



2010 FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department ANNUAL REPORT



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



FORSYTH COUNTY **Board of Commissioners**

2011 FORSYTH COUNTY Board of Commissioners



The 2011 Forsyth County Board of Commissioners (from left):

District 1 Commissioner and Secretary R.J. (Pete) Amos, District 2 Commissioner and Chairman Brian R. Tam, District 3 Commissioner Todd Levent, District 4 Commissioner and Vice Chairman Patrick B. Bell, and District 5 Commissioner Jim Boff

Outgoing Commissioners in 2010



Charles Laughinghouse



Jim Harrell

Forsyth County would like to thank outgoing Commissioners Charles Laughinghouse (District 1) and Jim Harrell (District 3) for their years of service to the citizens of this community. Both commissioners left office at the end of 2010.

Administration



Doug Derrer
County Manager



Tim Merritt
Deputy County Manager

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2010 FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department ANNUAL REPORT

The 2010 Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report was prepared jointly by the Forsyth County Fire Department and Forsyth County Department of Communications.





Fire Department Command Staff

Danny D. Bowman, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency Director



Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director Danny D. 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 chief of department 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. He has extensive knowledge of rescue operations and is world-renowned as an expert in the field of vehicle extrication. In 2009, Clark completed his 50th year in the fire service.

James Hildebrand, A-Shift Battalion Chief



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 40 years in the fire service, Hildebrand brings valuable experience to his supervisory duties of the A-shift operations.

Anthony Chapman, B-Shift Battalion Chief



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 more than 20 years in the fire service, Chapman is well-prepared for day-to-day supervision of the B-shift operations.

Tommy Coleman, C-Shift Battalion Chief



C-Shift Battalion Chief Tommy Coleman joined the Forsyth County Fire Department in 1993, serving as captain prior to his promotion to battalion chief. Previously working for the Atlanta Fire Department and Roswell Fire Department, he has nearly 40 years in the fire service. His years in the fire service are an asset to his supervisory duties and oversight of the C-shift operations.

Lee Parker, Training Division Chief

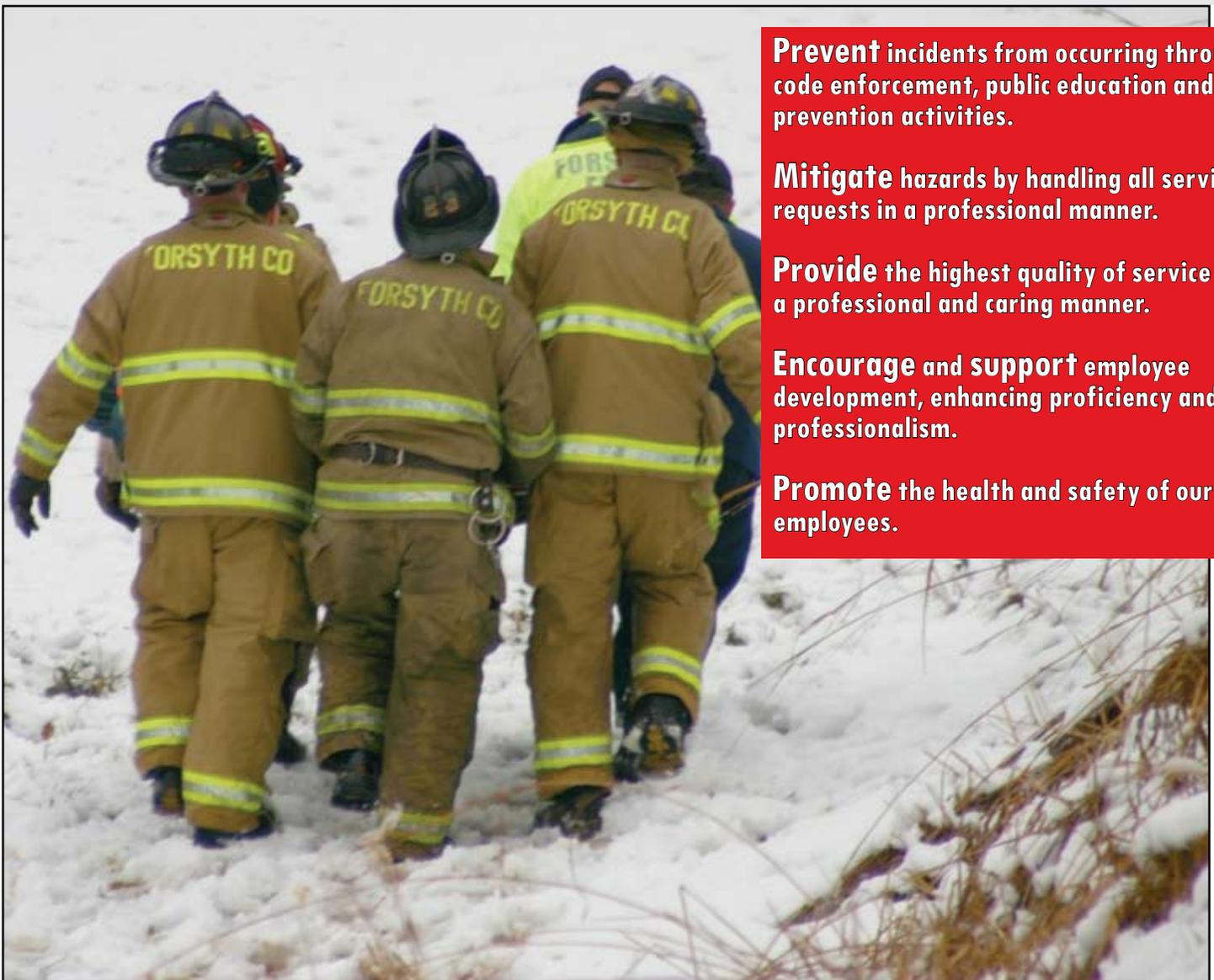


Training Division Chief Lee Parker is responsible for training, conducting classes and ensuring all department personnel maintain state-required training levels. Before joining Forsyth County in 1998, Parker was a staff instructor at the Georgia Fire Academy. He currently serves in the Air Force Reserves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

Kevin Wallace, Fire Marshal



Fire Marshal Kevin Wallace manages and oversees the Fire Marshal's Office to include the Fire/Explosive Investigations Unit and the Code Compliance/Enforcement Division. Since joining Forsyth County in 1987, he has held the titles of firefighter, Sheriff's deputy, fire lieutenant, fire inspector, fire investigator and deputy fire marshal. Wallace has also served with the Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office and the Fulton County Fire Department.



Prevent incidents from occurring through code enforcement, public education and fire prevention activities.

Mitigate hazards by handling all service requests in a professional manner.

Provide the highest quality of service in a professional and caring manner.

Encourage and **support** employee development, enhancing proficiency and professionalism.

Promote the health and safety of our employees.

Mission Statement

The **Forsyth County Fire Department** protects life, property and the environment from the ravages of fire and all other emergencies, both natural and man made, and provides citizens and visitors with emergency medical pre-hospital care in a highly effective manner with the best trained personnel possible.





Message from the Fire Chief

Once again, our conversation begins with deep concerns over the economic downturn, and its impact on our efforts to provide professional fire and rescue services to our citizens. 2010 ended with revenues from the Fire Tax millage rate (1.975 mills) being received at around 96% of that anticipated. Even so, we were able to maintain an average 5 minute, 17 second response time to more than 11,500 calls.

Although our department is most visible to the public with regards to fire protection, our special operations divisions continue to perform those services least considered until a major, life-threatening incident occurs. Our deep water divers, swift water rescue unit, wildland firefighters, hazardous materials response team, and technical rescue unit members arrive on the scene trained and equipped to handle all manner of emergency incidents. It is unanimously accepted that were it not for the strong support of our Board of Commissioners and Forsyth County Administration, none of this would be realized. Our Honor Guard continues to be requested throughout the state when a firefighter dies on- or off-duty. Their professionalism and compassion is recognized nationwide. Our nationally certified child restraint personnel have, no doubt, saved an untold number of lives through education about the proper manner in which to install car seats.

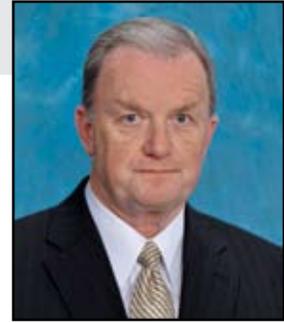
None of these services could take place without our highly motivated and professionally trained Motor Maintenance personnel. In the heat of summer and the cold winter weather, they go about the business of keeping all of our apparatus inventory in top notch condition, so that our personnel can arrive on the scene of an emergency in a safe, timely manner.

Our annual holiday toy drive – Aerial’s House – brightened the season of 2,485 local children who otherwise would not have received any gifts. We partnered with the YMCA and the Forsyth County school system to make these holiday gifts a reality. 2010 was also the first year the Fire Department organized a “Trunk or Treat” event, providing a safe environment in which children could wear their Halloween costumes and be rewarded with some sweet treats.

Several funding sources came together in 2010 for the acquisition of several new vehicles. A new swift water rescue boat was made possible as a result of a grant from Fireman’s Fund Insurance, and an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) rescue unit, which will primarily be utilized along the Big Creek Greenway, was funded by the sale of surplus land acquired from a zoning condition years ago. Delivery for both vehicles is scheduled for 2011.

The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and impact fees provided the funding needed to break ground and begin construction of the much-needed new Fire Station 7 in the Silver City community, scheduled to be open in mid-2011.

As we greet the future and continue to grow as a community, I hope you find this publication, our sixth annual report, to be a useful tool in explaining your Fire Department and its operations. The men and women of the Forsyth County Fire Department remain committed to protecting our citizens’ lives and property – a mindset which will never change.



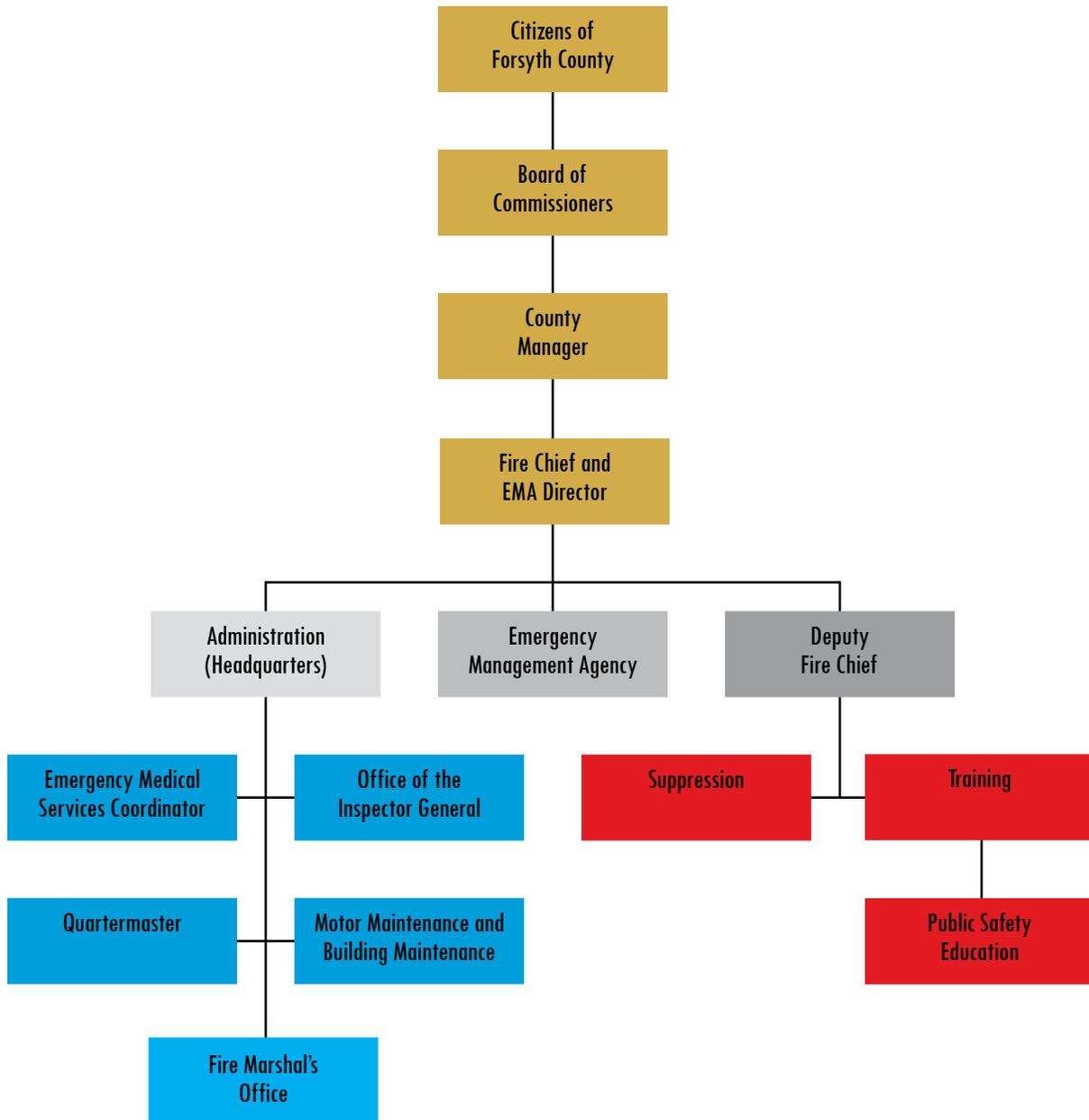
“The men and women of the Forsyth County Fire Department remain committed to protecting our citizens’ lives and property – a mindset which will never change.”

Danny D. Bowman

Fire Chief

Emergency Management Agency Director

Organizational Chart





Historical Overview

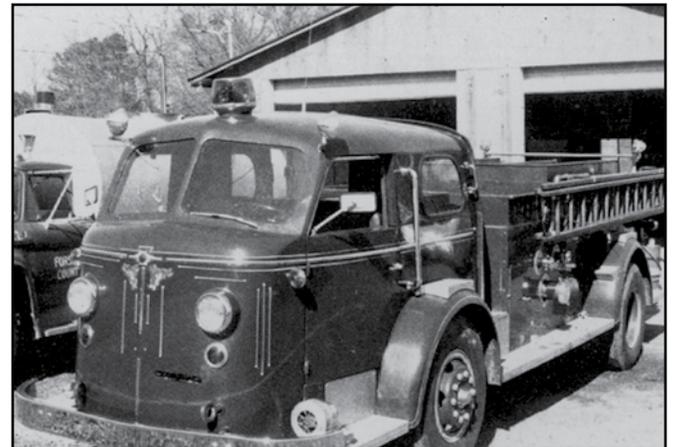
Forsyth County Fire Department History Timeline

- 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.
- 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.
- 2009
Insurance Services Office notifies Forsyth County it has received a fire insurance reclassification from 6/9 to 5, resulting in reductions in fire insurance premiums.



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, 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 2010.



Fire Department Divisions

Fire Administration

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

2010 Fire Administration Numbers

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



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, and have the ability to perform in-house metal fabrication.



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

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.

2010 Operations Numbers

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



Suppression

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

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.





Fire Department Divisions

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.



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. In 2010, a grant was received from Fireman's Fund Insurance to help fund a new shallow water running swift water rescue vessel. Delivery of the vessel was taken in 2011.



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 complement of hazardous materials response tools and equipment. These include a fully equipped hazardous materials vehicle 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

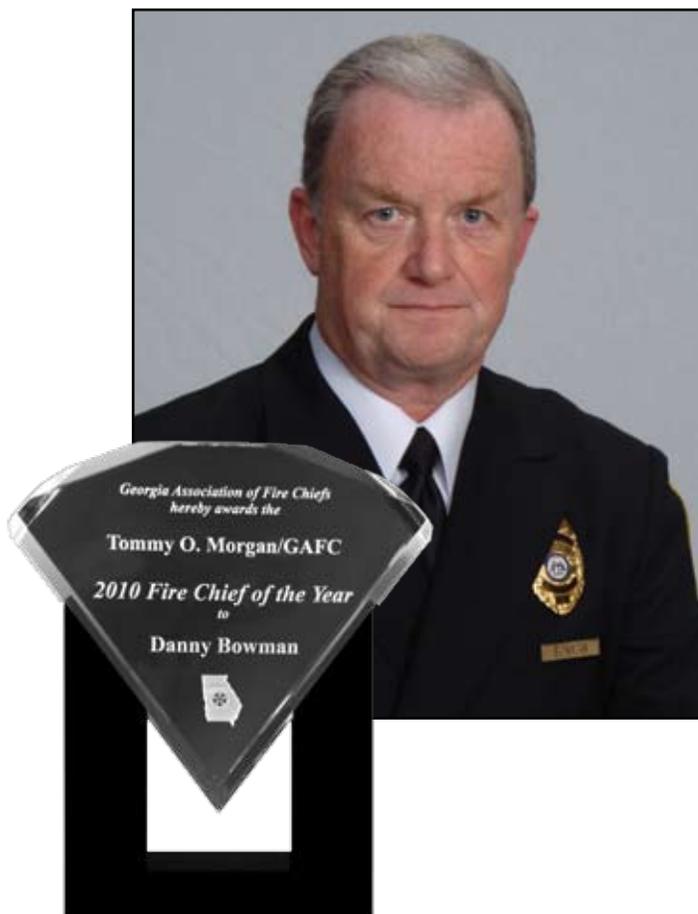
This unit is responsible for honoring fallen public safety professionals and military veterans. Training and services provided are done on a voluntary basis by members of the Fire Department. The Honor Guard responds to many service requests for funerals, flag presentations and parades each year. It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

Bradley Recognized with Governor's Public Safety Award

David N. Bradley, coordinator of the Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard, was recognized November 12, 2010, by Governor Sonny Perdue with a 2010 Governor's Public Safety Award. Bradley was one of only 20 award recipients statewide.

Bradley is a retired fire lieutenant with the DeKalb County Fire/Rescue Department. Even in his retirement, he has continued coordinating the Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard. In 2009, he organized and coordinated 71 Honor Guard details, many of which were multi-day public safety funerals.

Bradley is the Georgia Mutual Aid Group representative to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, and represents Georgia each autumn as the point-of-contact for the annual memorial weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland.



Fire Chief Earns Top Honor

The Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs (GAFC) named Forsyth County Fire Chief Danny D. Bowman the 2010 Georgia Fire Chief of the Year. Bowman was selected for the prestigious award for his professional accomplishments, compassion for his troops, genuine love of the job and willingness to always put others before himself. He was presented the 2010 Fire Chief of the Year award Saturday, August 7, 2010, at the annual joint conference of the GAFC and the Georgia State Firefighters Association. There are 662 fire departments in Georgia.

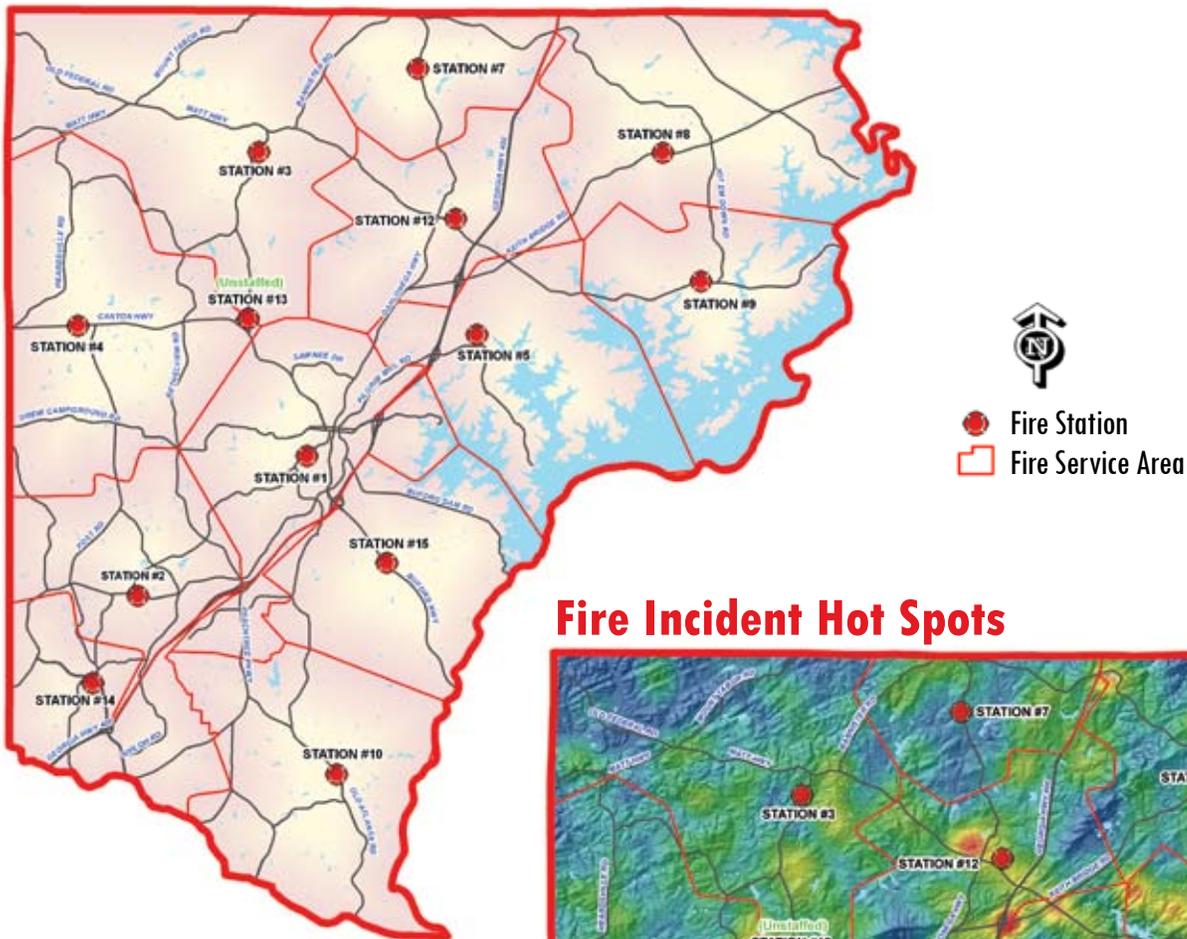
As fire chief, Bowman has overseen the substantial growth of the department, working to keep pace with the county's rapid development as Forsyth remains one of the nation's fastest growing counties. Bowman has aggressively replaced the entire front-line fleet of fire apparatus and has replaced or added four new fire stations and a new Fire Headquarters at the county's Public Safety Complex.



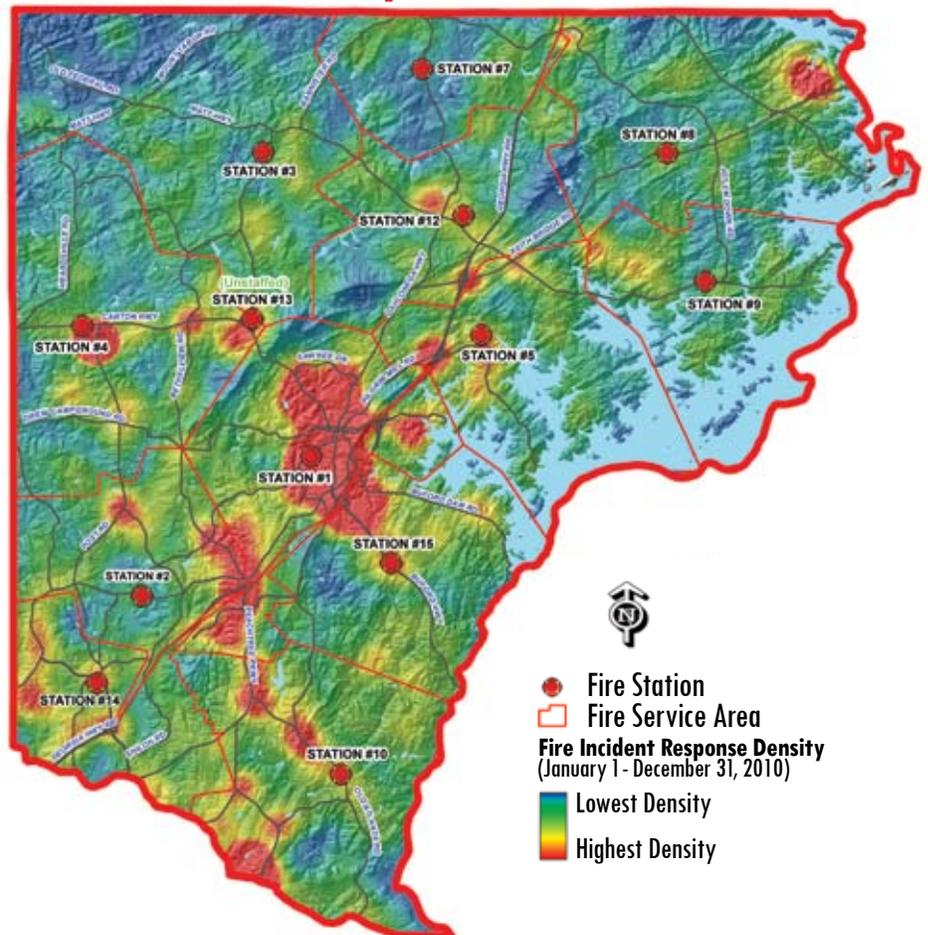


Fire Department Maps

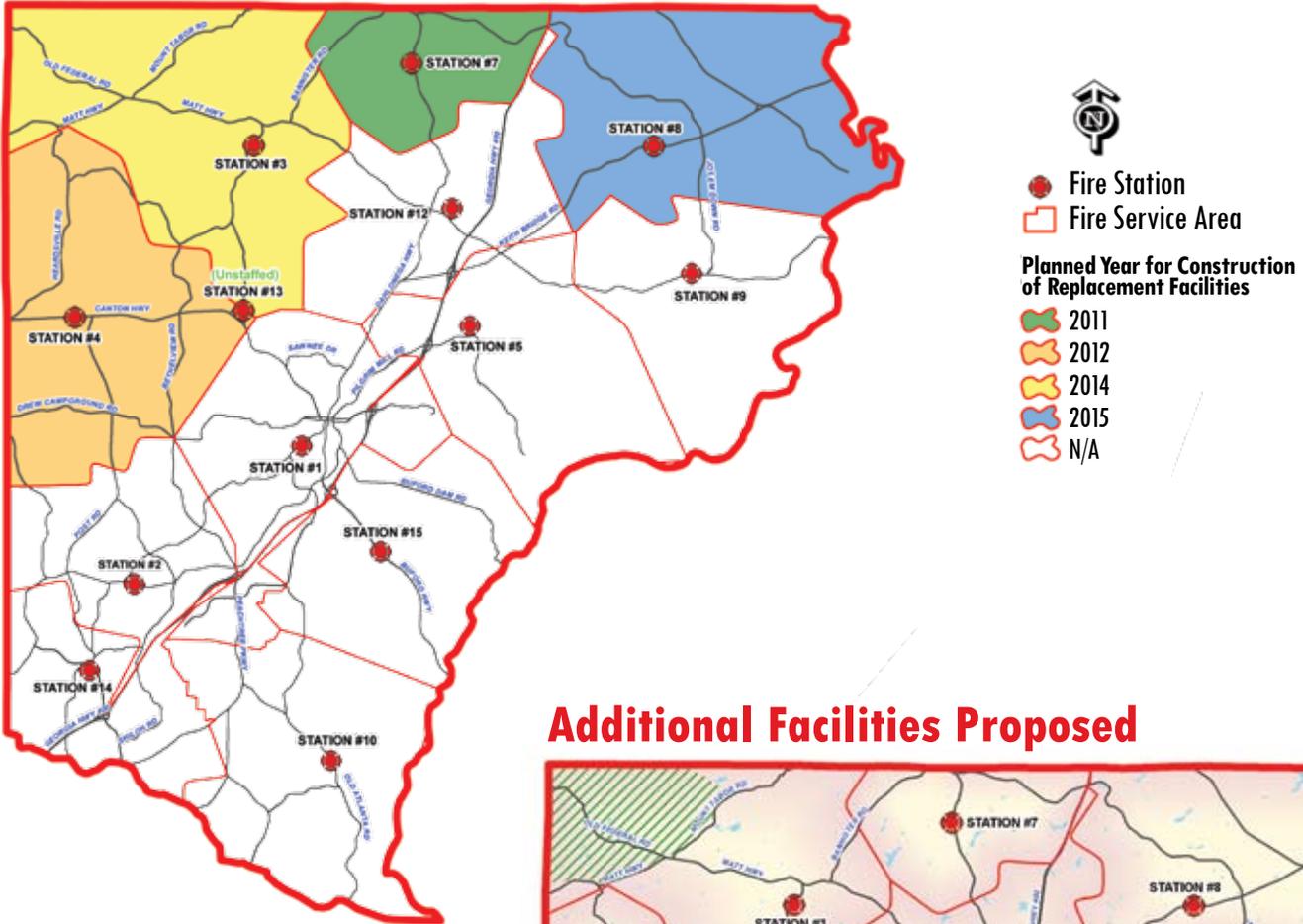
Existing Facilities



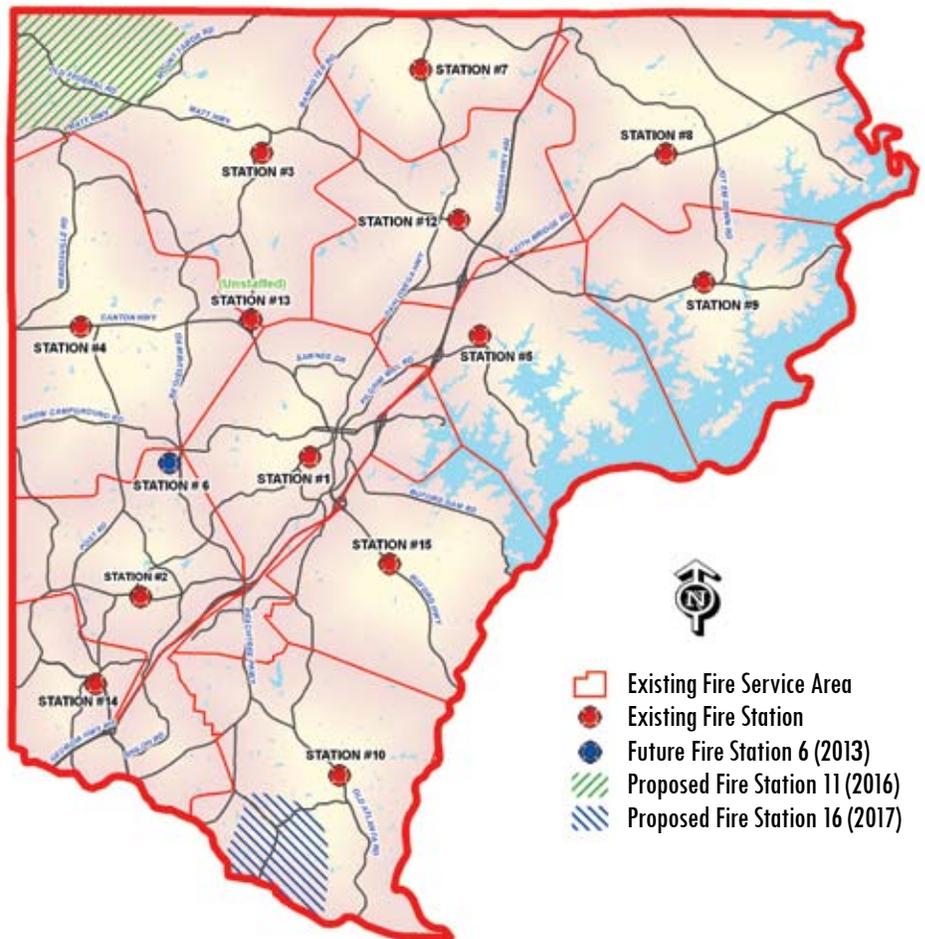
Fire Incident Hot Spots



Replacement Facilities Construction By Year



Additional Facilities Proposed





Fire Stations and Facilities



Station 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 First Battalion as well as Engine 1, Truck 1, Tanker 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, Med 2, Rescue 2 and the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Truck and Decontamination Unit
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST V funds and Impact Fees
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit
- Adjacent to the Big Creek Greenway at the entrance to Fowler Park

Station 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 using a combination of SPLOST funds and Impact Fees; location is yet to be determined

Station 4



- Located on 3.3 acres at 3805 Canton Highway
- Three single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1974, and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 4 and Light/Air 4
- 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 funds and Impact Fees



Station 5



- Located at 2720 Holtzclaw Road
- Located on 2 acres, of which 1.25 acres are owned by Forsyth County and 0.75 acres is leased from the Forsyth County Board of Education
- Two double bays
- Opened in 2005 with a building life expectancy of 50 years
- 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 Dahlenega 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 began in August 2010 using a combination of SPLOST V funds, Impact Fees and fire millage funds; the new location is approximately 0.75 miles north of current Station 7 on Dahlenega 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 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 new location that is yet to be determined





Fire Stations and Facilities



Station 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



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

Station 13



- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Doctor Bramblett Road
- Three double bays
- Constructed in 1976, and served as a former commercial 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 and an antique Ladder Truck
- Utilized as a storage facility for reserve units
- No plans are in place yet for a new Station 13

Station 14



- Located on 1 acre at 800 McFarland Parkway
- Two double bays
- Constructed in 1994, and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of four firefighters
- Houses Engine 14 and Truck 14
- Received new concrete apron and parking area in 2009



Station 15



- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Buford Highway
- Two double bays
- Constructed in 1999, and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 15, Rescue 15 and the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive and Swift Water Rescue Units' equipment
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive Unit and Swift Water Rescue Unit
- Received new concrete apron and parking area in 2009

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, Training Division and administrative personnel

Training Facility



- Located adjacent to the 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 the Forsyth County Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed in the mid-1990s
- Services all Fire Department apparatus and vehicles
- Includes a pump testing facility, three parts rooms, one light duty lift and six heavy truck lifts
- Received a state-of-the-art exhaust removal system in 2009





Tools of the Trade

A look at the equipment worn and carried by **Forsyth County firefighters**

Common Tools of the Trade

Firefighters are required to carry tools to a variety of situations and emergencies. Below is a sampling of tools commonly utilized while on the job.

- Wood wedges for blocking doors
- Two-way radio
- Sledge hammer
- Chain saw
- Rotary saw
- Hose
- Nozzle
- Hydrant wrench
- Ladder
- Rope

Helmet with eye protection

The helmet is a crucial part of the turnout gear, also known as bunker gear. The gear worn by firefighters is intended to protect in temperatures of up to 1,800 degrees. The helmet protects firefighters from heat and falling debris.

Self-contained breathing apparatus

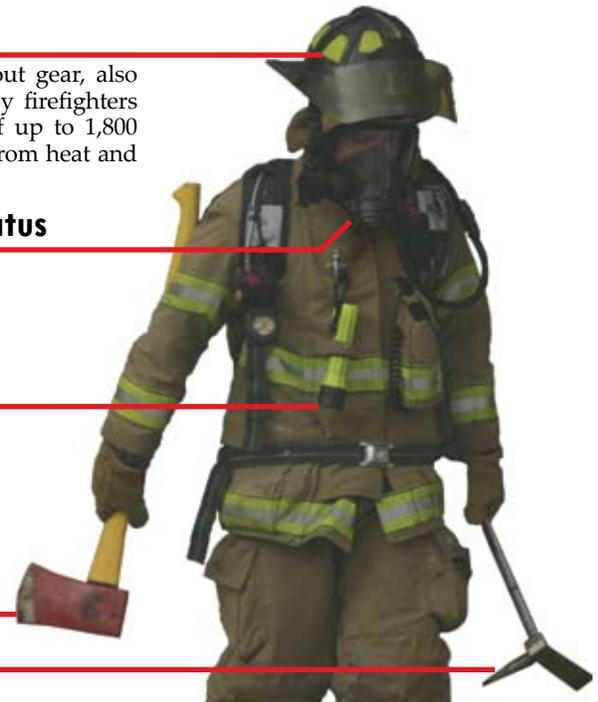
The SCBA provides the firefighter with filtered, dehumidified, compressed atmospheric air intended to be used for approximately 45 minutes.

Light

Smoke causes low visibility, making lights a necessity for firefighters. Another common light carried by firefighters is the box light.

Irons set

The flat head ax and halligan tool are commonly utilized while fighting a fire.



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 four reserve units, which go in service when a unit undergoes maintenance.

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 2007.

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 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.

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 2 and has a 60-gallon capacity tank with a 60-gallon per minute pump.

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 Rescue Unit operations.

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

Hazardous Materials Truck and Decontamination Unit



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

- One decontamination unit is housed at Station 2 and was purchased using grant funds in 2005.
- In late 2009, the Hazardous Materials Unit received a refurbished apparatus redesigned by Fire Department Motor Maintenance. It was converted from an engine to become the primary vehicle replacing the old truck and trailer vehicle.

Pontoon Boat

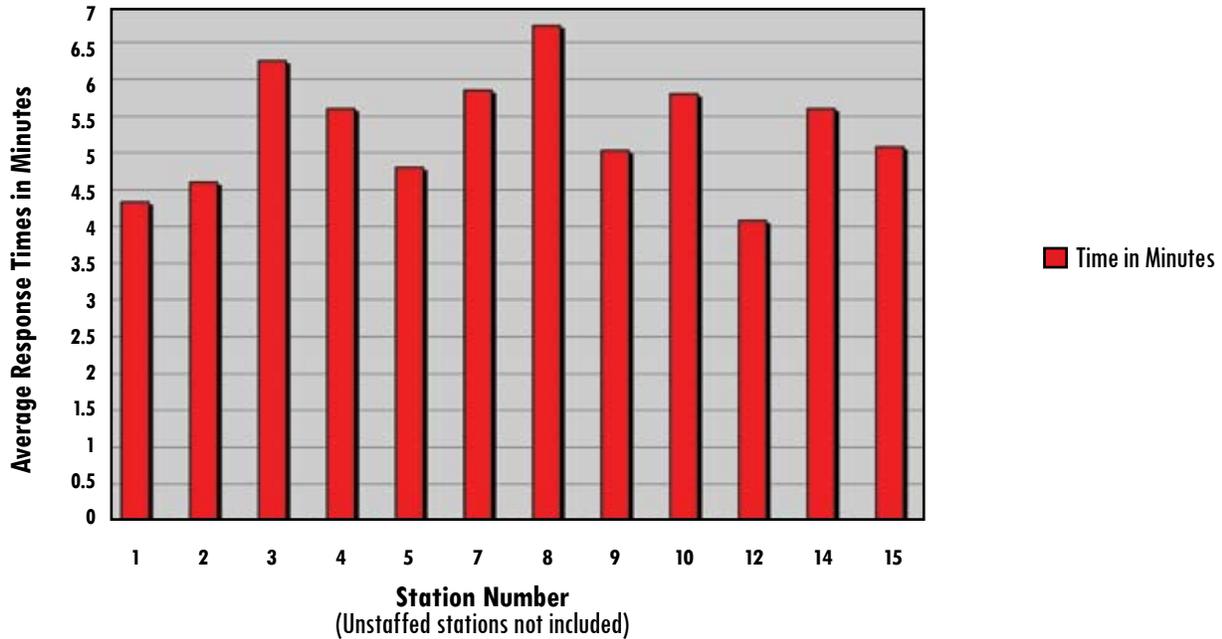


A 1988 pontoon boat is utilized for rescue and recovery operations on Lake Lanier. The pontoon boat does not have fire suppression capabilities.



Graphs

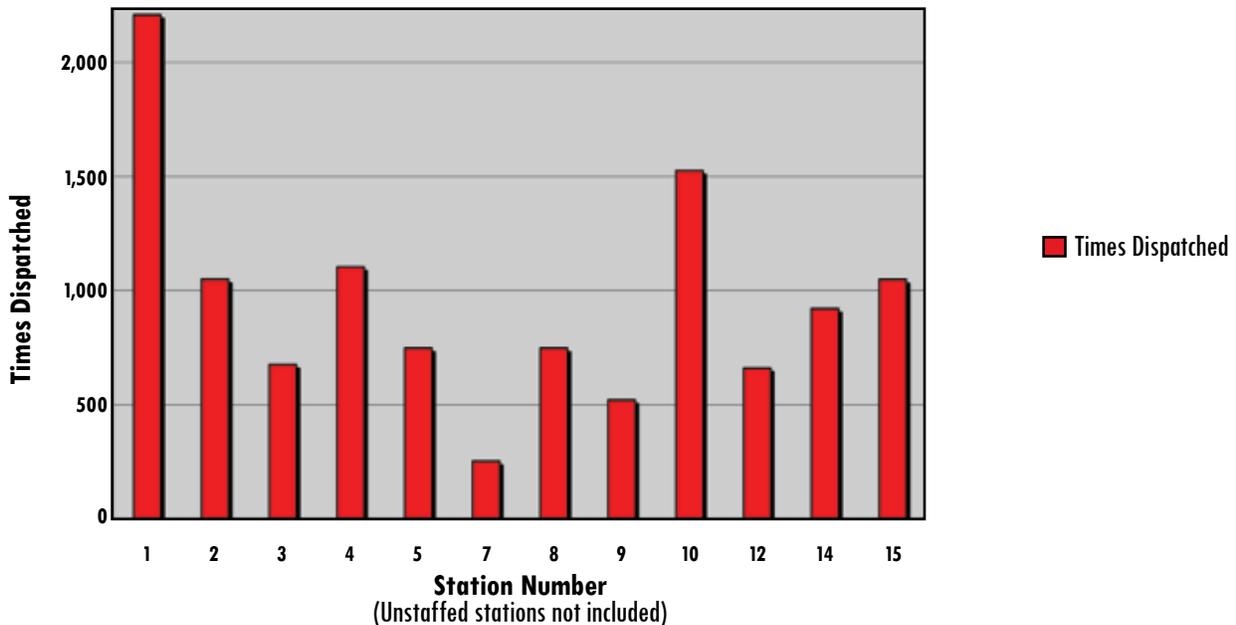
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES BY STATION IN 2010



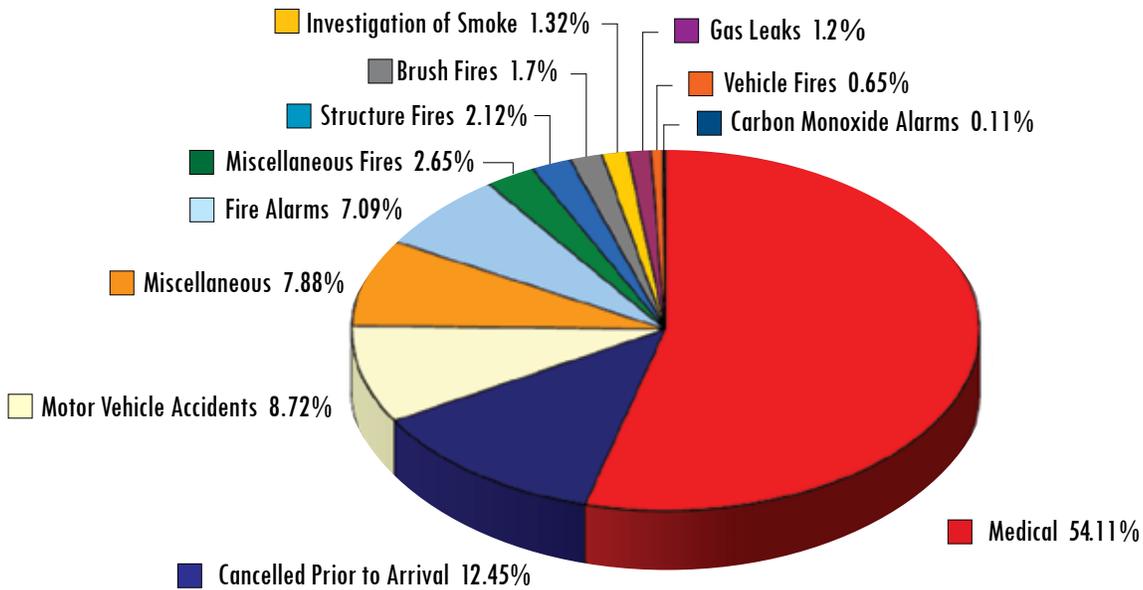
The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2010 average response time for on-scene arrival was five minutes and 17 seconds.* Fire station response times vary as a result of travel distances and other factors. In 2011, the department will continue to evaluate response times and seek ways to improve service to the community.

*Source: Forsyth County Fire Department Research Library

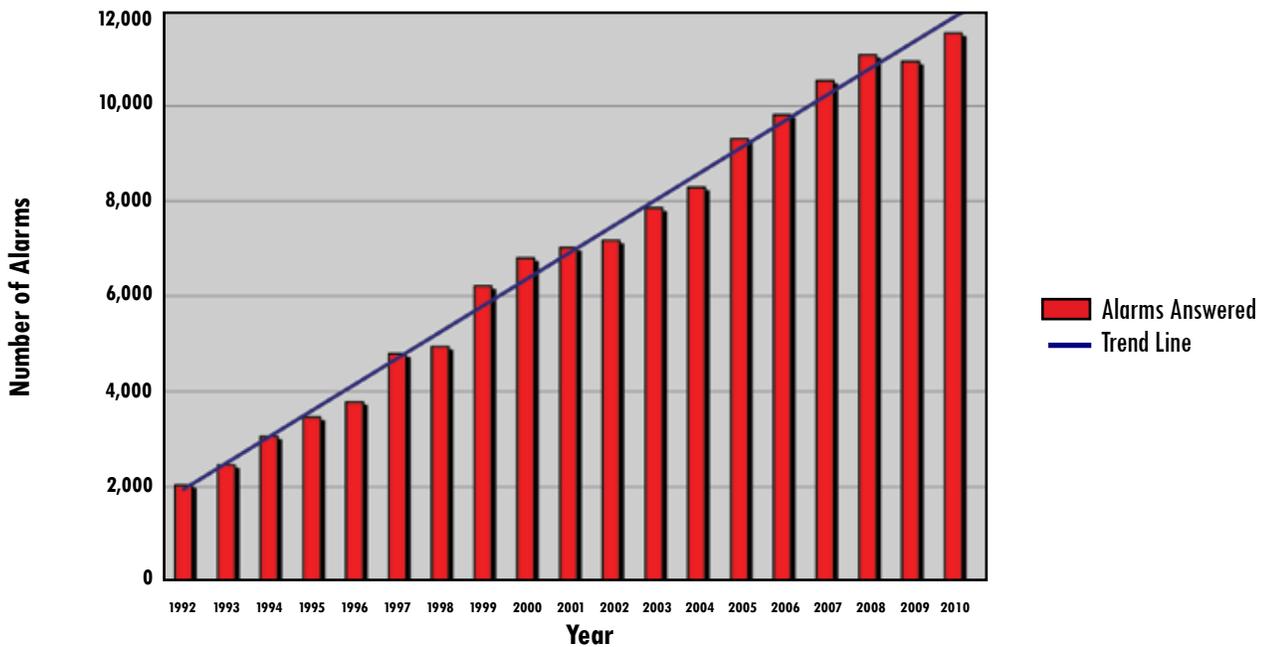
NUMBER OF TIMES DISPATCHED BY STATION IN 2010



RESPONSES BY INCIDENT TYPE IN 2010



ALARMS ANSWERED BY YEAR



In 2010, the Fire Department responded to 11,530 incidents. The total number of Fire Department emergency apparatus movements (a movement is any time an apparatus is dispatched from a station) was 13,079. As is evident, the demand for the county's emergency fire services has grown steadily over the years and this pattern of growth is expected to continue.





Fire Department Budget

The Forsyth County Fire Department 2010 budget was \$15,986,450. The Fire Department's primary funding source is the Fire Department millage rate. Additionally, funds from both Impact Fees and the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) provide the department funding for special projects and capital purchases.



Millage Rate

The Fire Department is funded by a separate property tax, or millage rate, rather than through the use of Forsyth County's General Fund resources. The Fire Department's 2010 millage rate was 1.975. Forsyth County's millage rates continue to be among the lowest in the metro Atlanta area.

Forsyth County Fire Department Millage Rate				
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1.765	1.765	1.765	1.841	1.975

Impact Fees

The Fire Department also receives funding from the county's Impact Fees program. Impact Fees are a charge on development to pay for the construction or expansion of capital improvements that are necessitated by and benefit the development. Forsyth County's Impact Fees program began in January 2004 and, as of December 31, 2010, has collected \$6,148,728 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

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. The current SPLOST program, SPLOST VI, was approved by Forsyth County voters 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. Proposed Fire Department projects to be funded by SPLOST VI include new Fire Stations 3, 4, 8, 11 and 16, and a new 100-foot aerial fire apparatus.



Educating community members about fire prevention and the dangers of fire is an important initiative of the Forsyth County Fire Department. In 2010, the Fire Department reached thousands of people through its various education programs.



Fire Safety Robot

45+

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

90

Fire safety events

110+

School visits

213

Adults reached with fire safety training through 12 different appointments

300+

Child safety seat inspections conducted to ensure proper installation

400+

Smoke detectors provided free of charge to senior citizens and residents in need, approximately 55 of which were also installed

16,000+

Children reached with fire safety message





2010 in Review



Memorial Day

Fire Department Honor Guard Receives VFW Public Safety Award

The Fire Department Honor Guard was recognized February 17 with the Public Safety Award from the local Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Benefit Motorcycle Ride Held for Firefighter

Nearly 100 motorcyclists took part in a benefit ride on April 10 to help Forsyth County Firefighter Mark Aycock.

Unclaimed Deceased Veterans Transported through Forsyth County

The Forsyth County Fire Department joined other local public safety personnel in paying tribute to unclaimed deceased veterans as they were transported through Forsyth County on April 20.

Firefighters Participate in Climb Atlanta Event

In April, five Forsyth County firefighters raced 50 stories to the top of Peachtree Towers in Atlanta during the Fight for Air Climb Atlanta Firefighter Challenge. Wearing full personal protection equipment, more than 100 firefighters participated in the challenge. The event promotes lung disease awareness and raises money for the American Lung Association. The following Forsyth County firefighters took part in the event: Firefighter/EMT Paul McAfee, Firefighter David Cody, Lt. Doug Gibson, Firefighter Kevin Lindsay and Firefighter Chance Adams.

Boot Drive Raises \$20,000

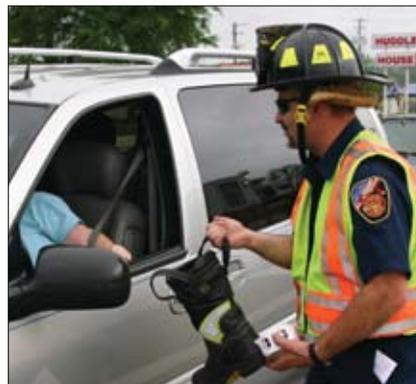
The generosity of the community was once again overwhelming as the Forsyth County Fire Department's 2010 Boot Drive generated nearly \$20,000 to support the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and local fire safety and burn prevention programs. The event was held in May on three consecutive Saturdays and was part of the "Give Burns the Boot"® boot drive. The Forsyth County Fire Department received 5 percent of the funds raised for use toward fire safety and burn prevention programs in the community.

Memorial Day Ceremony Held in Cumming

The Honor Guard participated in the May 28 Memorial Day Ceremony on Veterans Memorial Boulevard in Cumming.



Unclaimed Deceased Veterans Transport



Boot Drive Fundraiser



Benefit Motorcycle Ride



Fourth of July Parade

Participation in Fire/EMS Safety Week

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in the 2010 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (Safety Week) during the week of June 20-26. Safety Week is an event sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Fighters. The annual event aims to improve firefighter safety and health to give all a better chance of survival in emergencies and in the long-term. Fire departments across the U.S. and Canada took time during the week to go over the messages and resources to help achieve that goal.



Firefighter Drown Proofing Training

Firefighters Complete Drown Proofing Training

All Forsyth County Fire Department suppression personnel completed drown proofing training over a four day period in June. The training successfully taught firefighters to safely remove themselves from a body of water after falling in while in complete turnout gear and wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus.

Department Participates in Fourth of July Parade in Cumming

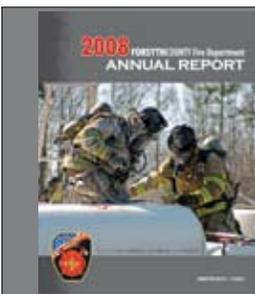
The Forsyth County Fire Department once again took part in the city of Cumming's annual Fourth of July parade downtown.



New Flag Pole Dedication

Honor Guard Helps Dedicate Flag Pole

The Honor Guard took part in a ceremony celebrating a new flag pole that was installed at the White Oaks Assisted Living Center on July 8.



2008 Annual Report Wins National Award

The Fire Department's 2008 Annual Report garnered an Excellence award in the annual reports category (magazine or newsletter format) of the National Association of County Information Officers 2010 Awards of Excellence Competition.





2010 in Review

County Earns Recertification as StormReady® Community

In 2007, the National Weather Service first designated Forsyth County as a StormReady® community after the county met stringent requirements to display readiness for severe weather events. In July 2010, Forsyth County had the honor of being recertified as a StormReady® community, signaling the county has continued to maintain a high level of severe weather preparedness.

County Receives Ambulance through Grant

A grant from St. Mary's Health Care System in Athens made it possible for Forsyth County to receive an ambulance to provide assistance for emergency medical calls. The ambulance was awarded in July to the Forsyth County Fire Department after St. Mary's outsourced its EMS service.

Ground Broken for New Fire Station 7

Forsyth County officials, staff, and guests gathered August 12 to break ground for the county's new Fire Station 7. New Fire Station 7 will be located at 6320 Dahlonega Highway, approximately 0.75 miles north of the current station at 5775 Dahlonega Highway. The new two double-bay, 7,333-square foot facility will replace current Fire Station 7 and will serve the Silver City area of north Forsyth County. The project is funded by SPLOST and Impact Fees, and is slated for completion in 2011.

Fire Department Remembers September 11

The Fire Department hosted a ceremony at the Forsyth County Administration Building to remember and honor those lost on September 11, 2001. Fire Chief Danny Bowman spoke at the ceremony, and the Honor Guard participated in the ceremony.

Firefighters Participate in September 11 Memorial Run

Wearing full personal protection equipment, Forsyth County firefighters ran 75 miles from the state capitol to the Georgia Public Safety Training Center as part of the September 11 memorial run. Taking part in the event were Lt. William Raines, Lt. Doug Gibson, Firefighter/EMT Johnny Capps, Lt. Shane Lively, Stephen Gardner, Lt. Amanda Gardner, Firefighter/EMT Jason Kidwell, Firefighter/EMT Brock Roddy, Firefighter/EMT Justin Roland and Firefighter/EMT Paul McAfee.

Department Graduates 13 New Recruits

In a ceremony held October 8, the Forsyth County Fire Department graduated 13 recruits, officially welcoming them as Forsyth County firefighters. The recruits completed 12 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.



Fire Station 7 Groundbreaking



September 11 Ceremony



September 11 Memorial Run



Recruit Class Graduation



Trunk or Treat



Veterans Day Ceremony



Swift Water Rescue Boat Grant Presentation



Aerial's House

Honor Guard Invited to National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

The Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard was once again invited to take part in the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in October at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The event pays tribute to fallen firefighters from throughout the United States.

Department Participates in Trunk or Treat

Personnel from the Forsyth County Fire Department, 911 Center and the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office joined together October 23 for the first "Trunk or Treat" event at Forsyth County's Central Park in an effort to promote a safe Halloween season and fire safety. More than 1,600 attended the event's debut. Many booths encompassing different aspects of safety were part of the event including "Stop, Drop and Roll" and costume safety inspections.

Department Takes Part in Veterans Day Ceremony

The Honor Guard participated in the Veterans Day Ceremony in Cumming on November 11.

Grant Received for Swift Water Rescue Boat

The Forsyth County Fire Department was honored on December 1 to receive a \$20,000 grant toward the purchase of a swift water rescue boat, which will allow for effective operations in shallow and quickly moving waters. The swift water rescue boat will be stationed at Fire Station 15, which is home to the Swift Water Rescue Unit. The grant was part of a nationwide program funded by CSI Insurance Agency and Fireman's Fund Insurance.

Fire Department Lines Up for Christmas Parade

Fire Department personnel and apparatus took part in the fifth annual Cumming Christmas Parade, held December 4 on Market Place Boulevard.

Firefighters Recognized at Forsyth Central High School Basketball Game

The Forsyth Central High School Booster Club invited the Forsyth County Fire Department to a December 7 home basketball game to recognize Fire Department personnel with a moment of gratitude for their service to country and community. Fire Department personnel took center court and led the opening ceremonies for the game, including the national anthem.

Aerial's House

The Fire Department's annual Aerial's House toy drive brightened the holidays for 2,485 local children in need. Generous donations from the community allowed the Fire Department to make Christmas possible for children who may otherwise not have received any gifts. Toys were collected at county fire stations, Fire Department Headquarters and the Forsyth County Administration Building.





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 2010.



January 25



April 15



July 2



August 9



March 31



Photo Courtesy:
Forsyth County News

January 4

Fire Department Patch



The original Forsyth County Fire Department patch was adopted more than 30 years ago and served the Fire Department until being decommissioned in the summer of 2004. With the naming of Danny D. 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 department 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.



“I can think of no more stirring symbol of man’s humanity to man, than a fire engine.”

- Kurt Vonnegut



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