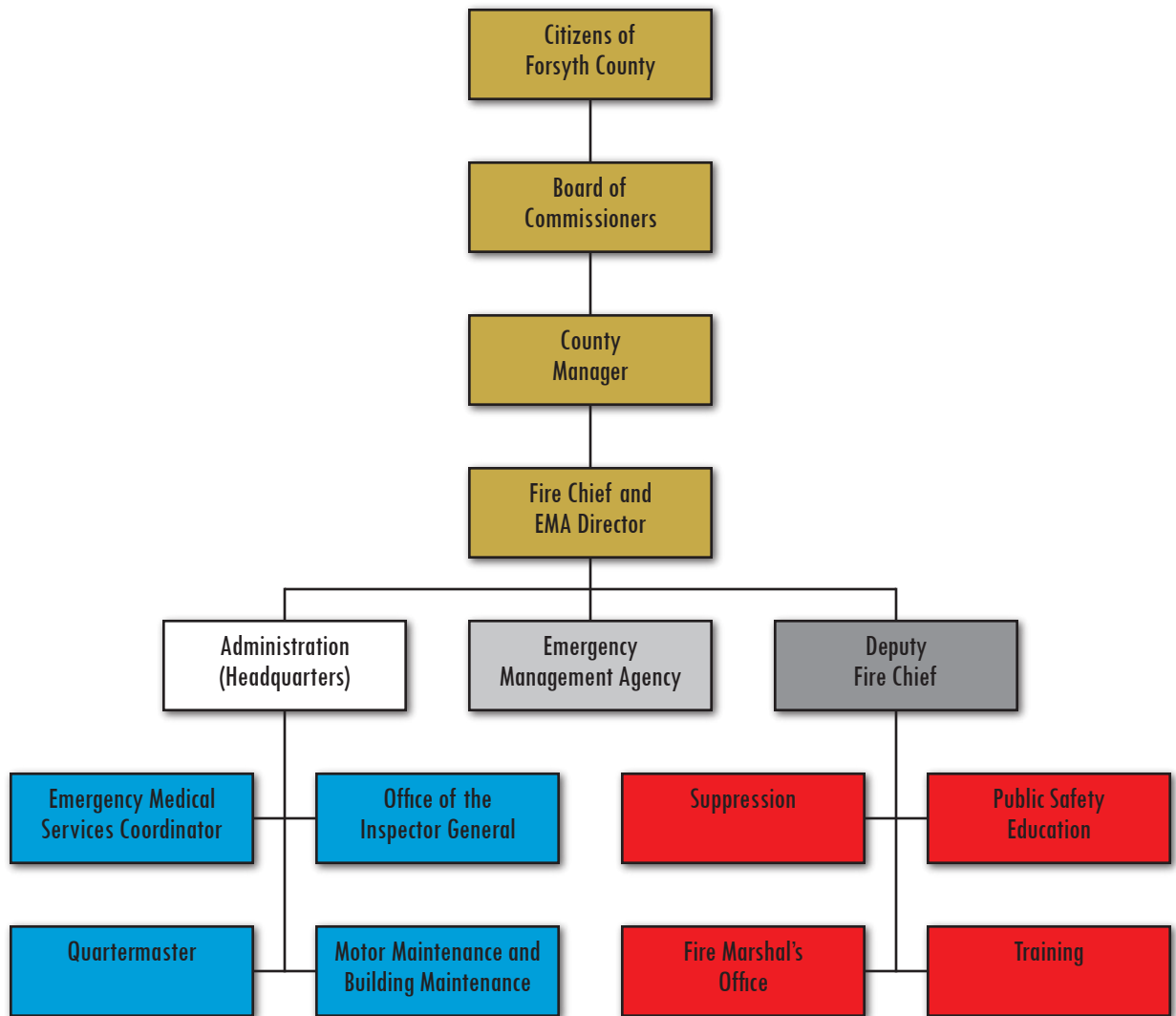
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny D. Bowman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Danny D. Bowman
Fire Chief
Emergency Management Agency Director

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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Additional Positions for 2007
12 full-time firefighters

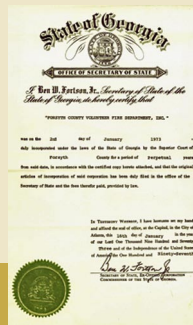
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW



Forsyth County's first Assistant Fire Chief M.L. "Mack" Bailey (Ret.) is shown above in 1975, with one of the county's first fire apparatus known as the "Green Giant."

Now an established and growing Fire Department, the Forsyth County Fire Department began in 1972 as the Forsyth County Fire Protection Committee, created in response to a residential fire claiming the life of a county resident. In 1973, a volunteer Fire Department was incorporated that would serve the county until 1998, when the time came for a modern Fire Department and the hiring of 30 full-time, professional firefighters.

Since those first 30 professional firefighters joined the county, the Forsyth County Fire Department has grown tremendously. The Fire Department included 114 full-time field suppression firefighter positions in addition to shift workers and a variety of support and administrative personnel in 2006.



1972
Forsyth County Fire Protection Committee is created.

1972
First training session is called for volunteer firefighters.

1973
Volunteer Fire Department is incorporated and led by Fire Chief John C. "Jake" Moore.

1983
International Association of Fire Chiefs publishes that Forsyth County, Georgia, with 336 volunteer firefighters on the rolls, is the nation's largest volunteer Fire Department.

1990
Norris Bennett is elected fire chief by volunteer firefighters.



Two of the first apparatus operated out of the original Fire Station 1 are displayed in the mid-1970s.



1998
Forsyth County hires its first 30 paid full-time firefighters.



2003
Danny D. Bowman is named Forsyth County's third and current fire chief.

2006
Fire Department moves into its new headquarters and Fire Station 12 at Forsyth County's new Public Safety Complex.

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FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

DIVISIONS



FIRE ADMINISTRATION

The Fire Administration Division maintains and controls operations of the Fire Department. The Office of the Fire Chief, Office of the Deputy Fire Chief, personnel, payroll and comptroller, as well as divisions and special operations, fall within the Fire Administration.

Fire Administration Numbers

- 1 EMS coordinator
- 1 inspector general
- 1 quartermaster
- 3 full-time fire apparatus maintenance staff
- 1 full-time building maintenance staff

Emergency Medical Services Coordinator

This office contains one captain overseeing all medical training and emergency medical services quality control and acting as the Fire Department liaison with the county emergency medical transport contractor. The coordinator ensures all Fire Department Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) functions follow procedures and maintain the state of Georgia requirements. Additionally, the coordinator is designated as the official ambulance service contract administrator for any provider doing business with Forsyth County.

Office of the Inspector General

This office contains one captain reporting directly to the fire chief. The inspector general acts as an aide and advisor to the fire chief and keeps the fire chief abreast of departmental needs and recent events. He also acts as the Fire Department spokesman to the media, and he works as a liaison with the Forsyth County Department of Communications. Additionally, the inspector general acts in a research and development capacity for prospective tools and equipment, and he is the primary point-of-contact for new apparatus design and specifications.

Quartermaster

This office is held by one captain serving as the Fire Department supply officer. He ensures the field is supplied with tools and uniforms and maintains a stock of supplies for all stations and the Fire Department Headquarters. Additionally, the quartermaster acts as the primary point-of-contact for the fire chief on Fire Department facility needs and coordinates response from part-time employees and volunteers.

Motor Maintenance

Motor Maintenance serves as the critical link that keeps the Fire Department operable. It consists of three service technicians who ensure all department vehicles are maintained and repaired properly and efficiently. The technicians work out of a four-bay maintenance facility with full automotive and heavy duty truck repair capabilities. They perform all preventative maintenance and overhauling of department equipment including emergency apparatus, staff vehicles and small tools and equipment.

Building Maintenance

Building Maintenance consists of one technician skilled in building construction and remodeling. The technician acts as the department carpenter and oversees all facility maintenance and repair.

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OPERATIONS

The Operations Division is supervised by the deputy fire chief and oversees daily suppression operations of the department, Public Safety Education Division, Fire Marshal's Office, Training Division, all special operations units and the Honor Guard.

Operations Numbers

- 114 full-time firefighters;
6 shift workers (12-hour shift);
30+ volunteer firefighters
- 1 full-time public safety education coordinator
- 1 fire marshal;
1 deputy fire marshal;
1 full-time fire investigator;
6 full-time fire inspectors;
1 full-time plan reviewer;
1 administrative staff
- 3 full-time training staff;
2 part-time training staff

Suppression

This division is the backbone of the Fire Department. All administration functions of the department ultimately are conducted to support the Suppression Division. This division contains field personnel working in fire stations and responding to the constant requests for assistance from the citizenry. Field personnel are supervised by lieutenants, and lieutenants are supervised by one of three battalion chiefs. Each shift is assigned one battalion chief. This officer maintains field personnel records, field payroll and clock times, and commands fire scenes and major rescues. All field personnel work on the traditional 24/48-hour schedule. They report to their workstation by 7 a.m., and they are in-service working for the citizens for 24 hours. At the end of their shift, they are relieved at 7 a.m. the following morning by the next oncoming shift. Their days off begin and continue for 48 hours. At the end of 48 hours, they return for the next 24-hour shift.

Public Safety Education

This division works to educate the public about fire prevention and the dangers of fire, as well as the many services offered by the Fire Department to the community. This division works routinely in local schools and offers fire safety education to any interested party. Additionally, this division installs smoke detectors for elderly and needy citizens and operates the department's fire safety house.

Fire Marshal's Office

This division contains personnel for building plan review, fire code inspectors and fire investigators. This division plays an integral role in constructing new buildings and ensuring those structures are built to meet or exceed today's fire codes. It also investigates any fire that is suspicious in nature, unlawfully set or of which the immediate cause cannot be determined.

Training

This division trains personnel in matters of field suppression and rescue functions. This division consists of three full-time officers and two part-time employees. It maintains training records and ensures appropriate personnel are up-to-date with technology, methodology and receiving the required number of training hours for their level of expertise.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

The members of these specialized units possess high levels of training and skills that go beyond their daily suppression duties. The specialized units, whose expertise focuses on the handling of extreme conditions and circumstances, are deployed during emergency incidents such as trench collapses and river rescues.

Dive Unit

This unit responds out of Fire Station 15 and is responsible for rescue and recovery involving deep water. The personnel are highly trained in safely searching for and recovering victims of drownings, and they routinely assist law enforcement in the recovery of vehicles from Lake Lanier and surrounding bodies of water. The unit responds with a fully equipped dive/rescue vehicle.

Hazardous Materials Unit

This unit is Forsyth County's first line of defense to potential ravages of hazardous materials. The unit operates out of Fire Station 14 with a full compliment of modern hazardous materials response tools and equipment. These include a fully equipped hazardous materials trailer and a decontamination trailer. Fire personnel at Station 14 are registered as hazardous materials technicians, and they can respond to and mitigate most any hazardous materials incident.

Swift Water Rescue Unit

This unit responds out of Fire Station 15 and is responsible for rescues involving victims trapped in swiftly moving waters. Primary responses of this unit involve the Chattahoochee River south of Buford Dam and fishermen or boaters stranded in the quickly rising waters. The unit responds with a pair of personal watercraft equipped for swift water rescues, acquired in 2005, and a Zodiac rescue boat.

Technical Rescue Unit

This unit responds to highly specialized and detailed rescues involving any number of incidents. The personnel respond out of Fire Station 12 with a heavy rescue vehicle. A technical rescue truck and trailer combination unit was ordered at the close of 2005, and placed in service in the spring of 2006. The unit responds to and rescues victims from building collapses, trench collapses, high-angle incidents, confined spaces and many other unusual and dangerous situations.

Wildland/Urban Interface Unit

This unit responds out of Fire Station 5 and is responsible for wildland and brush fires and incidents where wildland meets urban housing. The unit responds with a specially designed brush truck and has two other brush trucks available in the county for response as needed.

Honor Guard

This unit is responsible for honoring fallen public safety professionals and military veterans. Training and services provided are done on a voluntary basis by members of the Fire Department. The Honor Guard responds to many service requests for funerals, parades and flag presentations each year. It is also selected annually to participate in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Tribute at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.





OPERATIONS

ESF 4

**FIRE
SERVICES**

ESF 8

**PUBLIC HEALTH
AND
MEDICAL SERVICES**

ADMINISTRATION

FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Forsyth County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is the local lead agency for coordination of the emergency and disaster response activities for Forsyth County and the city of Cumming. The EMA's mission is to provide a comprehensive and aggressive mitigation and emergency preparedness, response and recovery program for Forsyth County citizens in order to save lives, protect property and reduce effects of disaster. The EMA utilizes the Emergency Operations Center in the Public Safety Complex as the central operations location for times of major emergencies.

Emergency Management Agency Numbers

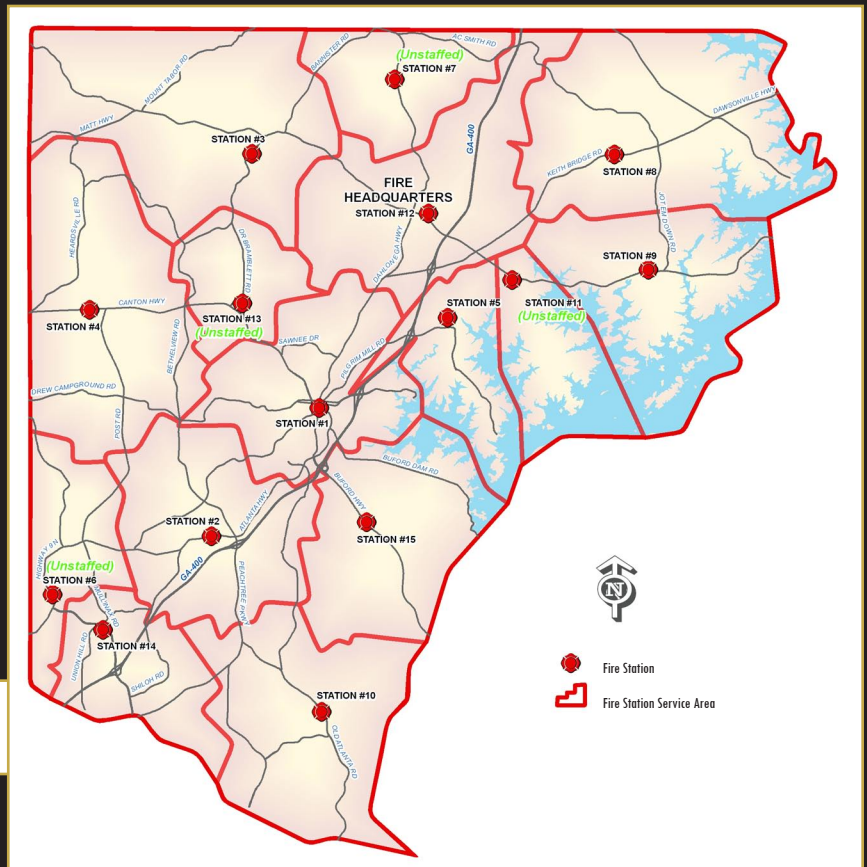
- 1 full-time EMA coordinator
- 1 part-time EMA clerk

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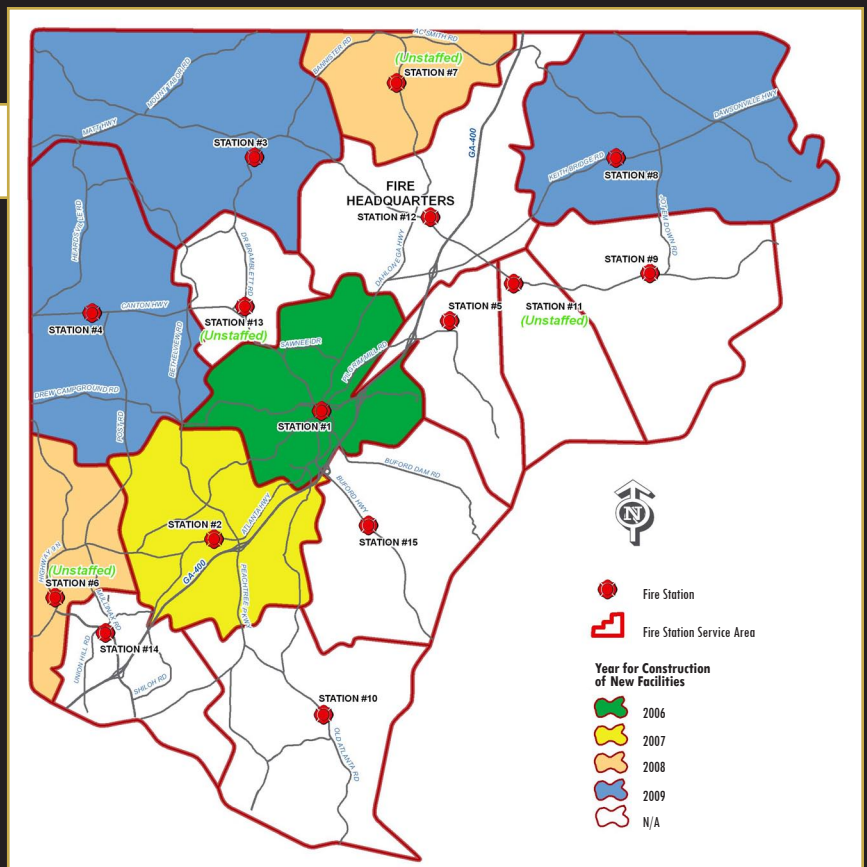
FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

MAPS

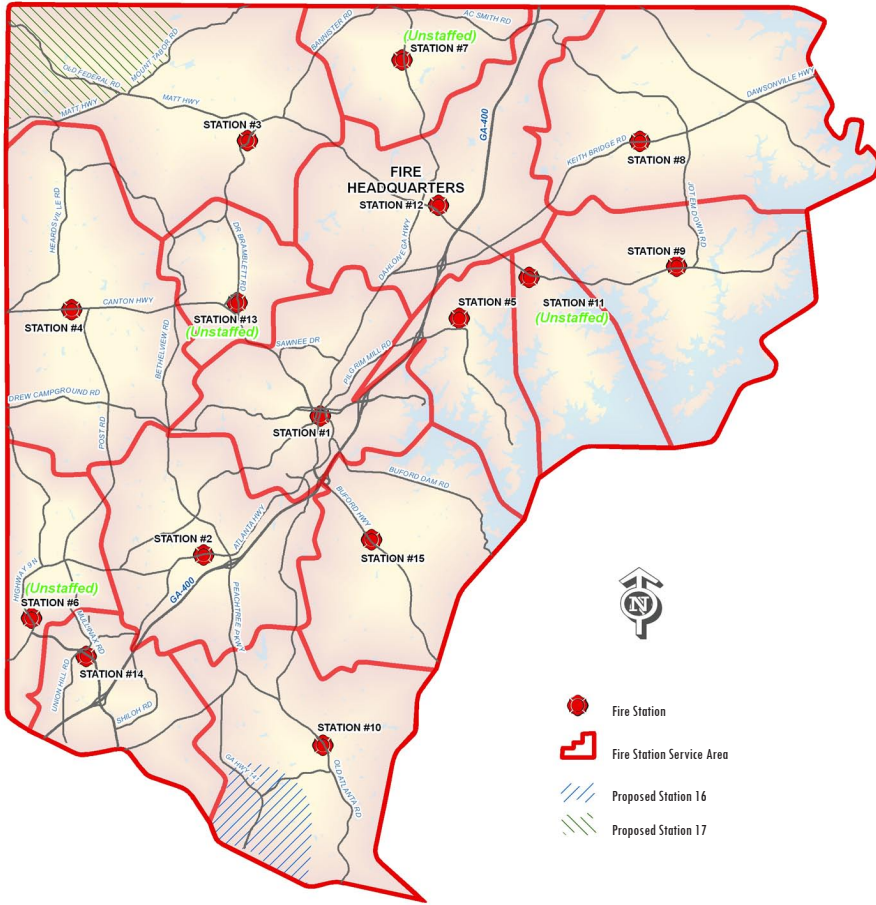
Existing Facilities



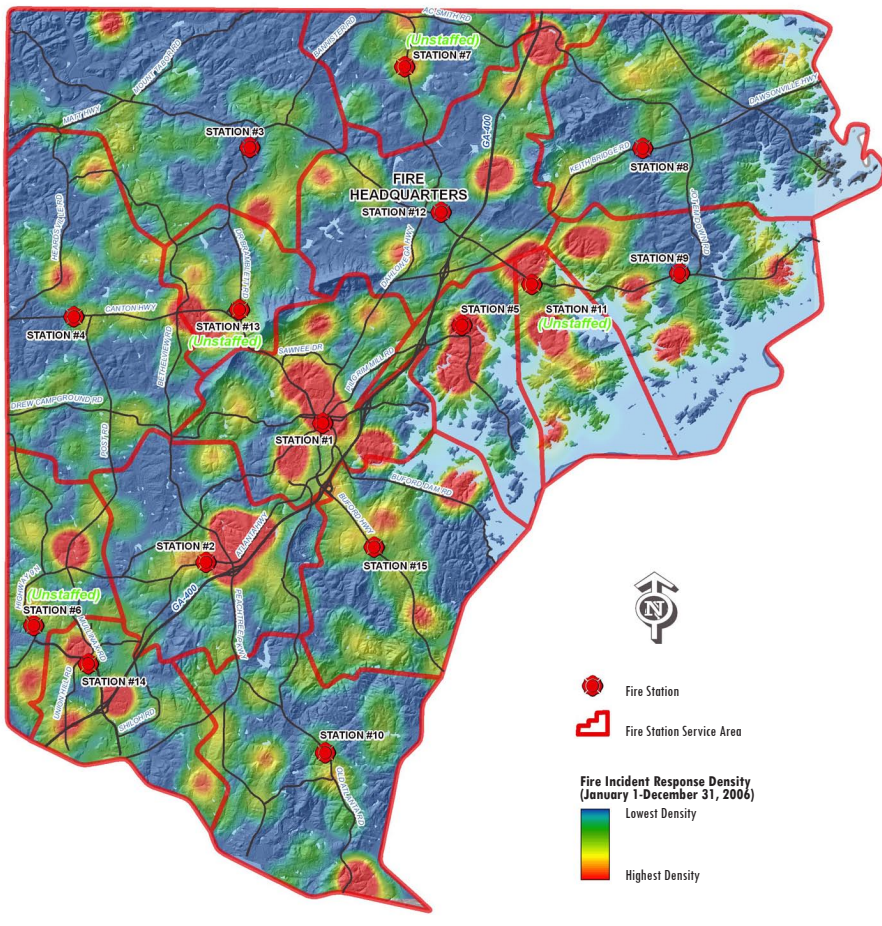
New Facilities Construction by Year



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Additional Facilities Proposed



Fire Incident Hot Spots

FIRE STATIONS AND FACILITIES

Station 1



- Located on 1 acre in downtown Cumming at 212 Veterans Memorial Boulevard
- Four single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1977 and had far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses the Office of the Battalion Chief as well as Engine 1, Truck 1 and Med 1
- Construction of a new four double-bay Station 1, on county owned property near the Cumming Fairgrounds off Castleberry Road, began in July 2006 using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and general fund reserves

Station 2



- Located on 0.25 acre at 2633 Atlanta Highway
- Two single bays
- Former service station converted to a fire station by volunteers in 1974 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 2 and Med 2
- Due to serious mold issues and the danger of collapse, station personnel are housed in temporary housing behind the facility
- Construction of a new four double-bay Station 2, on county owned property adjacent to the current water treatment facility near Fowler Road, began in January 2007 using a combination of SPLOST V funds and impact fees

Station 3



- Located on 0.25 acre at 4125 Doctor Bramblett Road
- Two single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1981 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 3 and Brush Truck 3
- Plans include identifying future funding to build a new two double-bay Station 3 on a site to be determined using a combination of SPLOST VI funds (if approved), impact fees and fire millage funds

Station 4



- Located on 3.3 acres at 3805 Canton Highway
- Three single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1974 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 4, Light/Air 4 and antique Ladder 4, which is not in service but rather serves as a showpiece
- Plans include identifying future funding to build a new two double-bay Station 4 adjacent to the existing station on county owned property using a combination of SPLOST VI funds (if approved), impact fees and fire millage funds

Station 5



- Located at 2720 Holtzclaw Road
- Located on 2 acres, of which 1.25 acres is owned by Forsyth County and 0.75 acre is leased from the Forsyth County School Board
- Two double bays
- Opened in 2005, with a building life expectancy of 50 years, to replace a former all-volunteer station
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 5, Tanker 5 and Brush Truck 5
- Home to the Forsyth County Fire Department Wildland/Urban Interface Unit

Station 6



Station 6 is unstaffed.

- Located on 0.25 acre at 5885 Atlanta Highway
- Two single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1974 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- Property is owned by Midway Saddle Club, to whom it will be returned when a new station is built
- Coverage by volunteer firefighters with automatic additional response by a 24-hour staffed station
- Houses Engine 6
- Construction of a new 24-hour staffed, two double-bay Station 6 on a site to be determined is slated to begin in 2008 using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and fire millage funds

Station 7



Station 7 is unstaffed.

- Located at 5775 Dahlonega Highway
- Two single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1974 on leased land and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- Coverage by volunteer firefighters with automatic additional response by a 24-hour staffed station
- Houses Engine 7
- Construction of a new 24-hour staffed, two double-bay Station 7 is slated to begin in 2008 using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and fire millage funds

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FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

Station 8



- Located on 0.25 acre at 6015 Keith Bridge Road
- Two single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1984 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 8 and Brush Truck 8
- No location or funding are currently identified for a new Station 8; however, a new two double-bay Station 8 is recommended for inclusion in the SPLOST VI proposal in 2008 and may also be funded through fire millage funds

Station 9



- Located on 1 acre at 7385 Browns Bridge Road
- Two double bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1989 and expected to last through 2015
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 9 and Tanker 9
- The current station is not designed for 24-hour occupancy and a decision to perform extensive renovation or to build a new two or three double-bay Station 9 on a site to be determined will need to be made within several years; potential sources of funding include future SPLOST funds and fire millage funds

Station 10



- Located on 1.25 acres at 3680 Old Atlanta Road
- Two double bays
- Constructed in 1999 and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 10, Tanker 10 and Med 10, which serves as an eight-hour weekday unit

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Station 11

Station 11 is unstaffed.

- Houses Engine 11, which operates from a storage facility at Browns Bridge Road and Shady Grove Road
- Thoughts include a new two double-bay Station 11 on a site to be determined

Station 12



- Located at 3530 Settingdown Road, part of the Public Safety Complex
- Four double bays
- Opened in August 2006
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 12, Rescue 12, the Technical Rescue Unit and Med 12
- Dedicated in memory of fallen firefighter Brant Chesney, tragically killed in the line of duty on December 27, 1996

Station 13



Station 13 is unstaffed.

- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Doctor Bramblett Road
- Three double bays
- Constructed in 1976, it served as a former truck maintenance facility with no intention for 24-hour occupancy and is expected to last through 2010
- Coverage by volunteer firefighters with automatic additional response by a 24-hour staffed station
- Houses Med 13
- Utilized as a storage facility for reserve units
- No plans are yet in place for a new Station 13

Station 14



- Located on 1 acre at 800 McFarland Road
- Two double bays
- Constructed in 1994 and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 14, Truck 14, Rescue 14 and HazMat 14
- Home to the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit

Station 15



- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Buford Highway
- Two double bays
- Constructed in 1999 and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 15, Rescue 15, the Dive Unit's equipment, the Swift Water Rescue Unit's equipment and Med 9, which serves as an eight-hour weekday unit
- Home to the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive Unit and Swift Water Rescue Unit

Training Facility



- Located adjacent to Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed in phases since the mid-1990s
- Utilized for a variety of training programs including fire suppression training, high angle rescue, rope rescue, search and rescue, confined space rescue and roof simulation

Motor Maintenance Facility



- Located adjacent to Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed by volunteers in the mid-1990s
- Services all apparatus and vehicles of the department
- Includes a pump testing facility, two parts rooms, one light-duty lift and heavy truck lifts, which were added in 2006

Fire Headquarters



- Located in the new Public Safety Complex at 3520 Settingdown Road
- Houses the Office of the Fire Chief, Office of the Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Marshal's Office and administrative personnel

NEW FIRE STATION ONE

Ground was broken for new Fire Station 1 on July 13, 2006. The new four double-bay station, located at 234 Castleberry Industrial Drive in Cumming, was built to replace the former Fire Station 1 located on Veterans Memorial Boulevard.

New Fire Station 1 was funded with a combination of SPLOST V, impact fees and capital funds. Fire Station 1 went into service in May 2007.



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FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

A look at the apparatus employed by the Forsyth County Fire Department



Engines

Engines are the basic response unit and the backbone of the Fire Department, responding to all incidents. Engines perform suppression functions, medical response and motor vehicle accident response and extrication duties.

- Eleven staffed engines are currently in service with four unstaffed engines and three reserve units, which go into service when a unit undergoes maintenance.
- The Board of Commissioners has approved the scheduled retirement of two of the fleet's most elder engines each year in order to maintain safety and prevent units from becoming obsolete.

Trucks

These aerial apparatus, sometimes referred to as ladder trucks, are the front line units. Two staffed trucks are currently in service with one reserve unit.

- Truck 1 is a 2004 Pierce tiller-drawn 100-foot heavy duty ladder with a built-in waterway.
- Truck 14 is a 1995 Sutphen 75-foot mid-mount platform quint with a built-in waterway.
- The Reserve Truck is a 1985 Seagrave 100-foot rear-mount straight ladder with no waterway or pump.

Heavy Rescue

This unit is used for technical rescue response, heavy extrication and industrial rescues. It is equipped with a light mast for nighttime operations.

- One staffed heavy rescue vehicle, a 1994 International, is in service at Station 12.

Tankers

Tankers are used to transport water to scenes that do not have positive water supplies.

- Three new 3,000-gallon tankers were ordered in spring 2006, and put into service in early 2007.



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Specialty Apparatus

Hazardous materials truck, trailer and decontamination unit

Units in the Hazardous Materials Unit respond to any hazardous material incident or scare in Forsyth County.

- One truck, a 1987 International, was donated by Atlanta Gas Light in 1998, after it had reached its life expectancy. It is in service at Station 14.
- One trailer is pulled by the hazardous material truck and is in service at Station 14.
- One decontamination unit was purchased using grant funds in 2005 and is housed at Station 9.

Brush trucks

Brush trucks are capable of reaching remote areas and those areas not easily accessible by fire engines and trucks. They are highly effective vehicles that are smaller and more maneuverable, allowing them to negotiate narrow pathways, off-road trails and golf cart paths. They are equipped with foam capabilities which, in wildland fires, suppress better than water.

- Three new brush trucks were put in service in 2005, one each housed at Stations 2, 3 and 5. While the three units can work in concert on large fires, they are strategically distributed throughout the county to help ensure proper coverage of all areas.

Kubota

The smaller, highly maneuverable Kubota assists brush trucks in fighting wildland fires. As needed, the Kubota's firefighting capabilities can be replaced with a medical response skid unit, enabling it to perform emergency medical transport.

- One Kubota, purchased in 2005, is housed at Station 5. It has a 60-gallon capacity tank with a 60-gallon per minute pump.

Dive van

The dive van is utilized by the Dive Unit for all dive rescue and recovery operations.

- One dive van was put in service in 2006 and is housed at Station 15.

Jet skis

Lake Lanier and the rapid flowing waters of the Chattahoochee River below Buford Dam create the need for jet skis which are utilized for Swift Water Rescue and Dive Unit operations.

- Two jet skis were put in service in 2005 and are housed at Station 15.

Zodiac rescue boat

The Zodiac rescue boat is used in conjunction with the jet skis as a complimentary unit for both lake and swift water rescue and recovery operations.

- One 1999 Zodiac rescue boat is housed at Station 15.

Pontoon boat

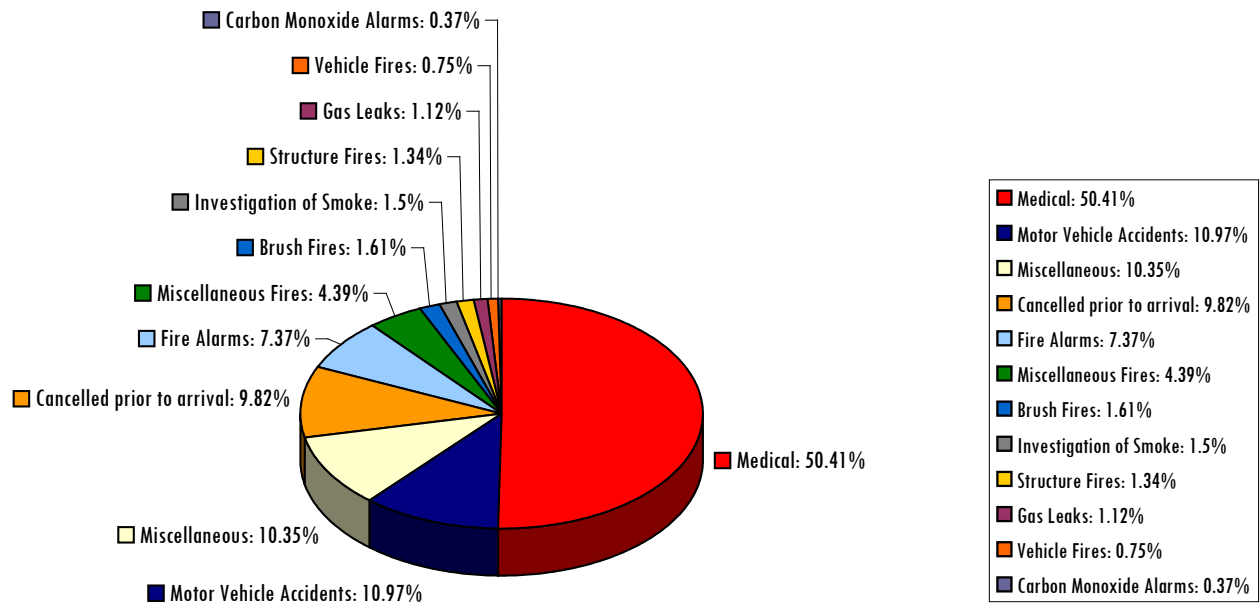
The pontoon boat is utilized for rescue and recovery operations at Lake Lanier. It does not have fire suppression capabilities.

- One 1988 pontoon boat is housed at Station 9.

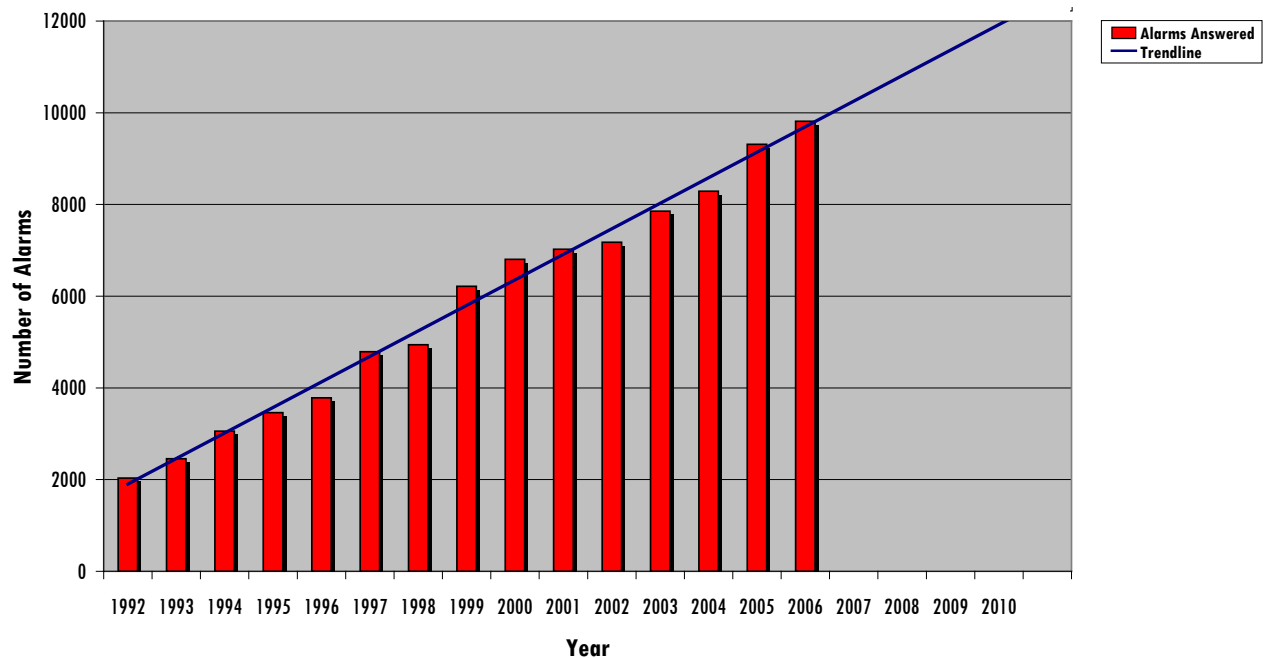


GRAPHS

Responses by Incident Type in 2006

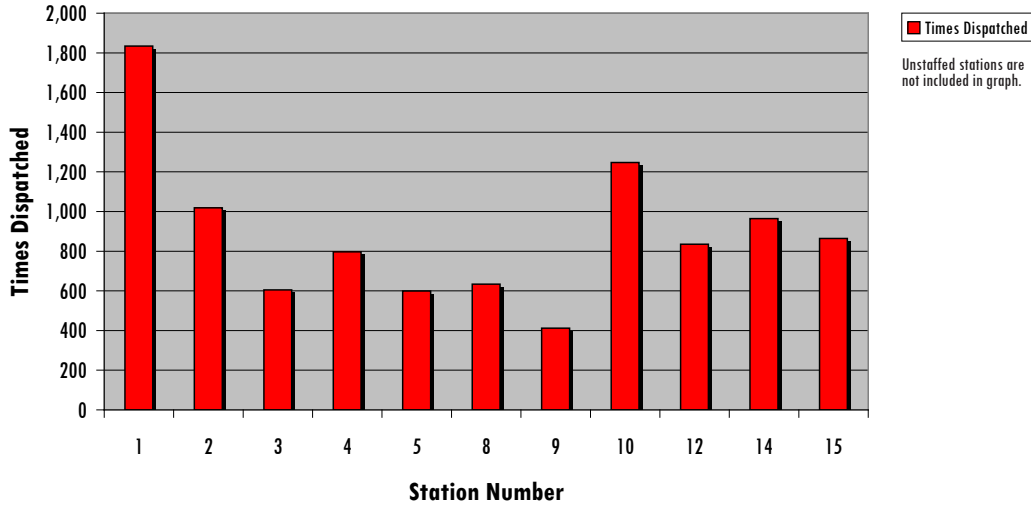


Alarms Answered by Year

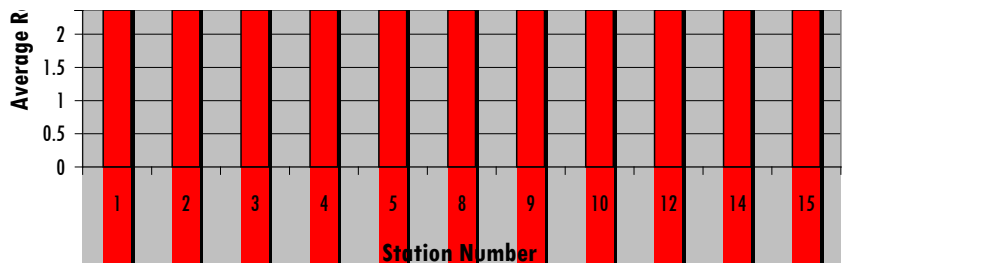


In 2006, the Forsyth County Fire Department answered 9,816 alarms – the most alarms answered per year in department history. The total number of department emergency apparatus movements (a movement is any time an apparatus is dispatched from a station) was 11,125. As is evident, the demand for Forsyth County's emergency fire services has grown steadily; that pattern of growth is expected to continue.

Number of Times Dispatched by Station in 2006



Average Response Times by Station in 2006



The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2006 average response time for on-scene arrival was five minutes and 21 seconds – a reduction from the Fire Department's 2005 average response time of seven minutes and 45 seconds.* Fire station response times vary as a result of travel distances and other factors. In 2007, the Fire Department will continue to evaluate response times and seek ways to improve service to the community.

*Source: Forsyth County Fire Department Research Library

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FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

BUDGET

Forsyth County Fire Department
2006 budget: \$12,983,991

Millage Rate

The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2006 millage rate was 1.515. Forsyth County's millage rate continues to be among the lowest in the metro Atlanta area, and the rate has been declining in recent years.

Fire Department Millage Rate:	2003	2004	2005	2006
	1.750	1.654	1.581	1.515

Impact Fees

The Fire Department also receives funding from Forsyth County's impact fees program. The impact fees program began in January 2004, and as of December 31, 2006 has collected approximately \$3.5 million for the Fire Department. Funds can only be used to construct capital facilities such as fire stations or to purchase capital firefighting equipment.

SPLOST V

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is one percent county sales tax used to fund capital projects such as buildings and other public facilities. The current program, SPLOST V, was approved by Forsyth County voters in 2003. It provides funding to the Fire Department and other county departments. It is anticipated that during the duration of the SPLOST V program approximately \$6,580,000 will be applied to the following Fire Department projects:

- new Fire Station 1 (went in service in 2007)
- new Fire Station 2 (under construction)
- new Fire Station 6
- new Fire Station 7
- 100-foot aerial fire apparatus (completed)
- six fire engines (completed)

These projects show your SPLOST dollars at work.



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FOCUS@COMMUNITY

The Forsyth County Fire Department prides itself on being accessible to the community. Fire Department personnel participate regularly in a variety of community activities and perform numerous public relations details throughout the year. Highlights from 2006 include:

- Memorial Day Ceremony
- Forsyth Senior Exposition
- Safety Town
- Fourth Annual Family Fun Festival at Central Park
- Fourth of July Parade
- Aerial's House Annual Holiday Toy Collection
- Cumming Christmas Parade



Public Safety Education

Educating members of the community about fire prevention and the dangers of fire is an important initiative of the Forsyth County Fire Department. In 2006, the Fire Department reached thousands of people through its various education programs:

- 20+ schools visited
- 40+ events attended by the fire safety house, a trailer designed to teach children what to do in case of a fire in their home
- 270+ child safety seat inspections conducted to ensure proper installation
- 400+ smoke detectors provided free of charge for senior citizens and needy residents, approximately 50 of which were also installed



2006-IN-REVIEW

March

March 9 **Valor Award Presented by Governor**

Governor Sonny Perdue honored members of Forsyth County Fire Department's Technical Rescue Unit with a Valor Award during Georgia State Firefighter Appreciation Day held at the Georgia State Capitol. The award was given in recognition of a heroic, lifesaving trench rescue performed by the unit in November 2004.

May

May 12-14 **Annual Boot Drive Raises Over \$22,000 for Burn Victims and Fire Prevention Programs**

The generosity of the community was once again overwhelming, as the Forsyth County Fire Department's fifteenth annual boot drive raised \$22,786.80. The event, held May 12-14, was part of the "Give Burns the Boot"® Boot Drive benefiting the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation.

May 18 **Emergency Medical Services Week Recognized by Board of Commissioners**

Noting emergency medical services are a vital public service, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation declaring the week of May 14-20, 2006, as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. The proclamation noted that it is "appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of the Forsyth County Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week." The proclamation also stated that Forsyth County citizens benefit daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals providing emergency medical services.



March 9
Valor Award Presented
by Governor



May 12-14
Annual Boot Drive Raises Over
\$22,000 for Burn Victims and
Fire Prevention Programs



May 18
Emergency Medical Services
Week Recognized by Board
of Commissioners

June

June 21-23

Firefighters “Stand Down” for Safety

The Forsyth County Fire Department joined thousands of fire departments across the United States and Canada for the 2006 International Firefighter Safety Stand Down. Starting on June 21 and continuing for three consecutive days until all members of the Fire Department participated, firefighters suspended all non-emergency activity to focus on firefighter safety.

July

July 4

Fire Department a Part of Annual Fourth of July Parade

Members of the Forsyth County Fire Department once again participated in the city of Cumming’s annual Fourth of July Parade downtown.

July 13

Ground Broken for New Station 1

Ground was officially broken at the site of Forsyth County’s new Fire Station 1. The new station will be located on Castleberry Industrial Drive in Cumming and will be a four double-bay station modeled after the county’s prototype for new stations. The former Fire Station 1 was constructed in 1977 by volunteers and had far exceeded its life expectancy.



June 21-23
Firefighters “Stand Down”
for Safety

July 4
Fire Department a
Part of Annual Fourth
of July Parade



July 13
Ground Broken for
New Fire Station 1

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FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

July/August

Cumming Together “Fan Raiser”

Forsyth County fire stations served as collection points for the Cumming Together “FanRaiser,” an initiative to collect fans for local senior citizens.

August

August 3

Ribbon Cut for New Fire Headquarters and Fire Station 12

The Forsyth County Fire Department moved into new headquarters, located at the Public Safety Complex, which was officially dedicated in a ceremony held August 3. New Fire Station 12, a four double-bay station, is also a part of the new Public Safety Complex.

August 18

10 New Recruits Join Department

After 16 weeks of intense training, 10 new recruits were officially welcomed to the Fire Department with a graduation ceremony. The 10 new firefighters brought the year’s total number of field suppression firefighter positions to 114.



August 3
Ribbon Cut for New
Fire Headquarters
and Fire Station 12



August 18
10 New Recruits
Join Department

July/August
Cumming Together
“FanRaiser”

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September

September 11 Liberty Garden Ceremony

Forsyth County Fire Department personnel participated in the 2006 Liberty Garden Ceremony hosted by Keep Forsyth County Beautiful at Central Park. The ceremony featured recognition of public safety employees and honored those lost on September 11, 2001. Ceremony speakers included Fire Department representatives, and members of the Fire Department Honor Guard participated in the flag raising.

October

Grant Provides New Fire Safety House

The Forsyth County Fire Department's new fire safety house went in service in October. Obtained thanks to an Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the fire safety house provides improved public safety education opportunities.

October 5 Honor Guard Places Wreath at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

The Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard was granted what members refer to as "the highest honor" by being selected to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Taking part in the ceremony was described by members of the Honor Guard as humbling. The Honor Guard plans to participate in the wreath laying ceremony again in 2007.



September 11
Liberty Garden
Ceremony



October
Grant Provides New
Fire Safety House



October 5
Honor Guard Places
Wreath at Tomb of
the Unknown Soldier

October (continued)

October 27

Retired FDNY Firefighter Recognizes Firefighters and Medics

Retired New York City Fire Department Battalion Chief John McDonald and his wife Janice visited Forsyth County Fire Station 1, thanking the personnel who responded to the scene of an accident in which they were involved on June 26. The couple presented a special FDNY lapel pin to each firefighter and medic who took part in the response and presented a plaque bearing all their names to the Forsyth County Fire Department.

November

November 16

Grant Awarded for Thermal Imaging Camera

Fireman's Fund Insurance and The McCart Group presented a grant to the Forsyth County Fire Department for the purchase of a new thermal imaging camera. The camera allows fire personnel to see beyond smoke-filled conditions to locate victims and trapped firefighters. This is the Fire Department's fourth thermal imaging camera.

December

Aerial's House Brightens Holidays for Local Children

The Forsyth County Fire Department's annual toy drive once again helped brighten the holidays for area children in need. Generous donations allowed the Fire Department to make Christmas possible for over 600 children who may otherwise not have received gifts. The 2006 Aerial's House Toy Collection received a special donation of 200 bicycles from World Financial Group.



October 27
Retired FDNY Firefighter
Recognizes Firefighters
and Medics



November 16
Grant Awarded
for Thermal
Imaging Camera



December
Aerial's House
Brightens Holidays
for Local Children

FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

The Forsyth County Fire Department is trained, equipped and expected to respond to virtually every conceivable emergency. These photographs show some of the unique challenges the Fire Department faced throughout 2006.



April 13



May 12



October 27

May 17

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FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department

PATCH



The original Forsyth County Fire Department patch was adopted over 20 years ago, finally being decommissioned in the summer of 2004. With the naming of Danny Bowman as fire chief in July 2003, a committee was designated to explore and design a new patch for the department. The work of the committee resulted in the current patch design.

Several symbolic elements exist in the current patch. The American flag in the upper left corner of the patch represents patriotism and the pride of Forsyth County firefighters in being dedicated public servants. The black field in the lower half of the patch represents mourning and remembering the loss of fellow public safety professionals. The county has experienced three line of duty deaths since its inception. Additionally, the Maltese cross incorporates the tools and symbols of the modern Forsyth County Fire Department and the services provided.



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MEMORIALS



Fallen Firefighters' Memorial

Tragically, the Forsyth County Fire Department has suffered three line of duty deaths since its inception. The Fallen Firefighters' Memorial was erected outside the Fire Department Headquarters in 1997, and it was relocated to a place of honor at the new Public Safety Complex. The memorial now stands beneath the flags in front of the new facility.

The memorial honors three line of duty deaths:

- Phelps Allyn Lane, Line of Duty Death, April 22, 1975
- Dennis Martin, Line of Duty Death, September 8, 1984
- Brant Chesney, Line of Duty Death, December 27, 1996



Wall of Honor

The main corridor of the new Public Safety Complex features a tribute to the Fire Department's three line of duty deaths, with a portrait of each displayed prominently.



September 11, 2001 Memorial

Entering the foyer of the Public Safety Complex, the focal point is the September 11, 2001 Memorial. Generously provided to Forsyth County by the New York City Fire Department, the memorial is a portion of a steel I-beam retrieved from the New York City World Trade Center. It is accessible to all who visit the center to touch, pray and remember. The memorial was ceremoniously carried into the Public Safety Complex by members of the Fire Department during the facility's grand opening.



Honoring
Fallen
Comrades

ODE TO OUR FIREMEN

By Frederic G. W. Fenn

All honor to the red-clad heroes; the boys who ran the machine
Over the highway to rescue, quick to danger's scene;
Where angry flames devour the poor man's earthly store,
Bidding to all a defiance, with its wild and sullen roar,

Tell me not of the gallants who wear the helmets bright,
Who boast of their deeds of slaughter in some degrading fight;
But sound aloud the praises, and give the victor-crown
To our noble-hearted Firemen, who fear not danger's frown.

They of many a conflict, with the haughty demon of flame,
With the rising sun of the morning, their gallant deeds proclaim.
The signal that strikes terror, to them is known full well;
Forth to do and dare they spring at the tap of the bell.

Some one's home is falling in the midnight solemn hour;
Now the heroic legion spring forth to show their power.
Listen to the rumble, as they clatter over the way;
There's hope in the sound as they speed on
In determined and gallant array.

Soon the fiery days will be over; the machine will be of the past,
And over the forms of our heroes the mantle of age will be cast,
And ere long they'll tread to the portals, and view the setting sun,
Then fall; arrayed in the glories of the gallant deeds they've done.

Grand honor! to such brave brothers; let the shout sweep to the sky.
Weave garlands round their memories as the ages swiftly fly,
Over each Fireman's hallowed grave write with honor's pen:
Here lieth one who delighted to aid his fellow men.

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(Printed in "The National Fireman's Journal" on February 9, 1878)