

2012 ANNUAL REPORT FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department



FORSYTHCOUNTY

2013 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



R.J. (Pete) Amos
District 1 Commissioner
Chairman

Brian R. Tam
District 2 Commissioner
Secretary

Todd Levent
District 3 Commissioner

Cindy Jones Mills
District 4 Commissioner

Jim Boff
District 5 Commissioner
Vice Chairman

OUTGOING COMMISSIONER IN 2012



Patrick B. Bell

Forsyth County would like to thank outgoing Commissioner Patrick B. Bell (District 4) for his service to the citizens of this community.

Commissioner Bell left office at the end of 2012.

ADMINISTRATION



Doug Derrer
County Manager



Tim Merritt
Deputy County Manager

CONTENTS



- 4 Command Staff
- 5 Goals/Mission Statement
- 6 Message from the Fire Chief
- 7 Organizational Chart
- 8 Historical Overview
- 10 Fire Department Divisions
- 14 Fire Department Maps
- 16 Fire Stations and Facilities
- 20 Tools of the Trade
- 22 Fire Department Graphs
- 24 Fire Department Budget
- 25 Year of Progress
- 26 2012 in Review
- 30 Fire Department Patch
- 31 Memorial

ABOUT THE COVER

At their November 1, 2012 meeting, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners presented a Resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Forsyth County Fire Department. The presentation of the Resolution occurred exactly 40 years to the date of the creation of the Fire Department. The images on the cover of this publication represent different eras of the Forsyth County Fire Department.

This publication is dedicated to all of the men and women who have served in the ranks of the Forsyth County Fire Department.



The 2012 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



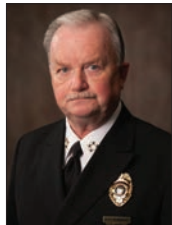
Brenda Green
Division Chief
Fire Administration

Kevin Wallace
Division Chief
Field Operations

Danny D. Bowman
Chief of Department and
Director, Emergency Management Agency

Jason Shivers
Division Chief
Technical Services

Barry Head
Division Chief
Fire Marshal's Office



Danny D. Bowman, Chief of Department and Director, Emergency Management Agency (EMA) 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 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.

Brenda Green, Division Chief of Fire Administration, oversees the day-to-day operations of the Fire Administration Division to include payroll, reporting, statistics, maintenance of personnel records, supervision of administrative staff and public assistance. Green joined the department in 1995, serving for 18 years as an administrative specialist; administrative specialist, senior; and administrative assistant, senior. Green also served in the Forsyth County Tax Commissioner's Office prior to joining the department. She is a board member of the Benefit Fund which provides assistance to families of fallen firefighters.



Kevin Wallace, Division Chief of Field Operations, oversees the field operations of the Forsyth County Fire Department including all fire stations, suppression personnel, and special operations sections. Since joining Forsyth County in 1987, he has held the titles of firefighter; Sheriff's deputy; fire lieutenant; fire inspector; fire investigator; deputy fire marshal; and fire marshal. Wallace has also served with the Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office and the Fulton County Fire Department and in 2012 was elected as the president of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association.



Barry Head, Division Chief, Fire Marshal's Office, manages and oversees the Fire Marshal's Office to include fire code enforcement, plan review and fire investigations. The Fire Marshal's Office also oversees the department's public safety education efforts. Since first joining Forsyth County in 1986 as a volunteer firefighter, Head has held the titles of firefighter; fire inspector; fire investigator; lieutenant; captain; and battalion chief. He also served previously in the positions of deputy sheriff, corporal and sergeant for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office.



Jason Shivers, Division Chief of Technical Services, manages the Technical Services Division of the Forsyth County Fire Department including the duties and personnel of the emergency medical services, motor maintenance, training, and quartermaster sections. He also serves as the department spokesperson and acts as a liaison with the county's Department of Communications. Additionally, the Technical Services chief 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. Since joining the department in 1998, he has held the positions of firefighter/EMT, fire lieutenant, and inspector general.



GOALS

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



“I pledge to each and every citizen that the dollars derived from the fire millage rate will be expended in a prudent, conservative manner.”

It is with a great sense of pride that I once again present to you the Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report. This document is meant to provide you a window into 1) the activities of your Fire Department over the past calendar year; 2) the future trends we anticipate in Cumming and Forsyth County; and 3) the manner in which your 1.975 mill fire tax is expended.

One of the statistics you will see in this report is that the Forsyth County Fire Department responded to 12,361 calls in 2012; nearly double that of 10 short years ago. On or before the 2020 Census, our best projections are that this emergency call volume will double again. To maintain our current five minute and 29 second average emergency response time, we will have to anticipate capital improvements needed (fire stations, fire apparatus, firefighting personnel, etc.) and population trends in our response area. To accomplish this, the annual Fire Department budget must be monitored carefully on a daily basis in an effort to provide top-of-the-line professional fire and emergency services required and expected by our citizens and visitors.

So as to maintain our current level of services we strive to build one fire station and purchase one fire apparatus per year. Our fire stations are designed to have a life expectancy of 50 years, and our fire apparatus 15 to 20 years. This is done in an effort to continue to provide quality, timely emergency services, and to never exceed the approved budget. The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners and the Office of the County Manager have always given their full support to these goals and objectives.

Several of the major projects accomplished in 2012 include:

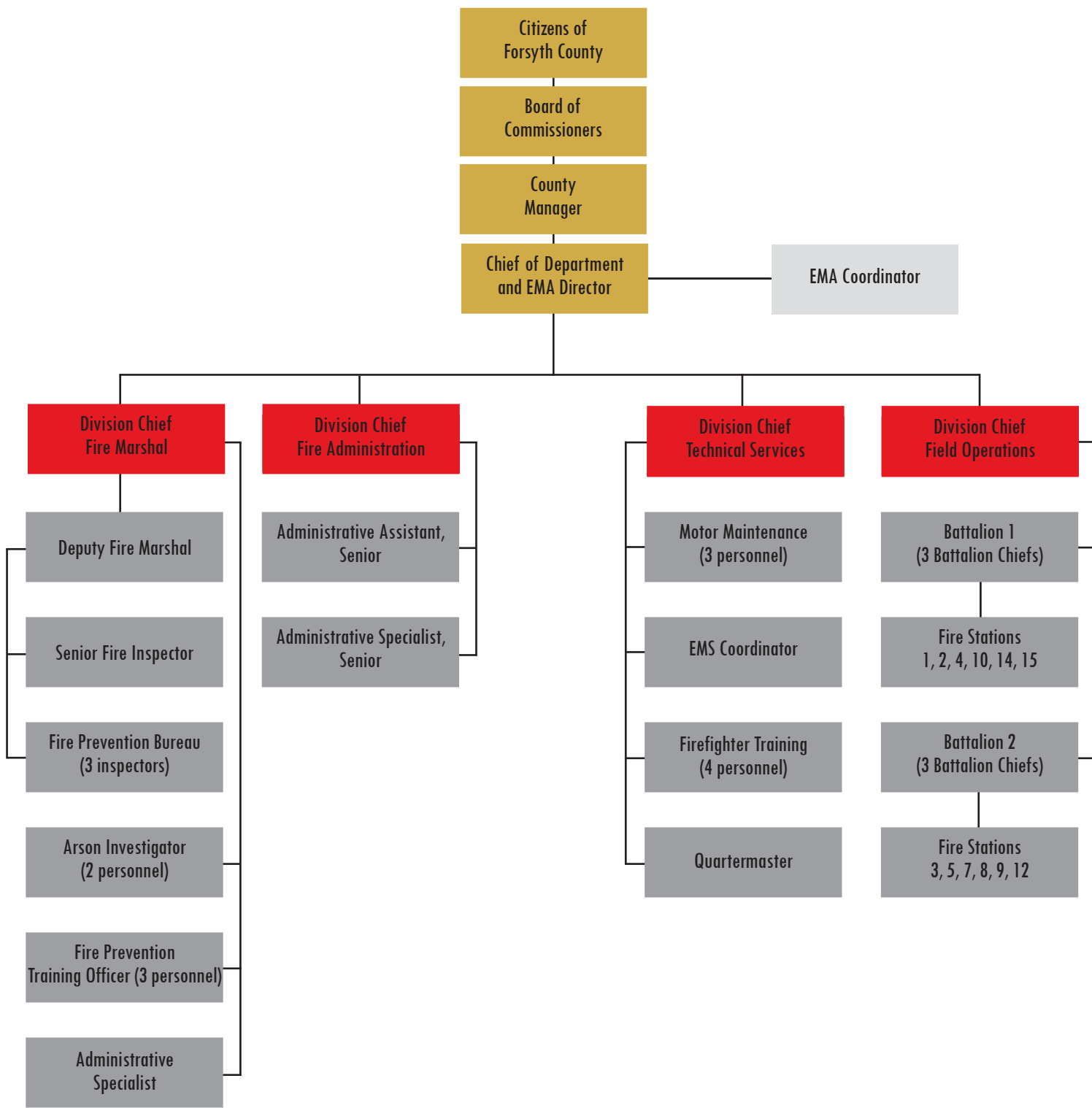
- Reorganization of the Forsyth County Fire Department which included placing in service the Second Battalion, and creating and filling the senior staff positions of division chiefs of Fire Administration, Technical Services, Field Operations, and Fire Marshal
- Completion and opening of new Fire Station 4 (Ducktown)
- Groundbreaking ceremony and beginning stages of construction of new Fire Station 3 (Wallace Tatum Road and State Route 369/Matt Highway)
- Placing in service of one (1) new fire engine for Fire Station 7 and one (1) new 100-foot hook and ladder for Fire Station 14
- Approval to proceed with purchase of three (3) new Pierce fire engines and three new command vehicles
- 2,400+ children provided holiday gifts by way of the “Aerial’s House” toy collection

I pledge to each and every citizen that the dollars derived from the fire millage rate will be expended in a prudent, conservative manner. Further, be assured that the protection of your family’s lives and property is not only our profession, but also our passion. As fire chief, I extend my sincerest appreciation for your trust and support.

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

Danny D. Bowman
Chief of Department
Director, Emergency Management Agency

2012 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2012 ANNUAL REPORT FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department



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.



Moore

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.



Forsyth County's first 30 full-time, career firefighters

Since those first 30 full-time, career firefighters joined Forsyth County, the Fire Department has grown tremendously. The Forsyth County Fire Department consisted of 129 full-time field suppression firefighter positions in addition to shift workers and a variety of administrative and support personnel in 2012.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW



Bennett



Bowman



Public Safety Complex

1972

Forsyth County Fire Protection Committee is created.

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, is the nation's largest volunteer fire department.

1990

Forsyth Fire Chief Norris Bennett is named Forsyth County's second 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.

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.

2010

Forsyth Fire Chief Danny D. Bowman is named Georgia Fire Chief of the Year.

2012

Forsyth County Fire Department commemorates its 40th anniversary.



DIVISIONS

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

The Fire Administration Division is supervised by the division chief of fire administration and manages the daily activities of the Fire Department Headquarters including human resources management, budget control and information technology.

2012 Fire Administration Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 2 administrative staff



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.



The Field Operations Division is supervised by the division chief of fire operations and manages all suppression activities and emergency response provided by the department's two battalions and 12 companies.

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 battalion chiefs. Each shift is assigned two battalion chiefs. These officers maintain field personnel records, field payroll and clock times, and command 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.

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 truck 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.

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.

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

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 van.

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.

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.

C.A.R.S. (Children Are Riding Safely)

This unit is the division of the fire department that is tasked with providing the public the proper training and expertise to ensure that the children of the community are properly protected while in motor vehicles. The members of this division voluntarily attain the designation of Child Safety Seat Technician and offer free car seat inspections and installation instruction.

2012 Field Operations Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 129 full-time firefighters
- 6 shift workers (12-hour shift)
- 12 volunteer firefighters



DIVISIONS

FIRE MARSHAL

The Fire Marshal's Office is supervised by the division chief, fire marshal and manages the fire code enforcement, plan review and fire investigations missions of the department.

2012 Fire Marshal Numbers

- 1 division chief, fire marshal
- 1 deputy fire marshal
- 1 senior fire inspector
- 3 fire inspectors
- 2 arson investigators
- 3 fire prevention training officers
- 1 administrative specialist



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 cause cannot be immediately determined.

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.

The Forsyth County Fire Department continued special events during 2012 in an effort to better educate the community and to help prevent fires before they occur. The Fire Camp and Junior Fire Academy were free opportunities for local youth to learn more about the Forsyth County Fire Department and fire and life safety. The second annual Forsyth County Fire Safety Poster Contest took place in early 2012 with the winners being recognized in May (see page 26 for details). The Trail 'N Treat event continued in 2012 in an effort to educate youth and their parents on the importance of Halloween safety.



Educating community members about fire prevention and the dangers of fire is an important initiative of the Forsyth County Fire Department. In 2012, the Fire Department reached thousands of people through its various education programs.

- 11,200+** Adults and children reached with a structured fire safety presentation
- 2,400+** Adults and children reached through safety day programs and the Trail 'N Treat event
- 250+** Child safety seat inspections conducted to ensure proper installation
- 190** Fire safety events
- 140+** Adults trained in the proper use of a fire extinguisher
- 95+** Smoke detectors or batteries in smoke detectors replaced, provided free of charge to senior citizens and residents in need
- 84** School visits
- 9+** 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

TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Technical Services Division is supervised by the division chief of technical services and manages the training, emergency medical services, motor maintenance and quartermaster missions of the department.

2012 Technical Services Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 1 EMS coordinator
- 3 motor maintenance staff
- 2 full-time training staff
- 2 part-time training staff
- 1 quartermaster



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.

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.

Training

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



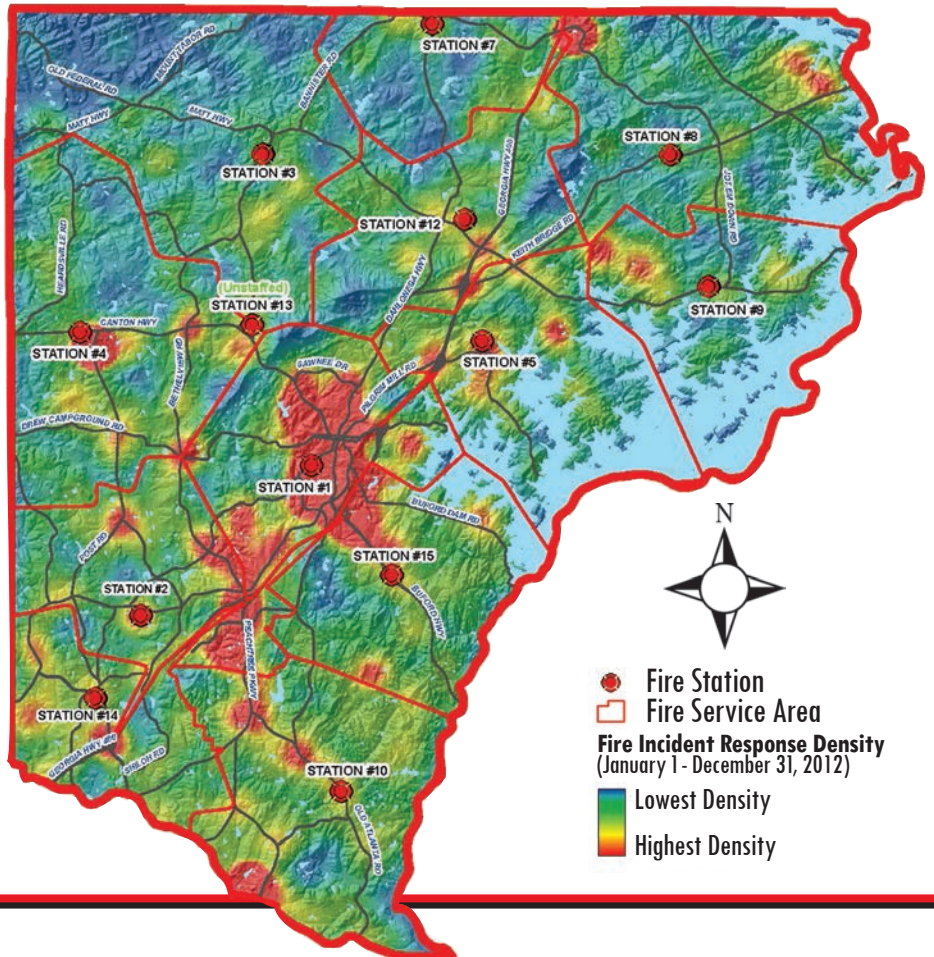
FIRE DEPARTMENT MAPS

EXISTING FACILITIES



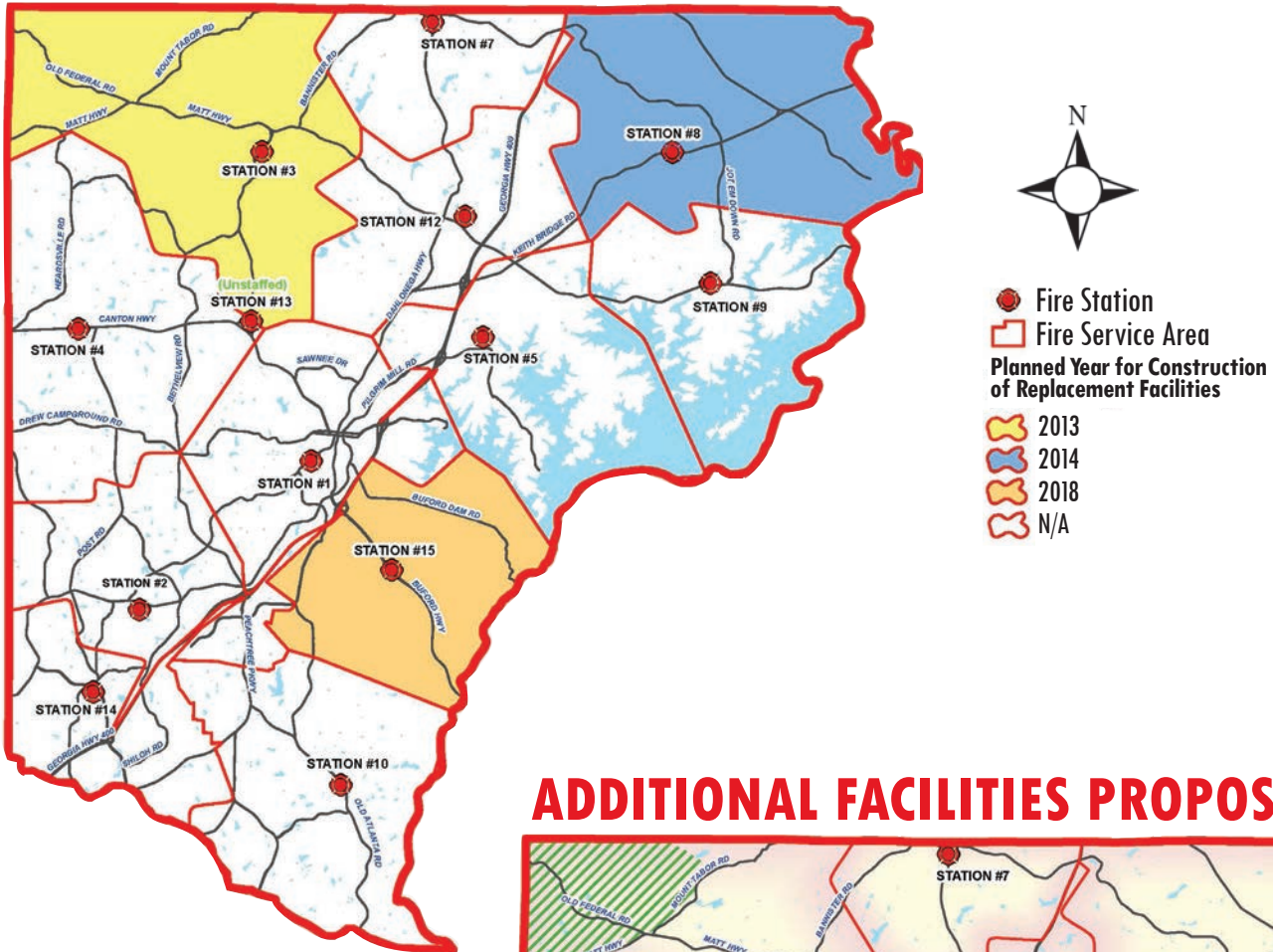
- Fire Station
- Fire Service Area

FIRE INCIDENT HOT SPOTS

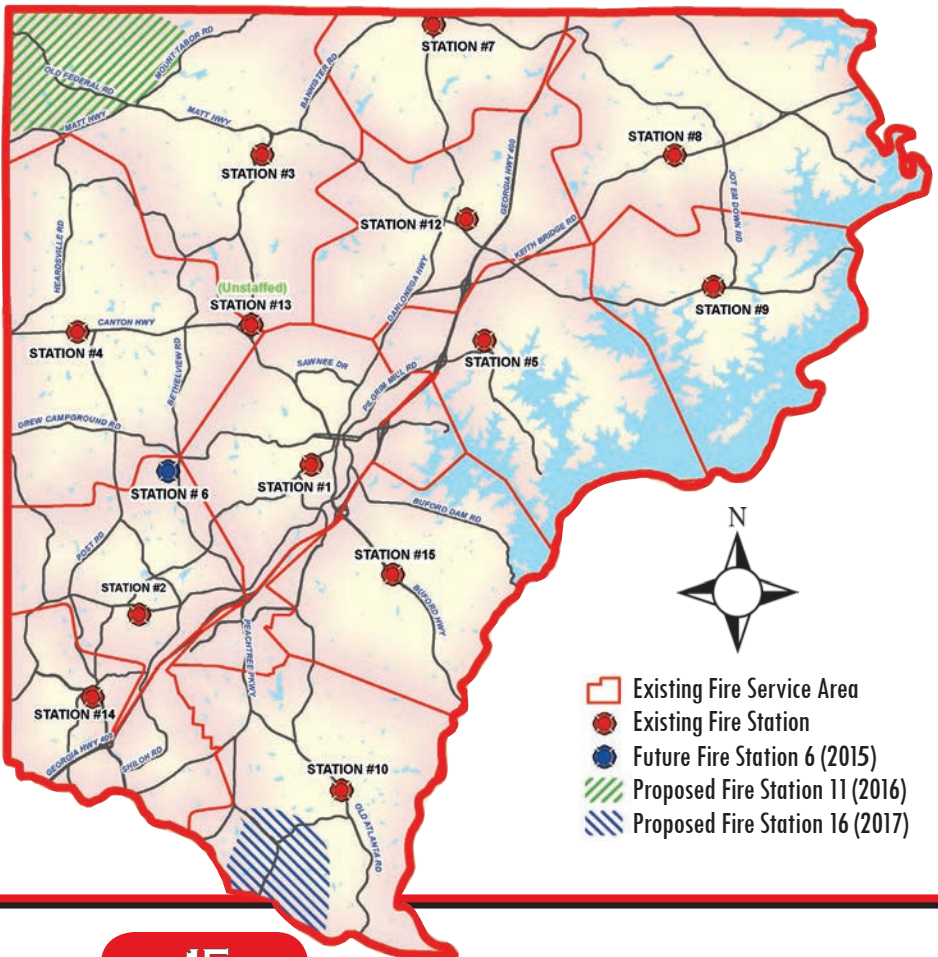


- Fire Station
- Fire Service Area
- Fire Incident Response Density (January 1 - December 31, 2012)**
- Lowest Density
- Highest Density

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 in 2007
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of five firefighters
- Houses Engine 1, Truck 1, and Med 1
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST V funds, Impact Fees and General Fund reserves

STATION 2



- Located on 3.04 acres at 4055 Carolene Way
- Four double bays
- Opened in 2007
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses the Office of the First Battalion, 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

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 three firefighters
- Houses Engine 3 and Brush Truck 3
- Construction began in 2012 for a new two double-bay Station 3 located at 6495 Wallace Tatum Road using a combination of SPLOST VI funds and Impact Fees. The new station is slated for completion in summer 2013.

STATION 4



- Located on 3.32 acres at 3910 Evans Road
- Two double bays
- Opened in November 2012
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 4 and Light/Air 4
- Constructed 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 are owned by Forsyth County and 0.75 acres is leased from the Forsyth County Board of Education
- Two double bays
- Opened in 2005
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 5, Tanker 5 and Brush Truck 5
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Wildland/Urban Interface Unit

STATION 7



- Located at 6320 Dahlonega Highway
- Two double bays
- Opened in 2011
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 7 and Tanker 7
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST V funds and Impact Fees

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 three 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 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three 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 three 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 in 2006
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses the Office of the Second Battalion, 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



- 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
- Utilized as a storage facility for reserve units
- No plans are currently in place 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 five firefighters
- Houses Engine 14 and Truck 14
- Received new concrete apron and parking area in 2009
- Received new heating and air conditioning systems, a new septic system and a new bay drainage system in 2011

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 three 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, the Fire Marshal's Office, and the divisions of Fire Administration, Field Operations, and Technical Services

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

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Hand tools

The pickhead ax and the roof hook tool are commonly utilized while fighting a fire or ventilating a structure.

Protective gear and helmet with eye protection

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

Chain saw

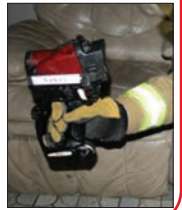
Adapted from the common civilian version, a firefighter's chainsaw is routinely used to ventilate structures, cutting through doors, walls or roofs.

Ladder

The ladder is one of the most basic tools a firefighter uses. In varying situations and configurations, they are used to reach any number of heights.

Thermal imaging camera

A tool of modern technology, the thermal imaging camera allows firefighters to see heat signature thus allowing them to find hidden sources of fire, victims or injured firefighters.



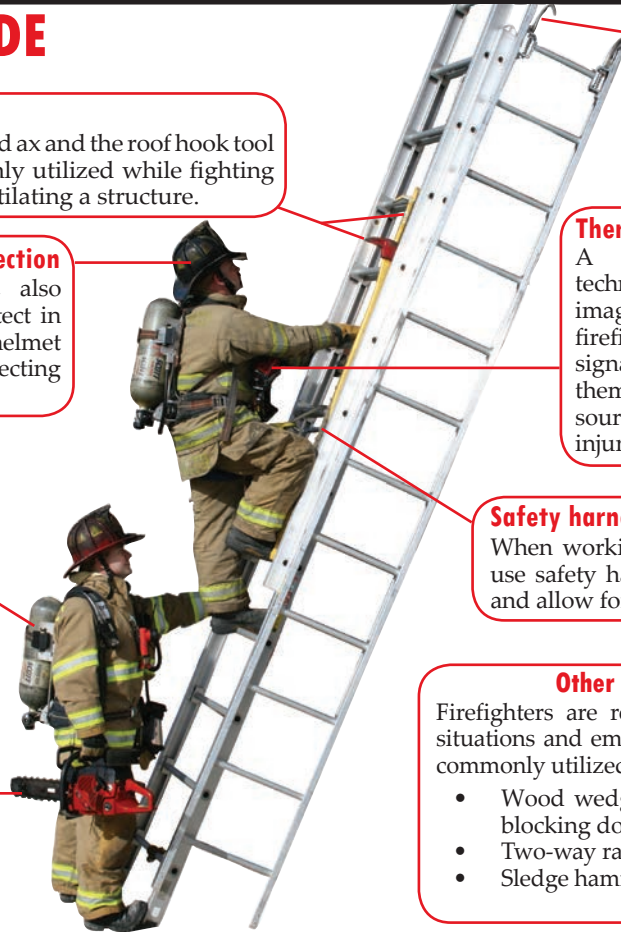
Safety harness

When working from elevated positions, firefighters use safety harnesses to secure them to their ladder and allow for a safe working position.

Other 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
- Hydrant wrench
- Rope
- Roof hook
- Rotary saw



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.

- Truck 1 is a 2004 Pierce tiller-drawn 100-foot heavy duty ladder with a built-in waterway.
- Truck 14 is a 2012 Pierce tiller-drawn 100-foot heavy duty ladder 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 Fire Station 12.

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 Fire Station 12.



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 Fire Station 2 and was purchased using grant funds in 2005.
- In 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 an old truck and trailer vehicle.



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 alone.

- Three brush trucks were put in service in 2005, one each housed at Fire Stations 3, 5 and 10. 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.



Wildland ATV

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

- One wildland ATV, purchased in 2005, is housed at the Fire Station 12 and has a 60-gallon capacity tank with a 60-gallon per minute pump.



ATV

The versatile ATV assists in responding to medical emergencies or small fires during events in and around the Cumming Fairgrounds and other locations. This ATV performs these missions well on recreational trails and in crowded, compact environments.

- One ATV, put in service in 2011, is housed at Fire Station 1.



Mini Ambulance

The gas-powered mini-ambulance is specifically designed as a lightweight vehicle for emergency medical response along the Big Creek Greenway and within the Fowler Park complex.

- One mini ambulance, put in service in 2012, is housed at Fire Station 2.



Dive Van

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

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

Swift Water Rescue Boat

The Forsyth County Fire Department was honored in 2010 to receive \$20,000 toward the purchase of a swift water rescue boat, which allows for effective operations in shallow and quickly moving waters.

- The swift water rescue boat is stationed at Fire Station 15, which is home to the Swift Water Rescue Unit.

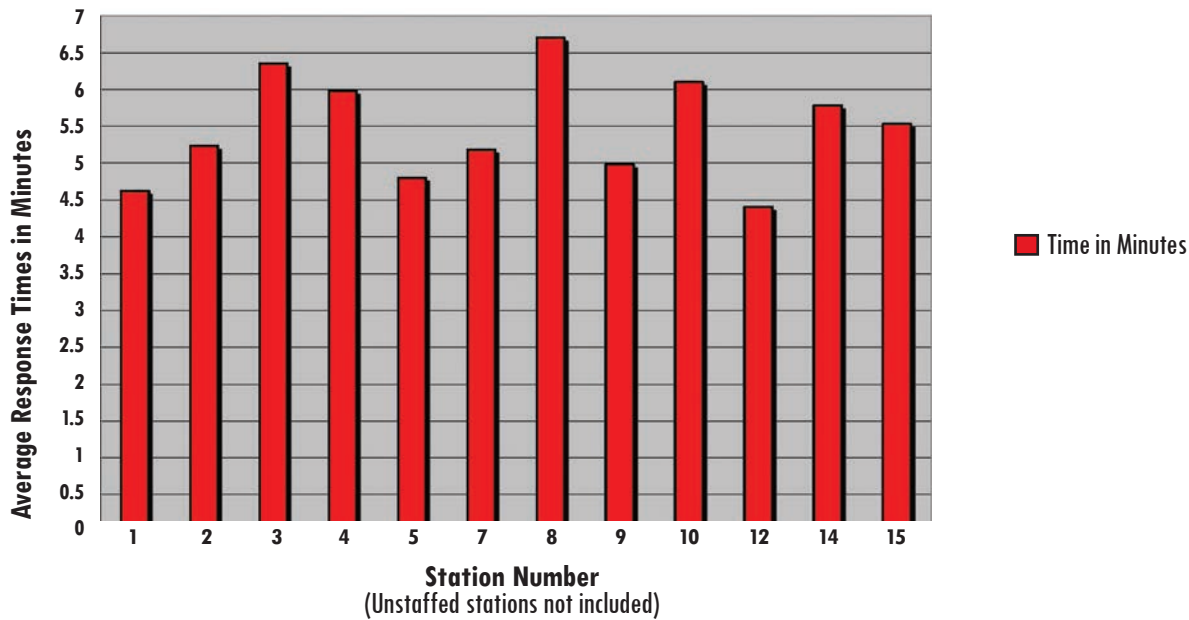


Pontoon Boat

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



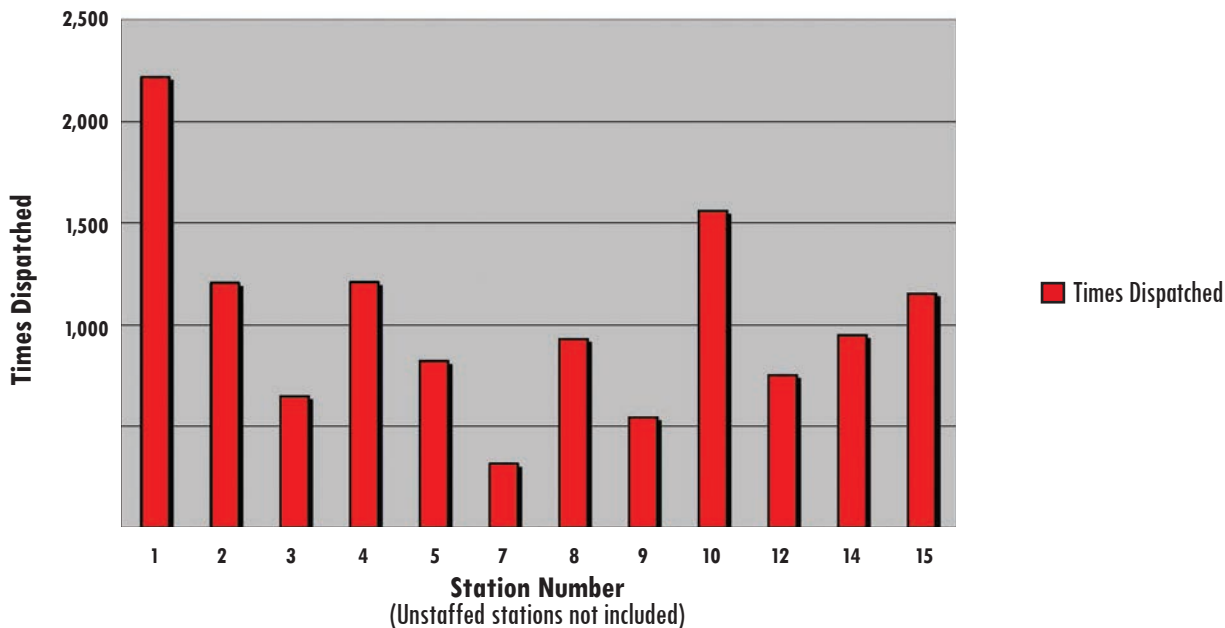
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES BY STATION IN 2012



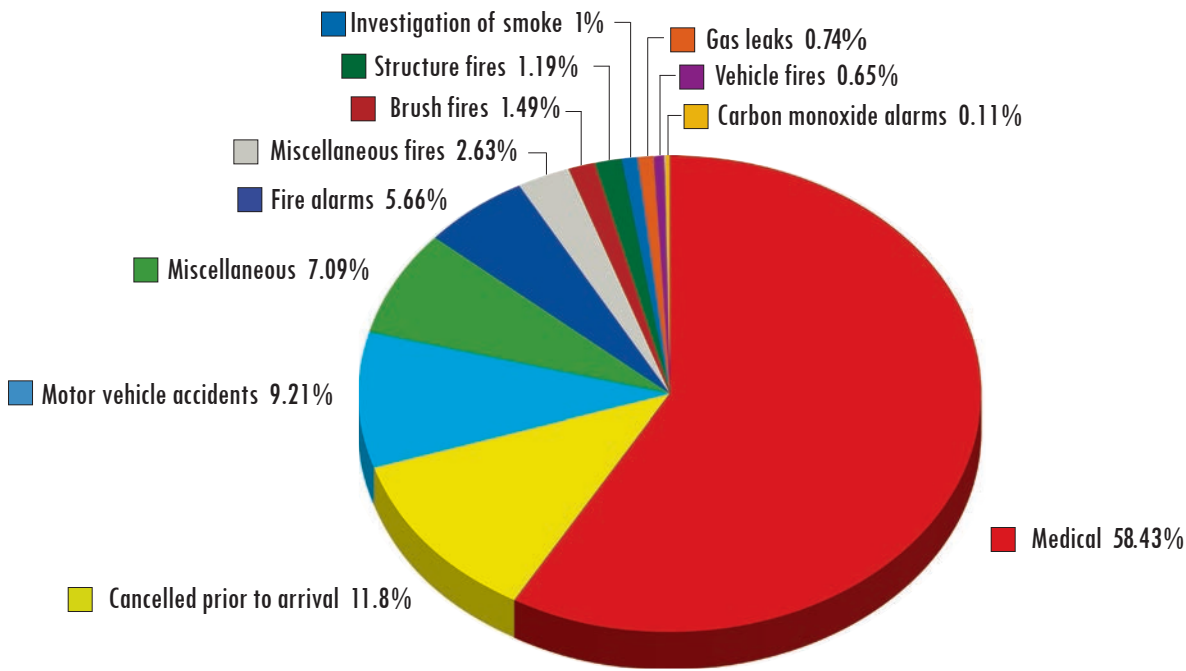
The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2012 average response time for on-scene arrival was five minutes and 29 seconds.* Fire station response times vary as a result of travel distances and other factors. In 2013, the department will continue to evaluate response times and seek ways to improve service to the community.

*Source: Forsyth County Fire Department Research Library

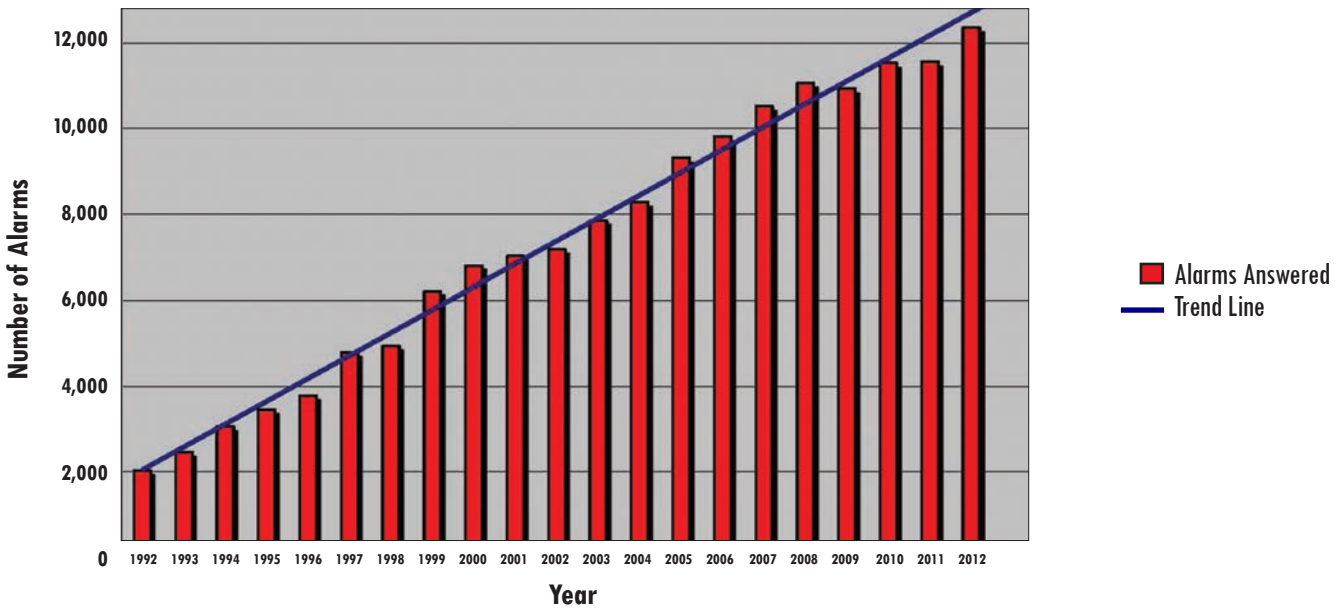
NUMBER OF TIMES DISPATCHED BY STATION IN 2012



RESPONSES BY INCIDENT TYPE IN 2012



ALARMS ANSWERED BY YEAR



In 2012, the Fire Department responded to 12,361 incidents. The total number of Fire Department emergency apparatus movements (a movement is any time an apparatus is dispatched from a station) was 13,277. 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.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The Forsyth County Fire Department 2012 budget was \$17,120,106. 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 2012 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				
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1.765	1.841	1.975	1.975	1.975

Impact Fees

The Fire Department also receives funding from the county's Impact Fee 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 Fee program began in January 2004 and, as of December 31, 2012, has collected \$7,281,700.12 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. Projects funded by SPLOST VI include new Fire Station 4, new Fire Station 3 and a new 100-foot aerial fire apparatus. Proposed Fire Department projects to be funded by SPLOST VI include new Fire Stations 8, 11 and 16.



2012: A YEAR OF PROGRESS

As the Forsyth County Fire Department celebrated its 40th year in 2012, the department reflected on past accomplishments and celebrated continued progress.

The department welcomed two new pieces of firefighting apparatus in July – a new 100-foot aerial fire apparatus, often referred to as a ladder truck, and a new engine. The new Truck 14 (ladder truck) is housed at Fire Station 14 located on McFarland Parkway in south Forsyth County. It was funded by the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program, SPLOST VI. It is the county's second ladder truck, joining Truck 1 which is housed at Fire Station 1 in downtown Cumming. The new engine is housed at new Fire Station 7 which opened in 2011 in the Silver City community in north Forsyth County. Funding for Engine 7 came from the Fire Department budget. The county has twelve staffed engines currently in service.

Both new units replaced aging apparatus which are now a part of the department's reserve fleet. Reserve apparatus are temporarily called into service while front-line units undergo any required maintenance.

In September, the department gathered to break ground for new Fire Station 3. New Fire Station 3 will be located on Wallace Tatum Road in the Matt area of northwest Forsyth County. It will replace the current Fire Station 3 located nearby on Doctor Bramblett Road.

The department celebrated the opening of new Fire Station 4 in the Ducktown community in November. This new two-bay, approximately 7,333-square foot station located at 3910 Evans Road was funded by the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Program, SPLOST VI, and by Impact Fees.

Also in 2012, the department purchased a gas-powered mini ambulance specifically designed as a lightweight vehicle for emergency medical response along the Big Creek Greenway and the Fowler Park complex. While the mini ambulance is not designed for fire suppression, the vehicle does have the capacity to carry two personnel and a stretcher for one adult patient. Funding for the mini ambulance came from the Fire Department budget.



Groundbreaking for New Fire Station 3



Grand Opening of New Fire Station 4



New Mini Ambulance



New Ladder Truck and Engine

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department



Fire Safety Poster Contest Held for Second Year

The Forsyth County Fire Department held its second Fire Safety Poster Contest by inviting all local third grade students to display their artistic talents while promoting a commitment to fire safety. The three winners were: Noah Wetz, a student at Whitlow Elementary; Wesley McGee, a student at Whitlow Elementary; and Connor Slabiak, a student at Whitlow Elementary. The three runners up were: Mason Chester, a student at Sawnee Elementary; Julie-Claire Anderson, a student at Sharon Elementary; and Kayden Shuster, a student at Matt Elementary. The three winners and three runners up had the honor of having their artwork displayed in county buildings and were recognized during the May 3 meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.



Ghost Out Informs Young Drivers about Driving Dangers

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in the annual Ghost Out demonstration April 27 at North Forsyth High School. Conducted each spring, this exercise is an accurate depiction of a motor vehicle accident and the resulting emergency response required. The event is intended to stress the dangers of drinking and driving and distracted driving to young drivers. The Ghost Out is strategically scheduled each year before local proms and typically attendance is mandatory by students of the hosting high school.

Annual Boot Drive Fundraiser Raises More Than \$20,000

The generosity of the community was once again overwhelming as the Forsyth County Fire Department's 2012 Boot Drive generated more than \$20,000 to support the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and local fire safety and burn prevention programs. The event was held on three consecutive Saturdays 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.



Memorial Day Ceremony Held in Cumming

The Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard participated in the May 25 Memorial Day Ceremony on Veterans Memorial Boulevard in Cumming.



Participation in Fire/EMS Safety Week

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in the 2012 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (Safety Week) during the week of June 17. 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.

Second Annual Fire Camp, Junior Fire Academy Held

In June, the Forsyth County Fire Department hosted the second annual Fire Camp and Junior Fire Academy for local youth. The programs provided attendees the opportunity to experience the different aspects of being a career firefighter. Both the Fire Camp and Junior Fire Academy were held at the Fire Department Headquarters on Settingdown Road in Cumming.

Department Participates in Safety Town

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in the instruction of young children in important safety tips during several Safety Town camps hosted by Forsyth County Parks and Recreation in June and July. Safety Town teaches children about safety awareness and preventive safety measures. Forsyth County Fire Chief Danny Bowman addressed the camp's graduates during a graduation ceremony held on the last day of each session.

Fourth of July Parade

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

New Ladder Truck, Engine Put in Service

In July, the Forsyth County Fire Department welcomed into its fleet two new pieces of firefighting apparatus. A new 100-foot aerial fire apparatus, often referred to as a ladder truck, and a new engine were put in service. The new Truck 14 is housed at Fire Station 14 and was funded by the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program, SPLOST VI. The new Engine 7 is housed at Fire Station 7 with funding coming from the Fire Department budget.

Department Promotes Four

The Forsyth County Fire Department promoted four personnel in a ceremony held August 10. Family, friends and Fire Department staff attended the ceremony, which was held at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex. During the ceremony, three personnel were promoted to the rank of division chief and one to the rank of lieutenant. The three division chief positions were newly created positions, established as part of a reorganization within the Fire Department. Brenda Green was formally promoted to the rank of division chief, fire administration; Captain Jason Shivers was formally promoted to the rank of division chief, technical services; and the department's fire marshal, Kevin Wallace, was transferred to the position of division chief, field operations. Firefighter II Keith Pertschi was formally promoted to the rank of lieutenant during the ceremony.



2012 ANNUAL REPORT FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department



Second Battalion Created

As part of the department's reorganization in 2012, a Second Battalion was placed in service. Previously, the entire county was served by one battalion chief each day, who oversaw all 12 of the department's companies. Creation of the Second Battalion provides for two battalion chiefs to be on duty each day, one in the north portion of the county and one in the south portion of the county, each overseeing six companies. Increased alarm volume and departmental growth necessitated the addition of the Second Battalion.

Ground Broken for New Fire Station 3

Ground was broken on September 26 for the county's new Fire Station 3. New Fire Station 3 will be located on Wallace Tatum Road in the Matt area of northwest Forsyth County. It will replace current Fire Station 3 which is located nearby on Doctor Bramblett Road. The new station will be designed for 24-hour occupancy, which the existing station, constructed by volunteers in 1981, was not.

Construction of the new two-bay, approximately 7,333-square foot facility is funded by the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Program, SPLOST VI, and Impact Fees. It is slated for completion in summer 2013.



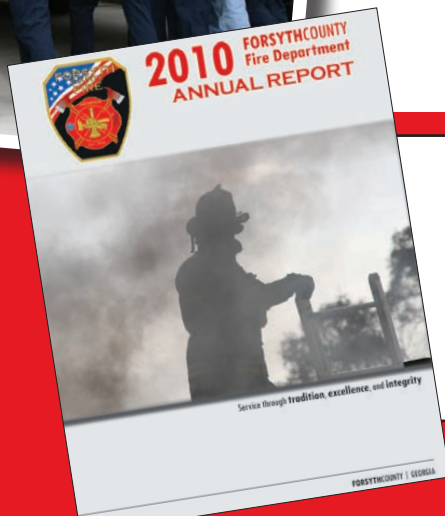
Opening of New Fire Station 4

On November 14, Forsyth County officials, staff, citizens and guests gathered for the official opening of the county's newest fire station. New Fire Station 4, located in the Ducktown area of western Forsyth County, was officially opened with a ceremonial uncoupling of a fire hose.

New Fire Station 4 is located at 3910 Evans Road, adjacent to old Fire Station 4 which it replaced. That structure had been built by volunteers in 1974 and had far exceeded its life expectancy. The new station was designed for 24-hour occupancy which the former station was not. It provides increased bay capacity better suited to house the fire apparatus stationed there, and also includes a ventilation system to clean the air, aimed at protecting firefighters' health.

Construction of the new two-bay, approximately 7,333-square foot station was funded by the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Program, SPLOST VI, and by Impact Fees.

New Fire Station 4 sits on the site of the former Ducktown Community School.



2010 Annual Report Wins Two NACIO Awards

The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2010 Annual Report received national accolades, garnering two awards in the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) 2012 Awards of Excellence Competition. The publication received a 'Superior' award in the competition's annual reports category. Then, from amongst all of the award winners in the annual reports category, the Forsyth County Fire Department publication was named 'Best in Class.'

Fire Department Remembers 11th Anniversary of September 11

The Forsyth County Fire Department held a brief ceremony remembering and honoring those lost on September 11, 2001. The ceremony was held at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex.



Honor Guard Invited to National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

The Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard was once again invited to play a critical role during the 31st Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend October 5-7 at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Honor Guard members served in a variety of capacities, including serving as family escorts and logistics officers. The annual event pays tribute to fallen firefighters from throughout the United States.



Department Takes Part in Halloween Safety Event

Personnel from the Forsyth County Fire Department, 911 Center and Forsyth County Sheriff's Office joined together October 27 for the Trail 'N Treat event at Forsyth County's Coal Mountain Park in an effort to promote a safe Halloween season and fire safety. Many booths encompassing different aspects of safety were part of the event including "Stop, Drop and Roll" and costume safety inspections.

Honor Guard Participates in Veterans Day Ceremony

The Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard participated in the Veterans Day Ceremony held in downtown Cumming on November 9.



Fire Department Lines Up for Christmas Parade

Fire Department personnel and apparatus took part in the seventh annual Cumming Christmas Parade, held December 1 on Market Place Boulevard.

Aerial's House

The Fire Department's annual Aerial's House toy collection brightened the holidays for more than 2,400 local children in need. Generous donations from the community allowed the Fire Department to help make Christmas possible for children who may otherwise not have received any gifts. Toys were collected at county fire stations, Fire Department Headquarters, the Forsyth County Administration Building, and county libraries.



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

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.



MEMORIAL



IN MEMORY OF MARK AYCOCK

Barry Mark Aycock passed away on February 7, 2012. Aycock joined the Forsyth County Fire Department in June 2001, becoming a firefighter following service in the United States Navy.

Most recently, Mark worked at Fire Station 15. He was a proud member of the department's Dive Unit and Swift Water Rescue Unit. Mark's spirit, positive outlook and professionalism are greatly missed.

“OUR OBJECTIVE SHALL BE THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM AND DURING SUCH FIRES AS MAY OCCUR IN FORSYTH COUNTY.”

– INITIAL DRAFT
FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS
NOVEMBER 30, 1972



FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department
3520 Settingdown Road
Cumming, GA 30028
www.forsythco.com
770.781.2180 (phone)
770.781.2194 (fax)

