

2015

Forsyth County
Fire Department
Annual Report



2016 Board of Commissioners



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Service through
Tradition,
Excellence,
and Integrity

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 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 is past president of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association.

Jason Shivers, Division Chief of Technical Services, manages the Technical Services Division 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. Shivers has the honor of holding a seat on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1901, 1906, 1911 and 1912 committees governing national fire apparatus standards and also serves as the department's 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.

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.

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.



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Danny D. Bowman

Chief of Department
Director, Emergency Management Agency

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

The Forsyth County Fire Department motto of ‘Service through tradition, excellence and integrity’ is a mantra by which your entire fire department lives each and every day. The words are simple but their meaning is sincere. The fire department exists for one purpose – to serve the community. We are committed to carrying out that service in such a manner as to honor those who have served before us and to build upon their legacies; to provide the very best service possible; and to be honest, trustworthy and reliable members of our community. It is with that sentiment in mind, that I present to you the 11th edition of the Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report. This document is meant to give 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.

As one might expect, the fire department’s call volume continues its upward trend. The Forsyth County Fire Department responded to 13,283 calls in 2015; nearly 30% more than that of 10 short years ago and more than 3% higher than in 2014. To maintain our current five minute, 59 second average emergency response time, we will have to anticipate capital improvements needed (fire stations, fire trucks, 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. I pledge to every citizen that the dollars derived from the fire millage rate will be expended in a prudent, conservative manner.

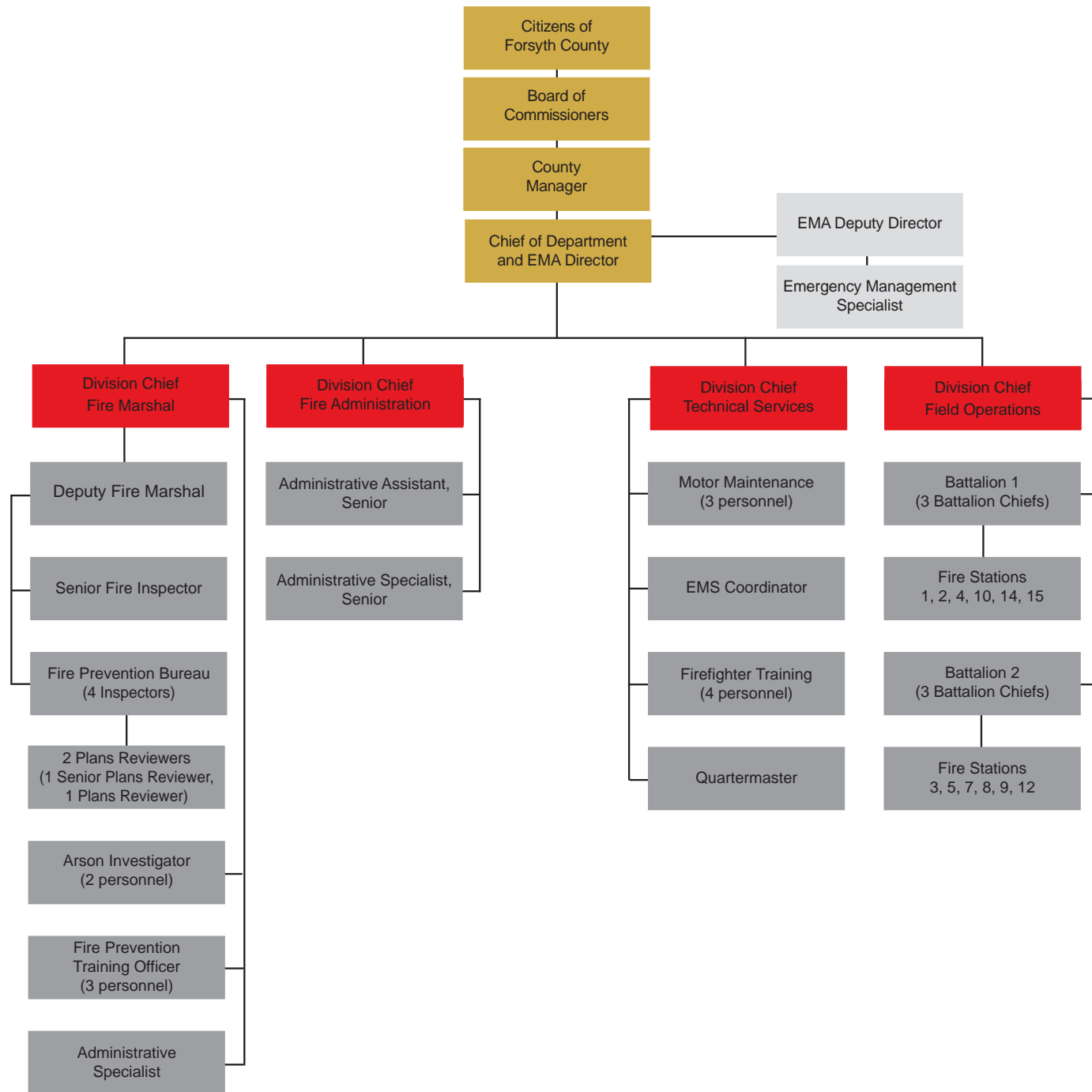
So that we are able to maintain our current level of services, we strive to build at least one fire station and purchase one fire engine per year. Our station houses are constructed in such a manner as to have a life expectancy of 50 years, and our fire trucks 15 to 20 years. This is done in an effort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

Some of the major projects accomplished in 2015 are:

- The bid to construct replacement Fire Station 8 (four stalls) adjacent to the existing location was approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- The county closed on the property upon which to construct new Fire Station 6 (four stalls) just off State Route 141 at the intersection of Brookwood Road and Caney Road; the bid to construct the new fire station was approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- Apparatus and staffing for new Fire Station 6 was addressed, as the order was placed for new Engine 6 and funding was established for a full complement of 15 full-time personnel.
- 1,800+ children were provided holiday gifts by way of the Aerial’s House toy collection.

As fire chief I sincerely thank you for your trust and support.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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1972

Forsyth County Fire Protection Committee is created. First training session for volunteer firefighters is called.

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

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.

2012

Forsyth County Fire Department commemorates its 40th anniversary.

2013

In his 10th year as chief of department, Danny D. Bowman receives a Governor's Public Safety Award for "contribution to profession."

2015

Insurance Services Office notifies Forsyth County it has received a fire insurance reclassification from 5 to 3, 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 rolls, 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 those first 30 full-time, career firefighters joined Forsyth County, the Fire Department has grown tremendously. In 2015, the Forsyth County Fire Department consisted of 156 full-time field suppression firefighter positions in addition to a variety of administrative and support personnel.

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 and budget control.

2015 Fire Administration Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 1 administrative assistant, senior
- 1 administrative assistant



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 staffs daily the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the Public Safety Complex. In times of major emergencies, the EOC is activated to serve as the central operations location for critical public safety agencies of Forsyth County. The EMA is comprised of the director, deputy director and an emergency management specialist.



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DIVISIONS | FIELD OPERATIONS

The Field Operations Division is supervised by the division chief of field 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. This unit responds with a shallow water running swift water rescue boat.

DIVISIONS | FIELD OPERATIONS

2015 Field Operations Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 6 battalion chiefs
- 39 fire lieutenants
- 111 firefighters

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

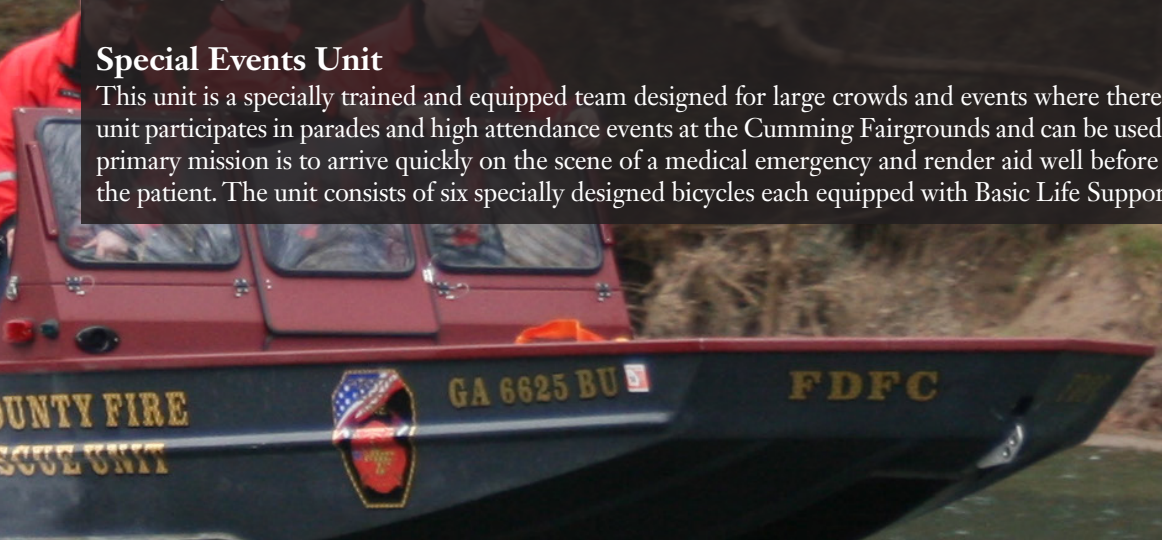
This unit responds to highly specialized and detailed rescues involving any number of incidents. The personnel respond out of Fire Station 12 with a heavy rescue vehicle and a technical rescue truck and trailer combination unit. The unit responds to and rescues victims from building collapses, trench 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, Md.

Special Events Unit

This unit is a specially trained and equipped team designed for large crowds and events where there is very little room for vehicle access. The bicycle unit participates in parades and high attendance events at the Cumming Fairgrounds and can be used for response along the Big Creek Greenway. The primary mission is to arrive quickly on the scene of a medical emergency and render aid well before a fire apparatus or ambulance can make access to the patient. The unit consists of six specially designed bicycles each equipped with Basic Life Support medical gear.



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2015 Fire Marshal Numbers

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

21,731	Adults and children reached with a structured fire safety presentation
11,561	Adults and children reached through community events, including Trunk or Treat, the Senior Expo and festivals
927	Smoke alarms or batteries in smoke alarms replaced free of charge to senior citizens and residents in need
2,916	Adults trained in the proper use of a fire extinguisher
499	Fire safety events
446	Child safety seat inspections conducted to ensure proper installation
130	Visits to schools and daycares
14	Events attended by the Fire Safety House, a mobile classroom designed to aid in teaching children what to do in case of a fire in their home

DIVISIONS | FIRE MARSHAL

The Fire Marshal Division is supervised by the division chief, fire marshal and manages the fire code enforcement, plans review and fire investigations missions of the department, as well as the department's public safety education efforts.

Fire Marshal's Office

This division contains personnel for building plans 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.

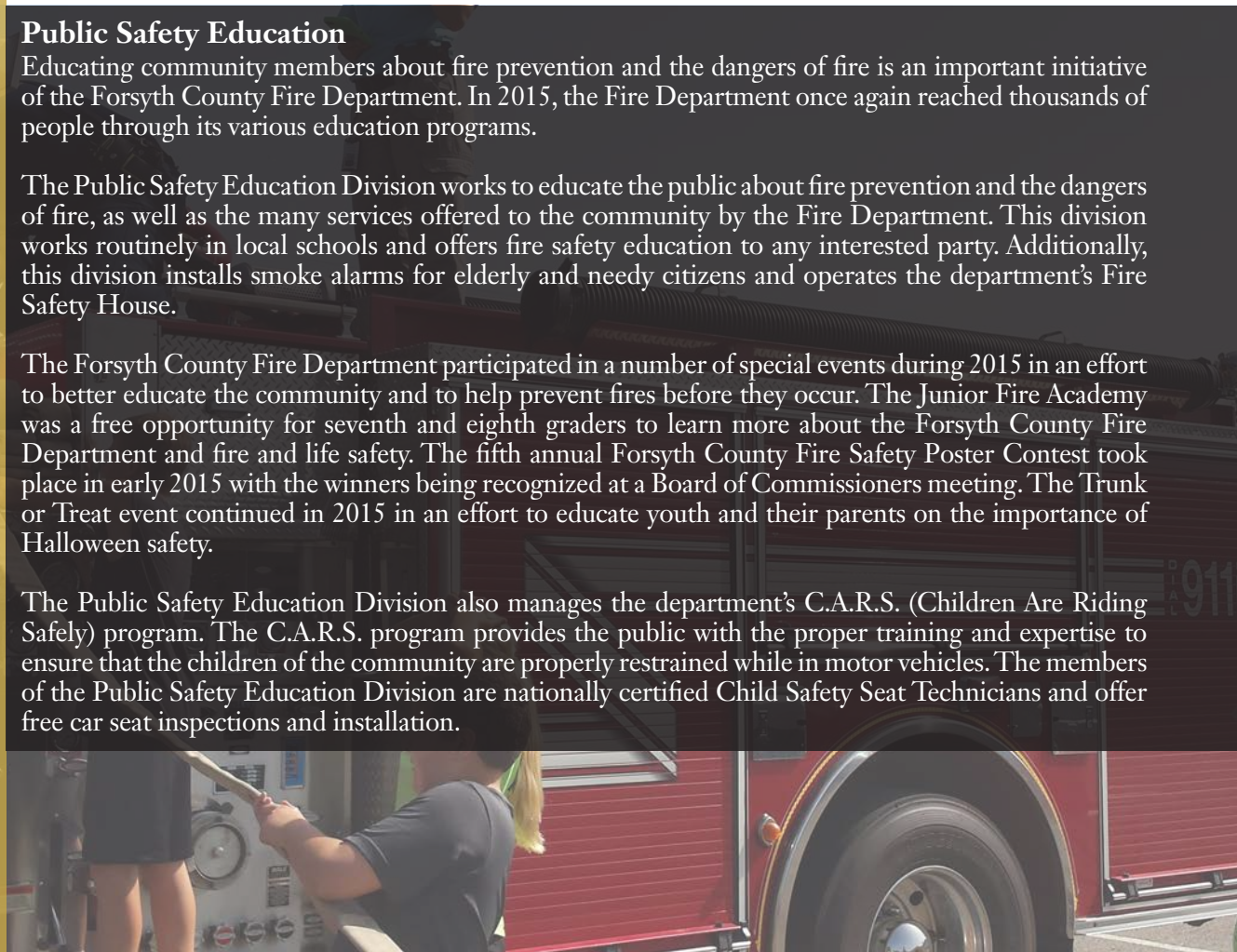
Public Safety Education

Educating community members about fire prevention and the dangers of fire is an important initiative of the Forsyth County Fire Department. In 2015, the Fire Department once again reached thousands of people through its various education programs.

The Public Safety Education 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 alarms for elderly and needy citizens and operates the department's Fire Safety House.

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in a number of special events during 2015 in an effort to better educate the community and to help prevent fires before they occur. The Junior Fire Academy was a free opportunity for seventh and eighth graders to learn more about the Forsyth County Fire Department and fire and life safety. The fifth annual Forsyth County Fire Safety Poster Contest took place in early 2015 with the winners being recognized at a Board of Commissioners meeting. The Trunk or Treat event continued in 2015 in an effort to educate youth and their parents on the importance of Halloween safety.

The Public Safety Education Division also manages the department's C.A.R.S. (Children Are Riding Safely) program. The C.A.R.S. program provides the public with the proper training and expertise to ensure that the children of the community are properly restrained while in motor vehicles. The members of the Public Safety Education Division are nationally certified Child Safety Seat Technicians and offer free car seat inspections and installation.



DIVISIONS | TECHNICAL SERVICES

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

2015 Technical Service Numbers

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



Emergency Medical Services Coordinator

This office contains one captain overseeing all medical training and emergency medical services quality control and acting as the 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.

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-stall 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.

Quartermaster

This office is held by one captain serving as the Fire Department supply officer. The quartermaster ensures the field is supplied with tools and uniforms and 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.

Training

This division trains personnel in all matters of field suppression and rescue functions. This division consists of three full-time officers and one part-time employee. 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.

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EXISTING FIRE STATIONS

Station 3



Station 7



Station 12



Station 8



Station 4



Station 1



Station 14



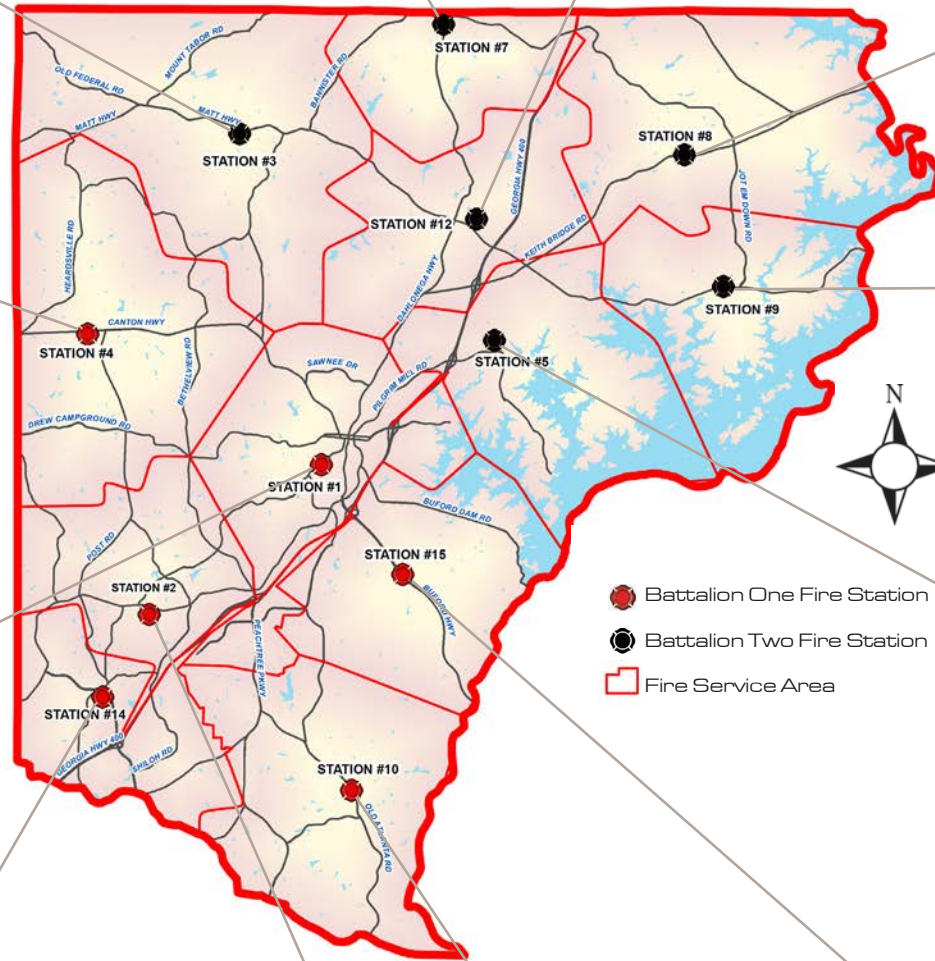
Station 2





Station 10



Station 15



-  Battalion One Fire Station
-  Battalion Two Fire Station
-  Fire Service Area

BATTALION ONE

Station 1



- Located on 2.41 acres in downtown Cumming at 234 Castleberry Industrial Drive
- Four stalls
- Opened in 2007
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of five firefighters
- Houses the Office of the First Battalion, Engine 1, Truck 1 and Med 1

Station 2



- Located on 3.04 acres at 4055 Carolene Way
- Four stalls
- Opened in 2007
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 2, Med 2, Haz-Mat 2 and the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Decontamination Unit
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit

Station 4



- Located on 3.32 acres at 3910 Evans Road
- Two stalls
- Opened in 2012
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 4 and Light/Air 4

Station 10



- Located on 1.5 acres at 3680 Old Atlanta Road
- Two stalls
- Constructed in 1999 and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 10, Med 10 and Brush Truck 10

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Station 14



- Located on 1 acre at 800 McFarland Parkway
- Two stalls
- Constructed in 1994 and expected to last through 2019
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of five firefighters
- Houses Engine 14 and Truck 14

Station 15



- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Buford Highway
- Two stalls
- Constructed in 1999 and expected to last through 2018
- 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

Station 3



- Located on 3 acres at 6495 Wallace Tatum Road
- Two stalls
- Opened in 2013
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 3, Brush Truck 3 and Med 3

Station 5



- Located at 2720 Holtzclaw Road 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 stalls
- 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

BATTALION ONE

BATTALION TWO

BATTALION TWO

Station 7



- Located at 6320 Dahlonge Highway
- Two stalls
- Opened in 2011
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 7 and Tanker 7

Station 8



Artist Rendering of New Fire Station 8

- The old station at 6015 Keith Bridge Road was razed in March 2016 to allow for construction of a new station on adjacent property
- New Station 8 will be four stalls
- New Station 8 is expected to open in 2017 and will have 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 8
- Construction of the new station is funded by a combination of SPLOST VI funds and Impact Fees

Station 9



- Located on 1 acre at 7385 Browns Bridge Road
- Two stalls
- Constructed by volunteers in 1989 and expected to last through 2017
- 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

Station 12



- Located at 3530 Settingdown Road as part of the Public Safety Complex
- Four stalls
- 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

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FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

Fire Headquarters



- Located in the Public Safety Complex at 3520 Settingdown Road
- Houses the Office of the Fire Chief and the divisions of Fire Administration, Fire Marshal, 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

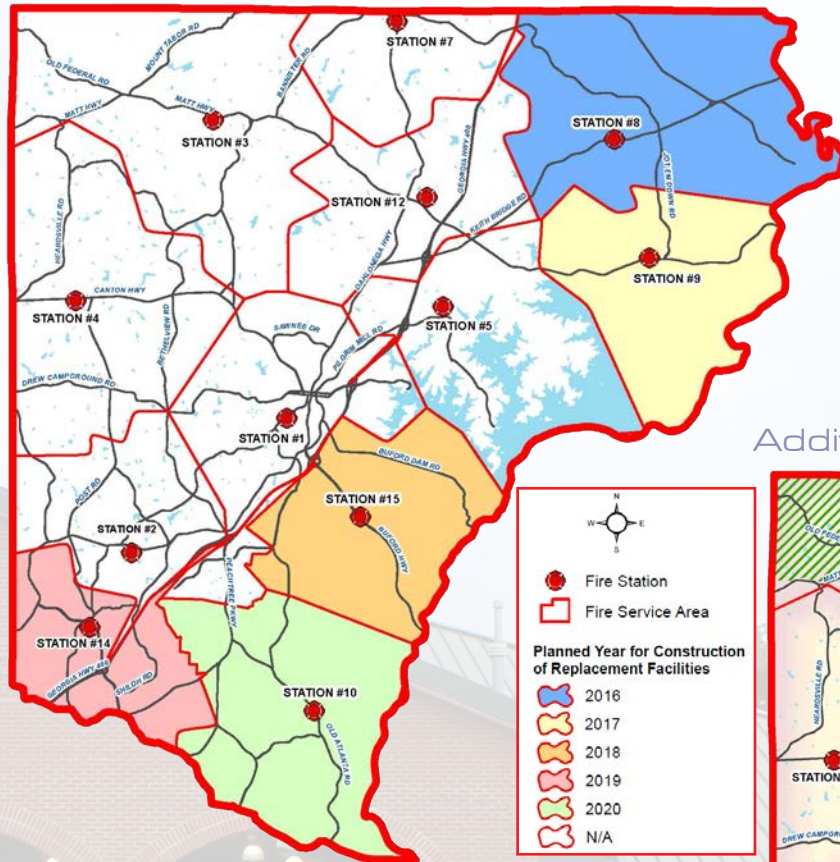
Motor Maintenance Facility



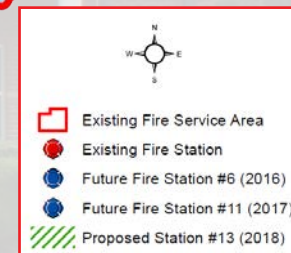
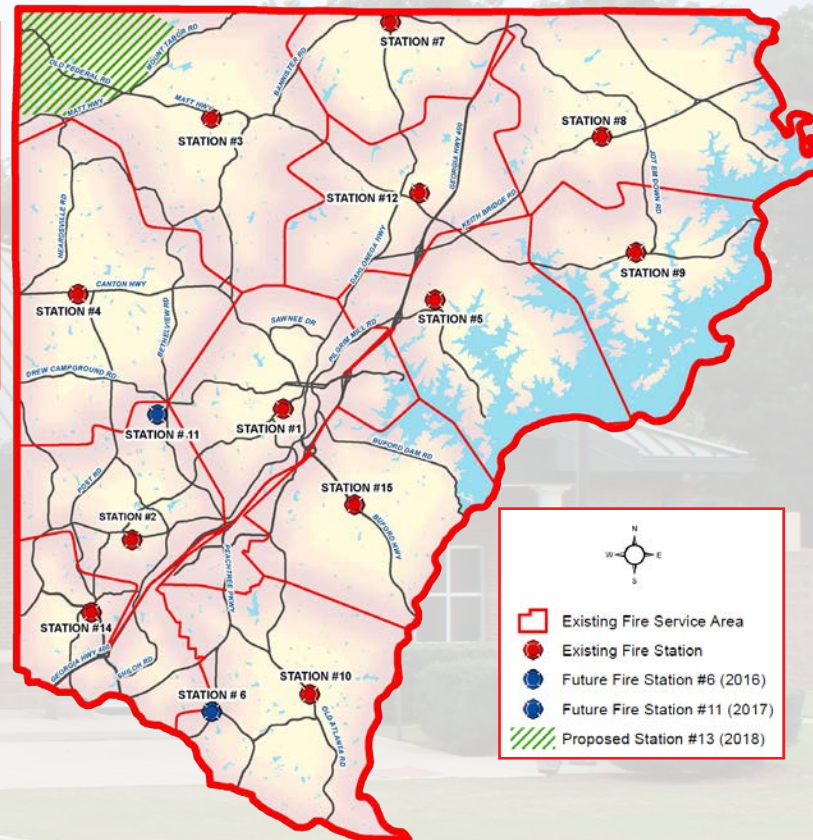
- Located adjacent to the Forsyth County Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed in the mid-1990s
- Services all Fire Department apparatus and vehicles
- Includes a pump testing facility, three parts rooms, one light duty lift and six heavy truck lifts

FUTURE FACILITIES

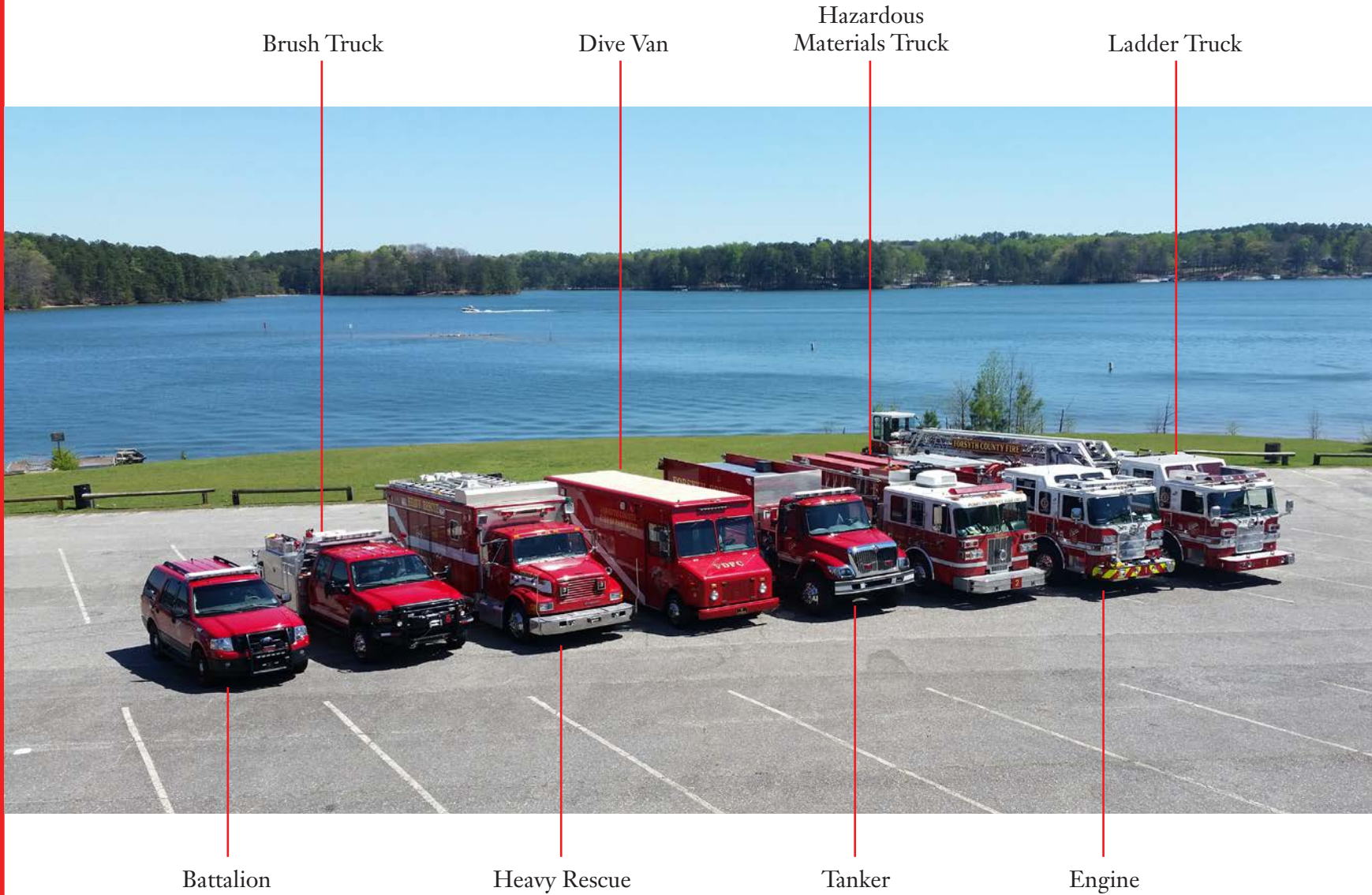
Replacement Facilities Construction By Year



Additional Facilities Planned and Proposed



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SPECIALTY APPARATUS

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 specially designed and 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 Fire Station 3 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, Sawnee Mountain 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.

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.

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.

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.

Special Events Unit Bicycles

The bicycles of the Special Events Unit are specially designed for emergency medical response. They are ruggedized tools designed for the demanding rigors of public safety and require operators who are specially trained for this unit's mission.

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.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The Forsyth County Fire Department 2015 budget was \$18,564,500. 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 2015 millage rate remained at 1.975. Forsyth County's millage rates continue to be among the lowest in the metro Atlanta area.

Fire Millage Rate 2010 - 2015					
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1.975	1.975	1.975	1.975	1.975	1.975

Impact Fees

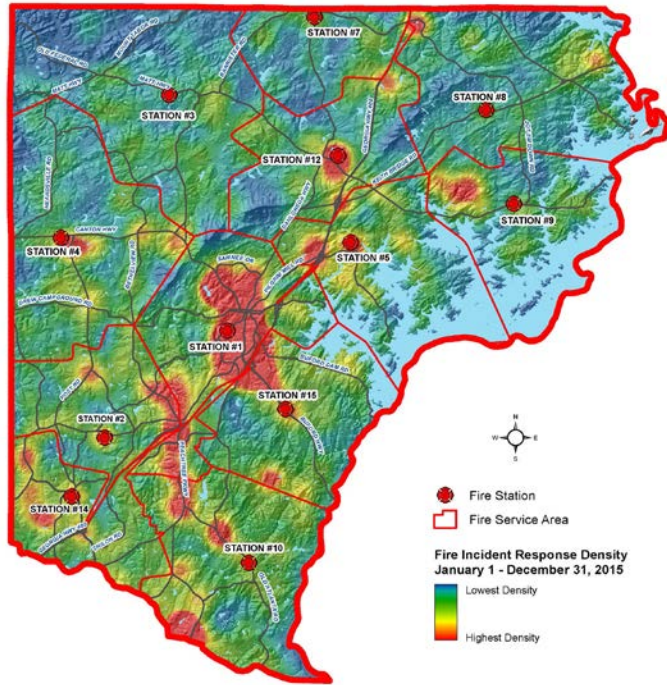
The Fire Department also receives funding from the county's Impact Fee program. Impact Fees are a charge on development to pay for the construction or expansion of capital improvements that are necessitated by and benefit the development. Forsyth County's Impact Fee program began in January 2004 and, as of December 31, 2015, has collected \$9,616,465.78 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 VII, was approved by Forsyth County voters in November 2011 and went into effect July 1, 2013. The SPLOST VII program anticipates \$3.9 million in funding for scheduled fire apparatus replacement.

2015 BY THE NUMBERS

Fire Incident Hot Spots



Gallons of water transported in the department's apparatus

17,900

Number of fire-based training hours conducted and received by fire department personnel in 2015

52,660



Height in feet of the ladders on the department's trucks

1,649

247

Total square miles within Forsyth County (including a portion of Lake Lanier) covered by the Forsyth County Fire Department

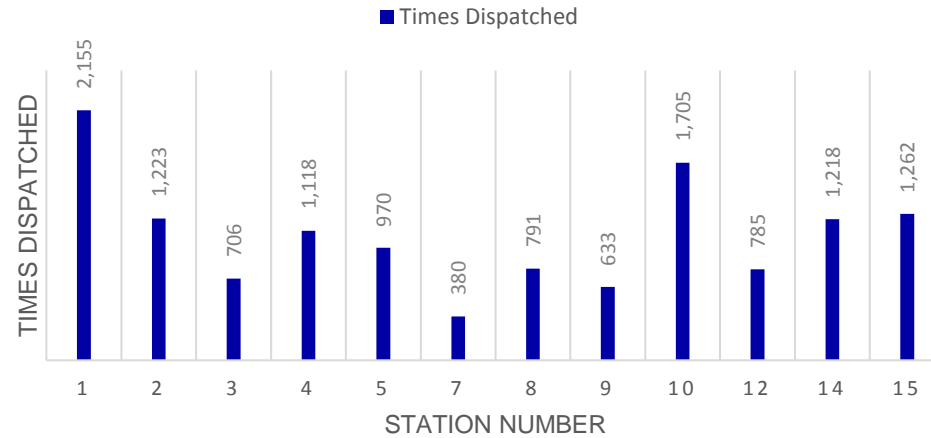


Length of hose in miles carried by fire apparatus

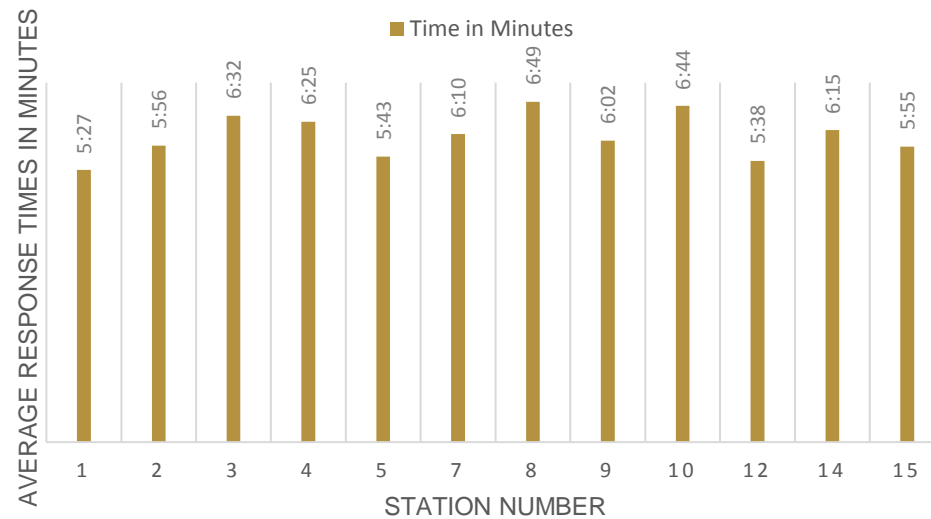
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Number of Times Dispatched by Station in 2015



Average Response Times by Station in 2015

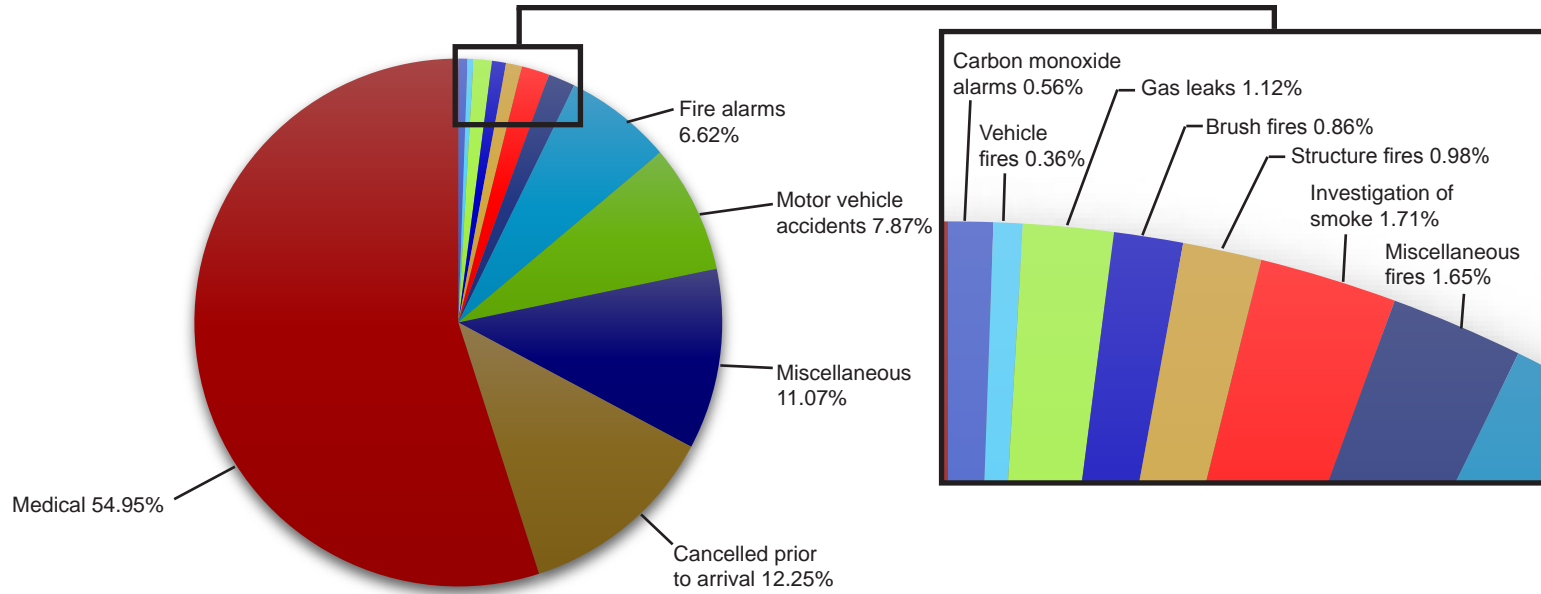


The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2015 average response time for on-scene arrival was five minutes and 59 seconds*, down from six minutes and 42 seconds* in 2014. Fire station response times vary as a result of travel distances and other factors.

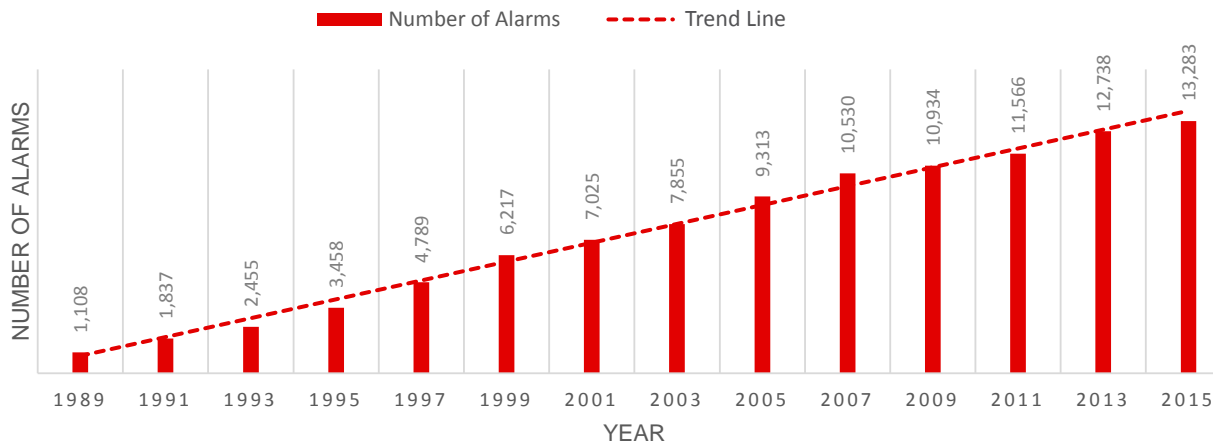
*Source: Forsyth County Fire Department Research Library

2015 BY THE NUMBERS

Responses by Incident Type in 2015

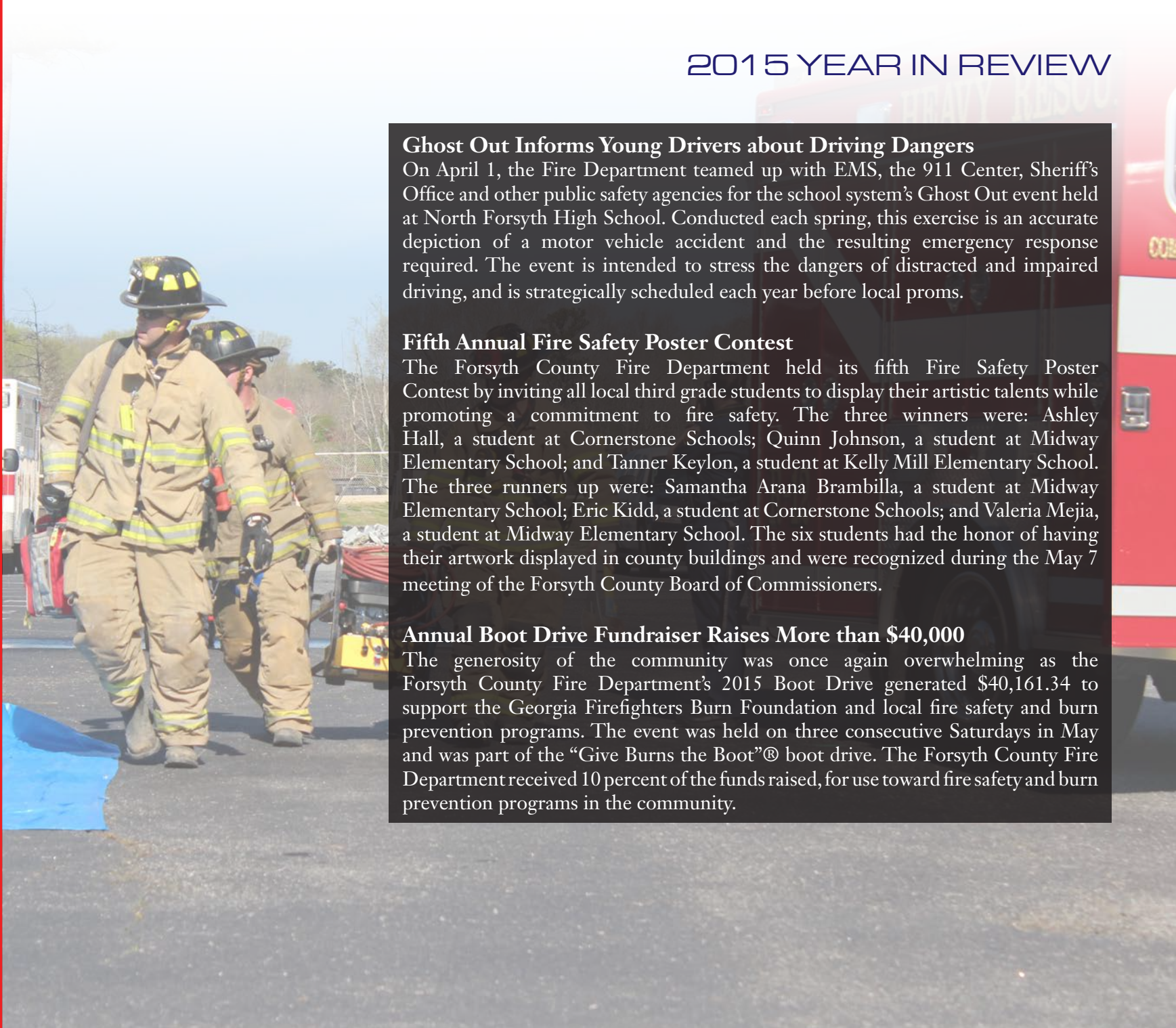


Alarms Answered by Year



In 2015, the Fire Department responded to 13,283 incidents. The total number of Fire Department emergency apparatus movements (a movement is any time an apparatus is dispatched from a station) was 14,967. 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.

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Ghost Out Informs Young Drivers about Driving Dangers

On April 1, the Fire Department teamed up with EMS, the 911 Center, Sheriff's Office and other public safety agencies for the school system's Ghost Out event held 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 distracted and impaired driving, and is strategically scheduled each year before local proms.

Fifth Annual Fire Safety Poster Contest

The Forsyth County Fire Department held its fifth 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: Ashley Hall, a student at Cornerstone Schools; Quinn Johnson, a student at Midway Elementary School; and Tanner Keyton, a student at Kelly Mill Elementary School. The three runners up were: Samantha Arana Brambilla, a student at Midway Elementary School; Eric Kidd, a student at Cornerstone Schools; and Valeria Mejia, a student at Midway Elementary School. The six students had the honor of having their artwork displayed in county buildings and were recognized during the May 7 meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

Annual Boot Drive Fundraiser Raises More than \$40,000

The generosity of the community was once again overwhelming as the Forsyth County Fire Department's 2015 Boot Drive generated \$40,161.34 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 10 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.

Insurance Services Office Rating Improved

In June, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) announced that both Forsyth County and the city of Cumming received an improved ISO rating following a study conducted in late 2014 and early 2015. The study audited Forsyth County's ability to serve the public through an examination of three key areas of public safety. Fire protection, E-911 service and water services were studied in an in-depth analysis, so as to appropriately define the ISO rating for Forsyth County residents and business owners. The analysis was followed by months of study and evaluation by ISO, which resulted in an improvement of the county's rating from a 5 to a 3. Those located within five road miles of a fire station will benefit from the rating change from a 5 to a 3. That rating improvements means potential insurance savings for residents and businesses.

2015 International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in the 2015 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (Safety Week) during the week of June 14. 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.

Training Captain Completes Fire Officer Training

Training Captain Brian Wilson completed the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, which provides senior fire officers with a broad perspective on various facets of fire and emergency services administration. The program's participants enhance their professional development through resident graduate-level and upper-level college-equivalent courses and accompanying research, completed over a four-year span. Wilson was presented with his Executive Fire Officer Program completion certificate on June 25 at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex by Forsyth County Manager Doug Derrer and Fire Chief Danny Bowman.



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Department Participates in Safety Town

The Forsyth County Fire Department helped teach important safety tips to 240 young children during several Safety Town camps hosted by Forsyth County Parks and Recreation in June. Safety Town teaches children ages 4 to 6 about safety awareness and preventative safety measures.

Station 3 Hosts Open House

On July 1, Fire Station 3, located on Wallace Tatum Road in the northwest portion of the county, held an open house to educate residents about the services provided by the Forsyth County Fire Department and to share fire prevention and emergency preparedness information with the public. The department's Fire Safety House was available during the event to teach children and adults about kitchen safety, smoke alarms and fire drills in the home. Additionally, adults got to learn how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

Station 1 Hosts Open House

Fire Station 1, located in downtown Cumming, held an open house for the community on July 27. The event provided a unique opportunity to not only meet and greet Fire Department personnel, but also get an up-close look at the fire station, fire apparatus and the tools used by firefighters.

Independence Day Parade

The Forsyth County Fire Department took part in the city of Cumming's annual Independence Day parade.

Junior Fire Academy

In July, the Forsyth County Fire Department hosted the fourth annual week-long Junior Fire Academy for local youth entering the seventh and eighth grades. The program provided attendees the opportunity to experience the different aspects of being a career firefighter, from firefighting to CPR. The Junior Fire Academy was held at the Fire Department Headquarters on Settingdown Road.

Fire Department Remembers 14th 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.

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

Fire Department Hosts Second Citizens' Fire Academy

During the fall, the Forsyth County Fire Department invited citizens interested in learning more about Forsyth County's fire and emergency services to sign up for a free 10-week Citizens' Fire Academy. Participants in the program learned about the variety of services offered by the Fire Department, learned about fire and firefighting equipment, and interacted with first responders, gaining an inside look into the profession of firefighters.

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 34th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend October 3-4 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, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, and local businesses and non-profits joined together October 24 for the Trunk or Treat event at Cumming Fairgrounds in an effort to promote a safe Halloween season and fire safety. Children had the opportunity to participate in bean bag toss, face painting and other fun activities and games. There was also information on costume safety, pedestrian safety, stranger danger and stop-drop-roll demonstrations.

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 11 at the Veterans War Memorial.

Fire Department Annual Toy Collection

The Fire Department's annual Aerial's House toy collection brightened the holidays for more than 1,800 local children in need. Generous donations from the community helped make Christmas possible for children who may otherwise not have received any gifts. Donations to Aerial's House included more than 6,000 toys and 65 bikes.

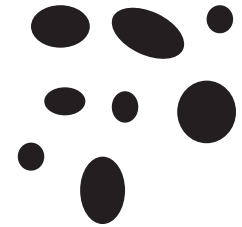


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Pushing in of New Apparatus

When a Forsyth County fire company receives a new fire apparatus, a time-honored tradition of the American fire service called a “Push In Ceremony” is conducted. The company members gather and push the fire engine back into the apparatus stall from the front bumper. This tradition is directly related to the days of horse-drawn steamers and the need to often unhook the steamers from the horses after returning to the station because it was difficult to back the horses into the stalls. In some places firefighters will wash off the tires and wheels before the apparatus is first placed into the stall as homage to the days of having to wash the steamer’s wheels off before being placed back into the fire station.



The Dalmation

Frequently associated with firefighters and still a common sight in many firehouses, the Dalmation has become known as one of the most beloved traditions of the American fire service. As a breed with unknown true origins, the Dalmation has poor hunting skills but found itself perfectly suited as a carriage dog in the stables of early American aristocrats. For reasons still not completely understood, but believed by many to be because of the spots, the Dalmation and horses get along very well as the Dalmation tends to keep horses quite calm. When early fire companies began using horse-drawn steamers as the predecessors to today’s fire engines, the Dalmation was a natural companion to the fire department horses. Trained to run alongside the horses to a fire and used to guard equipment when on scenes of fires, the Dalmation secured itself in the history of the fire service as a beloved tradition. Though animals are not allowed in Forsyth County fire stations today, it is not unusual for a firefighter to have a Dalmation as a personal pet.



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.



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2015

“Let no man’s ghost ever come back and say his training failed him.”

- *Unknown*

Posted at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md.

Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report

Forsyth County Fire Department

3520 Settingdown Road

Cumming, Georgia 30028

forsythco.com

(770) 781-2180

(770) 781-2194 *fax*



The Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report, now in its 11th year, is prepared jointly by the Forsyth County Fire Department and Forsyth County Department of Communications.