



**FORSYTHCOUNTY**  
Department of Communications  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE  
IN 2013 FIRE/EMS SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK**

*Firefighter safety and health is focus of initiative*

**FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia** – The Forsyth County Fire Department will participate in the 2013 Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week during the week of July 8, 2013. Safety and Health Week is an event sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), and is supported by a network of fire service, health and safety organizations.

This annual event 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, including the Forsyth County Fire Department, will take time during the week to focus on the messages and resources that will help achieve that goal.

“The Forsyth County Fire Department is looking forward to participating in Safety and Health Week once again this year,” Division Chief Jason Shivers said. “Throughout Safety Week, all Forsyth County firefighters will be training on the objectives outlined as a part of this initiative. It is important to note, however, that our daily response will in no way be impacted. Responding to the citizens’ request for assistance is always our top priority.”

The theme for Safety and Health Week this year is “A Focus on Improvement.” The effort captures the importance of responders taking responsibility for looking out for their own and each other’s mental and physical well-being.

According to data collected by the National Fire Protection Association, stress, exertion and other medical-related issues, which usually result in heart attacks or other sudden

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cardiac events, continue to account for the largest number of fatalities among first responders. As a result, a major focus of Safety and Health Week will be addressing behavioral health issues.

“The well-being of our first responders is a priority of the Forsyth County Fire Department,” Fire Chief Danny Bowman said. “Our commitment to promoting the health and safety of our employees is why we believe it is so important to participate in this annual event.”

Safety and Health Week provides a time for all department members to focus on the safety and health measures they need to take both on and off duty to make sure they stay strong and ready to serve the community at a moment’s notice. The event brings together the entire fire service community to help prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries.

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