

FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA



2005

Forsyth County
Fire Department
Annual Report

Service through tradition, excellence, and integrity

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**TABLE OF
CONTENTS**

Board of Commissioners & County Administration	Inside Front Cover
Fire Department Command Staff	1
Goals	2
Fire Chief's Letter	3
History	4
Organizational Chart	6
Divisions	7
Special Operations	9
Maps of Facilities	11
Fire Stations and Facilities	13
Public Safety Complex & New Fire Station 12	19
Tools of the Trade	21
2005 Budget Information	24
2005 By the Numbers	25
2005 Year-in-Review	27
In the Community	30
Department Patch	31
Fallen Firefighters' Memorial	32

FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMAND STAFF



Danny D. Bowman

Fire Chief, Emergency Management Agency Director

Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency Director Danny Bowman is responsible for all aspects of fire and rescue operations for Forsyth County, oversees all EMA operations and directs and advises on Homeland Security issues. Bowman joined Forsyth County as division fire chief in 2001 and was promoted to assistant fire chief/EMA director in 2002. He has served as fire chief 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 deputy fire chief, interim fire chief and battalion chief officer for Fulton County. Bowman is active in the community and the fire services industry, previously holding the position of president for both the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs and the Metropolitan Atlanta Area Fire Chiefs Association. He also served on the Thompson Group, a Washington D.C. advisory panel for the Fair Labor and Standards Act.



Dwight Clark

Deputy Fire Chief

Deputy Fire Chief Dwight Clark oversees training and the daily operations of the suppression/support division. He joined the county in 2001 after working for the Georgia Fire Academy. Clark has extensive knowledge of rescue operations and is world-renowned as an expert in the field of vehicle extrication.



James Hildebrand

Battalion Chief, A-Shift

A-Shift Battalion Chief James Hildebrand joined Forsyth County in 2002, following service with Fulton County and Atlanta Fire Departments. With over 35 years in fire services, Hildebrand brings valuable experience to his supervisory role of A-Shift operations.



Anthony Chapman

Battalion Chief, B-Shift

B-Shift Battalion Chief Anthony Chapman has held the titles of firefighter, lieutenant, captain and acting training chief for Forsyth County since joining the department in 1995. He was promoted to battalion chief in 2001. Chapman's 20 years in fire services have well prepared him for the day-to-day supervision of the B-Shift operations.



Tommy Coleman

Battalion Chief, C-Shift

C-Shift Battalion Chief Tommy Coleman joined Forsyth County in 1993, serving as captain prior to promotion to battalion chief. Previously working for the Atlanta and Roswell Fire Departments, Coleman's 32 years in fire services are an asset to his supervisory duties and oversight of C-Shift's field operations.



Steve Anderson

Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Steve Anderson oversees and manages the county's Fire/Explosive Investigative Unit. Anderson also manages the Code Compliance/Enforcement Division of the Fire Marshal's Office. Anderson became fire marshal in 1995 after serving with both the Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office and the Stone Mountain Park Fire Department.



Lee Parker

Training Division Chief

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

GOALS

Goals of the Forsyth County Fire Department

- Prevent incidents from occurring through code enforcement, public education and fire prevention activities.
- Mitigate hazards by handling all requests for service in a professional manner.
- Provide the highest quality of service in a caring and professional manner.
- Encourage and support employee development, enhancing proficiency and professionalism.
- Promote the health and safety of our employees.



Forsyth County Fire Department



It is with a great sense of pride that this Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report is published, highlighting those services provided to our citizens in 2005. The men and women who make up your fire department are dedicated far beyond the usual "protection of life and property." Long hours of training go into becoming proficient in modern firefighting and rescue techniques utilizing highly advanced tools of our trade.

Today, the Forsyth County Fire Department endeavors to keep up with the demand for emergency services for a local population that is growing at an average annual rate of eight percent. Our citizens expect that their firefighters will arrive on the scene quickly, fully trained and equipped to handle any emergency situation.

A designated "fire millage rate" coupled with funding from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and impact fees fund these much-needed services. Since the 1970s, society has come to expect their fire departments to be able to handle any and all conceivable emergency events. This includes structural firefighting, deep water rescue, swift water rescue, high angle rescue, trench rescue, hazardous materials response, wildland firefighting and vehicle extrication.

This publication will endeavor to convey the manner in which your fire department and county government are organized, a brief history of fire services in Forsyth County, and a statistical overview of services provided in 2005.

Forsyth County's current population is expected to grow from some 135,000 to well over 200,000 over the next five years. The Forsyth County Fire Department, which averages one major event (emergency) every hour, will endeavor to continue to provide its citizens with those services expected by modern society. I trust this publication will assist in understanding the manner in which those emergency services are provided.

Danny D. Bowman
Fire Chief
Director of Emergency Management

HISTORY OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Now a growing, modern fire department, the Forsyth County Fire Department began as the Forsyth County Fire Protection Committee in 1972, created in response to a residential fire claiming the life of a county resident. In 1973, a volunteer fire department was established that would serve the county until 1998, when the time came for a professional fire department and the hiring of 30 full-time firefighters.



Some of the first apparatus operated out of Station 1 in the mid-1970s.

The leadership of the department has been strong since inception. Local resident and retired Atlanta firefighter John C. "Jake" Moore served as the Forsyth County volunteer fire chief, calling for the first training session of volunteers to be held in December 1972. Applications for volunteer firefighters were accepted with the criteria being "any person 18 years or older who is physically and mentally capable, and of good character." Another local resident, and also an Atlanta firefighter, M. L. "Mack" Bailey was appointed to serve as assistant fire chief. The fledgling department had only one piece of equipment; bake sales and chicken dinners began funding the newly formed fire department. They helped fund the purchase of surplus fire trucks from other cities as well as old helmets and boots other fire departments were going to discard as "worn out."

During these early years, volunteer firefighters were notified of an emergency through the dedicated efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Glover, who manned the telephone number "877-HELP" installed in their home. Every hour of every day, save only to take a few moments to go to church on Sunday, the Glovers remained near the phone to take a call for help, subsequently notifying the volunteer firefighters of the situation and location. These efforts were regarded



9-11-01
Never Forget

*Heroes are not
determined by the size
of their paychecks, but
by the size of their
hearts...*

with a payroll check from Forsyth County in the amount of 50 cents per hour. Such unbridled dedication to their fellow citizens will never be forgotten.

In 1983, the International Association of Fire Chiefs published that Forsyth County, Georgia, with 336 volunteer firefighters on the rolls, was the nation's largest volunteer fire department. It had been ten years in the making with tens of thousands of man-hours donated to a worthy cause for humanity.

In 1990, the volunteer firefighters elected Forsyth County's second fire chief, Norris Bennett. Chief Bennett had signed on in the early days of the fire department's formation and proven himself a dedicated member of the department. He worked diligently to purchase some of the department's first new fire trucks and equipment. Under his leadership, a former poultry egg processing plant was acquired on Settendown Road and converted into Fire Headquarters with a Fire Maintenance Facility and Training Tower on the same property.

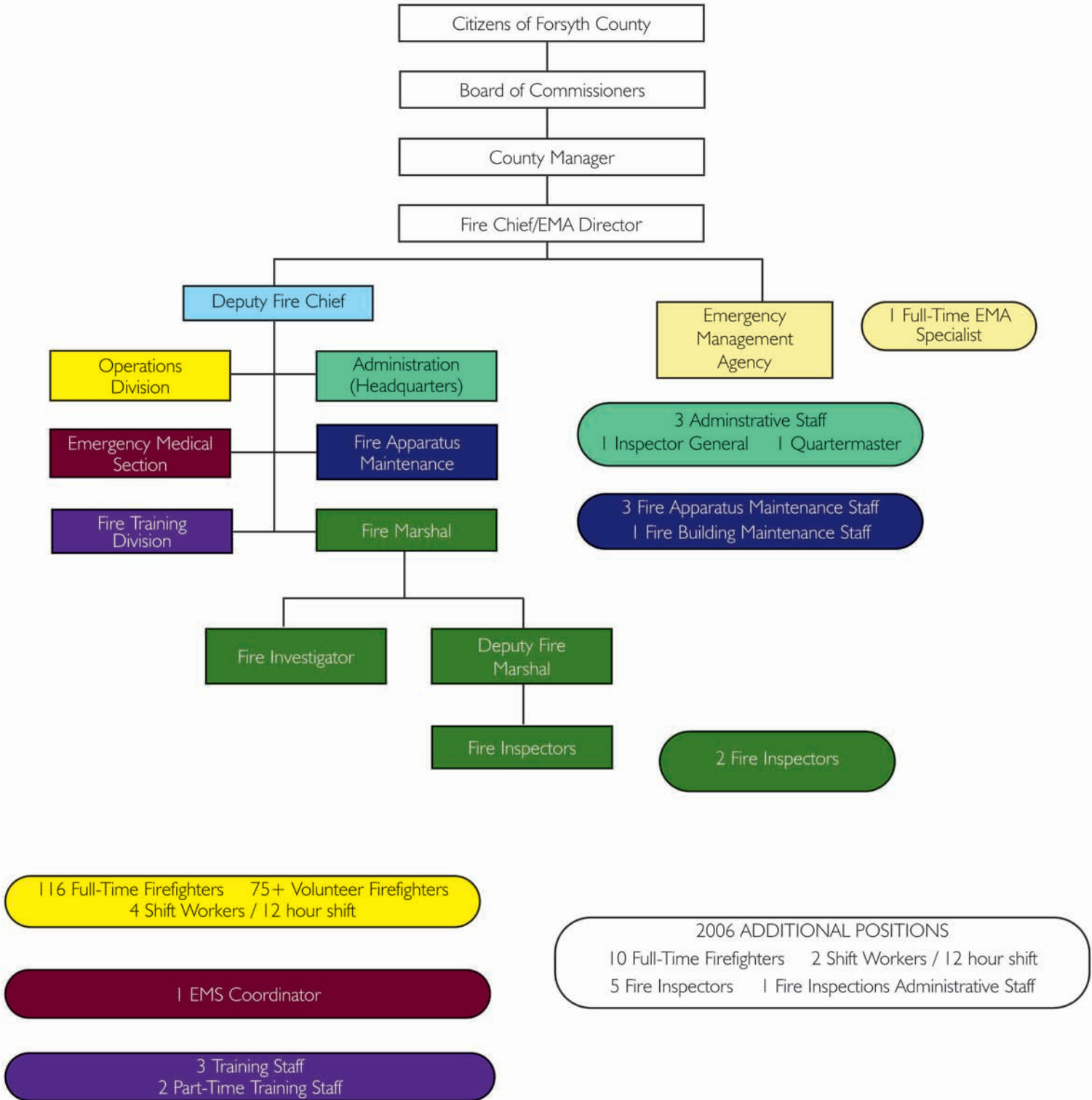
With the completion of Georgia 400 linking Forsyth County with the downtown Atlanta business sector, many volunteer firefighters who worked locally during normal business hours began traveling out of the county to work. No longer available to respond to emergencies, the number of available volunteer firefighters began to steadily decline.

In 1998, Forsyth became a career fire department, with the hiring of 30 paid firefighters. By 2005, that number had grown to 116 and will continue to increase to accommodate the needs of the growing community.

Chief Bennett retired on July 15, 2003 and Danny D. Bowman of Atlanta was named Forsyth County's third and current fire chief. Under Bowman's leadership, the department has received numerous recognitions of excellence and made strides in continually improving the level of service provided to Forsyth County.

As Forsyth County continues to modernize its fire department, the dedication and commitment of those laying the foundation must be remembered. Heroes are not determined by the size of their paychecks, but by the size of their hearts, such as those here in Forsyth County.

FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



DIVISIONS



Fire Administration

Fire Administration maintains and controls the operations of the department. The offices of the fire chief, deputy fire chief, personnel and payroll all fall within this division. Several subdivisions exist within Fire Administration, including Operations, the Fire Marshal's Office, Training, the Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, Public Safety Education, Office of the Inspector General, Quartermaster, Motor Maintenance and Building Maintenance.

Operations

This division is supervised by the deputy fire chief and oversees the daily suppression operations of the department, the Training Division, the Fire Marshal's Office, all special operations units and the department Honor Guard.

Suppression

The Suppression Division is the backbone of the department; all department administration functions ultimately are conducted to support the Suppression Division. This division contains the field personnel that work in the fire stations and respond to the constant requests for assistance from the citizenry. The field personnel are supervised by lieutenants and those lieutenants are supervised by one of three battalion chiefs. Each shift is assigned one battalion chief. This officer maintains field personnel records, field payroll and clock times, and commands fire scenes and major rescues. All field personnel work on the traditional 24/48 schedule; they report to their workstation no later than 7:00 a.m. and are in-service working for the citizens for 24-hours. At the end of their shift, they are relieved at 7:00 a.m. the following morning by the next oncoming shift. Their days off begin and continue for 48 hours at which time they return for their next 24-hour shift.

Emergency Medical Services Coordinator

This division contains one captain overseeing all medical training and emergency medical services quality control and acting as the Fire Department liaison with the county emergency medical transport contractor. He ensures that all Fire Department Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) functions follow procedures and maintain State of Georgia requirements. Additionally, this position is designated as the official ambulance service contract administrator for any provider doing business with Forsyth County.



Office of the Inspector General

This office contains one captain reporting directly to the fire chief. The inspector general acts as an aide and advisor to the chief and keeps the chief abreast of departmental needs and recent events. He also acts as the Fire Department spokesman to the media and works as a liaison with the county Department of Communications. Additionally, the inspector general acts in a research and development capacity for prospective tools and equipment and is the primary point of contact for new apparatus design and specifications.

Public Safety Education

This division works to educate the public on fire prevention and the dangers of fire as well as the many services the Fire Department offers the community. This division works routinely in the local schools and offers fire safety education to any interested party. Additionally, this division installs smoke detectors for elderly and needy citizens and operates the department's fire safety house.



Fire Marshal's Office

The Fire Marshal's Office contains personnel for building plan review, fire code inspectors and fire investigators. It plays an integral role in construction of new buildings and ensuring that those structures are built to meet or exceed today's fire codes. The division also investigates any fire that is suspicious in nature, unlawfully set or of which immediate cause cannot be determined.

Training Division

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



Quartermaster

This office is held by one captain serving as the Fire Department supply officer. He ensures the field is supplied with tools and uniforms and maintains a stock of supplies for all stations and Fire Department Headquarters. Additionally, the quartermaster acts as the primary point of contact for the chief on Fire Department facility needs and coordinates response from part-time employees and volunteers.



Motor Maintenance

This division is the critical link that keeps the Fire Department operable. It consists of three service technicians who ensure that all department vehicles are maintained and repaired properly and efficiently. These individuals work out of a four bay maintenance facility with full automotive and heavy duty truck repair capabilities. They perform all preventative maintenance and overhauling of department equipment including staff vehicles, emergency apparatus and small tools and equipment.

Building Maintenance

Building Maintenance consists of one technician skilled in building construction and remodeling. He acts as the department carpenter and oversees all facility maintenance and repair.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Dive Unit

The Dive 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 routinely assist law enforcement in recovery of vehicles from Lake Lanier and surrounding bodies of water. In 2005, the unit responded with a truck and trailer and in 2006 will transition to the new dive van.

Hazardous Materials Unit

This unit is Forsyth County's first line of defense to the potential ravages of hazardous materials. The unit operates out of Fire Station 14 with a full compliment of modern hazardous materials response tools and equipment. These include a decontamination unit, acquired in 2005, and a fully equipped hazardous materials trailer. Fire personnel at Station 14 are registered as Hazardous Materials Technicians and can respond to and mitigate most any hazardous materials incident.



Swift Water Rescue Unit

This unit responds out of Fire Station 15 and is responsible for rescues involving victims trapped in swiftly moving waters. The primary responses of this unit involve the Chattahoochee River south of Buford Dam and fishermen or boaters stranded in the quickly rising waters. The unit responds with a pair of personal watercraft equipped for swift water rescues, acquired in 2005, and a Zodiac rescue boat.

Technical Rescue Unit

The Technical Rescue 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. A technical rescue truck and trailer combination unit was ordered at the close of 2005 and is expected to be in-service by the spring of 2006. The unit responds to and rescues victims from building collapses, trench collapses, high-angle incidents, confined spaces and many other unusual and dangerous situations.

Wildland/Urban Interface Unit

This unit responds out of Fire Station 5 and is responsible for wildland and brush fires and incidents where wildland meets urban housing. The unit responds with a specially designed brush unit acquired in 2005 and has two other brush units available in the county for response as needed.



Honor Guard

The Honor Guard is the division of the Fire Department responsible for honoring fallen public safety professionals and military veterans. The training and services provided are done on a voluntary basis by members of the Fire Department from both the career and volunteer ranks. The Honor Guard responds to many requests for service each year for funerals, parades and flag presentations and is selected annually for participation in the National Fallen Firefighters' Foundation memorial tribute at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

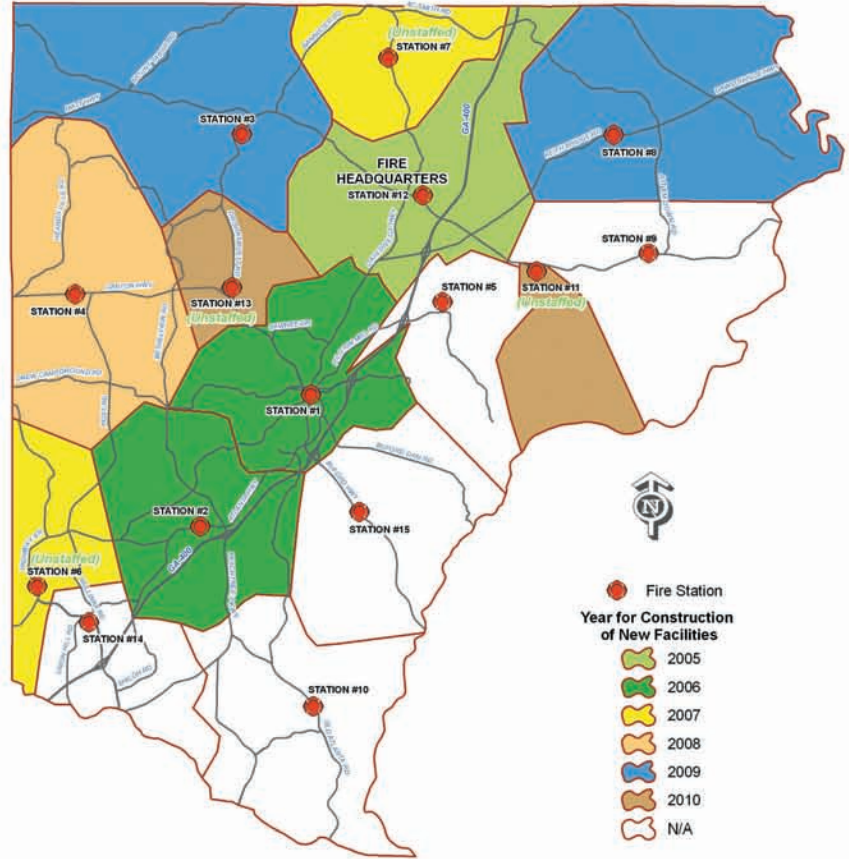




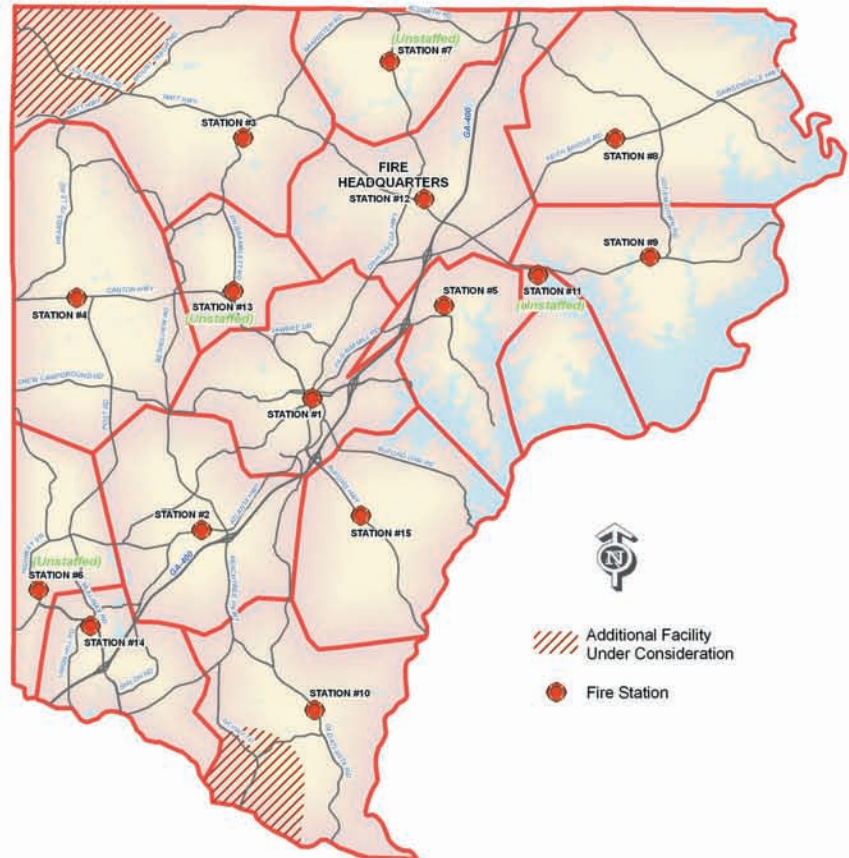
EXISTING FACILITIES



NEW FACILITY CONSTRUCTION BY YEAR



ADDITIONAL FACILITIES UNDER CONSIDERATION





FIRE STATIONS AND FACILITIES



Station 1

- Located on 1 acre in downtown Cumming at 212 Veteran's Memorial Boulevard
- 4 single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1977 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses the Office of the Battalion Chief as well as Engine 1, Truck 1, Light/Air 1 and Med 1
- Construction of a new 4 double bay Station 1, on county owned property near the Cumming Fairgrounds off Castleberry Road, will begin in spring 2006 using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and general fund reserves

Station 2

- Located on 1/4 acre at 2633 Atlanta Highway
- 2 single bays
- A former service station converted to a fire station by volunteers in 1974, it has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 2, Tanker 2, Brush Truck 2 and Med 2
- Due to serious mold issues and the danger of collapse, station personnel are housed in temporary housing behind the facility
- Construction of a new 4 double bay Station 2, on county owned property adjacent to the current water treatment facility near Fowler Road, will begin in spring 2006 using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and general fund reserves



Station 3

- Located on 1/4 acre at 4125 Doctor Bramblett Road
- 2 single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1981 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 3 and Brush Truck 3
- Plans are to identify future funding to build a new 4 double bay Station 3 on a site to be determined using a combination of SPLOST VI funds (if approved), impact fees and fire millage funds





Station 4

- Located on 3 1/3 acres at 3805 Canton Highway
- 3 single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1974 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 4, Tanker 4 and antique Ladder 4, which is not in service and serves as a showpiece
- Plans are to identify future funding to build a new 4 double bay Station 4 directly behind the existing station on county owned property using a combination of SPLOST VI funds (if approved), impact fees and fire millage funds



Station 5

- Located at 2720 Holtzclaw Road
- Located on 2 acres, of which 1 1/4 acres is owned by Forsyth County and 3/4 acre is leased from the Forsyth County School Board
- 2 double bays
- Opened in December, replacing a former all-volunteer station, with a building life expectancy of 50 years
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 5 and Brush Truck 5
- Home to the Forsyth County Fire Department Wildland Unit



Station 6 (Unstaffed)

- Located on 1/4 acre at 5885 Atlanta Highway
- 2 single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1974 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- Property is owned by the Midway Saddle Club, to whom it will be returned when a new station is built
- Coverage by volunteer firefighters with automatic additional response by a 24-hour staffed station
- Houses Engine 6 and Tanker 6
- Construction of a new 24-hour staffed 4 double bay Station 6 will begin in early 2007 using a combination of SPLOST V funding, impact fees and fire millage funds; location is yet to be determined



Station 7 (Unstaffed)

- Located at 5775 Dahlonega Highway
- 2 single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1974 on leased land and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- Coverage by volunteer firefighters with automatic additional response by a 24-hour staffed station
- Houses Engine 7
- Construction of a new 24-hour staffed 4 double bay Station 7 will begin in early 2007 using a combination of SPLOST V funding, impact fees and fire millage funds; location is yet to be determined

Station 8



- Located on 1/4 acre at 6015 Keith Bridge Road
- 2 single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1984 and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 8 and Tanker 8
- No location or funding is currently identified for a new Station 8; however, a new 4 double bay Station 8 is recommended for inclusion in the SPLOST VI proposal in 2008 and may also be funded through impact fees and fire millage funds

Station 9



- Located on 1 acre at 7385 Browns Bridge Road
- 2 double bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1989 and expected to last through 2015
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 9 and Tanker 9
- The current station was not designed for 24-hour occupancy and a decision as to whether to perform extensive renovation or build a new 4 double bay Station 9 will need to be made within several years; potential sources of funding include future SPLOST funds, impact fees and fire millage funds; new construction would require a new location, yet to be determined



Station 10

- Located on 1 1/2 acres at 3680 Old Atlanta Road
- 2 double bays
- Constructed in 1999 and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 10 and Med 10, which serves as an 8-hour weekday unit

Station 11 (Unstaffed)

- Houses Engine 11, which operates from a storage facility at Browns Bridge Road and Shady Grove Road
- A new 4 double bay Station 11 is recommended for inclusion in the SPLOST VI proposal in 2008 with additional funding from impact fees and fire millage funds; location is yet to be determined

Station 12



- Located on 8 1/2 acres at 3480 Settendown Road and is part of the building housing Fire Department Headquarters
- 5 single bays
- The facility is made up of butler-style buildings plus part of a structure which was originally a poultry egg processing plant and converted into a fire station by volunteers in 1992
- Due to mold issues in this original structure, station personnel are housed in temporary housing behind the facility
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 12, Rescue 12 and Med 12
- A new 4 double bay Station 12 is under construction at 3530 Settendown Road, adjacent to the new Public Safety Complex, and slated to open in spring 2006
- Funding for new Station 12 comes from impact fees and general fund reserves



Station 13 (Unstaffed)

- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Doctor Bramblett Road
- 3 double bays
- Constructed in 1976, it served as a former truck maintenance facility, is not intended for 24-hour occupancy and is expected to last through 2010
- Coverage by volunteer firefighters with automatic additional response by a 24-hour staffed station
- Houses Med 13
- Utilized as a storage facility for reserve units
- No plans are yet in place for a new Station 13

Station 14



- Located on 1 acre at 800 McFarland Road
- 2 double bays
- Constructed in 1994 and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 14, Truck 14, Rescue 14 and HazMat 14
- Home to the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit

Station 15



- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Buford Highway
- 2 double bays
- Constructed in 1999 and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
- Houses Engine 15, Rescue 15, the Dive and Swift Water Units' equipment and Med 9, which serves as an 8-hour weekday unit
- Home to the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive Unit and Swift Water Unit

Training Facility



- Located adjacent to 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
- A new Training Facility is planned with location and funding to be determined within the next two to three years



Motor Maintenance Facility

- Located adjacent to Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed by volunteers in the mid-1990s
- Services all Fire Department apparatus and vehicles
- Includes a pump testing facility, personnel pit for underbody service, two parts rooms and one light duty lift
- Heavy truck lifts will be added in 2006
- Plans are to double the Motor Maintenance Facility space in 2006



Fire Department Headquarters

- Located at 3480 Settendown Road, adjacent to existing Fire Station 12
- Houses the offices of the fire chief and all administrative and support divisions
- Originally a poultry egg processing plant, the building now suffers a severe mold problem; due to the mold issues, administrative personnel are working in temporary housing behind the facility
- The increased demand for emergency services in the county has resulted in growth of the Fire Department, including the department's administrative staff, contributing to the need for a Public Safety Complex
- Headquarters will move into the new Public Safety Complex which is slated to open in spring 2006
- Existing Headquarters will be razed and the space utilized for Public Safety Complex parking

NEW PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

Public Safety Complex

- Located at 3520 Settendown Road, adjacent to existing Fire Station 12 and existing Fire Department Headquarters
- Ground was broken for this new facility on January 24, 2005
- Currently under construction and slated to open in spring 2006
- State-of-the-art facility which will include:
 - New Fire Department Headquarters
 - New Fire Station 12
 - 911 Center
 - Emergency Operations Center
 - Sheriff's Office Training Space
 - A 200-seat multi-purpose auditorium
- Funding for this project comes from public safety impact fees and general fund reserves

Renderings of the new Public Safety Complex and Fire Station 12



NEW PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX & FIRE STATION 12

Construction progress of the Public Safety Complex and Fire Station 12



TOOLS OF THE TRADE



A look at the apparatus employed by the Forsyth County Fire Department

Engines

Engines are the basic response unit and the backbone of the department, responding to all incidents. They perform suppression functions, medical response and motor vehicle accident response and extrication duties.

- Eleven staffed engines are currently in service, with four unstaffed engines and three reserve units, which go into service when a unit is undergoing maintenance
- The Board of Commissioners has approved the scheduled retirement of two of the fleet's most elder engines each year in order to maintain safety and prevent units from becoming obsolete

Current Engine Fleet

Station Assignment	Year, Make and Model	Expected Retirement Date
12	2004 Pierce Arrow XT	TBD
10	2004 Pierce Arrow XT	TBD
15	2004 Pierce Arrow XT	TBD
1	2004 Pierce Arrow XT	TBD
9	2004 Pierce Arrow XT	TBD
14	2004 Pierce Arrow XT	TBD
5	2004 Pierce Arrow XT	TBD
8	2000 American LaFrance Eagle	TBD
2	2000 American LaFrance Eagle	TBD
3	1999 American LaFrance Eagle	TBD
4	1999 American LaFrance Eagle	2008
6	1996 Sutphen	TBD
Reserve 2	1996 Sutphen	2008
Reserve 3	1995 Sutphen	2007
Reserve 1	1995 Sutphen	2007
7	1991 E-One	TBD, but due for retirement
11	1990 E-One	2006
13	1989 Spartan	2006

Trucks

These aerial apparatus, sometimes referred to as ladder trucks, are front line units. Two staffed trucks are currently in service, with one reserve unit.

- Truck 1 is a 2004 Pierce tiller-drawn 100 foot heavy duty ladder with a built-in waterway
- Truck 14 is a 1995 Sutphen 75 foot mid-mount platform quint with a built-in waterway
- The Reserve Truck is a 1985 Seagrave 100 foot rear-mount straight ladder with no waterway or pump

Heavy Rescue

This unit is used for technical rescue response, heavy extrication, industrial rescues and light and air functions, and can serve as a mobile command center.

- One staffed heavy rescue vehicle, a 1994 International, is in service at Station 12





Tankers

Tankers are used to transport water to scenes that do not have positive water supplies.

- The five tankers currently in service hold 1,200 gallons each and were purchased in 1988 and 1989 in conjunction with the Georgia Forestry Commission; the tanks are leased from the Commission and the chassis are owned by Forsyth County
- Funding was approved in 2005 for three new 3,000 gallon tankers to be ordered in spring 2006

SPECIALTY APPARATUS

Hazardous materials truck, trailer and decontamination unit

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

- One truck, a 1987 International, was donated by Atlanta Gas Light in 1998 after it had reached its life expectancy, and is in service at Station 14
- One trailer, a 2000 model, is in service at Station 14, pulled by the hazardous materials truck
- One decontamination unit was purchased using grant funds in 2005 and is housed at Station 9



Brush trucks

Brush trucks are capable of reaching remote areas and those areas not easily accessible by fire engines and trucks. They are highly effective vehicles that are smaller and more maneuverable which allows them to negotiate narrow pathways, off-road trails and golf cart paths. They are equipped with foam capabilities which, in wildland fires, suppress better than water.

- Three new brush trucks were put in service in 2005, one each housed at Stations 2, 3 and 5. While the three units can work in concert on large fires, they are strategically distributed throughout the county to help ensure proper coverage of all areas. The one brush truck the county previously owned is now a reserve unit.



Kubota

The smaller, highly maneuverable Kubota assists brush trucks in the fighting of wildland fires. As needed, the Kubota's firefighting capabilities can be replaced with a medical response skid unit, enabling it to perform emergency medical transport.

- One Kubota, purchased in 2005, is housed at Station 5; it has a 60 gallon capacity tank with a 60 gallon per minute pump





Dive van

The dive van will be utilized by the Dive Team for all dive rescue and recovery operations.

- One dive van was approved for purchase and ordered in 2005 and delivered in January 2006; it will be housed at Station 15



Jet skis

Lake Lanier and the rapid flowing waters of the Chattahoochee River below Buford Dam create the need for jet skis, which are utilized for Swift Water and Dive Team operations.

- Two jet skis were put in service in 2005 and are housed at Station 15



Zodiac boat

The boat is used in conjunction with the jet skis, as a complimentary unit for both lake and swift water rescue and recovery operations.

- One 1999 Zodiac boat is housed at Station 15



Pontoon boat

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

- One 1988 pontoon boat is housed at Station 13 in an unstaffed capacity

2005 FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET INFORMATION

Forsyth County Fire Department 2005 budget: \$11,654,590

Millage Rate

The Fire Department's 2005 millage rate was 1.581. Forsyth County's millage rates continue to be among the lowest in the metro Atlanta area and have been declining in recent years.

	2003	2004	2005
Fire Department Millage Rate:	1.750	1.654	1.581

Impact Fees

The Fire Department also receives funding from the county's impact fees program. The program began in January 2004 and as of December 31, 2005 has collected approximately \$2.33 million for the Fire Department. These funds can only be used to construct capital facilities such as fire stations or for the purchase of capital firefighting equipment. A portion of the new Public Safety Complex will be paid for using impact fees.

SPLOST V

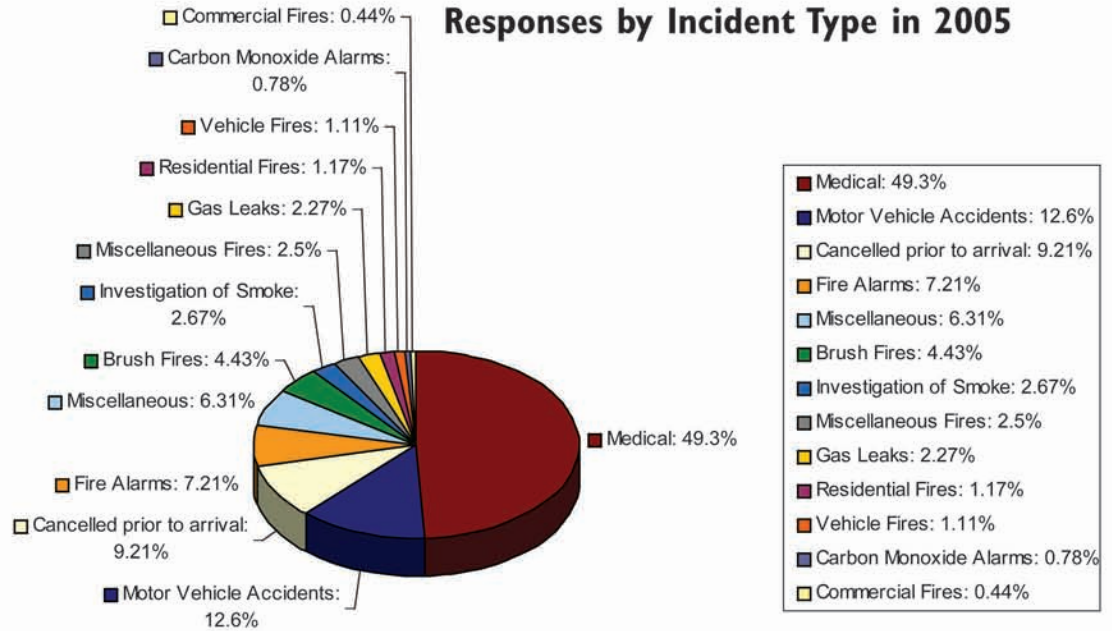
A Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is a one percent county sales tax used to fund capital projects such as buildings and other public facilities. The current program, SPLOST V, was approved by Forsyth County voters in 2003 and is providing funding to the Fire Department and other county departments. It is anticipated that during the duration of the SPLOST V program approximately \$6,580,000 will be applied to the following Fire Department projects:

- New Fire Station 1
- New Fire Station 2
- New Fire Station 6
- New Fire Station 7
- 100 foot aerial fire apparatus (Completed)
- Six fire engines (Completed)

These projects show your SPLOST dollars at work.

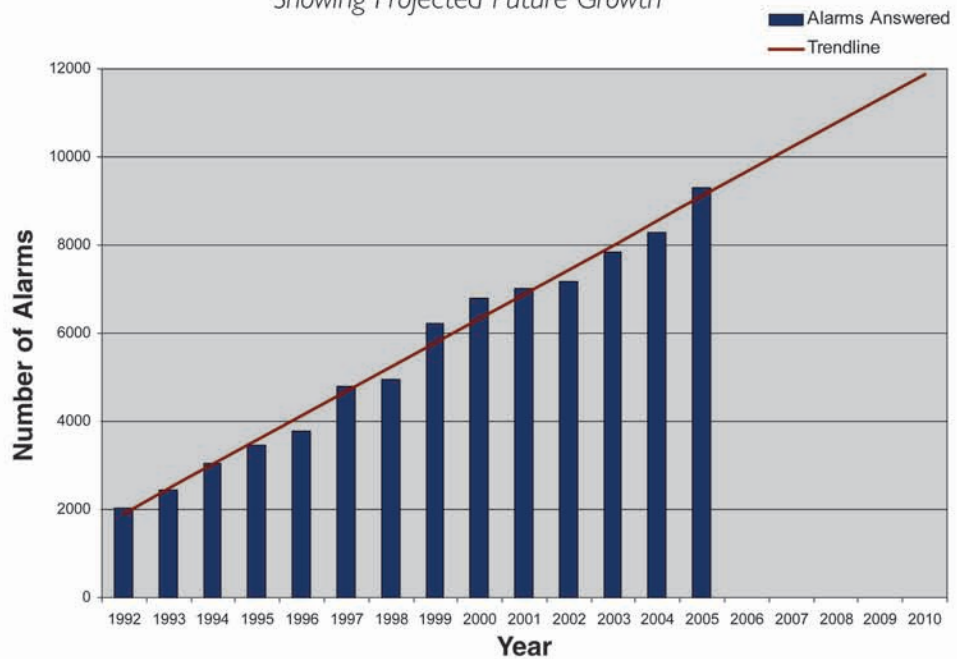


2005 BY THE NUMBERS



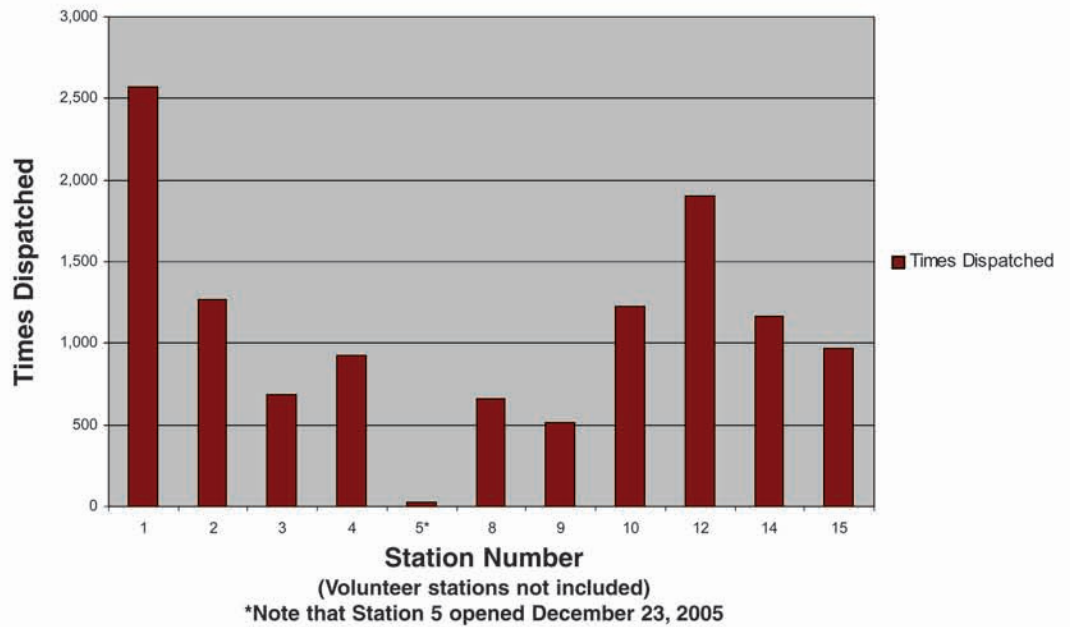
Alarms Answered by Year

Showing Projected Future Growth

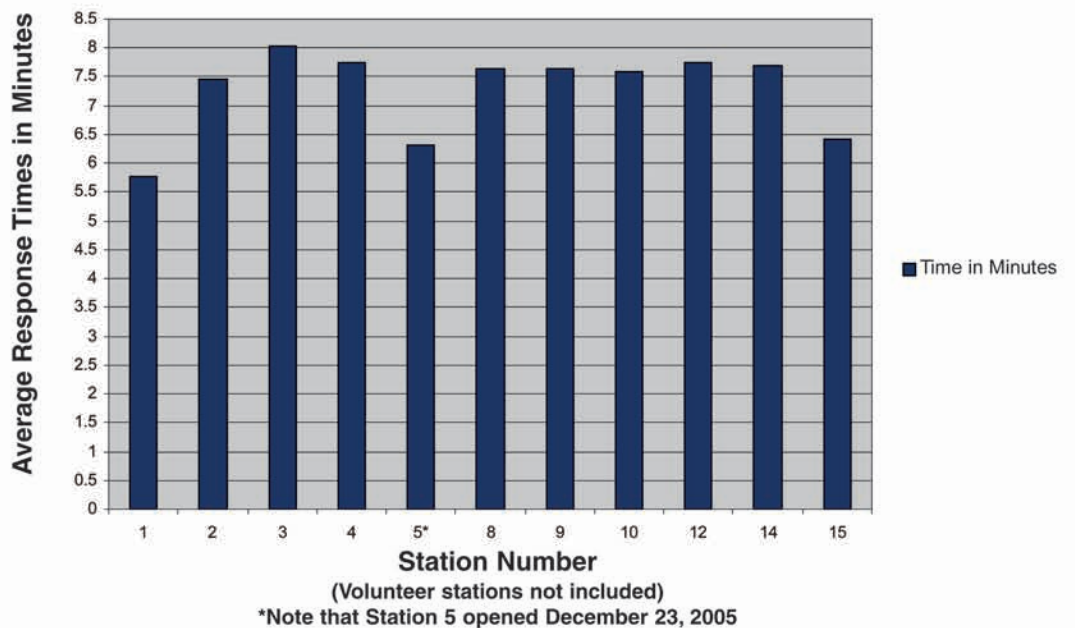


In 2005, the Forsyth County Fire Department answered 9,313 alarms - the most alarms per year in department history. The total number of Fire Department emergency apparatus movements (a movement is any time an apparatus is dispatched from a station) was 11,906. As is evident, the demand for the county's emergency fire services has grown steadily; that pattern of growth is expected to continue.

Number of Times Dispatched by Station in 2005



Average Response Times by Station in 2005



The department's 2005 goal was to arrive on the scene of a life-threatening emergency within 8 minutes, and do so 90% of the time. Department-wide, that goal was met; however, some fire stations cannot consistently meet this goal due to response distances and other factors. In 2006, the department will continue to evaluate response times and seek ways to improve service to the community.



2005 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

MAJOR NEWS, EVENTS AND STORIES FROM 2005

Department continues to grow

10 new career firefighters were hired in 2005, bringing the year's suppression staff total to 116.

ALS program implemented

In an effort to allow for enhanced response to cardiac emergencies, thirty-five automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and two cardiac monitors were purchased. The thirty-five AEDs are third-generation models replacing the over twenty first-generation models the department was previously utilizing. Additionally, two more AEDs and two alarm boxes for use in the County Administration Building were purchased through a refund received from returning the first-generation models, saving taxpayers over \$4,000. The two cardiac monitors were added to the four already in place. Three of the county's six cardiac monitors are on Advanced Life Support (ALS) Engines 4, 8 and 10. Each ALS Engine is staffed with at least two firefighters, one of whom must be certified as a paramedic. Two monitors are in staff vehicles and the remaining monitor serves as both a training tool and a spare. As an anticipatory move by Fire Department personnel, the seven recently delivered fire engines were designed with Basic Life Support/Advanced Life Support response capabilities. The engines have a compartment specifically designated for medical equipment storage. Within this compartment is a self-contained refrigeration and heating unit which keeps life-saving drugs and fluids at their optimum temperature. These drugs and fluids work in concert with the use of the AEDs or cardiac monitors to implement life-saving steps in times of critical need.

When the county's Parks and Recreation Department decided to equip their facilities with AEDs, the Fire Department was sought to act in an advisory capacity. Twenty-nine AEDs are now in place throughout the parks system. These AEDs were purchased by the Parks and Recreation Department, based on the Fire Department's recommendations, to match all in-service AEDs and cardiac monitors used by the Fire Department. The units are available to provide assistance in the first few minutes of a cardiac emergency prior to the arrival of Fire Department personnel.

Annual boot drive supports burn victims, fire prevention programs

The Fire Department took part in the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation's annual "Give Burns the Boot"® boot drive. The drive was held May 12 through 14 and despite inclement weather raised an astounding \$25,578.02. This was the fourteenth year the Forsyth County Fire Department has held its annual boot drive.



New fire ordinance approved

Fire Ordinance 79E was approved by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners on July 7, greatly expanding the scope of authority in matters pertaining to Forsyth County fire prevention codes.

Technical Rescue Team honored for life-saving rescue

Forsyth County Fire Department's Technical Rescue Team was honored in 2005 with several highly distinguished awards in recognition of a successful 12-hour rescue performed in November 2004, just two months after the team first received formal trench rescue training.

The team was recognized with the Lifesaving Valor Award in Valdosta, Georgia on August 6 during the annual banquet at the joint meeting of the Georgia State Firefighter's Association/Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs. On hand to accept the award were Firefighter/EMT Mark Davis and Firefighter/EMT Justin Suggs.

The Technical Rescue Team was also selected by Advanced Rescue Technology magazine to receive the second annual James B. "Jim" Gargan Award. Presented to the team at the EMS Expo in New Orleans, Louisiana on August 25, this prestigious award is presented each year in memory of Jim Gargan, considered the founding father of the techniques, tools and training used to safely and effectively rescue those placed in peril of death or injury as a result of a cave-in situation. Accepting this award were Deputy Fire Chief Dwight Clark, Battalion Chief Anthony Chapman, Division Chief Lee Parker, Lieutenant Scott Kennedy, Firefighter/EMT Mark Davis, Firefighter/EMT Justin Suggs and Firefighter Mike Filimon.

The 15-person team worked with the assistance of crews from Gwinnett and Cobb Counties for over 12 hours to free the man, who became trapped up to his neck after the trench in which he had been working suddenly collapsed.

Grant awarded for thermal imaging camera

The department received a thermal imaging grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance in September. The grant, part of the Fireman's Fund Insurance Heritage program, provided \$9,700 for the purchase of a new Bullard Fire Service thermal imaging camera with software. Such cameras allow fire personnel to see beyond smoke-filled conditions and locate victims and trapped firefighters. The acquisition of this camera, the department's second such device, is an asset to the current cache of tools and apparatus in the Suppression Division.





Stepping up to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, Forsyth County Fire Department personnel conducted a boot drive over Labor Day weekend. Over \$51,000 was raised and turned over to 'The Place' to assist Hurricane Katrina evacuees.



Four of the department's wildland firefighters, Captain David McWhorter, Firefighter/EMT Jay Davis, Firefighter Greg Chapman and Firefighter Lance Leuliette traveled to Waveland, Mississippi, where they were assigned to Stennis Space Center and tasked to Camp Glenn. Their primary assignments were to handle the off-loading, storing and distribution of much needed supplies to residents and rescue workers in the area. Additionally, Battalion Chief Anthony Chapman participated in a second deployment to Camp Glenn and served as logistics chief for suppression operations in Hancock County. Chapman's primary duties included providing fire suppression units with tools and apparatus to effectively protect their respective territories.



Department recognized with two awards from Liberty Mutual

The Forsyth County Fire Department received two esteemed awards from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. The department was selected to receive the Community Service Firemark Award for their assistance to Gulf Coast residents following Hurricane Katrina. In addition, Forsyth County Fire was chosen for the Heroic Firemark Award in recognition of the lifesaving trench rescue performed by the department's Technical Rescue Team in November 2004. Both awards were presented to Fire Chief Danny Bowman and department personnel on October 20.



Hazardous material drill

On December 8, the Fire Department assisted Northside Hospital Forsyth, the Emergency Management Agency and Tyson Foods with a hazardous material drill. This was a coordinated effort to test the emergency room's ability to handle a small chemical event with a decontamination scenario.



New exhaust removal systems installed in stations

In December, exhaust removal systems were installed in eight of the staffed stations. These strong fan systems pull in exhaust from vehicles and tools and push it through a series of filters. The filters remove any carbon monoxide and particulate matter, and release clean air. These systems protect the health and safety of firefighters by preventing the ingestion of diesel and small engine exhaust and keeping exhaust from settling on gear and clothing. The exhaust removal systems will be installed in new stations 1, 2 and 12 during construction.



IN THE COMMUNITY

New Fire Station 5

The county's newest station opened its doors on December 23, serving the Chattahoochee Road, Holtzclaw Road and Pilgrim Mill Road peninsula areas of the county.

The Forsyth County Fire Department prides itself on being accessible to the community. Department personnel participate regularly in a variety of community activities and perform numerous public relations details throughout the year.

Highlights from 2005 include:



Memorial Day ceremony



Safety Town



Fourth of July parade



Annual "Ghost Out" at Forsyth Central High School to discourage underage drinking and promote responsible driving

- Forsyth Senior Exposition
- Third annual Family Fun Festival at Central Park
- Aerial's House annual holiday toy collection

Public Safety Education

Educating members of the community on fire prevention and the dangers of fire is an important initiative of the Forsyth County Fire Department. In 2005, the department reached thousands of people through its various education programs.

- 20+ schools visited
- 40+ events attended by the fire safety house, a trailer designed to teach children what to do in case of a fire in their home
- 250+ child car seat inspections conducted to ensure proper installation
- 400+ smoke detectors provided free of charge for senior citizens and needy residents, 50 of which were also installed





FORSYTH COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT PATCH

The original department patch was adopted over twenty years ago, finally being decommissioned in the summer of 2004. Upon the hiring of Chief Danny Bowman in July 2003, a committee was designated to explore and design a new department patch. The work of that committee resulted in the current patch design.

Several symbolic elements exist in the new patch. The American flag in the upper left corner represents patriotism and the pride Forsyth County firefighters take in being dedicated public servants. The black field in the lower right half represents mourning and the remembrance of the loss of fellow public safety professionals. Additionally, the maltese cross incorporates the tools and symbols of the county's modern fire department and the services provided.



FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS' MEMORIAL

Honoring Fallen Comrades

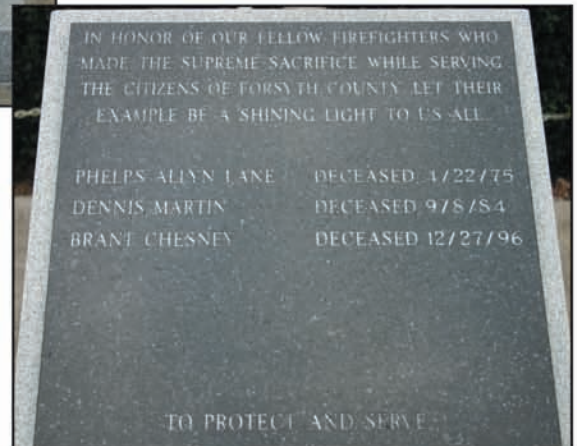
Tragically, the Forsyth County Fire Department has suffered three line of duty deaths since inception. The Fallen Firefighters' Memorial was erected outside Fire Department Headquarters in 1997 and will be relocated to the new Public Safety Complex.

Honored by the memorial are:

Phelps Allyn Lane, Line of Duty Death, April 22, 1975

Dennis Martin, Line of Duty Death, September 8, 1984

Brant Chesney, Line of Duty Death, December 27, 1996



"I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. There is an adage which says that, 'Nothing can be destroyed except by fire.' We strive to preserve from destruction the wealth of the world which is the product of the industry of men, necessary for the comfort of both the rich and the poor. We are defenders from fires of the art which has beautified the world, the product of the genius of men and the means of refinement of mankind. But, above all; our proudest endeavor is to save lives of men - the work of God Himself. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even at the supreme sacrifice. Such considerations may not strike the average mind, but they are sufficient to fill to the limit our ambition in life and to make us serve the general purpose of human society."

-Chief Edward F. Croker, FDNY circa 1910