

# 2008 FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department ANNUAL REPORT



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

# COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## 2008 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



District One  
**Charles Laughinghouse**  
Chairman



District Two  
**Brian R. Tam**  
Member



District Three  
**Jim Harrell**  
Secretary



District Four  
**David Richard**  
Vice Chairman



District Five  
**Dr. Linda K. Ledbetter**  
Member

## NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONERS FOR 2009



District Four  
**Patrick B. Bell**



District Five  
**Jim Boff**

Welcome to the newly elected Forsyth County commissioners for 2009. District 4 Commissioner Patrick B. Bell and District 5 Commissioner Jim Boff were elected in 2008, and took office January 1, 2009.

# COUNTY ADMINISTRATION



**Doug Derrer**  
County Manager



**William J. Thomas, CPA**  
Chief Financial Officer

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01

### ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOGRAPH

On February 25, 2008, the Forsyth County Fire Department responded to a call for assistance involving an overturned tanker truck on Bethel Road. The first Fire Department units arrived to find an overturned construction and maintenance service truck in the middle of the roadway and one occupant out of the vehicle with minor injuries. The truck was equipped with multiple holding tanks to transport and dispense various flammable liquids and lubricants to construction sites. Several of the tanks had ruptured, causing their contents to spill onto the roadway and right of way. Other tanks remained intact but were at risk of rupturing. The Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit was immediately requested by the on-scene commander and responded with a full compliment of mitigation tools. Prior to the vehicle being uprighted, the tanks had to be drained of their contents. Seen in the cover photograph are two Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials technicians “tapping” into a tank of highly flammable liquid in preparation for removal of the fluids. The incident was mitigated within four hours and resulted in no further injuries.

# 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 the 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. He 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 Forsyth County Fire Department in 2002, following service with the Fulton County Fire Department and the Atlanta Fire Department. 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 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 Fire Department and the Roswell Fire Department, he has over 30 years in fire services. Coleman's years in fire services 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 the 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 chief master sergeant, fire protection manager and was activated for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# 2008 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.**

03

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Forsyth County Fire Department is to protect the lives of the citizens of Forsyth County and their property from ravages of fire and other emergencies, both natural and man made, and to provide the citizens with emergency medical response service by assisting the county ambulance provider with emergency medical responders.

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

# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

The economy notwithstanding, 2008 was another great year for the Forsyth County Fire Department. The long anticipated formal survey and inspection of our fire defenses, water supply capabilities and E-911 operations by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) was one of our greatest challenges since this department was established in 1973. We anxiously await the results of this survey; the report is expected by the spring of 2009. I fully expect the results of the inspection and rating to reflect the dedication our troops have to the protection of life and property from the ravages of fire. It will further highlight the strong commitment the Board of Commissioners and the County Administration have to our citizens' safety.

Our five-year plan remains committed to improving our station facilities and apparatus. This was made evident in the recent purchase of the property upon which new Fire Station 6 will be built. The three-acre tract of land is situated on Pittman Road, just west of Bethelview Road, with anticipated construction in 2011.

Our next engine house, however, will be built in the "Silver City" community on Dahlonega Highway near A.C. Smith Road by 2010. Its formal designation will be new Fire Station 7. Until such time, the decision has been made to staff the old volunteer fire station on property owned by Mills Fuel, also located on Dahlonega Highway.

For the first time, our call volume topped 11,000 incidents in 2008. The statistical trend line reveals the Forsyth County Fire Department can anticipate an increase of approximately 500 calls per year for the foreseeable future. This is due to Forsyth County's attraction of new residents, as well as new commercial and retail centers attracting more and more visitors to our great county. Even so, the Forsyth County Fire Department remains committed to arriving on the scene of an emergency (safely!) in less than six minutes. Our average response time for 2008 was five minutes and 22 seconds, with troops trained, equipped and expected to handle any conceivable emergency. Our goal will be nothing less in 2009.

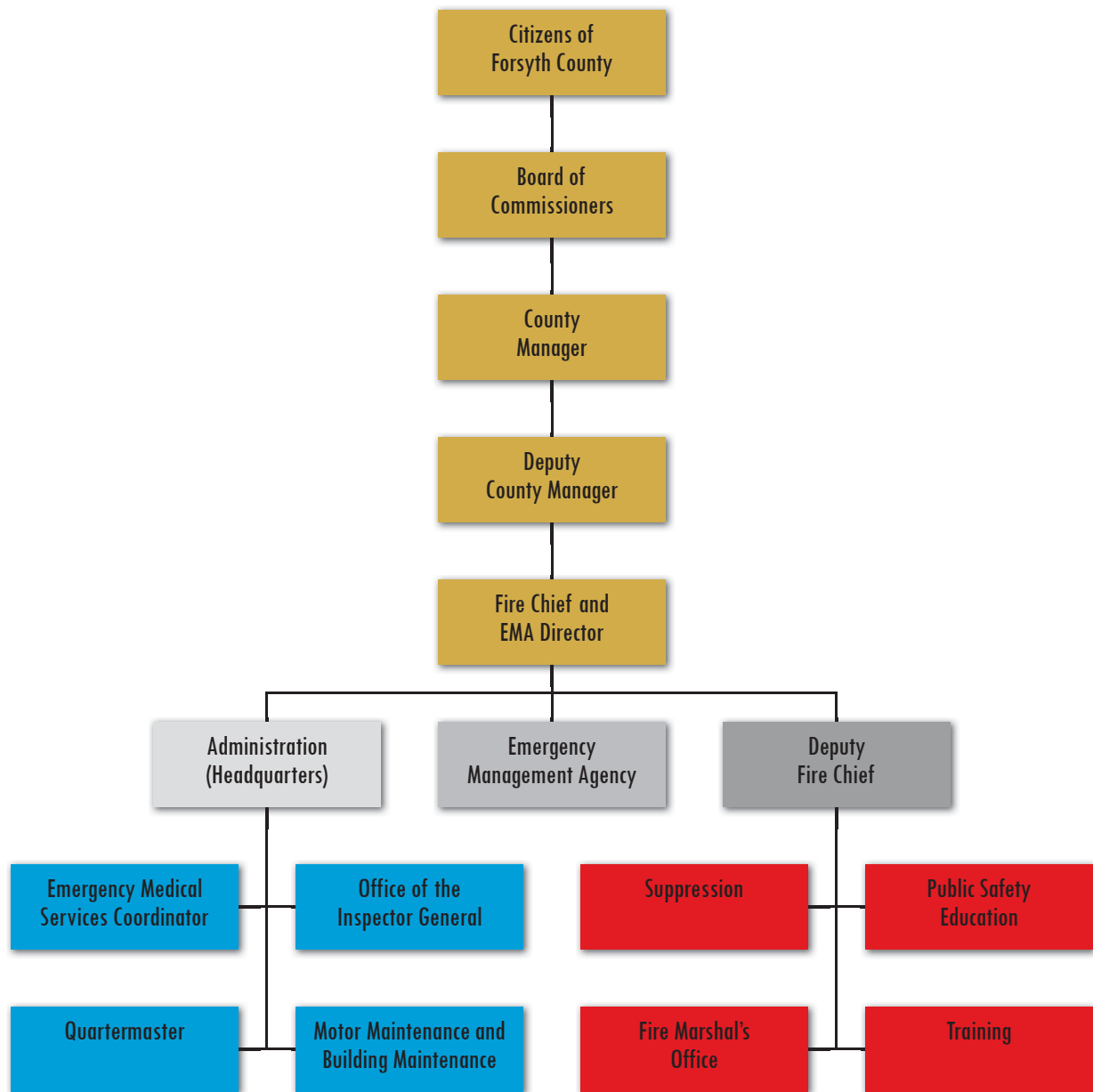


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny D. Bowman".

**Danny D. Bowman**  
Fire Chief  
Emergency Management Agency Director



“ The statistical trend line reveals the Forsyth County Fire Department can anticipate an increase of approximately 500 calls per year for the foreseeable future. ”



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

**N**ow 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, the county's 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 Fire Department served the county until 1998, when the time came to establish a modern Fire Department and to hire 30 full-time, career firefighters.

Since the first 30 full-time, career firefighters joined Forsyth County, the 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 2008.



## Forsyth County Fire Department History Timeline

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, is the nation's largest volunteer Fire Department.





## HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT: The Dirty Thirty

The 'Dirty Thirty' became the group's nickname. There were indeed 30 in all and, in the spring of 1998, these men became the first full-time, career firefighters ever hired by Forsyth County. On March 23, 2008, they marked their 10-year anniversary with the Forsyth County Fire Department.

Many of the original 30 full-time, career firefighters remain with the Forsyth County Fire Department today, and a number have advanced within the Fire Department to officer roles.

"The success of our Fire Department can, without question, be attributed to the groundwork laid by the countless volunteer firefighters who organized the department in 1972," Fire Chief Danny Bowman said. "The addition of the 30 highly motivated, 'career' firefighters in 1998, however, certainly raised the bar relative to rapid, efficient emergency services expected by our citizens."



1990

Volunteer firefighters elect Norris Bennett as fire chief.

1998

Forsyth County hires its first 30 full-time, career firefighters.



2003

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



2006

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

2007

For the first time in its history, the Fire Department exceeds 10,000 responses in a single year.

# 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 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 department spokesman to the media and works as a liaison with the county's 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 he maintains the stock of supplies for all fire 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 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.



## 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 Fire Administration.

### 2008 Fire Administration Numbers

- 1 EMS coordinator
- 1 inspector general
- 1 quartermaster
- 3 motor maintenance staff
- 1 building maintenance staff
- 3 administrative staff

## 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 current 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.



## 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.

### 2008 Operations Numbers

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

# 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.

### 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.

### Hazardous Materials Unit

This unit is Forsyth County's first line of defense to the potential ravages of hazardous materials. The unit responds from Fire Station 2 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.

### 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 going beyond their daily suppression duties. These 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 for Forsyth County and the city of Cumming. The mission of the EMA 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.

# 12 New Outdoor Weather Sirens Installed throughout County

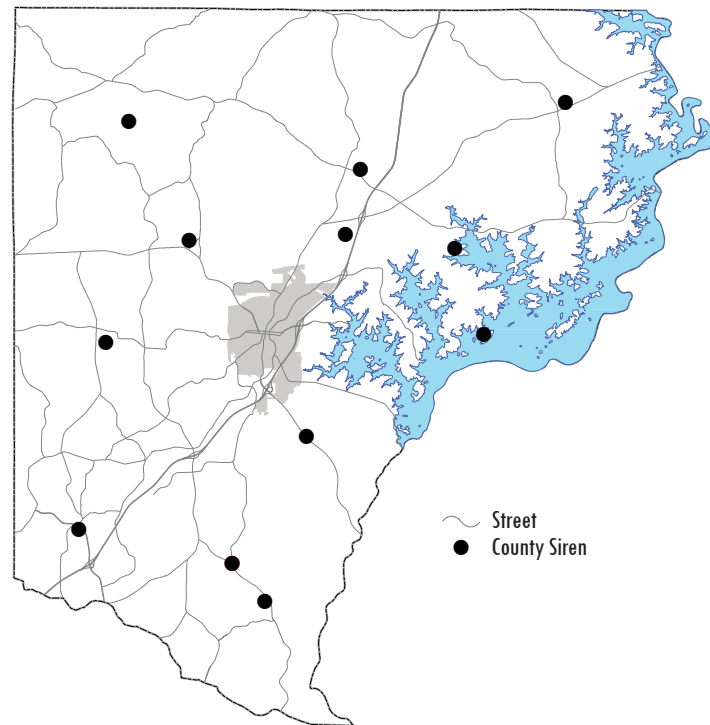
In 2008, the Forsyth County Emergency Management Agency installed 12 new outdoor weather sirens throughout the county. The weather sirens include 11 new locations and one replacement.

Testing of the installed weather sirens took place in late 2008 and early 2009. The weather sirens went into service in early 2009 and will alert residents who are outdoors that severe weather is in the area. In the event Forsyth County is placed under a tornado warning, the sirens will be activated.

The outdoor weather sirens are located at the following locations: Midway Park, Central Park, Charleston Park, Shady Grove Campground, Matt Elementary School, Chestatee Elementary School, Sawnee Primary School, South Forsyth Middle School, Fire Stations 10, 14 and 15, and the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex.

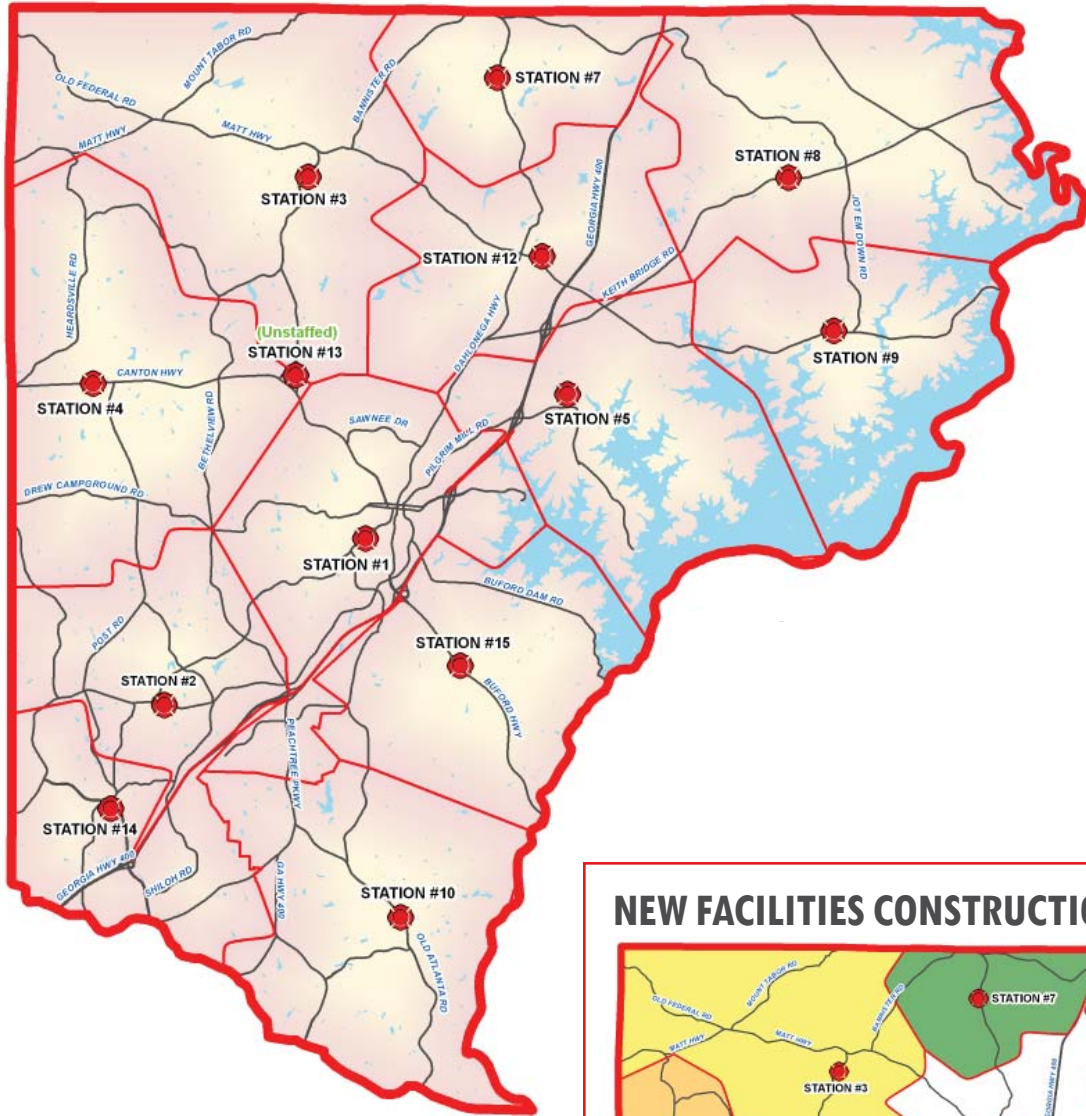


Forsyth County Siren Locations



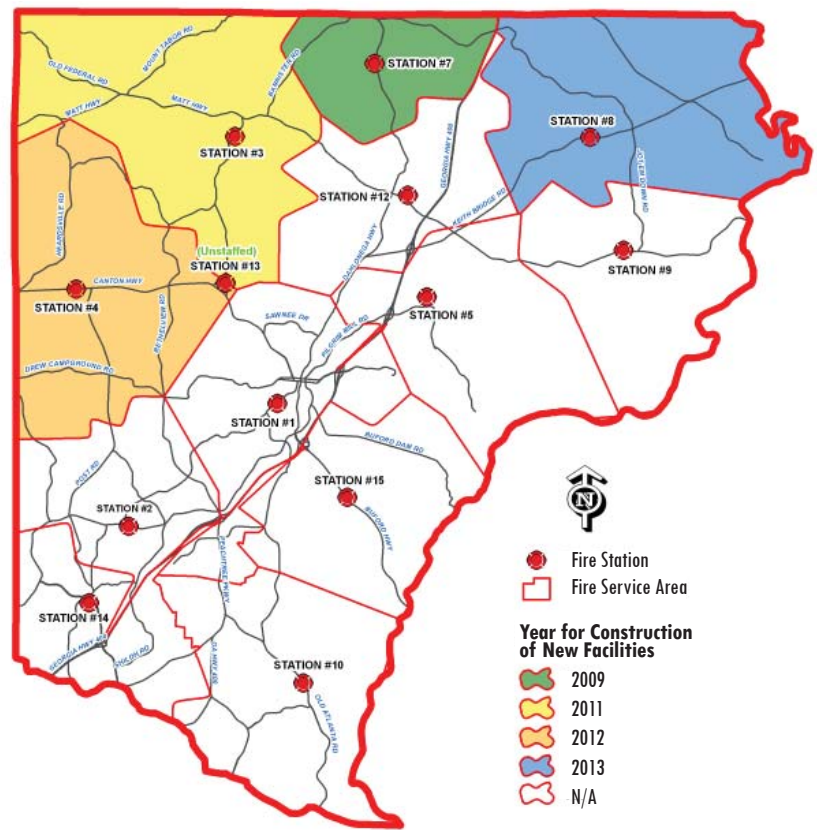
# MAPS

## EXISTING FACILITIES



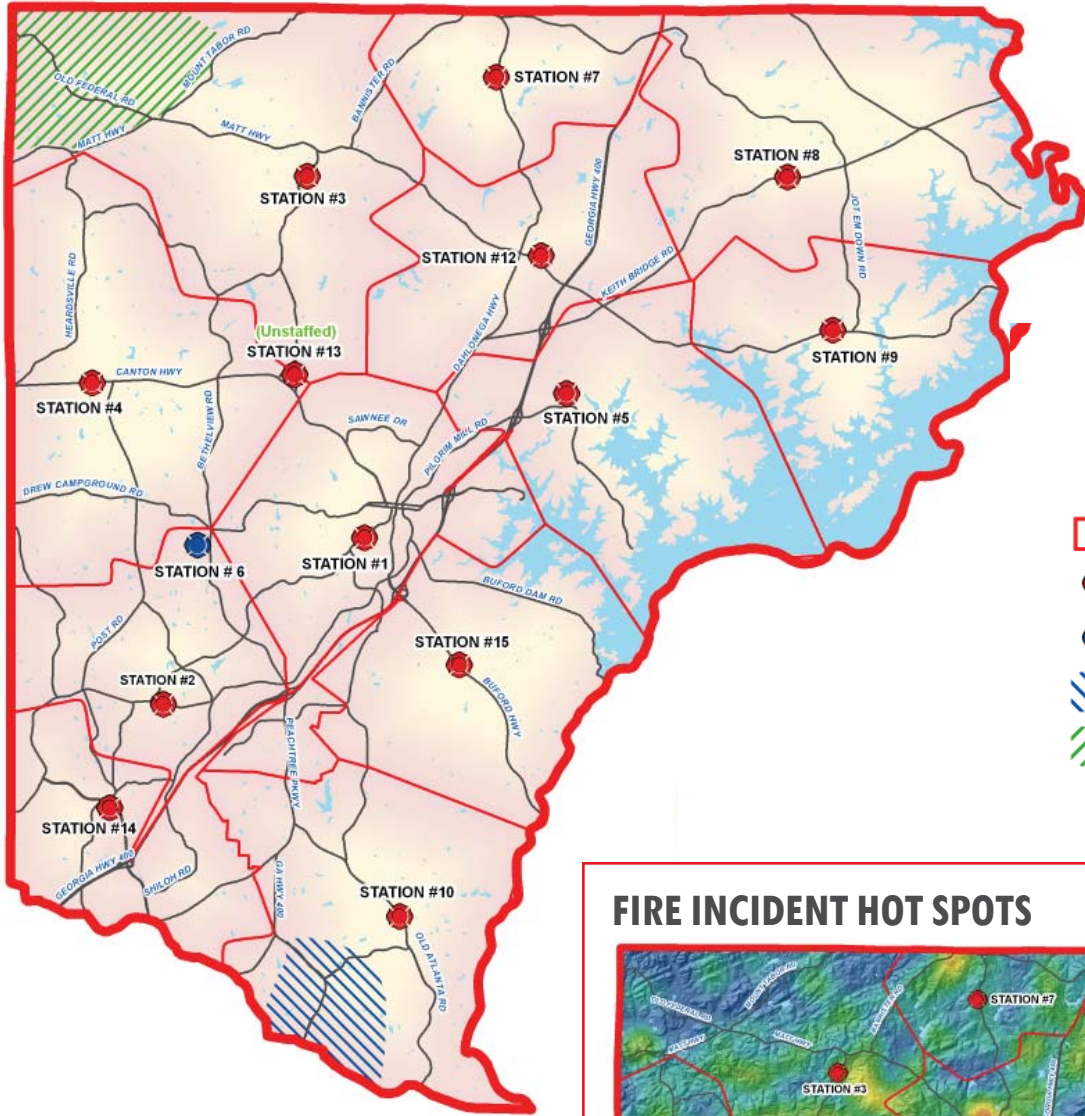
-  Fire Station
-  Fire Service Area

## NEW FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION BY YEAR



-  Fire Station
  -  Fire Service Area
- Year for Construction of New Facilities**
-  2009
  -  2011
  -  2012
  -  2013
  -  N/A

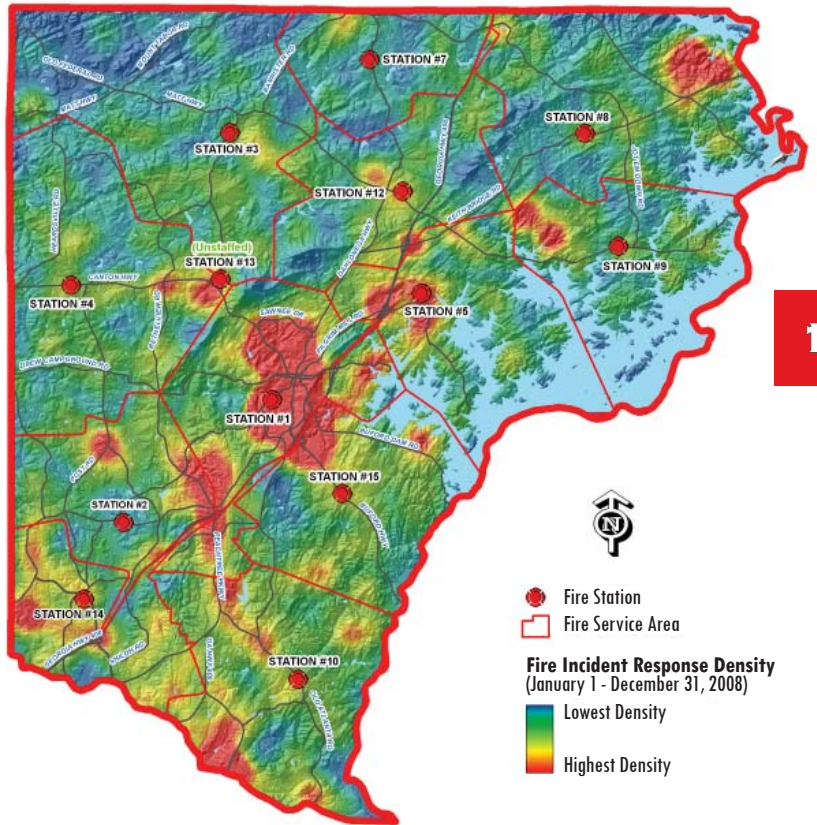
# ADDITIONAL FACILITIES PROPOSED



-  Existing Fire Service Area
-  Existing Fire Station
-  Future Fire Station 6 (2010)
-  Proposed Station 16 (2011)
-  Proposed Station 17 (2011)



# FIRE INCIDENT HOT SPOTS



-  Fire Station
  -  Fire Service Area
- Fire Incident Response Density**  
(January 1 - December 31, 2008)
-  Lowest Density
  -  Highest Density



# FIRE STATIONS AND FACILITIES

## Station 1



1

- Located on 2.41 acres in downtown Cumming at 234 Castleberry Industrial Drive
- 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



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 Truck, Trailer and Decontamination Unit
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST V funds and impact fees
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit

## Station 3



3

- Located on 0.25 acres 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 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



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 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 Road
- 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 of the Forsyth County Fire Department Wildland Unit

### Station 7



- Located at 5775 Dhalonega Highway
- Two single bays
- Constructed by volunteers on leased land in 1974, and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 7
- Construction of a new two double-bay Station 7 is slated to begin in 2009 using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and fire millage funds; future location is approximately 0.75 miles north of current Station 7 on Dhalonega Highway

### Station 8



- Located on 0.25 acres 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
- 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 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, Tanker 9 and Med 9
- Current station not designed for 24-hour occupancy; decision to perform extensive renovation or to build a new two or three double-bay Station 9 will need to be made within several years; potential funding sources include future SPLOST funds and fire millage funds; new construction will require a new location that is yet to be determined

# FIRE STATIONS AND FACILITIES

## Station 10



10

- Located on 1.5 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 and Med 10

## Station 12



12

- Located at 3530 Settingdown Road 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, Med 12 and the Forsyth County Fire Department Technical Rescue Vehicle
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Technical Rescue Unit

## Station 13



13

- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Doctor Bramblett Road
- Three double bays
- Constructed in 1976, and expected to last through 2010; served as a former truck maintenance facility, not intended for 24-hour occupancy
- Staffed with only one EMS crew, not staffed by full-time fire personnel
- Houses Med 13
- Utilized as a storage facility for reserve units
- No plans are in place yet for a new Station 13

## Station 14



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 and Tanker 14

## Station 15



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, and the Dive and Swift Water Units' equipment
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive Unit and Swift Water Unit

## Fire Headquarters



- Located in the 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

## Training Facility



- Located adjacent to Forsyth County 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 Forsyth County 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

# 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 department, responding to all incidents. They perform suppression functions, medical response and motor vehicle accident response and extrication duties.

- Twelve staffed engines are in service currently with three reserve units, which go in service when a unit undergoes maintenance.



### Trucks

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

- Truck 1 is a 2004 Pierce tiller-drawn 100-foot heavy duty ladder with a built-in waterway.
- Truck 2 is a 1995 Sutphen 75-foot mid-mount platform quint with a built-in waterway.

## SPECIALTY APPARATUS



### Technical Rescue Vehicle

The Technical Rescue Unit's primary vehicle is a truck and trailer combination unit containing the tools and equipment necessary to perform extremely dangerous and complicated rescues and recoveries. This rescue vehicle responds to manufacturing, construction and storm-related incidents resulting in injury and will be on-site of any 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 department. The truck portion of the unit is detachable and 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.



### Brush Trucks

Brush trucks are capable of reaching remote areas and 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 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 ensure proper coverage of all areas.

### Kubota

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

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



### 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 3,000-gallon tankers were put in service in early 2007.



### Hazardous Materials Truck, Trailer and Decontamination Unit

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

- One truck, a 1987 International, is in service at 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 2 and is pulled by the hazardous materials truck.
- One decontamination unit is housed at Station 2 and was purchased using grant funds in 2005.



### 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 needs 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.

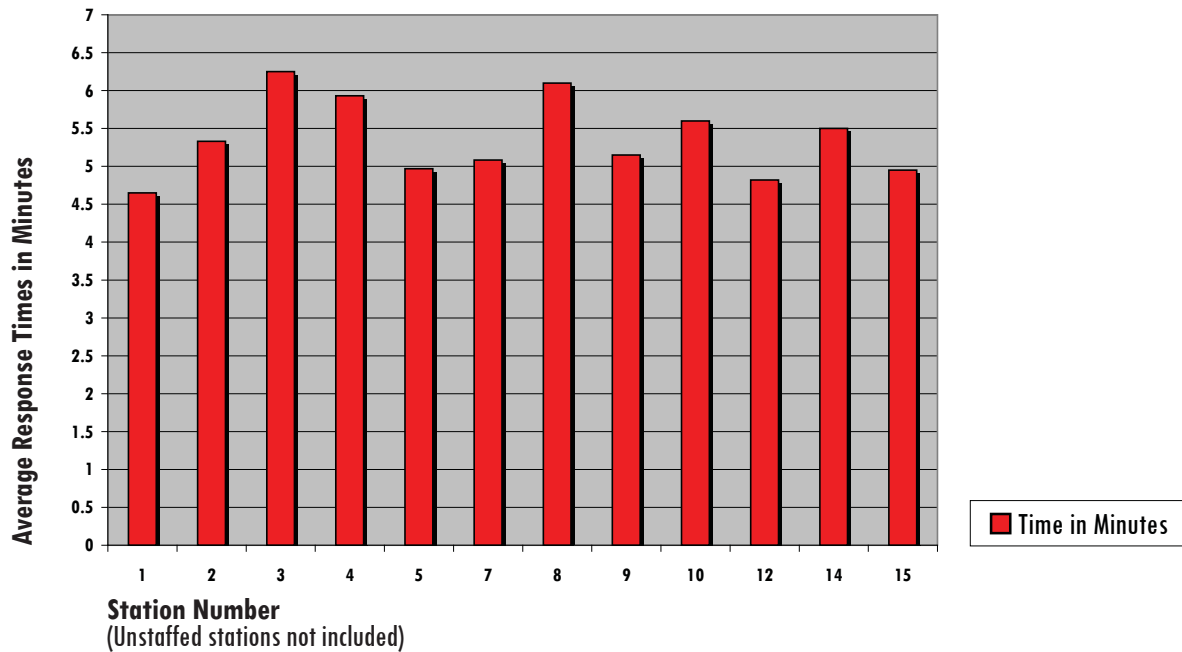


### Pontoon Boat

A 1988 pontoon boat is utilized for rescue and recovery operations on Lake Lanier. The pontoon boat does not have fire suppression capabilities.

# GRAPHS

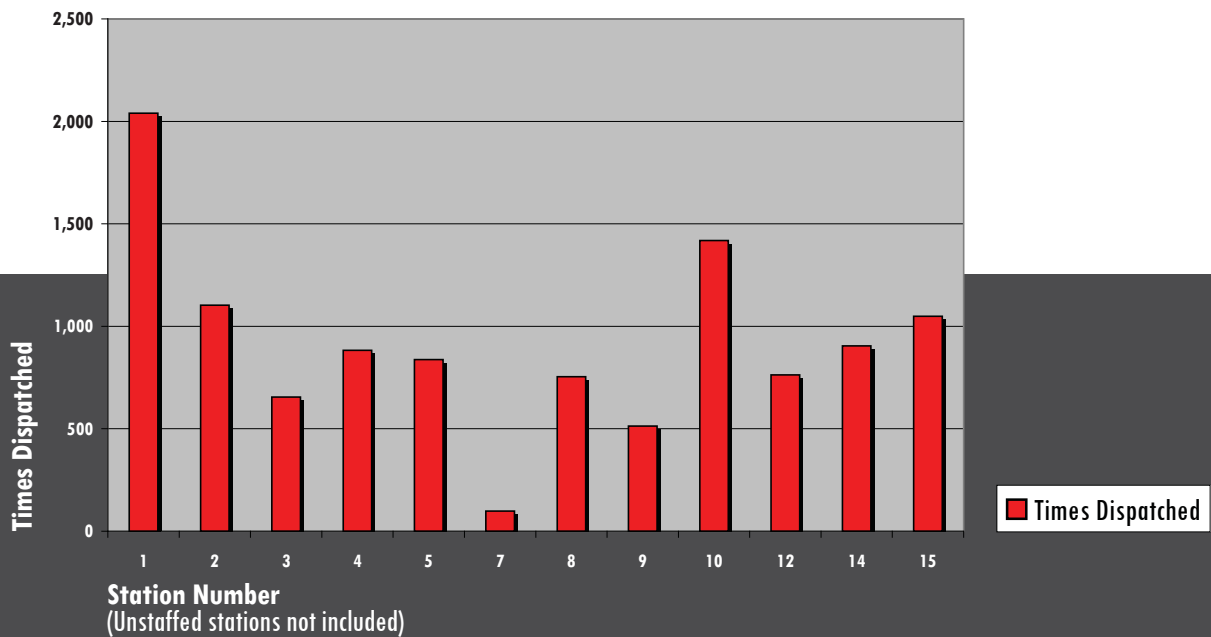
## AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES BY STATION IN 2008



The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2008 average response time for on-scene arrival was five minutes and 22 seconds – a reduction of two seconds from the 2007 average response time of five minutes and 24 seconds.\* Fire station response times vary as a result of travel distances and other factors. In 2009, the department will continue to evaluate response times and seek ways to improve service to the community.

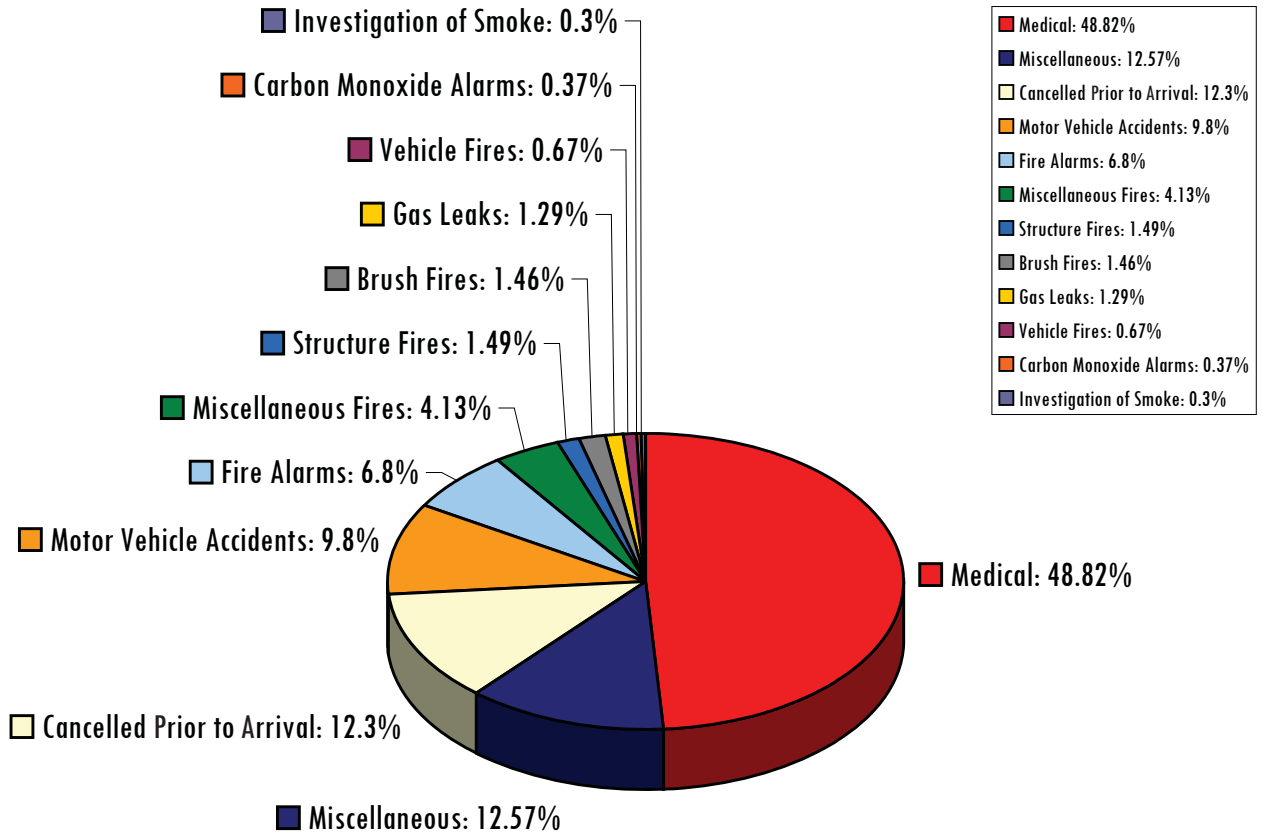
\*Source: Forsyth County Fire Department Research Library

## NUMBER OF TIMES DISPATCHED BY STATION IN 2008

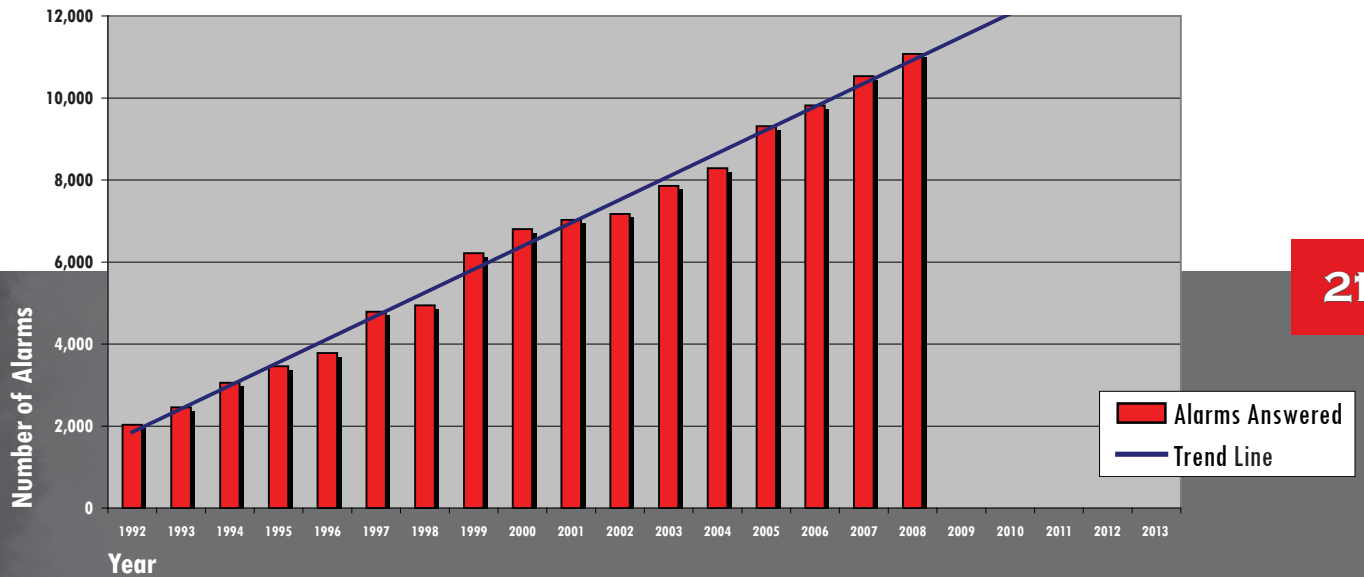


Note: Station 7 numbers reflect July 21-December 31, 2008

## RESPONSES BY INCIDENT TYPE IN 2008



## ALARMS ANSWERED BY YEAR



In 2008, the Fire Department responded to 11,075 incidents – the most alarms in a single 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 12,664. 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 2008 budget: \$16,231,385

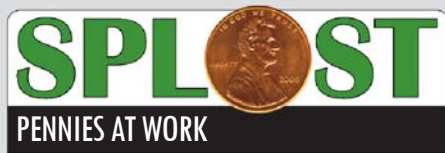
### Millage Rate

The Fire Department's 2008 millage rate was 1.765. Forsyth County's millage rates continue to be among the lowest in the metro Atlanta area.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Forsyth County Fire Department Millage Rate:	1.581	1.515	1.765	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, 2008, has collected \$5,611,886.86 for the Fire Department. These funds can only be used to construct capital facilities such as fire stations or purchase capital firefighting equipment.



### SPLOST Programs

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

The SPLOST V program was approved by Forsyth County voters in 2003, providing funding to the Fire Department and other county departments through its expiration June 30, 2008. During the duration of the SPLOST V program, \$5,954,492.60 was applied to Fire Department projects, including new Fire Stations 1 and 2, a 100-foot aerial fire apparatus, six fire engines, and partial funding for future new Fire Stations 6 and 7.

#### SPLOST VI

Forsyth County voters approved the SPLOST VI program in February 2008. The program went into effect July 1, 2008, and will provide funding to the Fire Department and other county departments through its expiration June 30, 2013. It is anticipated the SPLOST VI program will generate approximately \$17,785,000 to fund Fire Department projects, including new Fire Stations 3, 4, 8, 16 and 17, and a new 100-foot aerial fire apparatus.



New Fire Station 1 opened in 2007. Station 1 was funded by SPLOST V and impact fees.



# 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 2008 include the following events:

- Forsyth Senior Expo
- Memorial Day Ceremony
- Safety Town
- Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit Tenth Anniversary
- Fourth of July Parade
- Family Water Fest
- Seventh Annual Liberty Garden Ceremony
- Play at the Park Family Fun Festival
- Veterans Day Ceremony
- GIS (Geographic Information Services) Day
- “Aerial’s House” Annual Holiday Toy Collection
- Cumming Christmas Parade



## PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION

Educating members of the community about fire prevention and dangers of fire is an important initiative of the Forsyth County Fire Department. In 2008, the 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

# 2008-IN-REVIEW

## Fire Department Gives Burns the Boot

The generosity of the community was overwhelming as the Forsyth County Fire Department's 2008 Boot Drive generated over \$22,000 to support the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and local fire safety and burn prevention programs. The event was held in May and was part of the "Give Burns the Boot"® boot drive.

The Forsyth County Fire Department received five percent of the funds raised for use toward fire safety and burn prevention programs in the community.

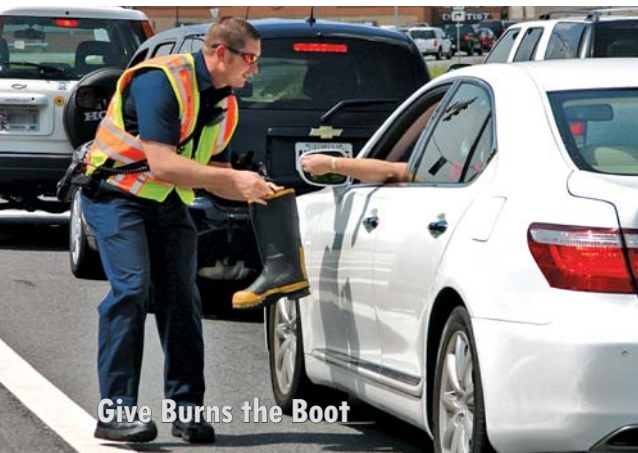
## Flag Retirement Drop-Box Added at Fire Station 1

Residents wishing to ensure a proper retirement for their worn-out American flags can do so thanks to a joint effort between the American Legion and the Forsyth County Fire Department. In early June, a flag drop-box was placed at Fire Station 1. Citizens can place their worn-out American flags in the drop-box, and the American Legion will ensure the flags are retired properly.

## Vial of Life Program Launched

The Forsyth County Fire Department, Senior Services Department and Kroger Pharmacy joined forces in 2008 to provide a valuable and potentially life-saving program available to all residents, but particularly targeted toward senior citizens. The Vial of Life initiative, launched in June 2008, was created to help in providing vital information for first responders.

Citizens complete the medical information sheet by including any and all background information, and place the sheet in the provided and easily identified medical vial. The vial is then placed in the refrigerator door for easy finding by first responders. An alert sticker is also provided for placement on or near the front door. In the event of a medical emergency, the vial containing the medical information of the individual's choosing then is available for the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services personnel to review. "Having this medical information available is especially helpful in the event a patient is alone and unable to speak or communicate with first responders," Fire Department Captain Jason Shivers said.



Give Burns the Boot



Flag Retirement Drop-Box



Vial of Life

## Department's 2006 Annual Report Recognized for Excellence

The Fire Department's 2006 Annual Report garnered a Meritorious award in the annual reports category (magazine or newsletter format) of the National Association of County Information Officers 2008 Awards of Excellence Competition.



### **Firefighter Receives Award**

On June 9, 2008, Forsyth County Firefighter Doug Staley received the Firehouse Magazine 2007 Heroism and Community Service Award for his participation in a rescue performed May 16, 2007. The incident occurred at a construction site when two construction workers became disabled down a 25-foot vertical shaft. He descended the shaft to stabilize the two men and place a self contained breathing apparatus on each in an attempt to provide them with oxygen and prepare them for extrication by the Fire Department's Technical Rescue Unit. Firefighter Staley was pinned with a personalized medal of valor by Fire Chief Danny Bowman as his fellow firefighters and department administration looked on.

### **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 Station 7 Staffed Full Time**

Forsyth County Fire Station 7 was first staffed full time beginning July 21, 2008, at 7 a.m. The station was previously an unstaffed, volunteer facility.

### **Department Undergoes Insurance Services Office Study**

An Insurance Services Office (ISO) study was conducted in both Forsyth County and the city of Cumming in August 2008. This study audited 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 were 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. The last time an ISO study was conducted in Forsyth County was 1996.



**Award Presentation**



**Fourth of July Parade**



**Liberty Garden Ceremony**

### **Fire Department Remembers September 11**

Fire Department personnel took part in the seventh annual Liberty Garden Ceremony hosted by Keep Forsyth County Beautiful at Central Park. Fire Chief Danny Bowman was among the event's speakers, and the Fire Department Honor Guard participated in the ceremony to remember and honor those lost September 11, 2001.

# 2008-IN-REVIEW

## Property Acquired for New Fire Station 6

Land for future Fire Station 6 was purchased by the county on November 6, 2008. The future site of the new station is on Pittman Road in the western portion of Forsyth County.

## Grant Funds a Fire Safety Robot

The Forsyth County Fire Department received a \$12,083 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant funding allowed for the purchase of a fire safety robot, a trailer to transport and store the robot, and fire safety promotional items. The new fire safety robot is used as part of the department's program for toddler and preschool-aged children, which is presented at special events, schools, Head Start programs, day cares and preschools. This interactive robot will serve as an excellent tool for teaching children about the dangers of fire as well as fire safety precautions.

## Firefighters Shoot Hoops in Benefit Tournament

On December 6, members of the Forsyth County Fire Department played in a benefit basketball tournament designed to raise funds to assist fellow co-workers in need. The Fire Department joined the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, Dawson County Fire Department and Dawson County Sheriff's Office in the tournament. The proceeds raised benefited public safety employees and their families facing serious medical issues.

## Fire Department Participates in Christmas Parade

Fire Department personnel and apparatus lined up to take part in the third annual Cumming Christmas Parade, held December 6 on Market Place Boulevard.

## "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 from the community allowed the Fire Department to make Christmas possible for children who otherwise may not have received any gifts. Toys were collected at county fire stations, Fire Department Headquarters and the Forsyth County Administration Building.



Fire Safety Robot



Benefit Basketball Tournament



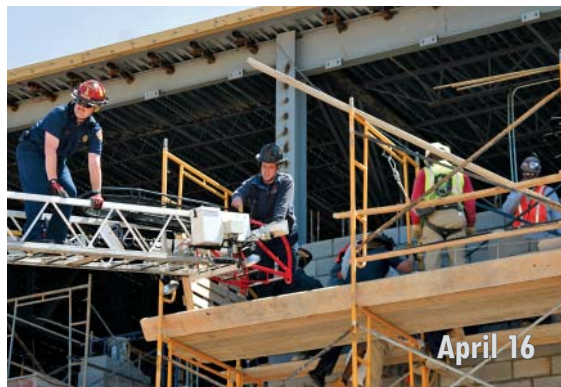
Christmas Parade



"Aerial's House"

# EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED

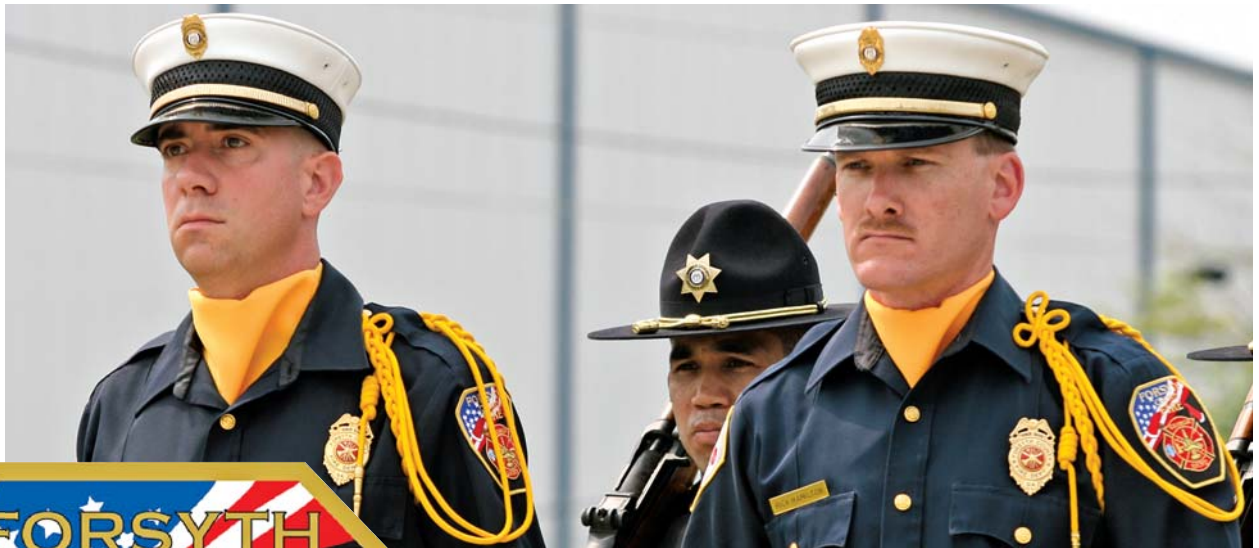
The Forsyth County Fire Department is trained, equipped and expected to respond to virtually every conceivable emergency. These photographs illustrate some of the unique challenges faced by the Fire Department throughout 2008.



# PATCH

The original Forsyth County Fire Department patch was adopted over 20 years ago and served the Fire Department until 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 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 ROBBY COWART

Robby Lynn Cowart passed away November 5, 2008. Cowart was part of the Forsyth County Fire Department for 15 years, serving first as a volunteer firefighter and then becoming a full-time, career firefighter in March 2002. Most recently, Robby worked at Fire Station 3. Prior to joining the Forsyth County Fire Department, Robby worked with the county's Roads and Bridges Department. His spirit, enthusiasm and professionalism are greatly missed.

So as you look at the firefighter with his rake, hose or axe,  
His beet red face or ice covered mustache,  
You should know why he goes through that smoky front door,  
And is forced to crawl like a baby down on the floor.  
He does it to save both lives and property,  
All that is precious to you and to me.  
So take a good look at this modern warrior who serves his call proud and true,  
And know that he would die just to save me and you.

-Robert J. Athans

# 2008 **FORSYTHCOUNTY** Fire Department ANNUAL REPORT

3520 Settingdown Rd.

Cumming, GA 30028

[www.forsythco.com](http://www.forsythco.com)

770.781.2180 (phone)

770.781.2194 (fax)

