

**FORSYTH COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

70 80 90 100
FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE

**2016
ANNUAL REPORT**

2017 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



ADMINISTRATION



DOUG DERRER
County
Manager,
Retired spring 2017



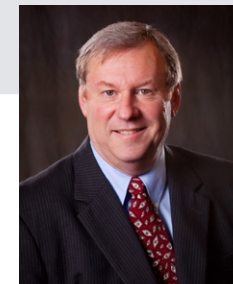
TIM MERRITT
Deputy
County
Manager

OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS

Forsyth County would like to thank outgoing District 2 Commissioner Brian R. Tam and outgoing District 5 Commissioner Jim Boff for their service to the citizens of Forsyth County. Tam and Boff left office at the end of 2016.



BRIAN R. TAM
District 2
Commissioner



JIM BOFF
District 5
Commissioner

CONTENTS

4	Command Staff
5	Goals/Mission Statement
6	Message from the Fire Chief
7	Organizational Chart
8	Historical Overview
9	Fire Department Divisions
14	Fire Stations and Facilities
20	Our Fleet
21	Specialty Apparatus
22	Fire Department Budget
23	2016 by the Numbers
26	2016 Year in Review
30	Traditions of the Fire Service
31	In Memoriam



FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMAND STAFF



BRENDA GREEN
Division Chief
Fire Administration

KEVIN WALLACE
Division Chief, Ret.
Field Operations
(Retired spring 2017)

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. Chief Wallace retired in the spring of 2017.

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.

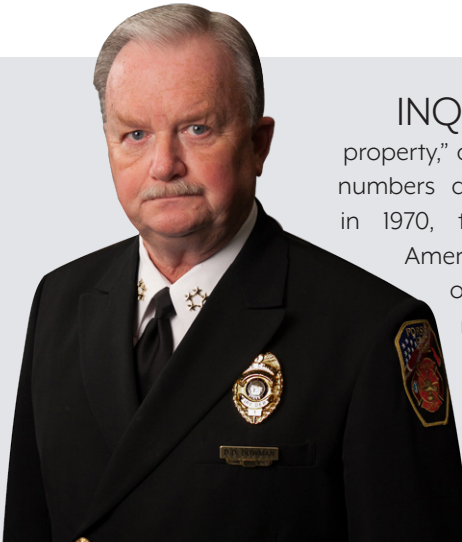
Promote the health and safety of our employees.

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.



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



INQUIRE OF ANY FIREFIGHTER their mission and virtually all will say, “the protection of life and property,” of which I wholeheartedly agree. This simple statement pertains not only to our residents, but to our visitors, and the numbers are somewhat staggering. Forsyth County’s population has increased in one generation from a mere 2,031 in 1970, to at or about 215,000 today, estimated by some sources as the 11th fastest growing county in America. That coupled with 8 million visitors a year on Lake Lanier and an ever-growing number utilizing our office and retail outlets, one can clearly see why our number of emergency responses in 2016 rose to 13,873. When one considers the number of fire apparatus dispatched to these incidents to be 16,125, the picture becomes clear that we are not the same Forsyth County as a generation ago.

So as to stay within the bounds of a finite budget derived from a 1.975 mill fire tax, coupled with SPLOST dollars and Impact Fees, we attempt to build a new (or replacement) fire station annually, as well as purchase one fire engine per year. When the budget allows, this number may rise to two. The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners and county manager have always given their full support to these goals and objectives.

Some of the major projects accomplished in 2016:

- The groundbreaking and substantial construction progress of new Fire Station 6 (off State Route 141 at the intersection of Brookwood Road and Caney Road) and replacement Fire Station 8 (on State Route 306 in north Forsyth County)
- New Engine 6 approaching completion at the factory
- 36 firefighters were promoted to the newly established rank of “Fire Apparatus Operator” (FAO)
- An estimated 2,200 children were provided holiday gifts by way of the annual Aerial’s House toy collection

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

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

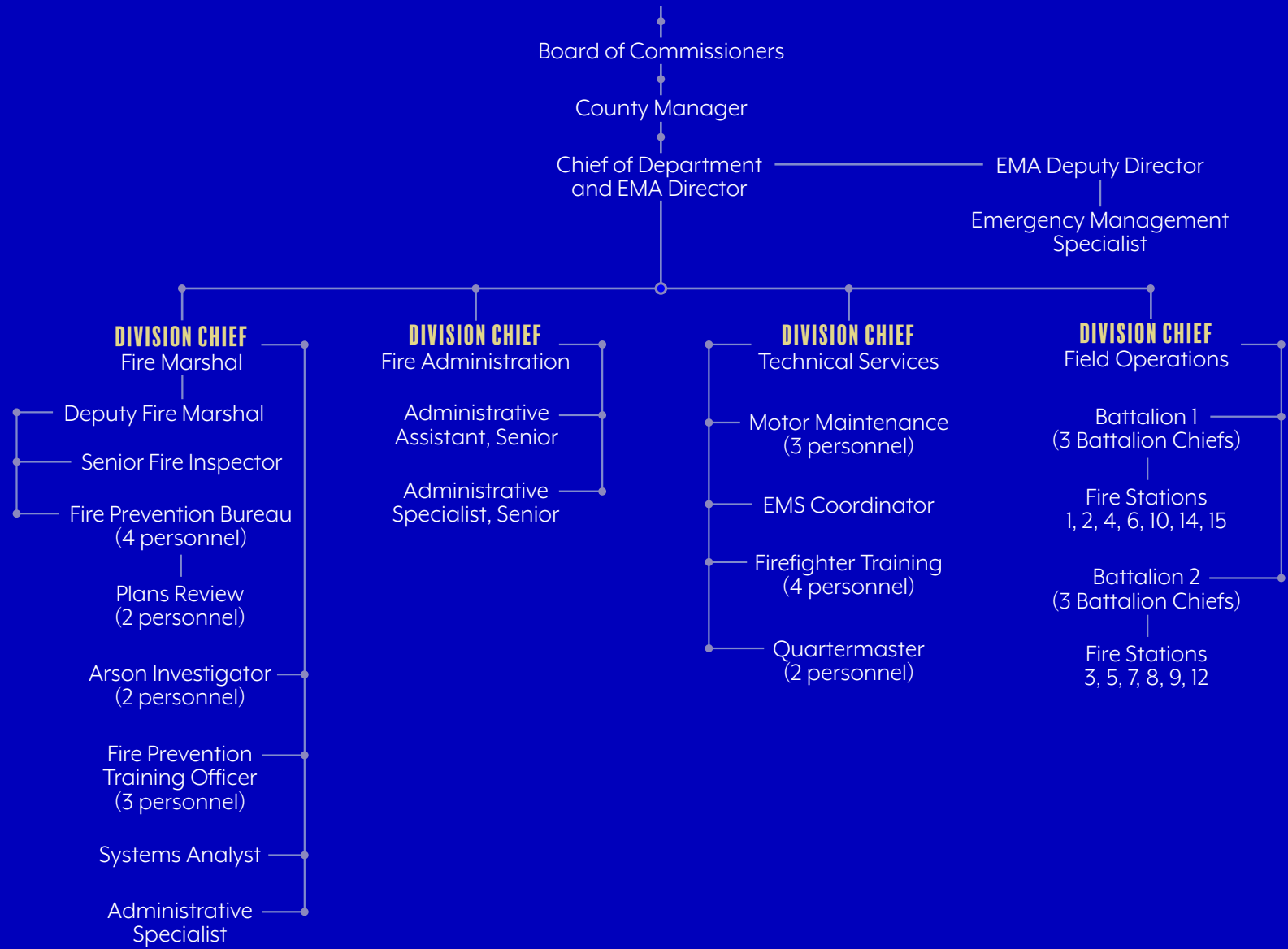
Danny D. Bowman

Chief of Department

Director, Emergency Management Agency

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

CITIZENS OF FORSYTH COUNTY



HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

1972

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

1983

International Association of Fire Chiefs publishes that Forsyth County, Georgia is the nation's largest volunteer fire department.

1998

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

2006

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

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.

2013

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

Volunteer Fire Department is incorporated and led by Fire Chief John C. "Jake" Moore.

Norris Bennett is named Forsyth County's second chief.

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

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

Forsyth County Fire Department commemorates its 40th anniversary.

Insurance Services Office notifies Forsyth County it has received a fire insurance reclassification from 5 to 3, resulting in reductions in fire insurance premiums.

1973

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 2016, 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

2016 Fire Administration Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 2 administrative assistants

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.



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.





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 13 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.



2016 Field Operations Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 6 battalion chiefs
- 39 fire lieutenants
- 117 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, Maryland.

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.



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 2016, 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 2016 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 Sixth Annual Forsyth County Fire Safety Poster Contest took place in early 2016 with the winners being recognized at a Board of Commissioners meeting. The Trunk or Treat event continued in 2016 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.

2016 Fire Marshal Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 1 deputy fire marshal
- 5 fire inspectors
- 2 plans reviewers
- 2 arson investigators
- 3 fire prevention training officers
- 2 systems analyst
- 1 administrative specialist

21,190

Adults and children reached with a structured fire safety program

594

Smoke alarms or batteries in smoke alarms replaced free of charge to senior citizens and residents in need

382

Fire safety events

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

11,561

Adults and children reached through community events, including Trunk or Treat, the Senior Expo and festivals

2,916

Adults trained in the proper use of a fire extinguisher

334

Child safety seat inspections conducted to ensure proper installation

2016 Technical Services Numbers

1 division chief

1 EMS coordinator

3 motor maintenance staff

2 quartermaster staff

3 full-time training staff

1 part-time training staff

Medical Services Coordinator

This office contains one captain who oversees all medical training and emergency medical services quality control, 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 and supervising a logistics coordinator. 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 and is also responsible for the annual testing of all automatic external defibrillators in county facilities.

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.

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.



EXISTING FIRE STATIONS



STATION 7



STATION 3



STATION 4



STATION 1



STATION 14



STATION 2



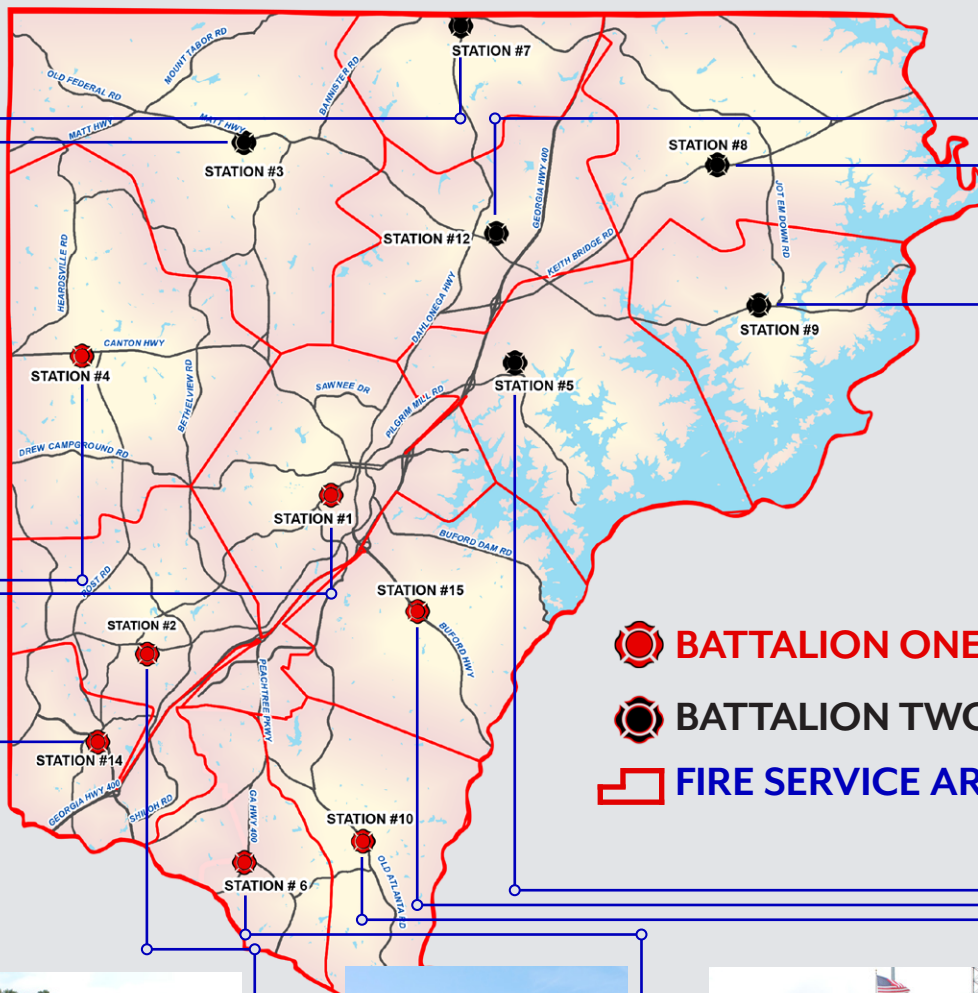
STATION 6



STATION 10



STATION 15



STATION 12



STATION 8



STATION 9



STATION 5

BATTALION



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, Haz-Mat 2, the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Decontamination Unit and Med 2
- 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, Light/Air 4 and Med 4

STATION 6



- Located on 2.92 acres at 3190 Caney Road
- Four Stalls
- Opened in March 2017
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 6 and Brush Truck 6
- Construction of the new station was funded by a combination of SPLOST VI funds and Impact Fees

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 and Med 10

BATTALION



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

BATTALION



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 125 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



STATION 7



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

STATION 8



- Located at 6015 Keith Bridge Road Cumming, GA 30041
- Four Stalls
- Opened in April 2017
- Former Station 8 was razed in March 2016 to allow for construction of a new station on adjacent property
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 8 and Tanker 8
- Construction of the new station was 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 2018
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 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, the Forsyth County Fire Department Technical Rescue Vehicle and Med 12
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Technical Rescue Unit



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

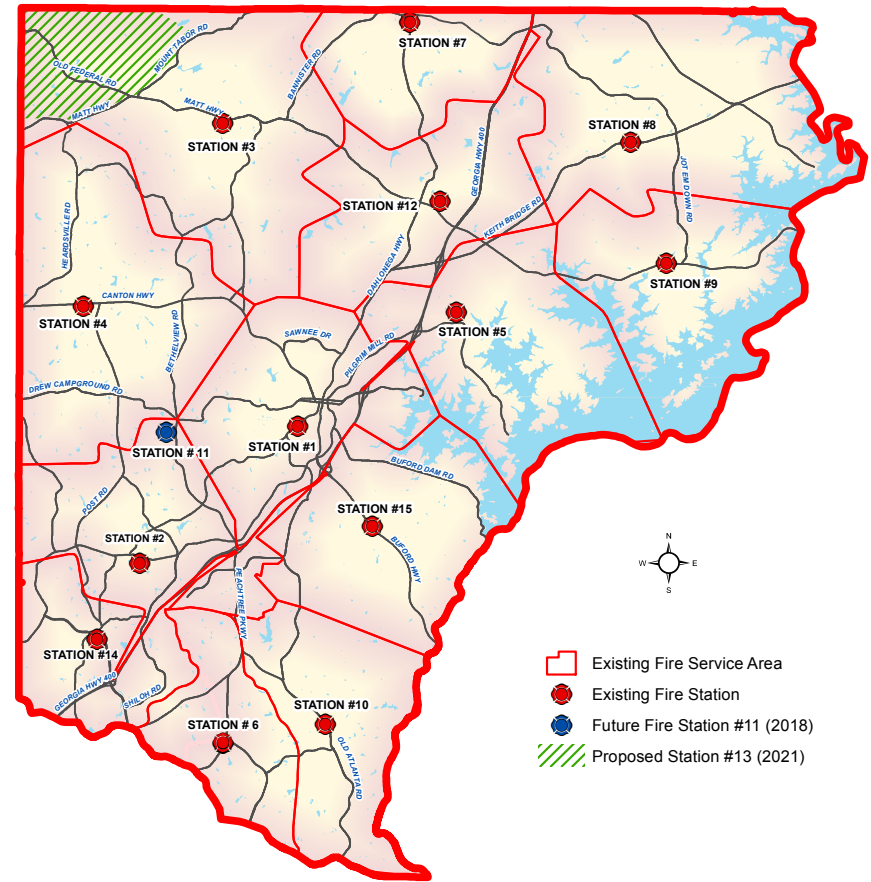
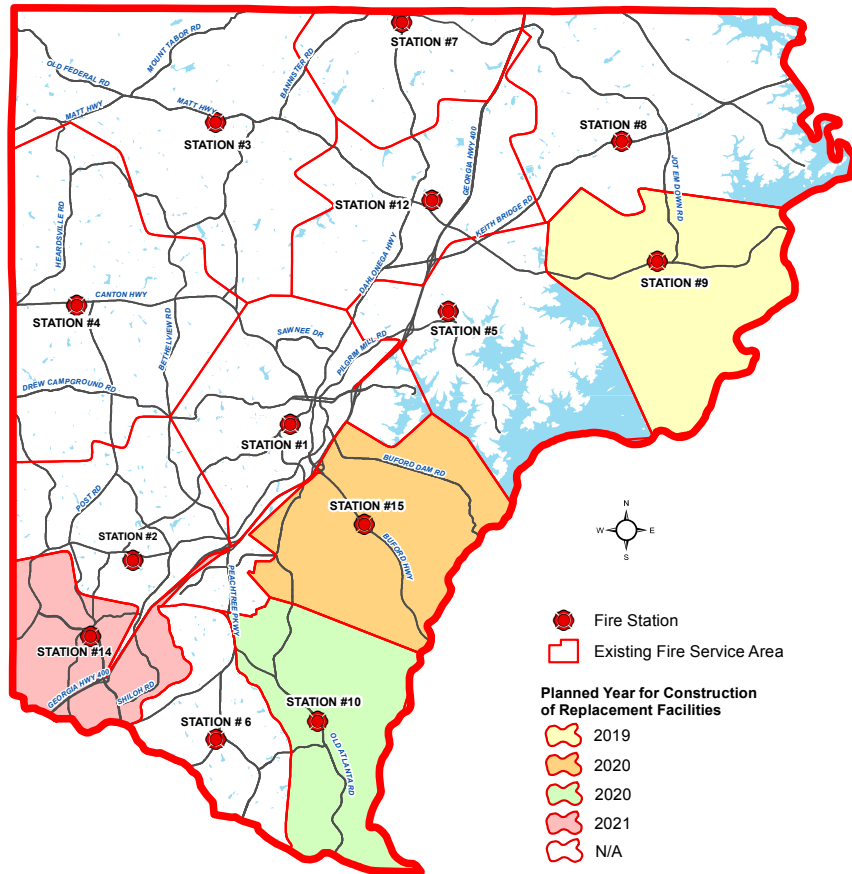
- Located adjacent to the Forsyth County Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed in phases since the mid-1990s
- Utilized for a variety of fire training programs including fire suppression training, high-angle rescue, rope rescue, search and rescue, confined space rescue and roof simulation

MOTOR MAINTENANCE

- 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

OUR FLEET

BATTALION

HEAVY RESCUE

TANKER

ENGINE

LADDER
TRUCK

BRUSH
TRUCK

DIVE VAN

HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS
TRUCK



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 a \$20,000 grant 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.

LIGHT AND AIR UNIT

- The light and air unit is a specialized apparatus that is equipped with a large generator, extensive lighting capabilities, a hydraulic light tower, and breathing air cascade system. The unit is specifically built to work as a stand-alone tool at large scale incidents that require additional lighting or call for firefighter's breathing air to be produced on site.
- The light and air unit was put in service in 2016, replaced a very outdated truck from the 1980's, and is housed at Fire Station 4.

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 rugged 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.



FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The Forsyth County Fire Department 2016 budget was \$21,813,179. 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 2016 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 2010-2016

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1.975	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, 2016, 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

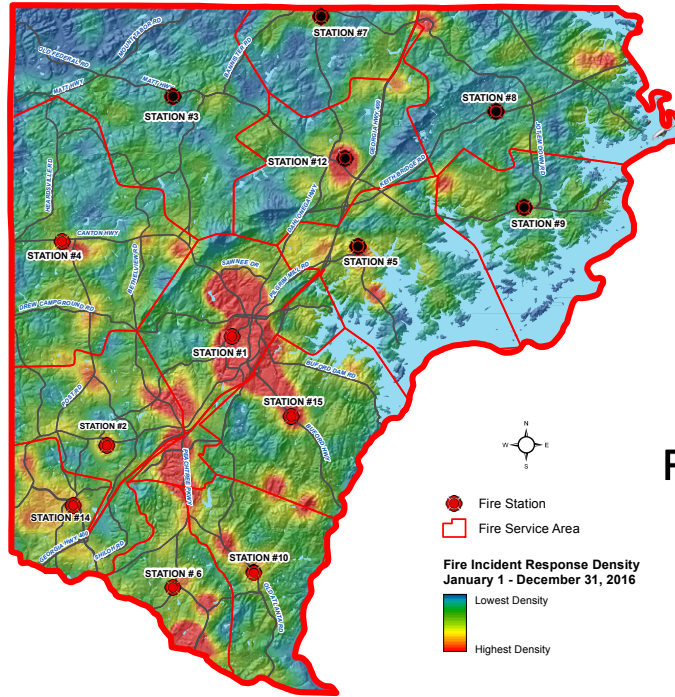
Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is a one-percent county sales tax used to fund capital projects such as buildings and other public facilities. The current SPLOST program, SPLOST VII, was approved by Forsyth County voters in November 2011 and went into effect July 1, 2013. The SPLOST VII program anticipates \$3.9 million in funding for scheduled fire apparatus replacement. The current SPLOST program will run through June 30, 2019.



2016 BY THE

NUMBERS

FIRE INCIDENT HOT SPOTS



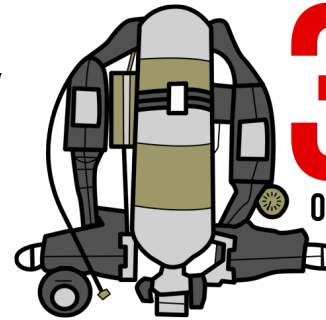
THERE ARE

9,481

FIRE HYDRANTS THROUGHOUT FORSYTH COUNTY



FIREFIIGHTERS HAVE APPROXIMATELY



30

MINUTES

OF BREATHING AIR IN THE SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS



OF TRAINING TO BECOME A FIREFIGHTER

13

FULL SERVICE FIRE STATIONS



1,100°

IS THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF A HOUSE FIRE

1,697

COMBINED TOTAL HEIGHT in feet of the LADDERS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S

TRUCKS



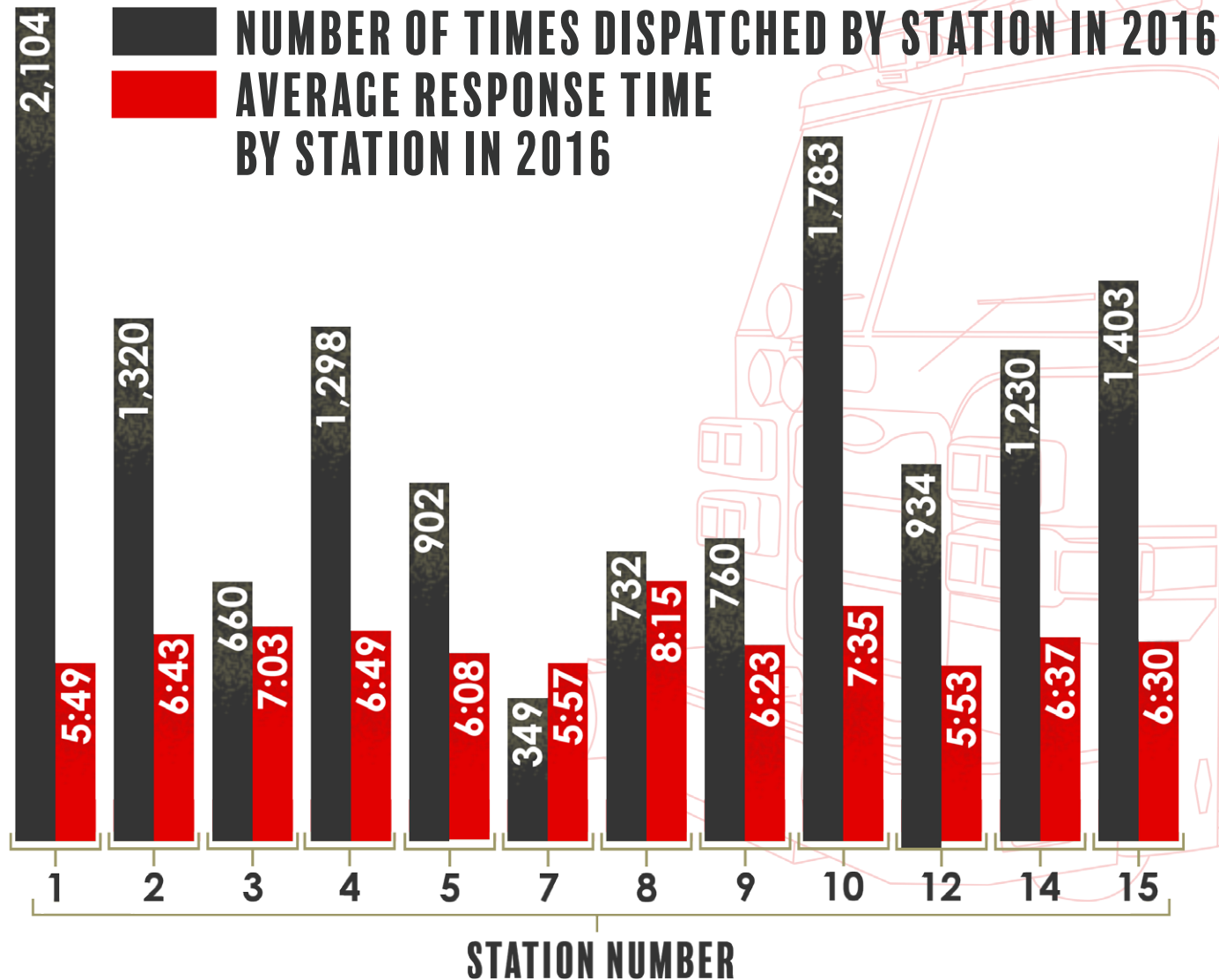
A FIREFIGHTER'S GEAR WEIGHS AROUND **80 POUNDS**

EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT

16 BRICKS



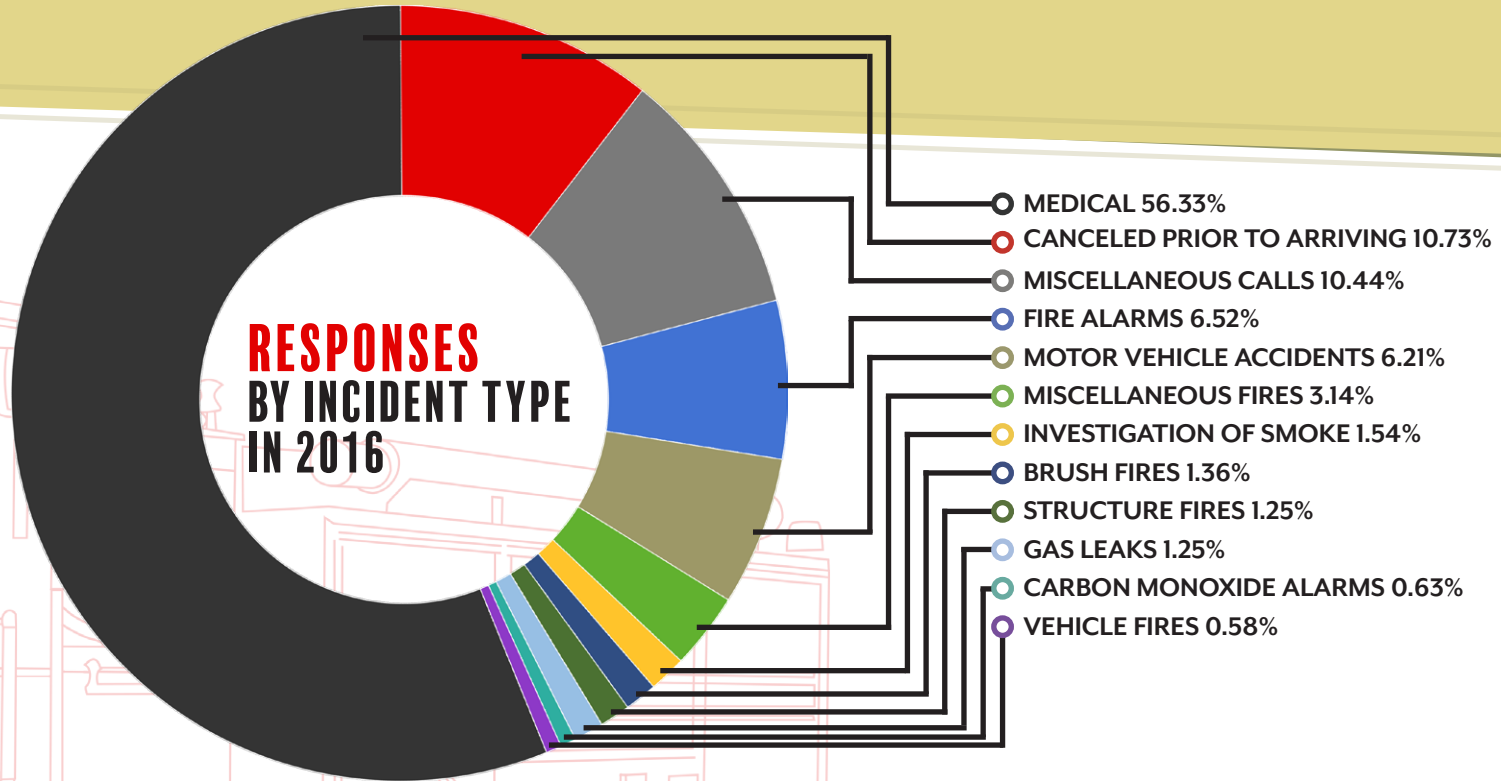
2016 BY THE NUMBERS



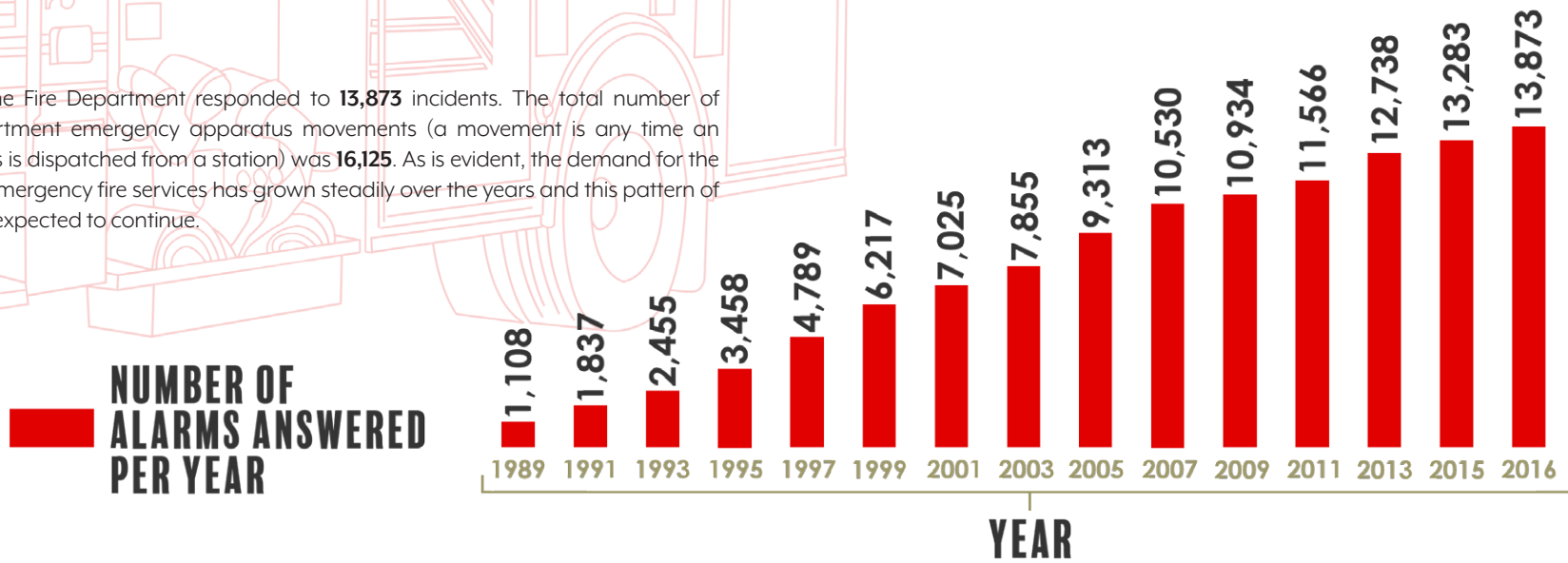
The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2016 average response time for on-scene arrival was six minutes and 35 seconds*, down from six minutes and 42 seconds* in 2015. Fire station response times vary as a result of travel distances and other factors.

*Source: Forsyth County Fire Department Research Library

Note: Station 6 was not in service during 2016.



In 2016, the Fire Department responded to **13,873** incidents. The total number of Fire Department emergency apparatus movements (a movement is any time an apparatus is dispatched from a station) was **16,125**. 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.



2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

GROUND BROKEN FOR REPLACEMENT FIRE STATION 8 IN NORTHEAST FORSYTH COUNTY



Forsyth County broke ground February 19 for a new fire station to replace the aging Fire Station 8 on Keith Bridge Road in the northeast portion of the county. The original Fire Station 8, built by volunteers, was opened in 1984 and far exceeded its life expectancy. To ensure that the territory served by Fire Station 8 continued its coverage during construction, personnel and equipment were temporarily relocated to Dawson County Fire Station 2. New Fire Station 8 opened in April 2017.

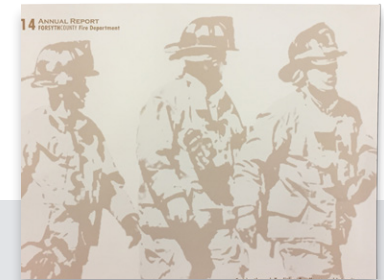
FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

The Georgia Trauma Commission chose Forsyth County to receive a grant that provides the county with nine video laryngoscopes, which are designed to make it easier to open and maintain a patient's airway in an emergency. One of the devices will equip each of the seven ambulances that serve Forsyth County through Central EMS – the county's contracted emergency medical services provider. The other two units will be used for training and by the Fire Department.

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW FIRE STATION 6 IN SOUTH FORSYTH COUNTY



The southern portion of Forsyth County is home to a new station for the Forsyth County Fire Department, designed to improve service and reduce response times in a densely populated area of the county. Ground was broken on February 12 for the department's newest facility, Fire Station 6 – which opened in March 2017. The new station is located just off of Peachtree Parkway (Highway 141) on Brookwood Road, south of the intersection with Caney Road.



2014 FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) recognized the Forsyth County Fire Department 2014 Annual Report through their 2016 NACIO Awards of Excellence. The document received the award of Meritorious in the competition's annual reports category.

GHOST OUT INFORMS YOUNG DRIVERS ABOUT DRIVING DANGERS

On March 30, the Fire Department teamed up with the Sheriff's Office, 911 Center, Central EMS, and other public safety agencies for the school system's Ghost Out event. Ghost Out is held every spring leading up to prom at a different county high school – in 2016, West Forsyth High School was chosen. The life-like program gives students a bystander's vantage point of a motor vehicle accident and the resulting emergency response required and is intended to stress the dangers of distracted and impaired driving.





FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES AND PROMOTES PERSONNEL AND GRADUATES 18 NEW FIREFIGHTERS

In a ceremony held April 29, the Forsyth County Fire Department presented a number of awards, promoted nine personnel and graduated its newest recruit class. Family, friends and Fire Department staff attended the ceremony, which was held in the auditorium at North Forsyth High School. Awards were presented to personnel in the first portion of the ceremony. Seven Unit Citation awards and 10 Life Saved awards, some presented by the individuals whose life they saved, were awarded to Fire Department personnel in recognition of outstanding actions over the past several years. In the graduation portion of the ceremony, 18 recruits were officially welcomed as Forsyth County firefighters. Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services Assistant Fire Chief Eddie Robinson was the guest speaker, welcoming the recruits to the fire service and congratulating them on their graduation.

ANNUAL BOOT DRIVE FUNDRAISER RAISES MORE THAN \$38,000

The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2016 Boot Drive generated \$38,322.09 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.



SIXTH ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

The Forsyth County Fire Department held its sixth 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 Amanda Barnaby, a student at Big Creek Elementary School; Madison Lauria, a student at Brookwood Elementary School; and Luke Talbert, a student at Brookwood Elementary School. All three winners were treated to a pizza party with their classmates and local firefighters and received a certificate of accomplishment from Forsyth County Fire Chief Danny Bowman. The winners were also recognized and congratulated by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners at their meeting May 5 and had their artwork displayed in county buildings.

ROADS RENAMED FOR THREE FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

On May 19, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners paid tribute to the three line-of-duty deaths the Fire Department has experienced since its inception. Roads were renamed for fallen Firefighters Allyn Lane, Dennis C. Martin and Brant Chesney. Allyn Lane and Dennis C. Martin were both volunteer firefighters for Forsyth County who died in automobile accidents en route to their respective fire stations to respond to calls. Lane passed away in 1975 and Martin in 1984. The roadway leading into Shady Grove Campground has been designated as "Allyn Lane Memorial Way." The roadway leading into Coal Mountain Park has been designated as "Dennis C. Martin Memorial Way." Brant Chesney was a full-time firefighter with Gwinnett County



and a volunteer firefighter for Forsyth County who died in the line of duty in 1996 while battling a structure fire in Forsyth County. Several years ago, the roadway along Forsyth County Fire Station 10 on Old Atlanta Road was designated as "Brant Chesney Way."

2016

YEAR IN REVIEW

2016 INTERNATIONAL FIRE/EMS SAFETY STAND DOWN

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in the 2016 International Fire/EMS Safety Stand Down June 19-25. The 2016 International Fire/EMS Safety Stand Down is a joint initiative of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and is supported by a network of emergency service, health and safety organizations. The International Fire/EMS Safety Stand Down is an annual event that aims to improve firefighter safety and health to give all a better chance of survival during emergencies and in the long-term. Fire departments across the world take time during the week to increase awareness and action so that safety and health become a priority in all fire departments.

DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN SAFETY TOWN

The Forsyth County Fire Department helped teach important safety tips to 237 young children during several Safety Town camps hosted by Forsyth County Parks & Recreation in June. Safety Town teaches children ages 4 to 5 safety awareness and preventive safety procedures including fire safety, water safety, car and bus safety, stranger danger, poison safety and gun safety.



JUNIOR FIRE ACADEMY WELCOMES LOCAL YOUTH FOR THE FIFTH YEAR

In June, the Forsyth County Fire Department held its fifth week-long Junior Fire Academy for local youth entering the seventh and eighth grade. The free 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 HOLDS THIRD CITIZENS' FIRE ACADEMY

In the spring, the Forsyth County Fire Department invited adult 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 gained an inside look at the profession of firefighters by learning about the variety of services offered by the fire department, learning about fire and firefighting equipment, and interacting with first responders. Offered since 2014, the Citizens' Fire Academy provides participants with a unique opportunity for insight into the fire department operations.





FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL PROMOTED

In two ceremonies, held August 15 and August 17, the Forsyth County Fire Department promoted 36 personnel. Family, friends and fire department staff attended the ceremonies, which were held at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex. During the promotional portion of the ceremonies, 36 personnel were promoted to the rank of sergeant in the position of fire apparatus operator. Sergeant is a new classification within the Fire Department and now allows for assigning a designated and tested operator to every front-line apparatus.



FIRE DEPARTMENT REMEMBERS 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11

On September 11, the Forsyth County Fire Department held a brief ceremony at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex to remember and honor those lost on September 11, 2001.

HONOR GUARD INVITED TO NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation once again invited the Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard to participate in the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend held October 8-9 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 national event pays tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year.

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 2,293 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 6,251 toys and 42 bicycles.



DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL 'TRUNK OR TREAT' HALLOWEEN SAFETY EVENT

Personnel from the Forsyth County Fire Department, 911 Center, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, local businesses and non-profits joined together October 22 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.



TRADITIONS OF THE FIRE SERVICE



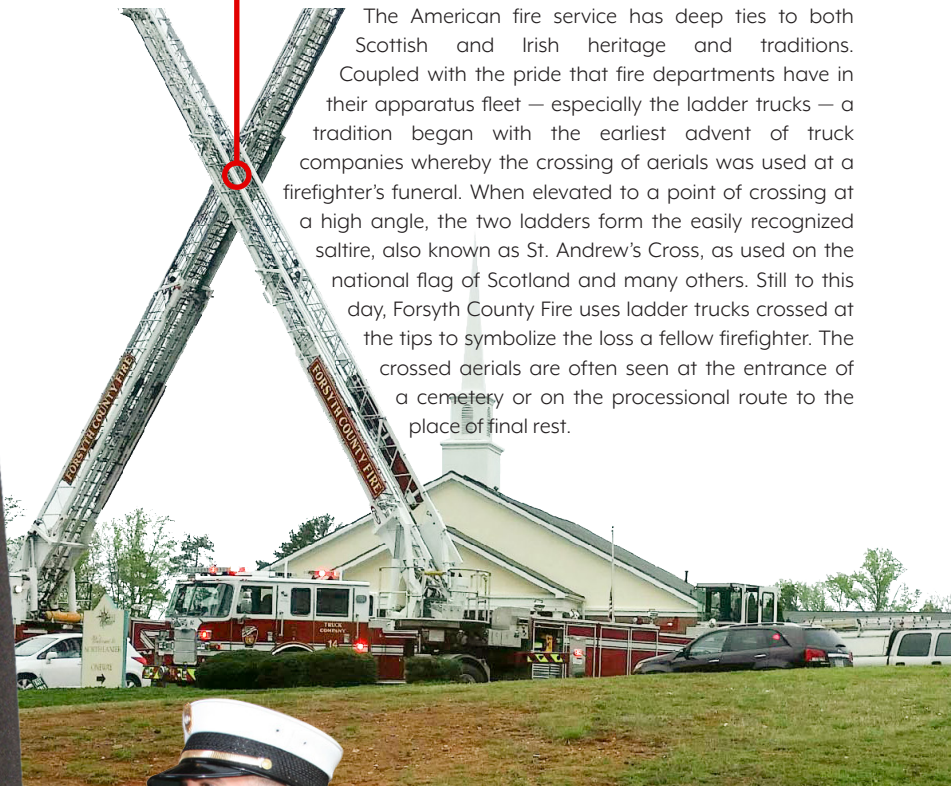
BLACK BAND

In western culture, the color black is often associated with grief and mourning. The same is true in public safety. Firefighters and law enforcement officers desire to show their respect of lost brothers and sisters. A black band covering the center of the badge has become a traditional sign of mourning by public safety personnel. It is often seen on the uniforms of Forsyth County firefighters when a fellow firefighter has passed. It does not matter if the death was active duty or retired, on duty or off, the same respect of the lost brother or sister is always shown. Additionally, the caisson or first apparatus in a funeral procession is often adorned with a black shawl when carrying a firefighter to their final resting place.



CROSSED AERIALS

The American fire service has deep ties to both Scottish and Irish heritage and traditions. Coupled with the pride that fire departments have in their apparatus fleet — especially the ladder trucks — a tradition began with the earliest advent of truck companies whereby the crossing of aerials was used at a firefighter's funeral. When elevated to a point of crossing at a high angle, the two ladders form the easily recognized saltire, also known as St. Andrew's Cross, as used on the national flag of Scotland and many others. Still to this day, Forsyth County Fire uses ladder trucks crossed at the tips to symbolize the loss a fellow firefighter. The crossed aerials are often seen at the entrance of a cemetery or on the processional route to the place of final rest.



TOLLING OF THE BELLS

In the early history of the American fire service, fire companies were given their alarms by the ringing of a bell. Various codes, or series of rings, signified certain alarms or that a company was completing an assignment. Traditionally the alarm of 5 – 5 – 5 came to signify that a company was returning home to quarters. It soon began to be used by many fire departments to also signify the passing of a firefighter. While some departments across the country developed their own codes over the years, Forsyth County Fire has kept with tradition and still to this day uses the 5-5-5 code upon the passing of a fellow firefighter to ring them home during their memorial service or funeral.



IN MEMORIAM

DWIGHT CLARK was born in January 1937 in San Angelo, Texas to a firefighter and homemaker. At the age of 22, Dwight followed in his father's footsteps and joined the San Angelo Fire Department, where he eventually rose to the rank of Assistant Fire Chief.

In 1992, he and his family relocated to Monroe County, Georgia so that he could accept a position with the Georgia Fire Academy. He became a highly sought after instructor in vehicle extrication and taught courses throughout the world. In 1995, he took leave to assist the search and rescue efforts of the Mexico City earthquake.

After nine years with the Georgia Fire Academy, Dwight accepted the position of Deputy Fire Chief for Forsyth County and reported to duty in March 2001. In 2013, Chief Clark retired from the fire department simply saying, "Now it's time to go out and have some fun with my beautiful wife and [just] enjoy [life]." On March 29, 2016, Chief Clark died at his home in the presence of



numerous family members. A 20-vehicle procession of red and blue emergency lights led Chief Clark's body along a 10-mile route to the funeral home in downtown Cumming. At Ingram's Funeral Home, Battalion 1 and Company 1 met the procession forming an honor guard and hand salute as Chief Clark was taken inside. Following a local memorial service, Chief Clark was transported to his native San Angelo where he was met by four representatives of the Forsyth County Fire Department. There, in conjunction with the San Angelo Fire Department, Chief Clark was laid to rest.

"Suffice it to say Dwight Clark was a fireman's fireman. His passion was the protection of life and property, taught to less experienced firefighters in an intense, no-nonsense manner. When class was over, and the firemen physically and mentally exhausted from the coursework, he would move among them no longer as "the instructor" but as a comrade and father figure. The likes of him can never be replaced and the void he leaves in our ranks is already felt."

- Chief Danny D. Bowman 3/30/16



Volunteer Firefighter Gary Patty

- Born: April 24, 1946
- Entered on Duty as a Forsyth County Volunteer Firefighter: October 10, 1981
- Died: August 13, 2016

THE PATCH

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.
- The Maltese Cross incorporates the tools and symbols of the modern Forsyth County Fire Department and the services provided.

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 12th year, is prepared jointly by the Forsyth County Fire Department and Forsyth County Department of Communications.

