



2007 FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department ANNUAL REPORT

FORSYTHCOUNTY GEORGIA



Service through **tradition,**
excellence, and **integrity**

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATION



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Turn to page 31 to learn about the trench rescue shown in the cover photograph.

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COMMAND STAFF



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 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 Forsyth County in 2001, after working with the Georgia Fire Academy. Clark

has extensive knowledge of rescue operations and 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, Chapman is well-prepared for the day-to-day supervision of the B-shift operations.

Chapman 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 both 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.

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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 Division Chief Lee Parker is responsible for training, conducting classes and ensuring all department personnel maintain the 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 manager and was activated for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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.

2007 GOALS

FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

Service through tradition, excellence, and integrity



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is with a great sense of pride that this Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report is published, highlighting those services provided to our citizens in 2007. The men and 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 local population growing at an average annual rate of seven percent. Our citizens expect their firefighters will arrive on the scene quickly, fully trained and equipped to handle any emergency situation.

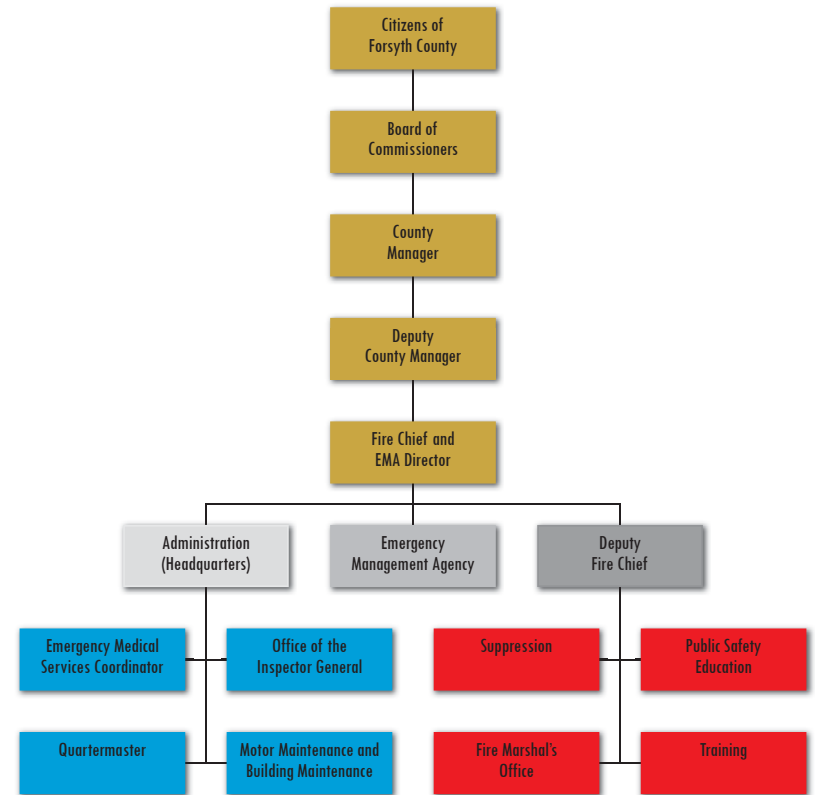
A designated "fire millage rate" coupled with funding from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and impact fees fund the much-needed services. Since the 1970s, society has come to expect fire departments to be able to handle any and all conceivable emergency events. These include structural 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 annual report will endeavor 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 2007.

Forsyth County's current population is expected to grow from nearly 160,000 to over 200,000 during the coming 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 those services expected by modern society. I trust this publication will assist you in understanding the manner in which those emergency services are provided.



Danny D. Bowman
Fire Chief
Emergency Management Agency Director



“Our citizens expect their firefighters will arrive on the scene quickly, fully trained and equipped to handle any emergency situation.”

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Additional Positions for 2008
18 full-time firefighters



John C. Moore

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. Led by Fire Chief John C. Moore, a volunteer Fire Department was incorporated in 1973. The International Association of Fire Chiefs published in 1983 that Forsyth County, Georgia, with 336 volunteer firefighters on the roles, was the nation's largest volunteer Fire Department. The volunteer department served Forsyth County until 1998, when the time came for establishing a modern Fire Department and hiring 30 full-time, professional firefighters.

Since those first 30 professional firefighters joined the county, the Forsyth County Fire Department has grown tremendously. The Forsyth County Fire Department consisted of 126 full-time field suppression firefighter positions in addition to shift workers and a variety of administrative and support personnel in 2007.



HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT: Carolene and Harold Glover

During early years of the Forsyth County Fire Department, volunteer firefighters were notified of an emergency through the dedicated efforts of Carolene and Harold Glover who manned the telephone number "877-HELP" installed in their home. Nearly every hour of every day the Glovers remained near the telephone to answer calls for help, subsequently notifying the volunteer firefighters of the situation and location.

New Forsyth County Fire Station 2 is located on Carolene Way, named in honor of the late Carolene Glover.



FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

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DIVISIONS

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

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 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 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 serves as 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 keeping 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.

OPERATIONS

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 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 to the community by the Fire Department. 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 the construction of new buildings and ensuring those structures are built to meet or exceed today's fire codes. This division 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 all matters of field suppression and rescue functions. This division consists of three full-time officers and two part-time employees. This division 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.



Fire Administration

NUMBERS

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

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

The Fire Administration Division maintains and controls the 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.

Operations

NUMBERS

- 126 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

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.

DIVISIONS

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

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 the potential ravages of hazardous materials. The unit moved its operations from Fire Station 14 to new Fire Station 2 in late 2007, and operates with a full compliment of hazardous materials response tools and equipment. These include a fully equipped hazardous materials trailer and a decontamination trailer. Fire personnel at Station 2 are registered as hazardous materials technicians and 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.

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 and a technical rescue truck and trailer combination unit. 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 combating 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, Md.



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 handling extreme conditions and circumstances, are deployed during emergency incidents such as trench collapses and river rescues.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

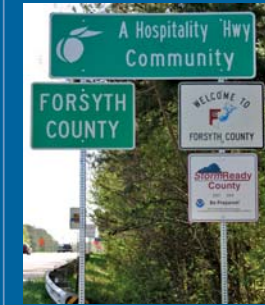
Forsyth County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is the local lead agency for coordination of emergency and disaster response activities for Forsyth County and the city of Cumming. The EMA's mission is to provide a comprehensive and aggressive mitigation and emergency preparedness, response and recovery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



Forsyth County Earns StormReady® Designation

After meeting stringent requirements, the Forsyth County Emergency Management Agency earned the StormReady® designation from the National Weather Service. StormReady® is a National Weather Service program designed to recognize the counties that have reached a high level of severe weather preparedness.

A StormReady® plaque was presented to Forsyth County officials at the May 3, 2007 Board of Commissioners meeting.



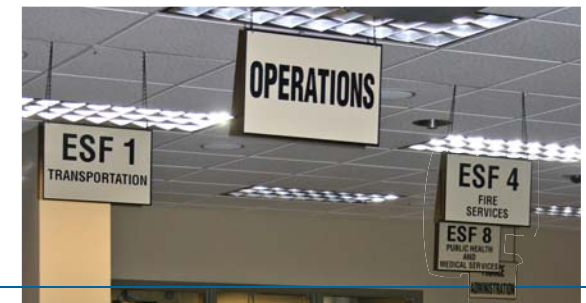
FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

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Emergency Management Agency

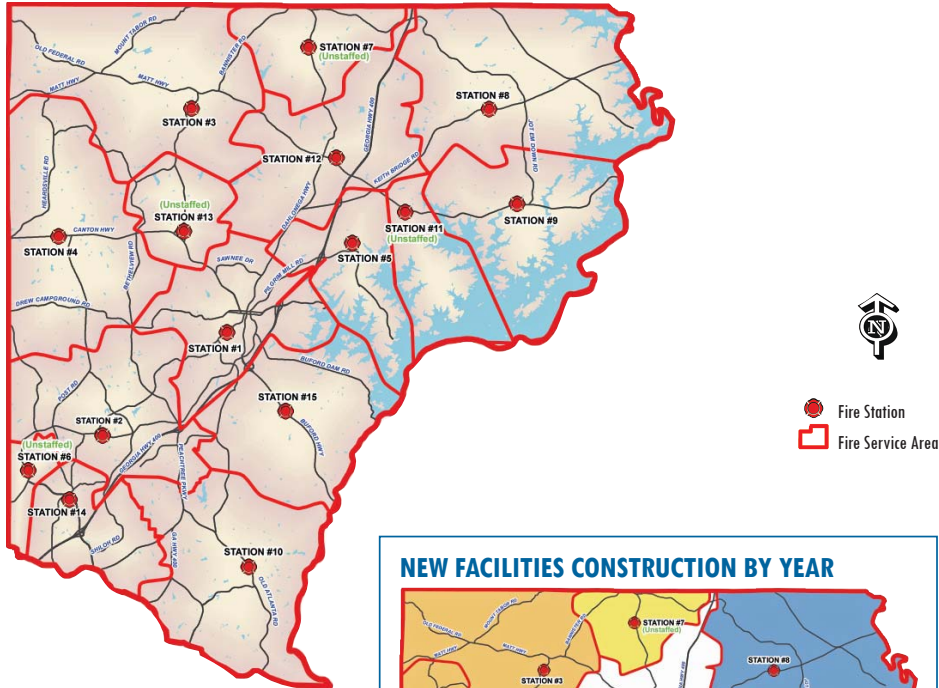
NUMBERS

• 1 full-time EMA coordinator

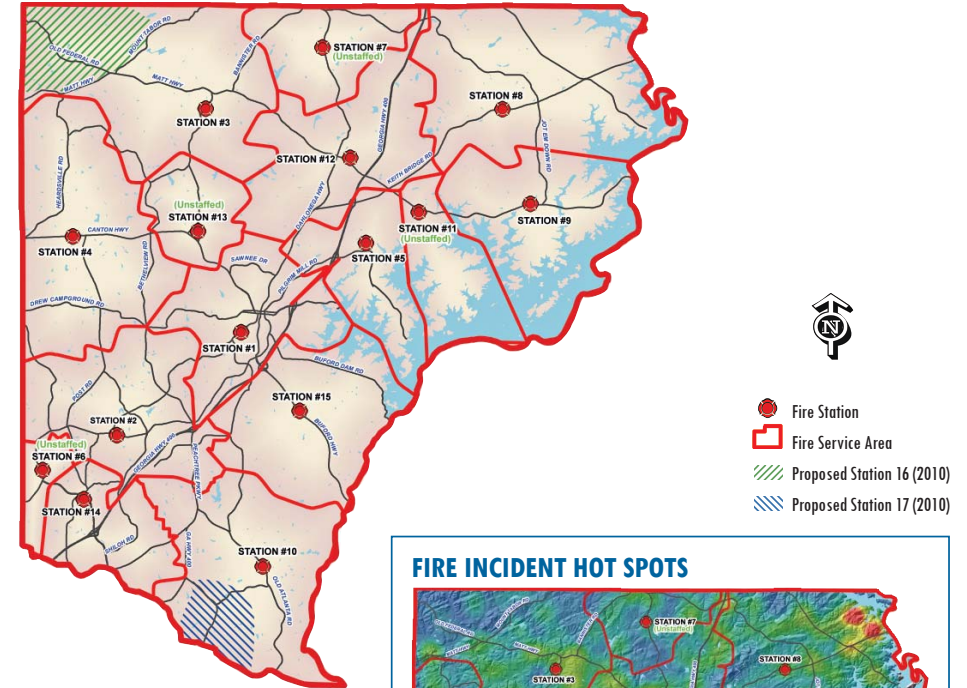


MAPS

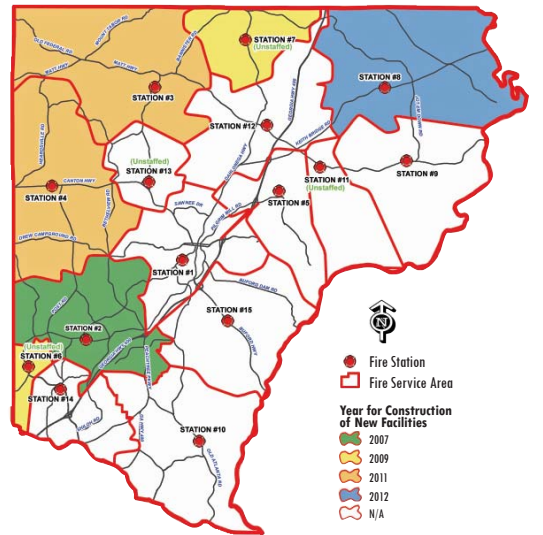
EXISTING FACILITIES



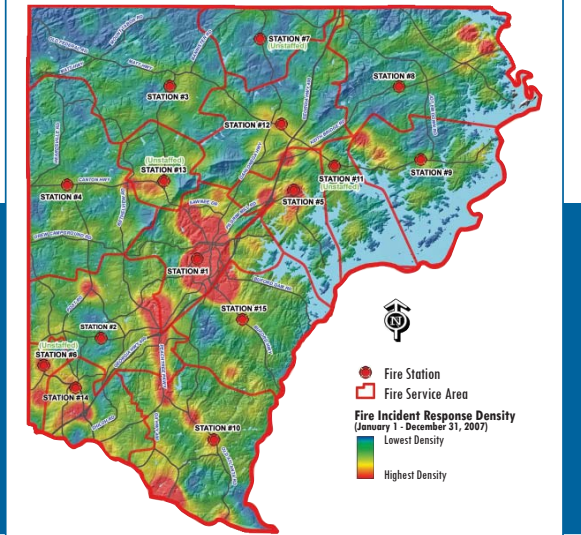
ADDITIONAL FACILITIES PROPOSED



NEW FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION BY YEAR



FIRE INCIDENT HOT SPOTS



FIRE STATIONS AND FACILITIES

Station 1



- Located on 2.41 acres in downtown Cumming at 234 Castleberry Industrial Dr.
- Four double bays
- Opened June 2007
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of four firefighters
- Houses the Office of the Battalion Chief as well as Engine 1, Truck 1 and Med 1
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and general fund reserves

Station 2



- Located on 3.04 acres at 4055 Carolene Way
- Four double bays
- Opened December 2007
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 2, Truck 2, Med 2, Rescue 2 and the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST V funds and impact fees

Station 3



- Located on 0.25 acres at 4125 Doctor Bramblett Rd.
- 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 are to build a new two double-bay Station 3 on a site to be determined using a combination of SPLOST VI funds and impact fees

Station 4



- Located on 3.3 acres at 3805 Canton Hwy.
- 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 and serves as a showpiece
- Plans are 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 and impact fees

Station 5



- Located at 2720 Holtzclaw Rd.
- Located on 2 acres, of which 1.25 acres is owned by Forsyth County and 0.75 acres is leased from the Forsyth County School Board
- Two double bays
- Opened in 2005 with a building life expectancy of 50 years, replacing 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 Unit

Station 6 (unstaffed)



- Located on 0.25 acres at 5885 Atlanta Hwy.
- Two single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1974 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- Property is owned by the 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 is slated to begin in 2008 using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and fire millage funds; location is yet to be determined

Station 7 (unstaffed)



- Located at 5775 Dahlonega Hwy.
- 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; location is approximately 0.75 miles north of current Station 7 on Dahlonega Highway

Station 8



- Located on 0.25 acres at 6015 Keith Bridge Rd.
- 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
- Plans are to build a new two double-bay Station 8 using a combination of SPLOST VI funds and impact fees; location is yet to be determined

Station 9



- Located on 1 acre at 7385 Browns Bridge Rd.
- 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
- Current station was not designed for 24-hour occupancy and a decision to perform extensive renovation or build a new two or three double-bay Station 9 will need to be made within several years; potential sources of funding include future SPLOST funds and fire millage funds; new construction would require a new location, yet to be determined

FIRE STATIONS AND FACILITIES

Station 10

10



- Located on 1.5 acres at 3680 Old Atlanta Rd.
- Two double bays
- Constructed in 1999 and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 10 and Med 10, which served as an eight-hour weekday unit in 2007, becoming a 24-hour unit in 2008

Station 11 (unstaffed)

11

- Houses Engine 11, which operates from a storage facility at Browns Bridge Road and Shady Grove Road
- Future thoughts include a new two double-bay Station 11 with a location yet to be determined

Station 12

12



- Located at 3530 Settingdown Rd. as part of the Public Safety Complex
- Four double bays
- Opened in August 2006
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 12, Rescue 12, the Forsyth County Fire Department Technical Rescue Unit and Med 12

Station 13 (unstaffed)

13



- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Doctor Bramblett Rd.
- Three double bays
- Constructed in 1976, served as a former truck maintenance facility, not intended for 24-hour occupancy and 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

14



- Located on 1 acre at 800 McFarland Rd.
- Two double bays
- Constructed in 1994 and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 14 and Tanker 14

Station 15

15



- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Buford Hwy.
- 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, Dive and Swift Water Units' equipment and Med 9, which served as an eight-hour weekday unit in 2007
- Home to the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive Unit and Swift Water Unit

Fire Headquarters



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

Training Facility



- Located adjacent to Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed in phases since the mid-1990s
- Utilized for a variety of fire 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 Fire Department apparatus and vehicles
- Includes a pump testing facility, two parts rooms, one light duty lift and six heavy truck lifts

NEW FIRE STATIONS

County Opens Two New Stations

2007 brought the opening of two new Forsyth County fire stations. Both projects were completed with SPLOST V funds.

New Station 1

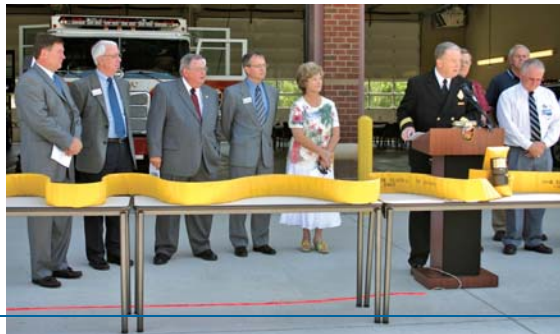
Construction of new Fire Station 1 began July 13, 2006, taking just under one year. The new facility replaced former Fire Station 1 located on Veterans Memorial Boulevard. New Fire Station 1 is located in the city of Cumming and officially opened with a hose uncoupling ceremony held June 21, 2007.

New Station 2

Ground was broken January 30, 2007 for new Fire Station 2 with the completion of the facility coming less than one year later. New Fire Station 2 replaced the previous location on Atlanta Highway and went into service in December.



FORSYTH COUNTY Fire Department



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2



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Engines

Engines are the basic response unit and the backbone of the department, responding to all incidents. They 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.

Trucks

These aerial apparatus, sometimes referred to as ladder trucks, are 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.

Heavy Rescue

This unit is used for technical rescue response, heavy extrication and industrial rescues and 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 put into service in early 2007.



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

SPECIALTY APPARATUS

Technical Rescue Vehicle

The Technical Rescue Unit's primary vehicle is a truck and trailer combination unit that contains the tools and equipment necessary to perform extremely dangerous and complicated rescues and recoveries. The vehicle responds to manufacturing, construction and storm-related incidents resulting in injury and will be on-site of any other disastrous occurrence where life is or could be at stake. It is capable of supporting high angle, confined space, trench collapse and structural collapse operations as well as accomplishing the urban search and rescue mission of the Fire Department. The truck portion of the unit is detachable and is used to transport personnel and supplies into areas requiring off-road capability. This need is common on construction sites and during utility right-of-way construction.

- This unit is in service at Station 12.

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, is in service at new Fire Station 2 and was donated by Atlanta Gas Light in 1998, after it had reached its life expectancy.
- One trailer is in service at Station 14 and pulled by the hazardous material truck.
- One decontamination unit is housed at Station 2 and was purchased using grant funds in 2005.
- A new hazardous materials unit is expected to be ordered in 2008.

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 that, in wildland fires, suppress better than water.

- Three new brush trucks were put in service in 2005, one each housed at Stations 3, 5 and 8. 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 and 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 is housed at Station 15 and was put in service in 2006.

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 Dive Unit and Swift Water Unit operations.

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

Pontoon Boat

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

- One 1988 pontoon boat is housed at Station 9.



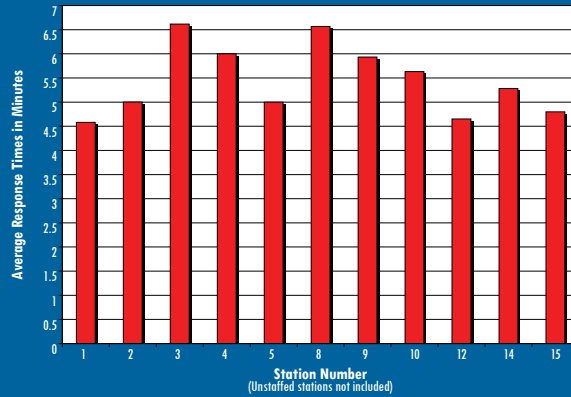
GRAPHS

Average Response Times by Station in 2007

Time in Minutes

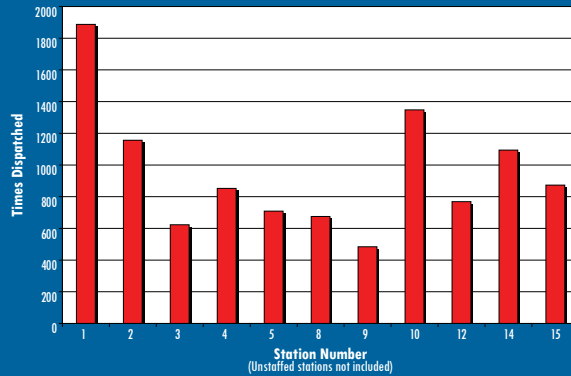
The Fire Department's 2007 average response time for on-scene arrival was five minutes and 24 seconds – a difference of three seconds from the 2006 average response time of five minutes and 21 seconds.* Fire station response times vary as a result of travel distances and other factors. In 2008, the department will continue to evaluate response times and seek ways to improve service to the community.

*Source: Forsyth County Fire Department Research Library



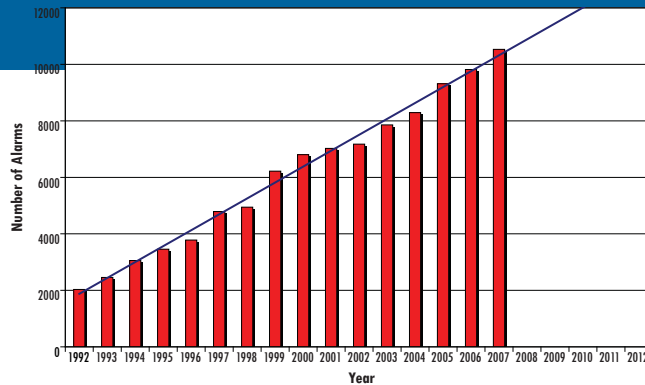
Number of Times Dispatched by Station in 2007

Times Dispatched

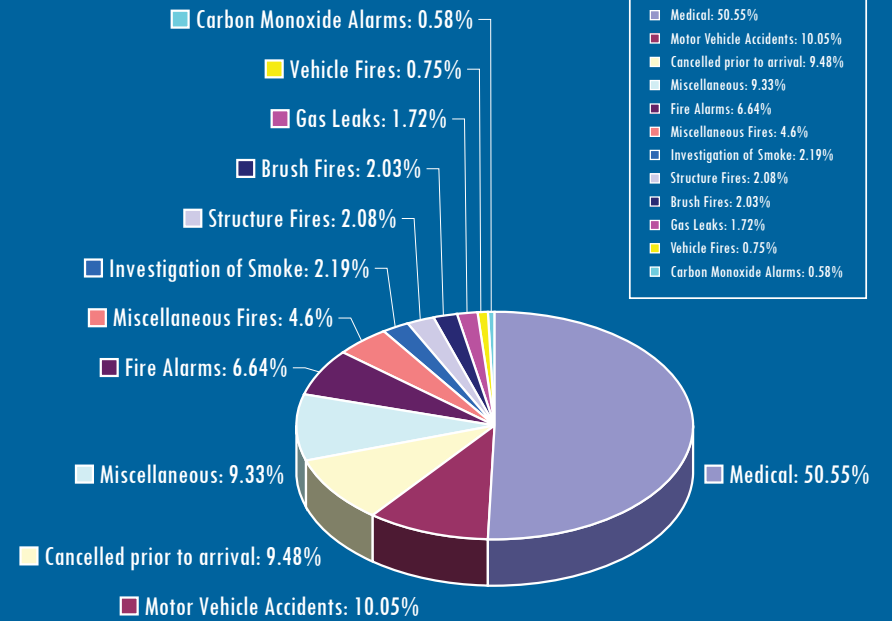


Alarms Answered by Year

Alarms Answered
Trendline



Responses by Incident Type in 2007



Service through **tradition,**
excellence, and **integrity**

Alarms Answered by Year

For the first time in history, the Forsyth County Fire Department's responses exceeded 10,000 in a single year. The Fire Department answered to 10,530 incidents during 2007 – the most alarms per year in department history. The total number of Fire Department emergency apparatus movements (a movement is any time an apparatus is dispatched from a station) was 12,342. As is evident, the demand for the county's emergency fire services has grown steadily; this pattern of growth is expected to continue.

BUDGET

Forsyth County Fire Department 2007 budget: \$14,193,161

Millage Rate

The Fire Department's 2007 millage rate was 1.765. Forsyth County's millage rates continue to be among the lowest in the metro Atlanta area.

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fire Department Millage Rate:	1.654	1.581	1.515	1.765

Impact Fees

The Fire Department also receives funding from the county's impact fees program. The program began in January 2004 and, as of December 31, 2007, has collected approximately \$4,818,231 for the Fire Department. These 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 a one-percent county sales tax used to fund capital projects such as buildings and other public facilities. SPLOST V was approved by Forsyth County voters in 2003, providing funding to the Fire Department and other county departments through its expiration on June 30, 2008. 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 (in service June 2007)
- New Fire Station 2 (in service December 2007)
- New Fire Station 6 (construction slated to begin in 2008)
- New Fire Station 7 (construction slated to begin in 2008)
- 100-foot aerial fire apparatus (in service)
- Six fire engines (in service)

These projects show your SPLOST dollars at work.



FOCUS ON 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 2007 include the following events:

- Memorial Day Ceremony
- Forsyth Senior Exposition
- Safety Town
- Play at the Park Family Fun Festival at Central Park
- Fourth of July Parade
- Sixth Annual Liberty Garden Ceremony
- Veterans Day Ceremony
- "Aerial's House" Annual Holiday Toy Collection
- Cumming Christmas Parade
- Forsyth County's 175th Anniversary Celebration



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 2007, the Fire Department reached thousands of people through its various education programs:

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



2007-IN-REVIEW

Department Responses Exceed 10,000 for First Time

2007 was a record-breaking year in terms of calls responded to by the Forsyth County Fire Department. For the first time in the department's existence, over 10,000 calls were responded to in a single year. The year ended with 10,530 total requests for service.

Mobile Data Terminals Introduced

The Fire Department was included in the introduction of mobile data terminals (MDTs) in all primary fire apparatus and most staff vehicles as part of the SPLOST V-approved, 800-megahertz radio system upgrade. The units are rugged military-grade laptop computers that allow for dispatch communication of critical incident information. Fire units now have the ability to see information as the dispatcher receives it from the emergency caller. The MDTs also contain mapping programs that allow for an overhead view of the route to any incident as well as photographic images, known as Pictometry, of structures in the county from multiple angles. The Pictometry programs allow for the overlaying of critical infrastructure, such as water and sewer lines, over maps of the county and give fire officers the ability to measure ground distances, height and perimeter dimensions of structures. This valuable tool creates a safer fire scene by harnessing the power of technology to give Fire Department personnel a more thorough understanding of the incidents to which they are responding.

Board of Commissioners Recognizes Emergency Medical Services Week

At their May 17 meeting, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation declaring the week of May 20 through 26 as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week in Forsyth County. The proclamation noted "the citizens of Forsyth County benefit daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals."



Fire Department Takes Part in Annual Fourth of July Parade

Members of the Fire Department once again took part in the city of Cumming's annual Fourth of July parade downtown.

Fire Department Remembers September 11

Fire Department personnel took part in several events honoring those lost September 11, 2001. At the 2007 Liberty Garden Ceremony hosted by Keep Forsyth County Beautiful at Central Park, speakers included Fire Department representatives as members of the Fire Department's Honor Guard participated in raising the flag. The Honor Guard also took part in the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce's September 11 memorial service and a program at the Gilmer County Public Safety Complex.

17 New Recruits Graduate

The Fire Department graduated seventeen recruits during a ceremony held October 26, officially welcoming them as Forsyth County firefighters. The recruits completed 16 weeks of rigorous training and education in structural and wildland firefighting; emergency medical response; motor vehicle firefighting and victim extrication; water rescue; and fire service history, traditions and etiquette.

Department Participates in Christmas Parade

Fire Department personnel and apparatus lined up to take part in the second annual Cumming Christmas Parade, held on Market Place Boulevard December 1.



FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

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2007-IN-REVIEW

“Aerial’s House” Brightens Holidays for Local Children

The Fire Department’s annual toy drive once again helped to brighten the holidays for area children in need. Generous donations allowed the Fire Department to make Christmas possible for over 1,000 children who may otherwise not have received any gifts. Toys were collected at county fire stations as well as Fire Department Headquarters and the Forsyth County Administration Building.

Department Prepares for Insurance Services Office Study

Internal preparations started in the fall of 2007 for an Insurance Services Office (ISO) study expected to be conducted in late 2008. This study will audit Forsyth County’s ability to serve the public through an examination of three key areas of public safety. Fire protection, E-911 service and water services will be studied in a two-week exhaustive analysis, so as to appropriately define the ISO rating for Forsyth County residents and business owners. A lower ISO score could result in improved insurance rates for Forsyth County citizens.

Three New Tankers Put into Service

Three new 3,000-gallon tankers were received and put into service in early 2007. The apparatus are used to transport water to fire scenes where positive water supplies are not available.



Last Shift at Fire Station 1

The final shift worked May 10, 2007 at the Fire Station 1 located on Veterans Memorial Boulevard. The next oncoming shift reported to the new facility on Castleberry Industrial Drive.



First Shift at New Fire Station 2

The inaugural shift at the new Fire Station 2 was December 18, 2007. The station moved from its previous location on Atlanta Highway to a new facility on Carolene Way.



Challenging Rescues

The Forsyth County Fire Department is trained, equipped and expected to respond to virtually every conceivable emergency. These photographs illustrate some of the unique challenges the Fire Department faced throughout 2007.



ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO



At 1114 hours (11:14 a.m.) on February 23, 2007, the Forsyth County Fire Department responded to an alarm of a construction worker trapped below grade at a construction site in a subdivision. The worker became trapped when the trench in which he was operating collapsed, confining him against the foundation of a structure and covering him with approximately eight feet of dirt. Co-workers initiated rescue attempts, and 911 was immediately notified.

Upon arrival of Forsyth County Fire Department units, technical rescue operations started. Access to the patient's airway and an artery was made first and advanced life support efforts were put in to place by department paramedics. Department technical rescue technicians continued securing the site and removing dirt from the patient. As the patient was kept conscious and alert, fire personnel continued to assure him that he was in good hands.

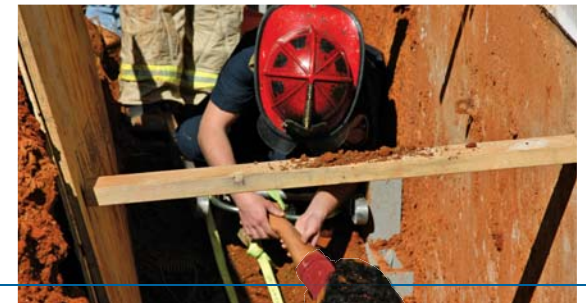
The Forsyth County Water and Sewer Department provided assistance with a vacuum truck brought to the site to assist with dirt and debris removal. Mutual aid also was received from the Gwinnett County Fire Department Technical Rescue Team, increasing the available number of on-site technical rescue technicians.

Despite a language barrier, good communications proved to be crucial in gaining and keeping the patient's trust throughout the operation. After two hours and 10 minutes of diligent efforts, the patient was removed from the trench in a stable condition and transferred to an awaiting medical evacuation helicopter for transport to a trauma center. A total of 26 Forsyth County Fire Department personnel and five apparatus responded to the incident.

The Forsyth County Fire Department thanks the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, the Forsyth County Water and Sewer Department and the Gwinnett County Fire Department for their assistance in this very successful and challenging rescue.

FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

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PATCH

The original 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 items exist in the current patch. The American flag in the upper left corner represents the 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.



MEMORIAL



In Memory of Norris Bennett

Retired Forsyth County Fire Chief Norris Bennett passed away July 27, 2007. Bennett was one of the founders of the Forsyth County Fire Department, serving from 1974 to 2003. He served as fire chief from 1990 to 2003. Bennett is remembered and appreciated for his efforts in establishing Forsyth County's volunteer Fire Department and beginning the conversion from a volunteer force to a full-time department, starting with the hiring of the first 30 career firefighters in 1998.





FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

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*"If Prometheus was worthy of the wrath of heaven for kindling the first fire upon earth,
how ought all the gods honor the men who make it their professional business to put it out?"*

-John Godfrey Saxe