

2009 FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department
ANNUAL REPORT



service through
tradition,
excellence,
and **integrity**

2009 County Board of **Commissioners**



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County Manager

This annual report was prepared jointly by the Forsyth County Fire Department and the Forsyth County Department of Communications.

tradition
FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department



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ABOUT THE COVER

Three Forsyth County firefighters perform vertical ventilation on the roof of a structure. Vertical ventilation of a structure fire is a critical component in a safe fireground operation. By creating a cavity in the roof system, a natural ventilation is established where heat and smoke escape upwards. This cools the interior environment, improves the interior visibility, and reduces the possibility of a catastrophic flashover, backdraft or smoke explosion. All Forsyth County firefighters are trained in this standard technique that uses chain saws and pry bars to work over a fire on a roof. Typically, structural ventilation is a job function of truck companies.



Command Staff



Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director **Danny D. 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 the Forsyth County Fire Department as division fire chief in 2001, and was promoted to assistant fire chief and 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 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.

Danny D. Bowman, Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency Director



Deputy Fire Chief **Dwight Clark** oversees the Operations Division of the Forsyth County Fire Department. Clark joined Forsyth County in 2001, after working with the Georgia Fire Academy. He has extensive knowledge of rescue operations and is world-renowned as an expert in the field of vehicle extrication. In July 2009, Clark completed his 50th year in the fire service.

Dwight Clark, Deputy Fire Chief



A-Shift Battalion Chief **James Hildebrand** joined the Forsyth County Fire Department in 2002, following service with the Fulton County Fire Department and the Atlanta Fire Department. With more than 35 years in the fire service, Hildebrand brings valuable experience to his supervisory duties of the A-shift operations.

James Hildebrand, A-Shift Battalion Chief



B-Shift Battalion Chief **Anthony Chapman** has held the titles of firefighter, lieutenant, captain and acting training chief for the Forsyth County Fire Department since joining in 1995. Chapman was promoted to battalion chief in 2001. With more than 20 years in the fire service, Chapman is well-prepared for day-to-day supervision of the B-shift operations.

Anthony Chapman, B-Shift Battalion Chief



C-Shift Battalion Chief **Tommy Coleman** joined the Forsyth County Fire Department in 1993, serving as captain prior to his promotion to battalion chief. Previously working for the Atlanta Fire Department and Roswell Fire Department, he has more than 30 years in the fire service. His years in the fire service are an asset to his supervisory duties and oversight of the C-shift operations.

Tommy Coleman, C-Shift Battalion Chief



Training Division Chief **Lee Parker** is responsible for training, conducting classes and ensuring all department personnel maintain state-required training levels. 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 chief master sergeant, fire protection manager and was activated for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lee Parker, Training Division Chief



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

Steve Anderson, Fire Marshal



2009 **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.

3

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.

excellence
FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

Message from the **Fire Chief**

It seems most every conversation today eventually evolves into a discussion with regards to the economy, and the fire service is no exception. Even so, I can honestly report the Forsyth County Fire Department's operations continue to be solid, and in several areas have advanced.

The long-awaited new outdoor severe weather sirens went into service in February 2009, providing an alert to our citizens of a tornado warning. The new sirens are located throughout the county.

To help ensure children ride safely, the Forsyth County Fire Department meets requests on a near daily basis for our nationally certified technicians (firefighters) to properly install child safety seats. There is no way to gauge the number of children's lives saved by the CARS (Children Are Riding Safely) program, which will, at all costs, continue under my administration. The loss of life or serious injury due to improperly installed child safety seats is unacceptable in my opinion.

In May, our department proudly collected in excess of \$20,000 to support the Georgia Firefighters' Burn Foundation as part of the statewide "Give Burns the Boot"® drive.

The Fire Department 2007 Annual Report garnered an Excellence award in the annual reports category from the National Association of County Information Officers 2009 Awards of Excellence Competition.

With an eye toward our firefighters' safety, a large renovation of the parking areas surrounding Fire Stations 14 and 15 was undertaken. The work prevented potential hazards to our personnel, and the public, keeping our fire stations safe for all concerned.

Our annual holiday toy drive - Aerial's House - brightened the season of over 2,200 local children who otherwise would not have received any gifts.

Finally, we received in 2009 our long-awaited fire insurance reclassification from the Insurance Services Office: a reduction (improvement) from 6/9 to 5. My office has received many notifications from property owners advising of significant reductions in their fire insurance premiums. This premium reduction is in no small part a reflection of the dedication of the Board of Commissioners and the county manager to public safety. Our average response times remain one of the best in the state, averaging 5 minutes and 13 seconds in 2009.

As we greet the future and continue to grow as a community, I hope you find this publication, our fifth annual report, to be a useful tool in explaining your Fire Department and its operations. The men and women of the Forsyth County Fire Department remain committed to protecting our citizens' lives and property — a mindset which will never change.

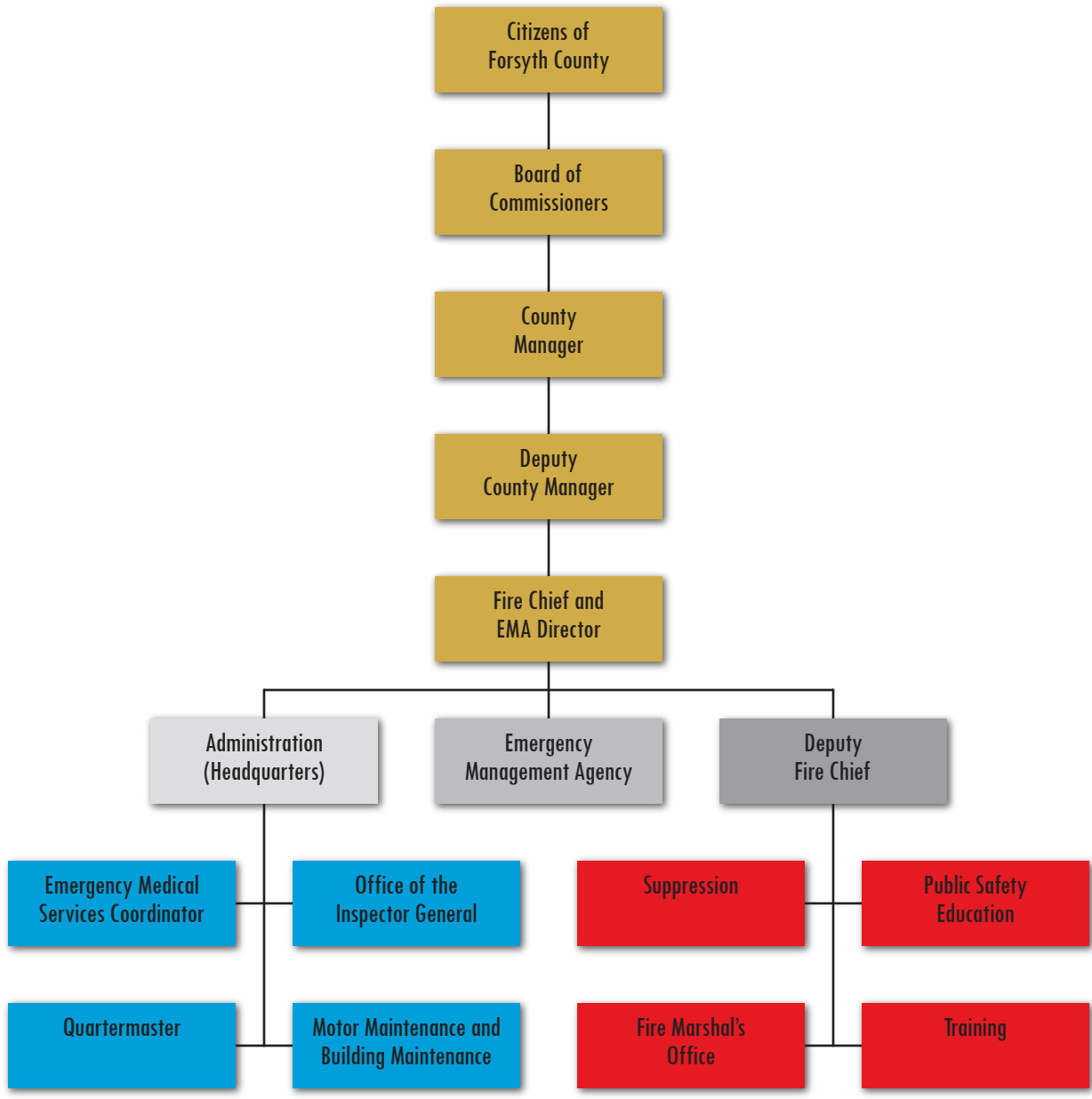


Danny D. Bowman
Fire Chief
Emergency Management Agency Director



“ Finally, we received in 2009 our long-awaited fire insurance reclassification from the Insurance Services Office: a reduction (improvement) from 6/9 to 5. ”

integrity
FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department



Organizational Chart

Historical Overview



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**.

In **1983**, the International Association of Fire Chiefs published Forsyth County, Georgia, with 336 volunteer firefighters on the roles, was the nation's largest volunteer Fire Department.



The volunteer Fire Department served the county until **1998**, when the time came to establish a modern Fire Department and to hire 30 full-time, career firefighters.



Since the first 30 full-time, career firefighters joined Forsyth County, the Fire Department has grown tremendously. The Forsyth County Fire Department consisted of 126 full-time field suppression firefighter positions in addition to shift workers and a variety of administrative and support personnel in **2009**.



The Forsyth County Fire Department has served the community for 37 years. The Fire Department continues to serve today with tradition, excellence, and integrity.



tradition
FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department

Fire Department Divisions

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

Emergency Medical Services Coordinator

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

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 fire chief and keeps the chief abreast of departmental needs and recent events. He also acts as the department spokesman to the media and works as a liaison with the county's Department of Communications. Additionally, the inspector general acts in a research and development capacity for prospective tools and equipment and serves as the primary point-of-contact for new apparatus design and specifications.

Quartermaster

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

Motor Maintenance

Motor Maintenance serves as the critical link keeping the department operable. It consists of three service technicians who ensure all department vehicles are maintained and repaired properly and efficiently. The technicians work out of a four-bay maintenance facility with full automotive and heavy duty truck repair capabilities. They perform all preventative maintenance and overhauling of the department equipment including emergency apparatus, staff vehicles, and small tools and equipment. They also have the ability to perform in-house metal fabrication.

Building Maintenance

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

2009 Fire Administration Numbers

- 1 EMS coordinator
- 1 inspector general
- 1 quartermaster
- 3 motor maintenance staff
- 1 building maintenance staff
- 3 administrative staff



The Fire Administration Division maintains and controls operations of the Fire Department. The Office of the Fire Chief, Office of the Deputy Fire Chief, personnel, payroll and comptroller, as well as divisions and special operations, fall within Fire Administration.

OPERATIONS

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 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-hour schedule. Field personnel 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.

Public Safety Education

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

Fire Marshal's Office

This division contains personnel for building plan review, fire code inspectors and fire investigators. It 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 immediate cause cannot be determined.

Training

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

2009 Operations Numbers

- 126 full-time firefighters;
6 shift workers (12-hour shift);
20+ volunteer firefighters
- 1 public safety education coordinator
- 1 fire marshal;
1 deputy fire marshal;
1 fire investigator;
5 fire inspectors;
1 plan reviewer;
1 administrative staff
- 3 full-time training staff;
2 part-time training staff



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

Fire Department Divisions

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

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/rescue vehicle.

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 pair of personal watercraft equipped for swift water rescues.

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 vehicle and a decontamination trailer. Fire personnel at Fire Station 2 are registered as hazardous materials technicians and can respond to and mitigate most any hazardous materials incident.

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.

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. This unit responds with a specially designed brush truck and has two other brush trucks available in the county for response as needed.

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, parades and flag presentations each year. It is also selected annually to participate in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Tribute at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.



The members of these specialized units possess high levels of training and skills going beyond their daily suppression duties. These specialized units, whose expertise focuses on handling extreme conditions and circumstances, are deployed during emergency incidents such as trench collapses and river rescues.

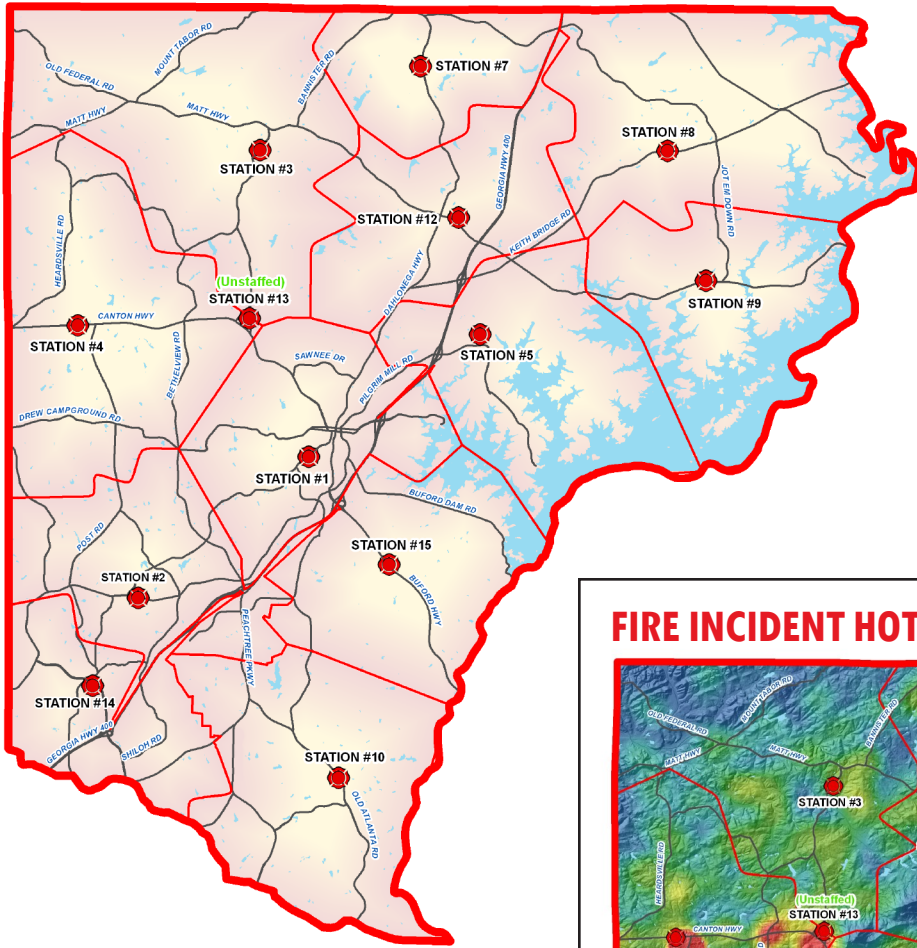


EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Forsyth County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is the local lead agency for coordination of emergency and disaster response for Forsyth County and the city of Cumming. The mission of the EMA is to provide a comprehensive and aggressive mitigation and emergency preparedness, response and recovery program for Forsyth County citizens in order to save lives, protect property and reduce the effects of disasters. The EMA utilizes the Emergency Operations Center in the Public Safety Complex as the central operations location during times of major emergencies.

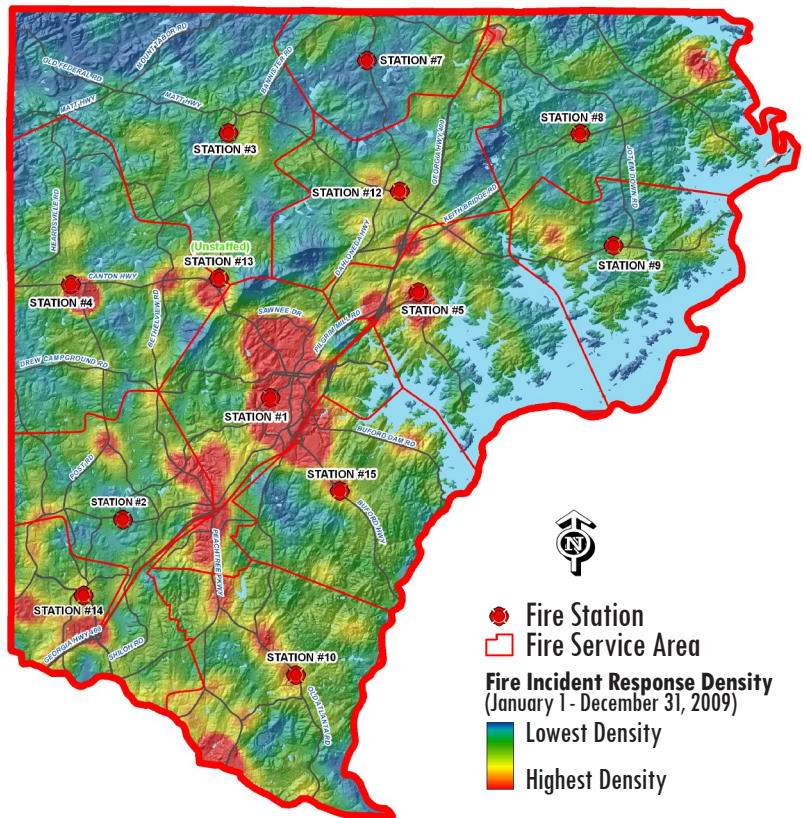
Fire Department Maps

EXISTING FACILITIES



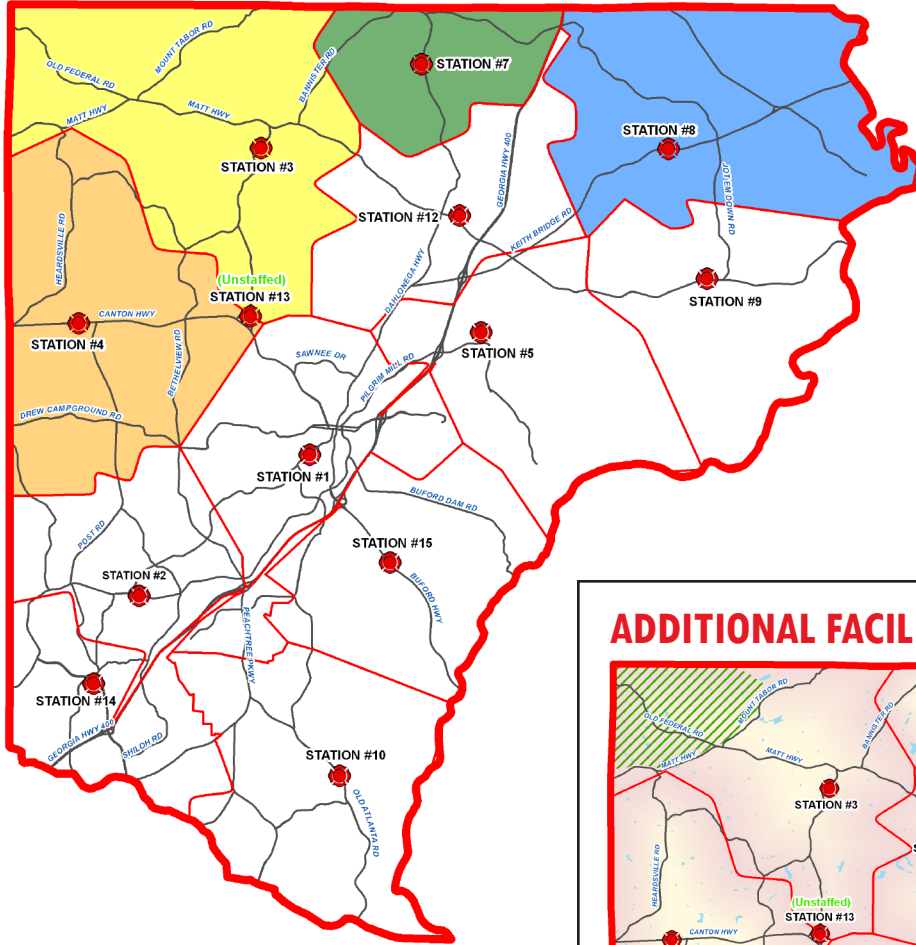
-  North arrow
-  Fire Station
-  Fire Service Area

FIRE INCIDENT HOT SPOTS



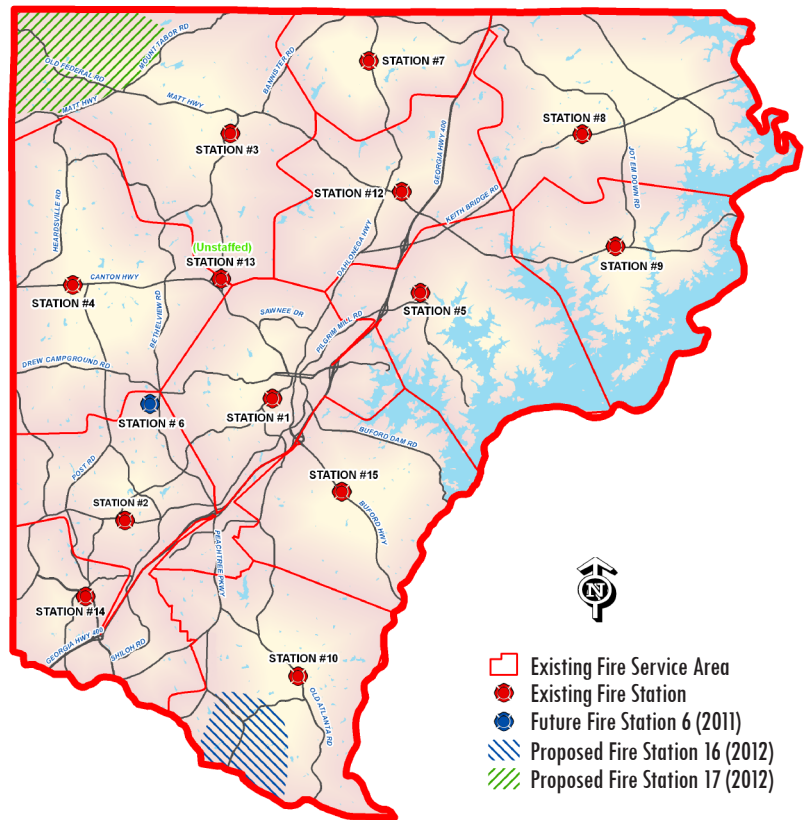
-  North arrow
-  Fire Station
-  Fire Service Area
- Fire Incident Response Density**
(January 1 - December 31, 2009)
-  Lowest Density
-  Highest Density



REPLACEMENT FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION BY YEAR




 Fire Station
 Fire Service Area
Planned Year for Construction of Replacement Facilities
 2010
 2012
 2013
 2014
 N/A

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES PROPOSED




 Existing Fire Service Area
 Existing Fire Station
 Future Fire Station 6 (2011)
 Proposed Fire Station 16 (2012)
 Proposed Fire Station 17 (2012)

Fire Stations and Facilities



Station 1

- Located on 2.41 acres in downtown Cumming at 234 Castleberry Industrial Drive
- Four double bays
- Opened June 2007
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of four firefighters
- Houses the Office of the First Battalion as well as Engine 1, Truck 1, Tanker 1 and Med 1
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and General Fund reserves



Station 2

- Located on 3.04 acres at 4055 Carolene Way
- Four double bays
- Opened December 2007
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 2, Med 2, Rescue 2 and the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Truck and Decontamination Unit
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST V funds and impact fees
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit
- Adjacent to newly opened Big Creek Greenway at the entrance to the future Fowler Park



Station 3

- Located on 0.25 acres at 4125 Doctor Bramblett Road
- Two single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1981, and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 3 and Brush Truck 3
- Plans are to build a new two double-bay Station 3 on a site to be determined using a combination of SPLOST VI funds and impact fees



Station 4

- Located on 3.3 acres at 3805 Canton Highway
- Three single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1974, and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 4 and Light/Air 4
- Plans are to build a new two double-bay Station 4 adjacent to the existing station on county-owned property using a combination of SPLOST VI funds and impact fees



Station 5

- Located at 2720 Holtzclaw Road
- Located on 2 acres, of which 1.25 acres are owned by Forsyth County and 0.75 acres is leased from the Forsyth County Board of Education
- Two double bays
- Opened in 2005 with a building life expectancy of 50 years
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 5, Tanker 5 and Brush Truck 5
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Wildland Unit



Station 7

- Located at 5775 Dahlonega Highway
- Two single bays
- Constructed by volunteers on leased land in 1974, and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 7
- Construction of a new two double-bay Station 7 is slated to begin in 2010 using a combination of SPLOST V funds, impact fees and fire millage funds; future location is approximately 0.75 miles north of current Station 7 on Dahlonega Highway



Station 8

- Located on 0.25 acres at 6015 Keith Bridge Road
- Two single bays
- Constructed by volunteers in 1984, and has far exceeded its life expectancy
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 8 and Brush Truck 8
- Plans are to build a new two double-bay Station 8 using a combination of SPLOST VI funds and impact fees; location is yet to be determined



Station 9

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

Fire Stations and Facilities



Station **10**

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



Station **12**

- Located at 3530 Settingdown Road as part of the Public Safety Complex
- Four double bays
- Opened August 2006
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 12, Med 12, Rescue 12 and the Forsyth County Fire Department Technical Rescue Vehicle
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Technical Rescue Unit



Station **13**

- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Doctor Bramblett Road
- Three double bays
- Constructed in 1976, and served as a former commercial truck maintenance facility, not intended for 24-hour occupancy
- Staffed with only one EMS crew; not staffed by full-time fire personnel
- Houses Med 13 and an antique Ladder
- Utilized as a storage facility for reserve units
- No plans are in place yet for a new Station 13



Station **14**

- Located on 1 acre at 800 McFarland Parkway
- Two double bays
- Constructed in 1994, and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of four firefighters
- Houses Engine 14 and Truck 14
- Received new concrete apron and parking area in 2009



Station 15

- Located on 1 acre at 1525 Buford Highway
- Two double bays
- Constructed in 1999, and expected to last through 2020
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of two firefighters
- Houses Engine 15, Rescue 15 and the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive and Swift Water Units' equipment
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive Unit and Swift Water Unit
- Received new concrete apron and parking area in 2009



Fire Headquarters

- Located in the Public Safety Complex at 3520 Settingdown Road
- Houses the Office of the Fire Chief, Office of the Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Marshal's Office, Training Division and administrative personnel



Training Facility

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



Motor Maintenance Facility

- Located adjacent to the Forsyth County Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed in the mid-1990s
- Services all Fire Department apparatus and vehicles
- Includes a pump testing facility, three parts rooms, one light duty lift and six heavy truck lifts
- Received a state-of-the-art exhaust removal system in 2009

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



Engines

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

- Twelve staffed engines are in service currently with four reserve units, which go in service when a unit undergoes maintenance.

Trucks

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

SPECIALTY APPARATUS



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 Station 12.

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.

- Three brush trucks were put in service in 2005, one each housed at Stations 3, 5 and 8. 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.

Kubota

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

- One Kubota, purchased in 2005, is housed at Station 2 and has a 60-gallon capacity tank with a 60-gallon per minute pump.



Heavy Rescue

This unit is used for technical rescue response, heavy extrication and industrial rescues and is equipped with a light mast for nighttime operations.

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

Tankers

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

- Three 3,000-gallon tankers were put in service in early 2007.



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



Dive Van

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

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



Pontoon Boat

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

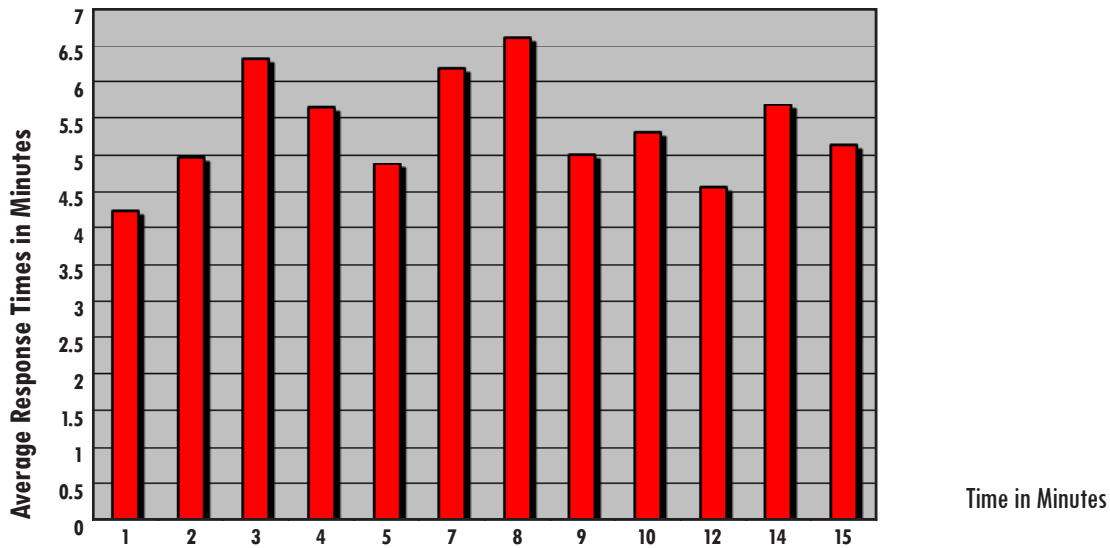
Jet Skis

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

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

Fire Department Graphs

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES BY STATION IN 2009

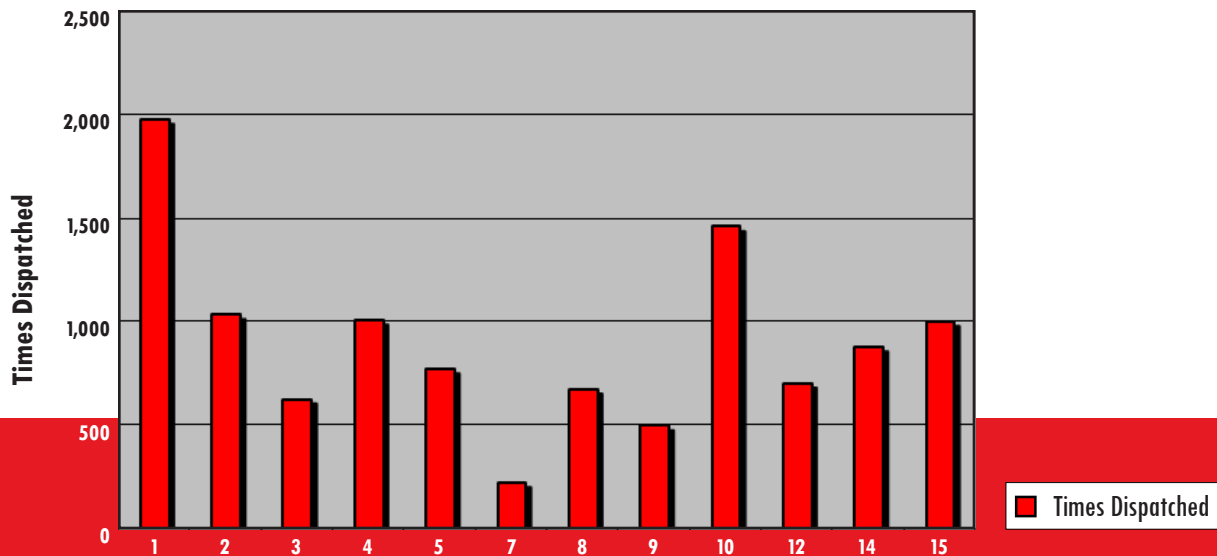


Station Number
(Unstaffed stations not included)

The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2009 average response time for on-scene arrival was five minutes and 13 seconds – a reduction of nine seconds from the 2008 average response time of five minutes and 22 seconds.* Fire station response times vary as a result of travel distances and other factors. In 2010, the department will continue to evaluate response times and seek ways to improve service to the community.

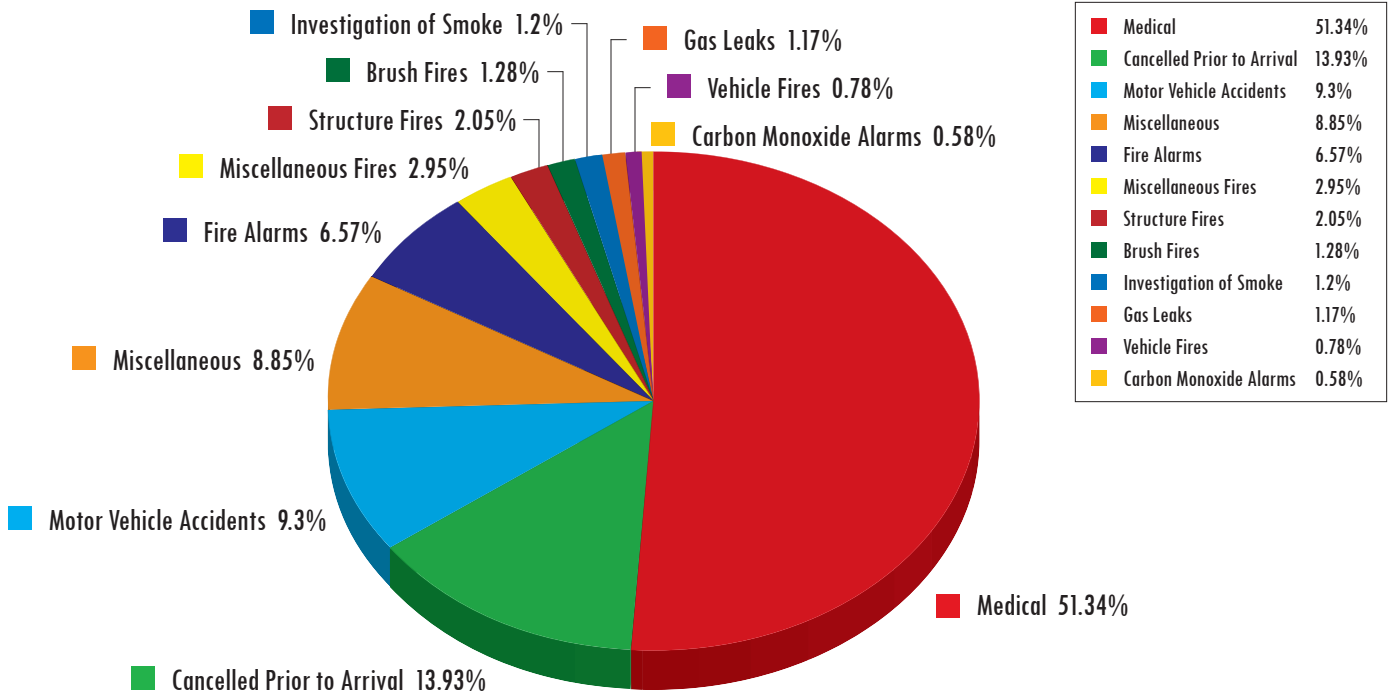
*Source: Forsyth County Fire Department Research Library

NUMBER OF TIMES DISPATCHED BY STATION IN 2009

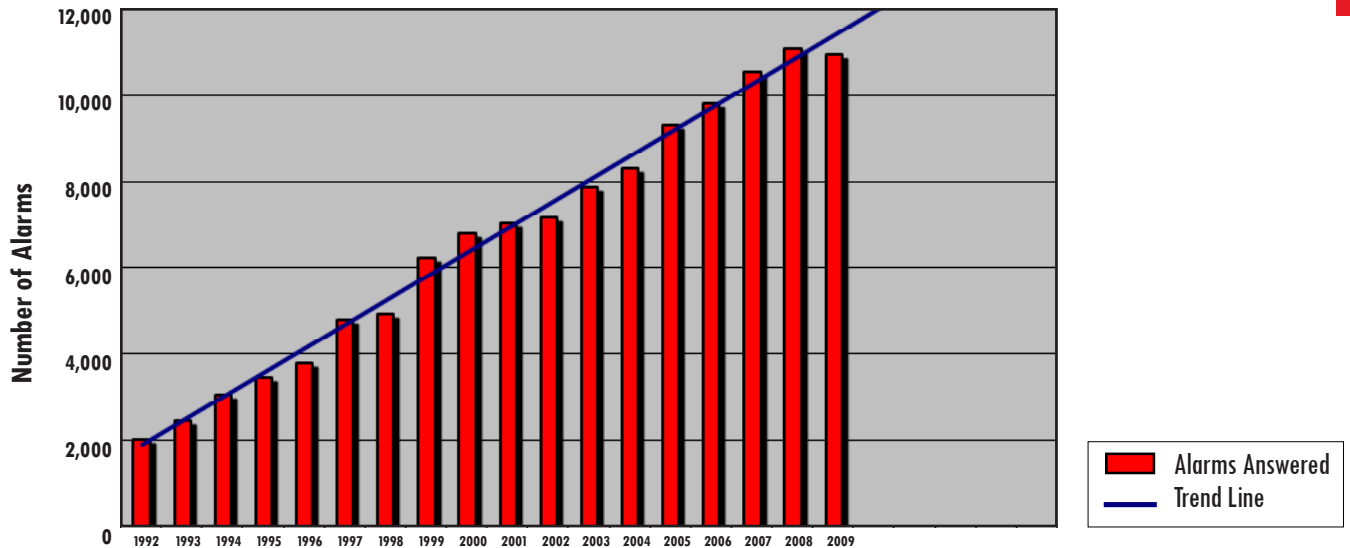


Station Number
(Unstaffed stations not included)

RESPONSES BY INCIDENT TYPE IN 2009



ALARMS ANSWERED BY YEAR



Year

In 2009, the Fire Department responded to 10,934 incidents. The total number of Fire Department emergency apparatus movements (a movement is any time an apparatus is dispatched from a station) was 13,648. As is evident, the demand for Forsyth County's emergency fire services has grown steadily over the years and this pattern of growth is expected to continue.

Fire Department **Budget**

Forsyth County Fire Department 2009 budget: \$13,569,351

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 2009 millage rate was 1.765. Forsyth County's millage rates continue to be among the lowest in the metro Atlanta area.

Forsyth County Fire Department Millage Rate:	2009	1.765
	2008	1.765
	2007	1.765
	2006	1.515
	2005	1.581

Impact Fees

The Fire Department also receives funding from the county's impact fees program. This program began in January 2004 and, as of December 31, 2009, has collected \$5,835,293 for the Forsyth County Fire Department. These funds can only be used to construct capital facilities such as fire stations or to purchase capital firefighting equipment.



SPLOST Programs

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.

SPLOST VI

Forsyth County voters approved the SPLOST VI program in February 2008. The program went into effect July 1, 2008, and it will provide funding to the Fire Department and other county departments through its expiration on June 30, 2013. Proposed Fire Department projects to be funded by SPLOST VI include new Fire Stations 3, 4, 8, 16 and 17, and a new 100-foot aerial fire apparatus.



Highlights from 2009 include the following events:

- Memorial Day Ceremony
- Safety Town
- Fourth of July Parade
- Ghost Out
- September 11 Ceremony
- Veterans Day Ceremony
- Cumming Christmas Parade
- Aerial's House Annual Holiday Toy Collection

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



Focus on Community

PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION

Educating community members about fire prevention and dangers of fire is an important initiative of the Forsyth County Fire Department. In 2009, the Fire Department reached thousands of people through its various education programs:



- **25+** schools visited
- **45+** preschools visited
- **40+** events attended by the fire safety house, a trailer designed to aid in teaching children what to do in case of a fire in their home
- **300+** child safety seat inspections conducted to ensure proper installation
- **400+** smoke detectors provided free of charge to senior citizens and needy residents, approximately 50 of which were also installed

2009 in Review

Four Firefighters Promoted to Lieutenant

The Forsyth County Fire Department promoted four firefighters to the rank of lieutenant in January. Lucas Henderson, Debbie Lindstrom, Joey Smith and Marlin Thompson were all recognized in a ceremony at the Public Safety Complex and officially commissioned as officers by Fire Chief Danny Bowman. Lieutenants Henderson, Smith and Thompson serve as company officers in the suppression division and oversee a fire station each on their respective shifts. Lieutenant Lindstrom serves as a fire investigator in the Fire Marshal's Office and determines the cause and origin of fires in question. She is a certified peace officer.

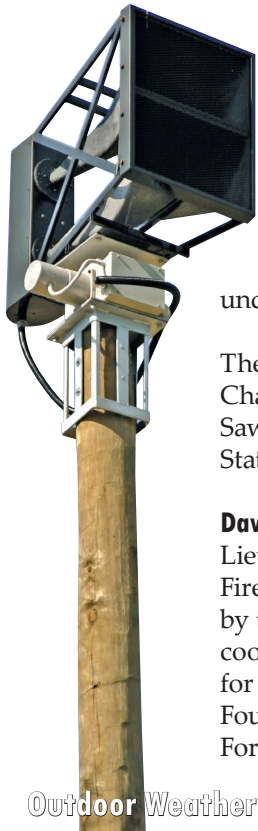
New Outdoor Weather Sirens Ready to Alert

Forsyth County's 12 new outdoor weather sirens went into service in February. These sirens alert citizens who are outdoors that severe weather is in the area. In the event Forsyth County is placed under a tornado warning, the sirens will be activated.

The new sirens are located throughout the county at the following locations: Midway Park, Central Park, Charleston Park, Shady Grove Campground, Matt Elementary School, Chestatee Elementary School, Sawnee Primary School, South Forsyth Middle School, Forsyth County Public Safety Complex and Fire Stations 10, 14 and 15.

David Bradley Recognized at State Capitol

Lieutenant David Bradley (ret.) was recognized for his dedication as a member of the Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard at the annual Firefighters Recognition Day at the Georgia State Capitol by the Georgia State Firefighter's Association and the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs. Bradley is the coordinator of the Honor Guard and serves as the Georgia Mutual Aid Group Honor Guard contact for statewide requests. He also is the Georgia Honor Guard liaison for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Bradley started volunteering with Forsyth County in 1984, and retired from the DeKalb County Fire Department in 2001.



Outdoor Weather Siren



Lieutenant Promotion



Firefighters Recognition Day



Ghost Out

Ghost Out Informs Young Drivers about Driving Dangers

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in the annual Ghost Out demonstration April 22 at Forsyth Central High School. Conducted each spring, this exercise is an accurate reenactment of a horrific motor vehicle accident and the resulting emergency response required. The event is intended to stress the dangers of drinking and driving and distracted driving to young drivers. The Ghost Out is strategically scheduled each year before local proms and typically attendance is mandatory by students of the hosting high school.

Fire Department Helps Children Ride Safely

To help ensure children ride safely, the Forsyth County Fire Department held a free child safety seat inspection event April 24. In the past, as many as 90 percent of the child safety seats inspected by the Fire Department's trained technicians have been found to be improperly installed.

The event focused on safety of all children who are transported using child safety seats and booster seats. During the inspections, parents were educated about the proper installation and use of their child safety seats and then installed the child safety seats themselves to ensure their understanding of the procedure.

Fire Department Gives Burns the Boot

The generosity of the community was once again overwhelming as the Forsyth County Fire Department's 2009 Boot Drive generated more than \$20,000 to support the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and local fire safety and burn prevention programs. The event was held in May and was part of the "Give Burns the Boot"® boot drive. The Forsyth County Fire Department received five percent of the funds raised for use toward fire safety and burn prevention programs in the community.

Fire Department Focuses on Firefighter Safety and Health

In June, the Fire Department participated in the annual Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (Safety Week). Fire departments across North America focus on activities during the week to help firefighters work more safely and live healthier lives. Safety Week is sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Deputy Chief Clark Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Deputy Fire Chief Dwight Clark celebrated his 50th anniversary in the fire service July 1. In 1959, he began his career in San Angelo, Texas. Clark has worked for the Forsyth County Fire Department since 2001, and previously served as an instructor at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. He is a world-renowned expert in the art of victim extrication from motor vehicle accidents. Clark's son Matt is also a Forsyth County firefighter.



Children are Riding Safely



Give Burns the Boot



50th Anniversary



Climb Atlanta Challenge

Five Firefighters Climb to the Top

Five Forsyth County firefighters raced 50 stories to the top of Peachtree Towers in Atlanta during the Fight for Air Climb Atlanta Firefighter Challenge. Wearing full personal protection equipment, approximately 130 firefighters participated in the challenge. The event promotes lung disease awareness and raises money for the American Lung Association.

The following Forsyth County firefighters (left to right) climbed to the top:

- Firefighter Michael Cody
- Firefighter Scott Madsen
- Firefighter/EMT Michelle Buice
- Lieutenant Amanda Suggs
- Firefighter/EMT Paul MacAfee

2009 in Review

Fire Department Participates in Fourth of July Parade

Members of the Forsyth County Fire Department once again took part in the city of Cumming's annual Fourth of July parade downtown.

Fire Department Remembers September 11

The Fire Department hosted a ceremony to remember and honor those lost September 11, 2001. Fire Chief Danny Bowman spoke at the ceremony, and the Honor Guard participated in the ceremony. The Forsyth County Public Safety Complex houses a memorial comprised of a portion of a steel I-beam from the New York City World Trade Center.

Fire Stations 14 and 15 Receive Repairs

Fire Stations 14 and 15 temporarily closed to allow for repair work to the stations' driveways and parking areas. This work prevents potential hazards to the emergency personnel's ability to safely respond to emergencies.

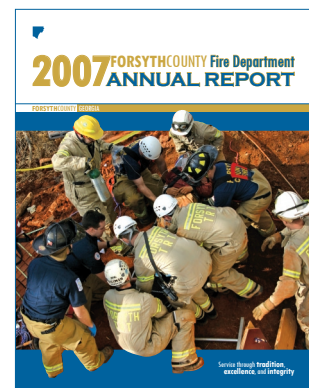
Fire Department Welcomes Two Firefighters from Brazil

The Forsyth County Fire Department was proud to welcome Major Fernando Vasconcelos and Captain Wilson Silva of the Corpo de Bombeiros Militar de Pernambuco (National Fire Department of Pernambuco, Brazil). The two officers came to Georgia as part of the Georgia Fellows Program to learn from the Fire Department's example about how American fire operations are conducted. Their visit was part of a broader campaign to prepare the Brazilian fire services for the upcoming 2014 Soccer World Cup and 2016 Summer Olympic Games. The two firefighters spent two full months experiencing all aspects of the Forsyth County Fire Department so as to take those experiences and knowledge back to Brazil to share and use as valuable training tools.



2007 Annual Report Recognized for Excellence

The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2007 Annual Report garnered an Excellence award in the annual reports category (magazine or newsletter format) of the National Association of County Information Officers 2009 Awards of Excellence Competition.



Fire Department Lines Up Christmas Parade

Fire Department personnel and apparatus lined up to take part in the fourth annual Cumming Christmas Parade, held December 5 on Market Place Boulevard.

Hazardous Materials Unit Assists with Vice Presidential Visit

The Forsyth County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Unit was requested by the Dawson County Emergency Services to assist with security operations for Vice President Joe Biden's December 17 visit to north Georgia. A full complement of Forsyth County Hazardous Materials abilities were activated in a stand-by capacity, should an immediate response be needed for any chemical or biological event.

Aerial's House Brightens Holidays for Local Children

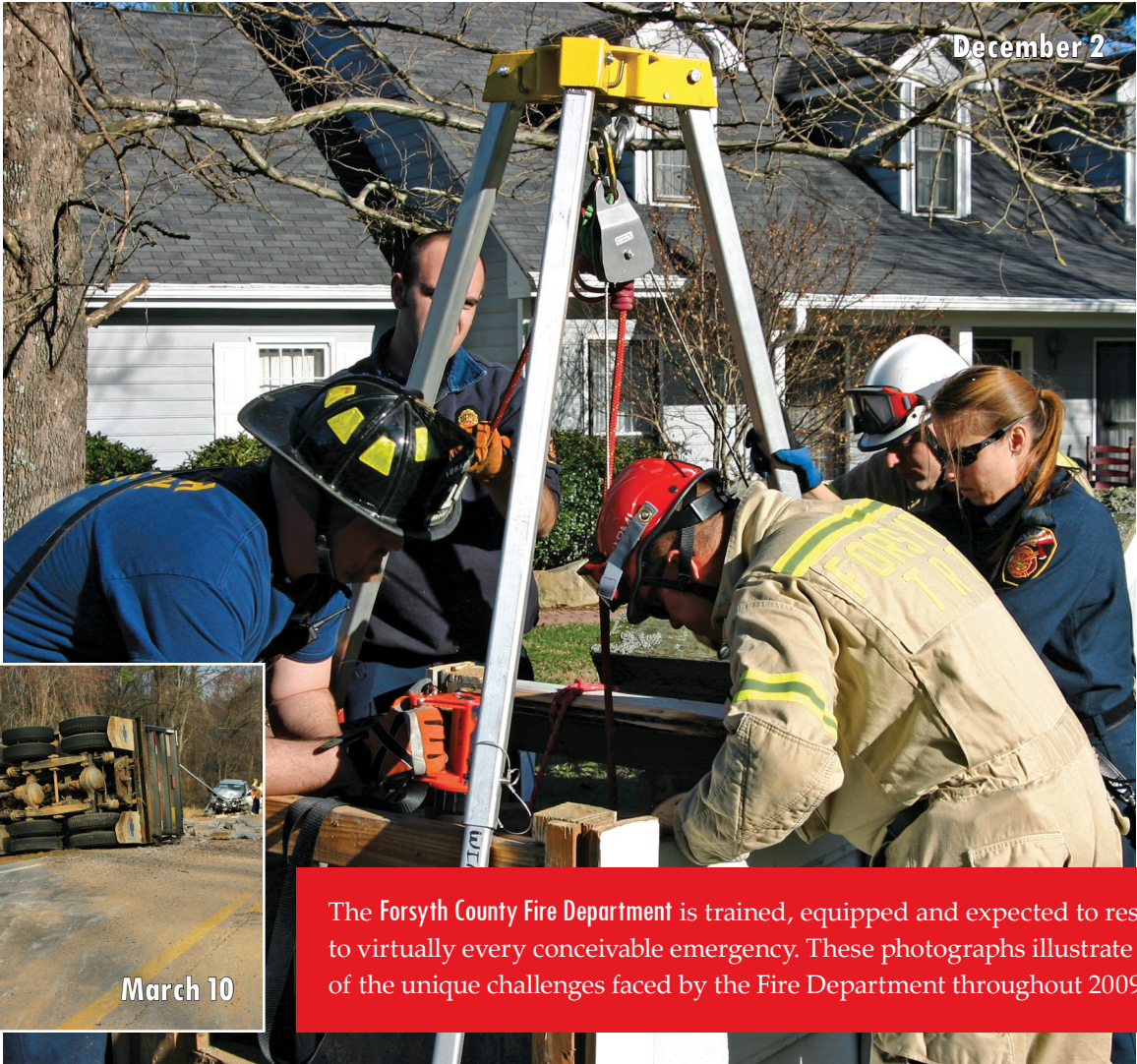
The Forsyth County Fire Department's annual Aerial's House toy drive brightened the holidays for more than 2,200 local children in need. Generous donations from the community allowed the Fire Department to make Christmas possible for children who may otherwise not have received any gifts. Toys were collected at county fire stations, Fire Department Headquarters and the Forsyth County Administration Building.

ISO Rating Improved

Forsyth County's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating was reduced in 2009. An ISO study was conducted in both Forsyth County and the city of Cumming in 2008, auditing Forsyth County's ability to serve the public through an examination of three key areas of public safety: fire protection, E-911 service and water services. ISO followed the analysis with months of study and evaluation, and in 2009, the county's rating improved from a 6/9 to a 5. Those located within five road miles of a fire station benefited from the rate change from a 6 to a 5. Those formerly classified as a 9 are now classified as a 5. ISO ratings are on a scale from 1 to 10, with lower numbers representing better levels of protection. The rate reduction meant potential insurance savings for residents and businesses.



Expecting the **Unexpected**



December 2



March 10

The Forsyth County Fire Department is trained, equipped and expected to respond to virtually every conceivable emergency. These photographs illustrate some of the unique challenges faced by the Fire Department throughout 2009.



March 17



April 13



May 7

Fire Department Patch

The original Forsyth County Fire Department patch was adopted over 20 years ago and served the Fire Department until being decommissioned in the summer of 2004. With the naming of Danny Bowman as fire chief in July 2003, a committee was designated to explore and design a new patch for the department. The work of the committee resulted in the current patch design.

Several symbolic elements exist in the current patch. The American flag in the upper left corner represents the patriotism and the pride of Forsyth County firefighters in being dedicated public servants. The black field in the lower half of the patch represents mourning and remembering the loss of fellow public safety professionals. The department has experienced three line-of-duty deaths since its inception. Additionally, the maltese cross incorporates the tools and symbols of the modern Forsyth County Fire Department and the services provided.



Pictured above (to the right of the Fire Department patch) is a section of a steel I-beam from the World Trade Center. The beam is located in the foyer of the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex and serves as a memorial to those lost September 11, 2001.

When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished.

What he does after that is all in the line of work.

-Chief Edward F. Croker, FDNY circa 1910

service through
tradition,
excellence,
and **integrity**



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