



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

FORSYTHCOUNTY Fire Department



SERVICE THROUGH
TRADITION,
EXCELLENCE,
AND INTEGRITY

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ABOUT THE COVER

On July 25, 2013, Forsyth County had the grand opening and hose uncoupling ceremony for new Fire Station 3. Station 3 is a 7,333-square foot building housing company 3 consisting of a Class-A pumper, brush truck, wildland ATV, and at least three firefighters every day. This new facility is dedicated to the Matt community and all residents of Forsyth County. Pictured on the cover on a sunny summer afternoon shortly after the opening of Station 3 are Engine 3 and Brush Truck 3.

The 2013 Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report was prepared jointly by the Forsyth County Fire Department and Forsyth County Department of Communications.



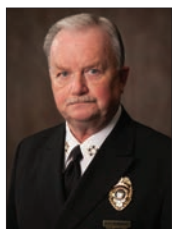
Brenda Green
Division Chief
Fire Administration

Kevin Wallace
Division Chief
Field Operations

Danny D. Bowman
Chief of Department and
Director, Emergency Management Agency

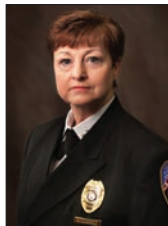
Jason Shivers
Division Chief
Technical Services

Barry Head
Division Chief
Fire Marshal's Office



Danny D. Bowman, Chief of Department and Director, Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is responsible for all aspects of fire and rescue operations for Forsyth County, oversees all EMA operations, and directs and advises on homeland security issues. Bowman joined the Forsyth County Fire Department as division chief in 2001, and was promoted to assistant fire chief and EMA director in 2002. He has served as chief of department since July 2003. Starting his career as a firefighter for the Atlanta Fire Department in 1968, Bowman worked his way up the ranks, eventually serving in the chief administrator capacity for the newly formed Fulton County Fire Department and later as the deputy fire chief, interim fire chief and battalion chief for Fulton County. He is active in the community and fire services industry, previously holding the position of president for both the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs and the Metropolitan Atlanta Area Fire Chiefs Association. He also served on the Thompson Group, a Washington, D.C. advisory panel for the Fair Labor and Standards Act.

Brenda Green, Division Chief of Fire Administration, oversees the day-to-day operations of the Fire Administration Division to include payroll, reporting, statistics, maintenance of personnel records, supervision of administrative staff and public assistance. Green joined the department in 1995, serving for 18 years as an administrative specialist; administrative specialist, senior; and administrative assistant, senior. Green also served in the Forsyth County Tax Commissioner's Office prior to joining the department. She is a board member of the Benefit Fund which provides assistance to families of fallen firefighters.



Kevin Wallace, Division Chief of Field Operations, oversees the field operations of the Forsyth County Fire Department including all fire stations, suppression personnel, and special operations sections. Since joining Forsyth County in 1987, he has held the titles of firefighter; Sheriff's deputy; fire lieutenant; fire inspector; fire investigator; deputy fire marshal; and fire marshal. Wallace has also served with the Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office and the Fulton County Fire Department and in 2012 was elected as the president of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association.



Barry Head, Division Chief, Fire Marshal's Office, manages and oversees the Fire Marshal's Office to include fire code enforcement, plan review and fire investigations. The Fire Marshal's Office also oversees the department's public safety education efforts. Since first joining Forsyth County in 1986 as a volunteer firefighter, Head has held the titles of firefighter; fire inspector; fire investigator; lieutenant; captain; and battalion chief. He also served previously in the positions of deputy sheriff; corporal; and sergeant for the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office.



Jason Shivers, Division Chief of Technical Services, manages the Technical Services Division of the Forsyth County Fire Department including the duties and personnel of the emergency medical services, motor maintenance, training, and quartermaster sections. He also serves as the department spokesperson and acts as a liaison with the county's Department of Communications. Additionally, the Technical Services chief 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. Since joining the department in 1998, he has held the positions of firefighter/EMT; fire lieutenant; and inspector general.





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.

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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.



“The Forsyth County Fire Department will be ever mindful that the protection of your family’s lives and property is our profession, and our passion.”

Once again I am proud to present to you the Forsyth County Fire Department Annual Report. This document is meant to give you a window into 1) the activities of your Fire Department over the past calendar year; 2) the future trends we anticipate in Cumming and Forsyth County; and 3) the manner in which your 1.975 mill fire tax is expended.

One of the statistics you will find in this report is that the Forsyth County Fire Department responded to 12,738 calls in 2013; nearly double that of 10 short years ago. On or before the 2020 Census, our best estimates are that this emergency call volume will double again. To maintain our current five minute, 31 second average emergency response time we will have to anticipate capital improvements needed (fire stations, fire apparatus, firefighting personnel, etc.) and population trends in our response area. To accomplish this, the annual Fire Department budget must be monitored carefully on a daily basis in an effort to provide top-of-the-line professional fire and emergency services required and expected by our citizens and visitors.

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

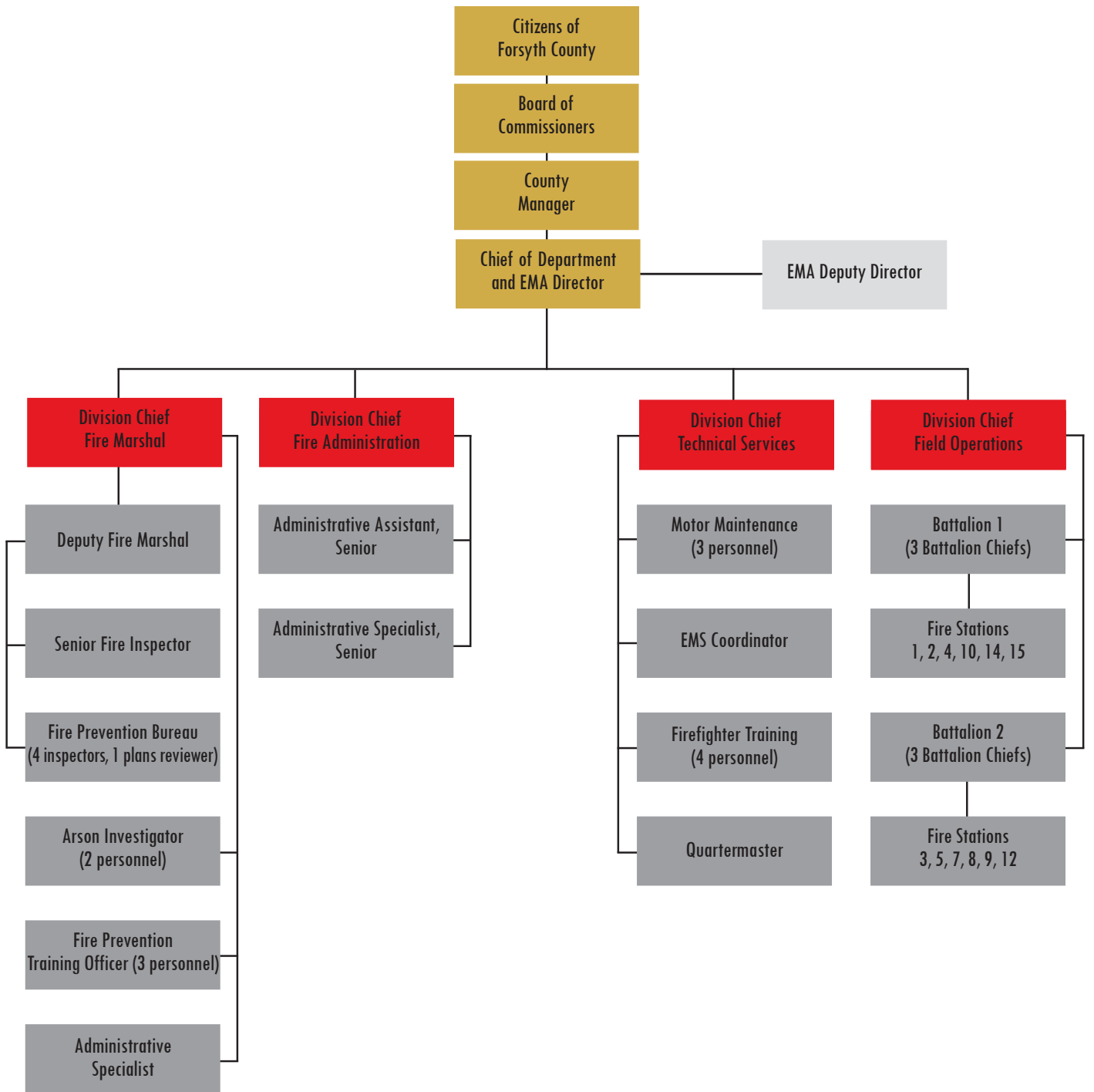
Just a highlight of some of the major projects accomplished in 2013 includes:

- Finalization of a two-year process of reorganization with the promotion of two battalion chiefs, effectively dividing command and control of field personnel north and south of State Route 20
- Grand opening ceremony of new Fire Station 3 (Wallace Tatum Road)
- Beginning stages for the construction of three new Pierce fire engines
- Graduation and station assignment of 12 new firefighters
- 1,900+ children provided holiday gifts by way of the “Aerial’s House” toy collection

With an eye on world events which may affect our modest budget, not the least of which is the cost per gallon of diesel fuel, I pledge to every citizen that the dollars derived from the fire millage rate will be expended in a prudent, conservative manner. The Forsyth County Fire Department will be ever mindful that the protection of your family’s lives and property is our profession, and our passion. As fire chief I sincerely thank you for your trust and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny D. Bowman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Danny D. Bowman
Chief of Department
Director, Emergency Management Agency



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.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs published in 1983 that 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.

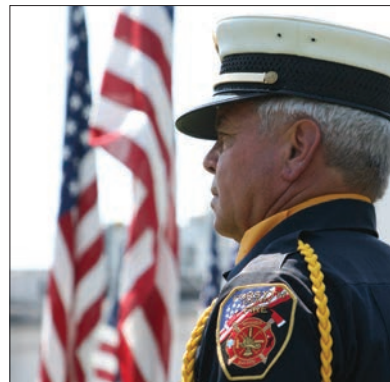
Since those first 30 full-time, career firefighters joined Forsyth County, the Fire Department has grown tremendously. The Forsyth County Fire Department consisted of 129 full-time field suppression firefighter positions in addition to shift workers and a variety of administrative and support personnel in 2013.

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT: THE DIRTY THIRTY



In the spring of 1998, a group of 30 men, collectively referred to as "The Dirty Thirty," became the first full-time, career firefighters ever hired by Forsyth County. On March 23, 2013, they marked their 15-year anniversary with the Forsyth County Fire Department.

Many of the original 30 full-time, career firefighters remain with the Forsyth County Fire Department today, and a number have advanced within the Fire Department to officer roles.



1972

Forsyth County Fire Protection Committee is created.

First training session is called for volunteer firefighters.

1973

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

1983

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

1990

Norris Bennett is named Forsyth County's second fire chief.

1998

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

2003

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

2006

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

2007

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

2009

Insurance Services Office notifies Forsyth County it has received a fire insurance reclassification from 6/9 to 5, resulting in reductions in fire insurance premiums.

2012

Forsyth County Fire Department commemorates its 40th anniversary.

2013

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

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

The Fire Administration Division is supervised by the division chief of fire administration and manages the daily activities of the Fire Department Headquarters including human resources management, budget control and information technology.

2013 Fire Administration Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 2 administrative staff



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 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.

FIELD OPERATIONS

The Field Operations Division is supervised by the division chief of field operations and manages all suppression activities and emergency response provided by the department's two battalions and 12 companies.



Suppression

This division is the backbone of the Fire Department. All administration functions of the department ultimately are conducted to support the Suppression Division. This division contains field personnel working in fire stations and responding to the constant requests for assistance from the citizenry. Field personnel are supervised by lieutenants, and lieutenants are supervised by battalion chiefs. Each shift is assigned two battalion chiefs. These officers maintain field personnel records, field payroll and clock times, and command fire scenes and major rescues. All field personnel work on the traditional 24/48-hour schedule. They report to their workstation by 7 a.m. and are in-service working for the citizens for 24 hours. At the end of their shift, they are relieved at 7 a.m. the following morning by the next oncoming shift. Their days off begin and continue for 48 hours. At the end of 48 hours, they return for the next 24-hour shift.

Hazardous Materials Unit

This unit is Forsyth County's first line of defense to the potential ravages of hazardous materials. The unit responds from Fire Station 2 and operates with a full complement of hazardous materials response tools and equipment. These include a fully equipped hazardous materials truck and a decontamination trailer. Fire personnel at Station 2 are registered as hazardous materials technicians and can respond to and mitigate most any hazardous materials incident.

Wildland/Urban Interface Unit

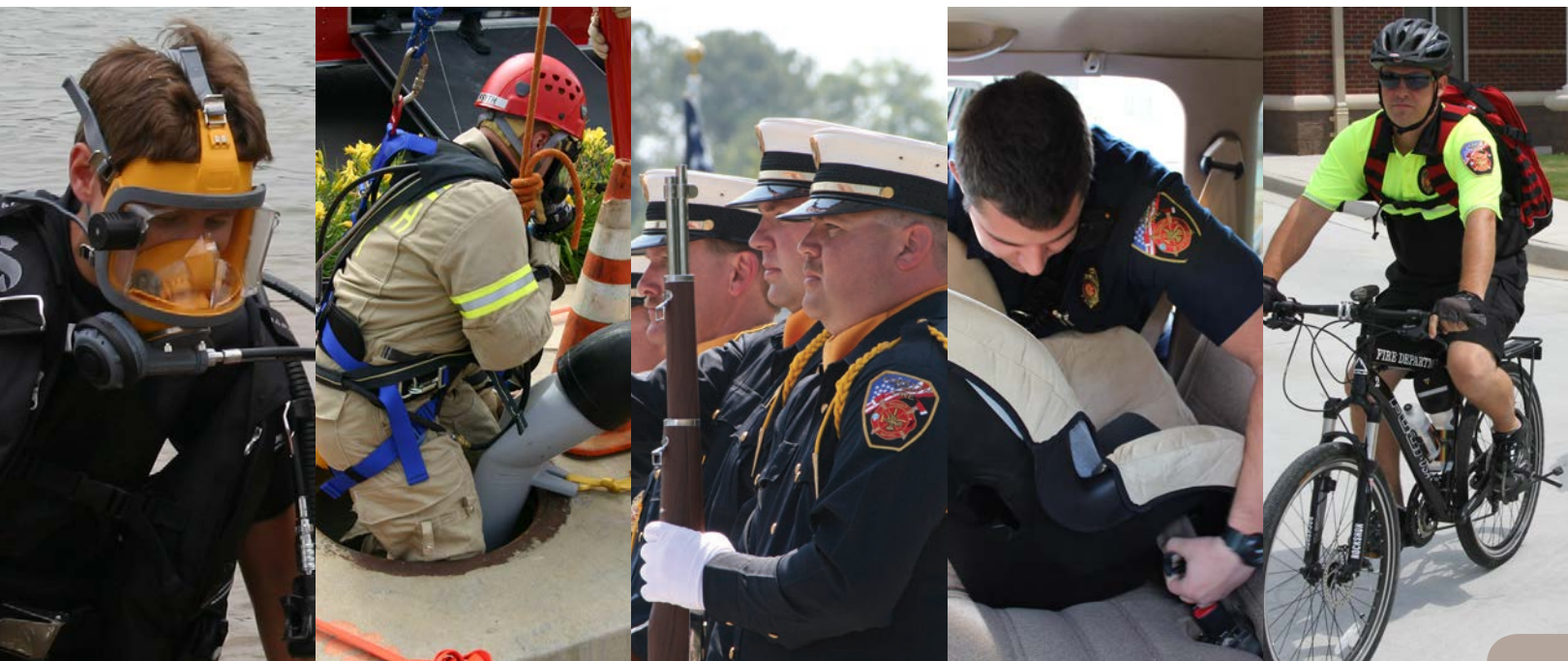
This unit responds out of Fire Station 5 and is responsible for combating wildland and brush fires and incidents where wildland meets urban housing. The unit responds with a specially designed brush truck and has two other brush trucks available in the county for response as needed.

Swift Water Rescue Unit

This unit responds out of Fire Station 15 and is responsible for rescues involving victims trapped in swiftly moving waters. Primary responses of this unit involve the Chattahoochee River south of Buford Dam and fishermen or boaters stranded in the quickly rising waters. In 2010, a grant was received from Fireman's Fund Insurance to help fund a new shallow water running swift water rescue boat. Delivery of the vessel was taken in 2011.

2013 Field Operations Numbers

- 1 division chief
- 6 battalion chiefs
- 129 full-time firefighters
- 10 volunteer firefighters



Dive Unit

This unit responds out of Fire Station 15 and is responsible for rescue and recovery involving deep water. The personnel are highly trained in safely searching for and recovering victims of drownings, and they routinely assist law enforcement in the recovery of vehicles from Lake Lanier and surrounding bodies of water. The unit responds with a fully equipped dive van.

Technical Rescue Unit

This unit responds to highly specialized and detailed rescues involving any number of incidents. The personnel respond out of Fire Station 12 with a heavy rescue vehicle and a technical rescue truck and trailer combination unit. The unit responds to and rescues victims from building collapses, trench collapses, high-angle incidents, confined spaces and many other unusual and dangerous situations.

Honor Guard

This unit is responsible for honoring fallen public safety professionals and military veterans. Training and services provided are done on a voluntary basis by members of the Fire Department. The Honor Guard responds to many service requests for funerals, flag presentations and parades each year. It is also selected annually to participate in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

C.A.R.S. (Children Are Riding Safely)

This unit is the division of the Fire Department that is tasked with providing the public the proper training and expertise to ensure that the children of the community are properly protected while in motor vehicles. The members of this division voluntarily attain the designation of Child Safety Seat Technician and offer free car seat inspections and installation instruction.

Special Events Unit

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

FIRE MARSHAL

The Fire Marshal's Office is supervised by the division chief, fire marshal and manages the fire code enforcement, plans review and fire investigations missions of the department.

2013 Fire Marshal Numbers

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



Fire Marshal's Office

This division contains personnel for building plan review, fire code inspectors and fire investigators. This division plays an integral role in the construction of new buildings and ensuring those structures are built to meet or exceed current fire codes. This division also investigates any fire that is suspicious in nature, unlawfully set or of which the cause cannot be immediately determined.

Public Safety Education

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

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in a number of special events during 2013 in an effort to better educate the community and to help prevent fires before they occur. The Fire Camp and Junior Fire Academy were free opportunities for local youth to learn more about the Forsyth County Fire Department and fire and life safety. The third annual Forsyth County Fire Safety Poster Contest took place in early 2013 with the winners being recognized in May (see page 26 for details). The Trunk or Treat event continued in 2013 in an effort to educate youth and their parents on the importance of Halloween safety.

Educating community members about fire prevention and the dangers of fire is an important initiative of the Forsyth County Fire Department. In 2013, the Fire Department reached thousands of people through its various education programs.



- 14,513** Adults and children reached with a structured fire safety presentation
- 6,383** Adults and children reached through safety day programs and the Trunk or Treat event
- 699** Adults trained in the proper use of a fire extinguisher
- 383** Smoke alarms or batteries in smoke alarms replaced, provided free of charge to senior citizens and residents in need
- 365** Child safety seat inspections conducted to ensure proper installation
- 336** Fire safety events
- 100** School visits
- 18** 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

TECHNICAL SERVICES

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

2013 Technical Services Numbers

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



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.



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.

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 department equipment including emergency apparatus, staff vehicles and small tools and equipment, and have the ability to perform in-house metal fabrication.



Training

This division trains personnel in all matters of field suppression and rescue functions. This division consists of two 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.

FIRE STATIONS AND FACILITIES

EXISTING FIRE STATIONS

STATION 3



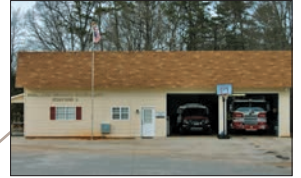
STATION 7



STATION 12



STATION 8



STATION 4



STATION 9



STATION 1



STATION 5



STATION 14



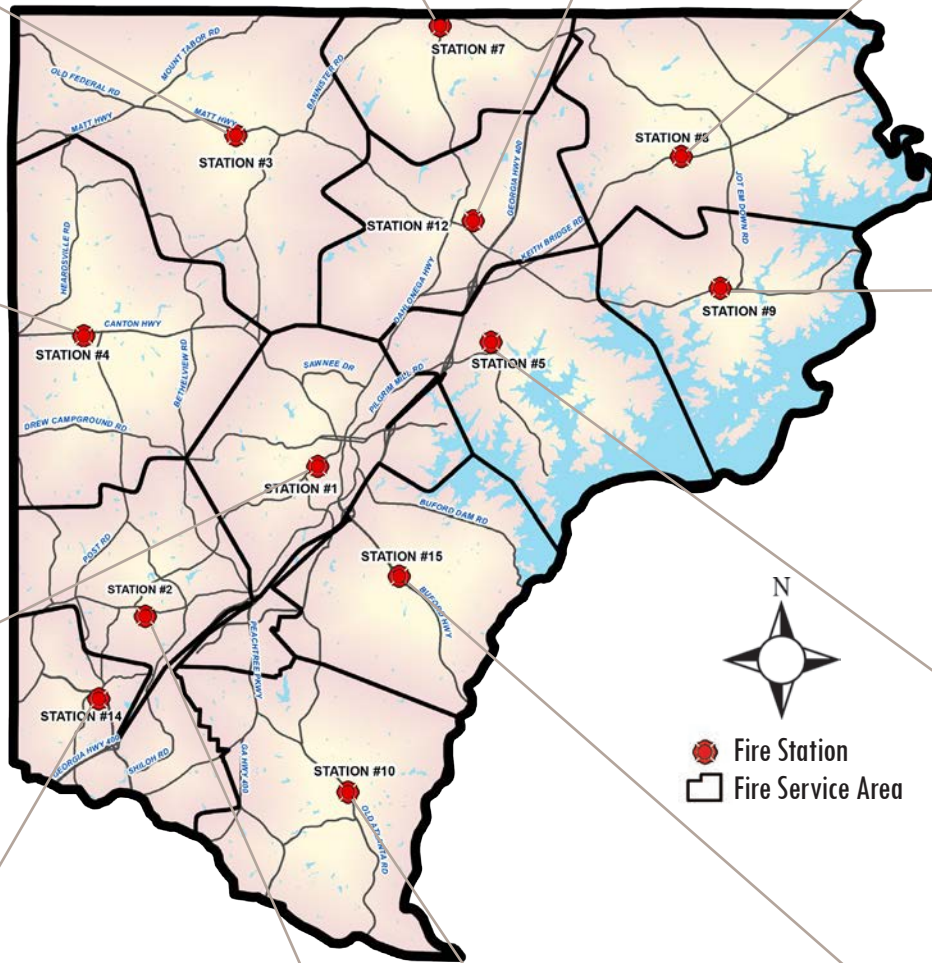
STATION 2



STATION 10



STATION 15



STATION 1



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

STATION 3



- Located on 3 acres at 6495 Wallace Tatum Road
- Two double bays
- Opened in July 2013
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 3, Brush Truck 3 and Med 3
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST VI funds and Impact Fees

STATION 4



- Located on 3.32 acres at 3910 Evans Road
- Two double bays
- Opened in 2012
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 4 and Light/Air 4
- Constructed 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
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 5, Tanker 5 and Brush Truck 5
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Wildland/Urban Interface Unit

STATION 7



- Located at 6320 Dahlonega Highway
- Two double bays
- Opened in 2011
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 7 and Tanker 7
- Constructed using a combination of SPLOST V funds and Impact Fees

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 three firefighters
- Houses Engine 8
- Plans are to build a new two double-bay Station 8 using a combination of SPLOST 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
- 24-hour coverage with a minimum of three firefighters
- Houses Engine 9, Tanker 9 and Med 9
- Current station not designed for 24-hour occupancy; in early 2014, approval was given by the Board of Commissioners to refurbish the station

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 three firefighters
- Houses Engine 10, Med 10 and Brush Truck 10

STATION 12



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

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 five firefighters
- Houses Engine 14 and Truck 14
- Received new concrete apron and parking area in 2009
- Received new heating and air conditioning systems, a new septic system and a new bay drainage system in 2011

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 three firefighters
- Houses Engine 15, Rescue 15 and the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive and Swift Water Rescue Units' equipment
- Home of the Forsyth County Fire Department Dive Unit and Swift Water Rescue Unit
- 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, the Fire Marshal's Office, and the divisions of Fire Administration, Field Operations and Technical Services

TRAINING FACILITY



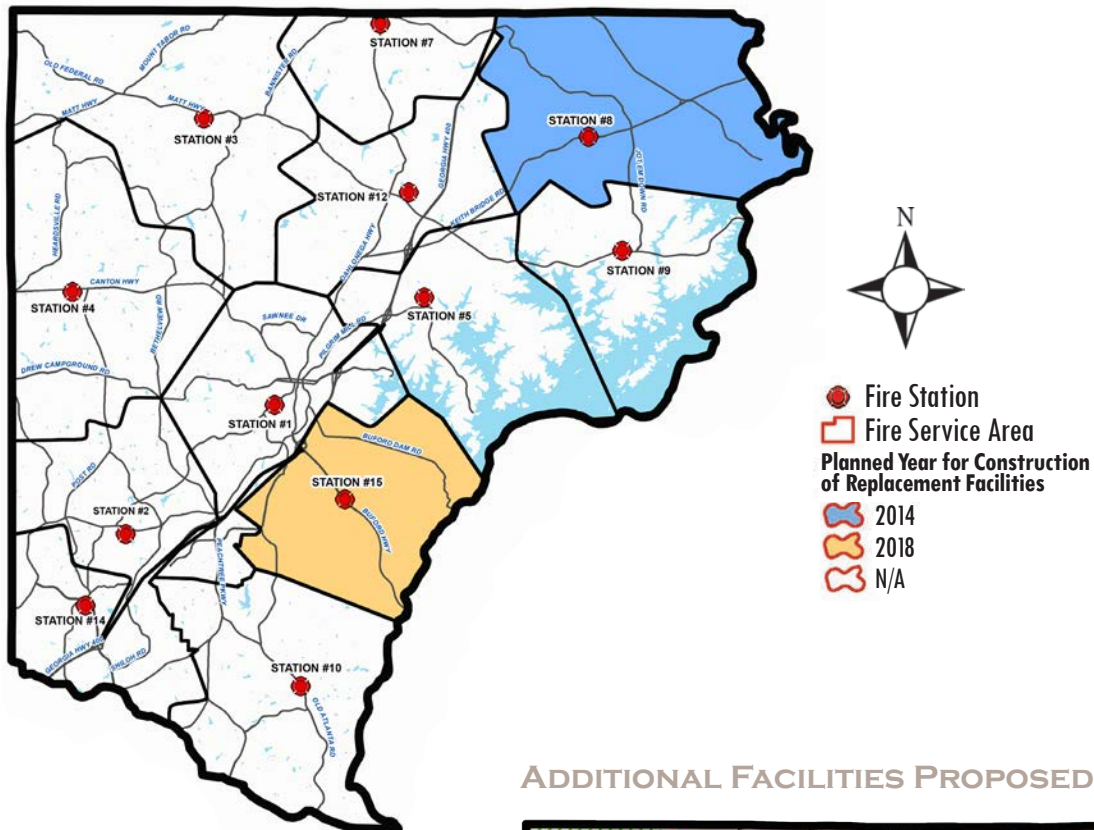
- Located adjacent to the Forsyth County Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed in phases since the mid-1990s
- Utilized for a variety of fire training programs including fire suppression training, high angle rescue, rope rescue, search and rescue, confined space rescue, and roof simulation

MOTOR MAINTENANCE FACILITY

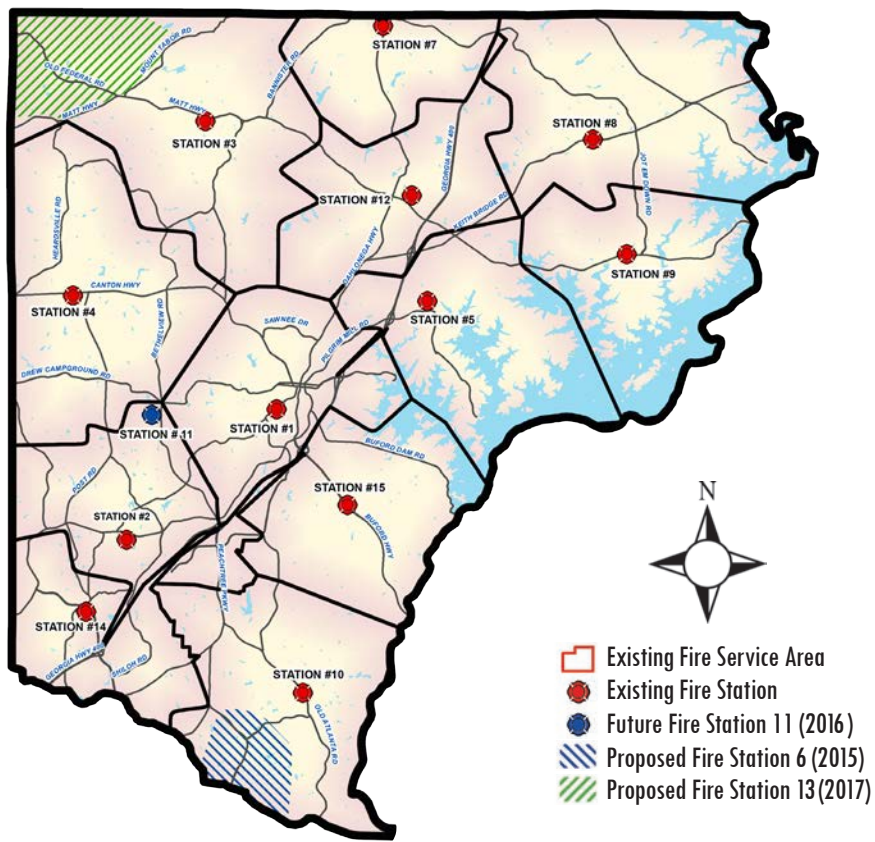


- Located adjacent to the Forsyth County Fire Department Headquarters
- Constructed in the mid-1990s
- Services all Fire Department apparatus and vehicles
- Includes a pump testing facility, three parts rooms, one light duty lift, and six heavy truck lifts
- Received a state-of-the-art exhaust removal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

REPLACEMENT FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION BY YEAR



ADDITIONAL FACILITIES PROPOSED



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Water pump

The work horse of every fire department is the pumper. In Forsyth County, pumpers, better known as fire engines, are equipped with 1,500 gallons per minute (GPM) pumps. These pumps pressurize water that is both carried on board the engine and taken in from fire hydrants, and discharges that water to the fire suppression operation. Water is brought in through a variety of locations and hose sizes and discharged through an even greater variety of locations and hose sizes. Each fire hose is typically pumped at 50 pounds per square inch (PSI) of pressure. Each engine can pump 10 or more suppression appliances, or nozzles, when necessary.

Fire hydrant

Fire hydrants are critical public safety components to every municipal water system. They provide water for fire suppression through the same water lines that service homes and businesses. Most fire hydrants can produce 1,200 to 1,500 GPM and are attached to engines with five-inch or three-inch supply hose.



Headset

Firefighters riding on board their apparatus protect their hearing and provide for effective communication by the use of radio headsets. They can communicate within the cab, with other fire units or to dispatch all while protecting their hearing from the sirens. The fire apparatus operator (FAO) also can deploy a headset when operating at the pump panel to allow simple and safe communication with the incident commander while also protecting his hearing.

Protective gear and helmet with eye protection

The turnout gear worn by firefighters, also known as bunker gear, is intended to protect in temperatures of up to 1,800 degrees. The helmet is a crucial part of the turnout gear, protecting from heat and falling debris.

Box light

Smoke causes low visibility, making lights a necessity for firefighters. The box light's high intensity LED lights assist firefighters in locating one another and improve safety.

Other common tools of the trade

Firefighters are required to carry tools to a variety of situations and emergencies. Below is a sampling of tools commonly utilized while on the job.

- Wood wedges for blocking doors
- Two-way radio
- Sledge hammer
- Hydrant wrench
- Rope
- Roof hook
- Rotary saw

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.

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 2007.

Trucks



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

- Truck 1 is a 2004 Pierce tiller-drawn 100-foot heavy duty ladder with a built-in waterway.
- Truck 14 is a 2012 Pierce tiller-drawn 100-foot heavy duty ladder with a built-in waterway.

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 Fire Station 12.

Hazardous Materials Truck and Decontamination Unit

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

- One decontamination unit is housed at Fire Station 2 and was purchased using grant funds in 2005.
- In 2009, the Hazardous Materials Unit received a refurbished apparatus redesigned by Fire Department Motor Maintenance. It was converted from an engine to become the primary vehicle, replacing an old truck and trailer vehicle.



Brush Trucks

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

- Three brush trucks were specially designed and put in service in 2005, one each housed at Fire Stations 3, 5 and 10. While the three units can work in concert on large fires, they are strategically distributed throughout the county to ensure proper coverage of all areas.



Wildland ATV

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

- One wildland ATV, purchased in 2005, is housed at the Fire Station 3 and has a 60-gallon capacity tank with a 60-gallon per minute pump.



ATV

The versatile ATV assists in responding to medical emergencies or small fires during events in and around the Cumming Fairgrounds and other locations. This ATV performs these missions well on recreational trails and in crowded, compact environments.

- One ATV, put in service in 2011, is housed at Fire Station 1.



Swift Water Rescue Boat

The Forsyth County Fire Department was honored in 2010 to receive \$20,000 toward the purchase of a swift water rescue boat, which allows for effective operations in shallow and quickly moving waters.

- The swift water rescue boat is stationed at Fire Station 15, which is home to the Swift Water Rescue Unit.



Dive Van

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

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



Technical Rescue Vehicle

The Technical Rescue Unit's primary vehicle is a truck and trailer combination unit containing the tools and equipment necessary to perform extremely dangerous and complicated rescues and recoveries. This rescue vehicle responds to manufacturing, construction and storm-related incidents resulting in injury and will be on-site of any disastrous occurrence where life is or could be at stake. It is capable of supporting high angle, confined space, trench collapse and structural collapse operations as well as accomplishing the urban search and rescue mission of the department. The truck portion of the unit is detachable and used to transport personnel and supplies into areas requiring off-road capability. This need is common on construction sites and during utility right-of-way construction.

- This unit is in service at Fire Station 12.



Special Events Unit Bicycles

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



Mini Ambulance

The gas-powered mini-ambulance is specifically designed as a lightweight vehicle for emergency medical response along the Big Creek Greenway and within the Fowler Park complex.

- One mini ambulance, put in service in 2012, is housed at Fire Station 2.



The Forsyth County Fire Department 2013 budget was \$18,421,786. The Fire Department’s primary funding source is the Fire Department millage rate. Additionally, funds from both Impact Fees and the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) provide the department funding for special projects and capital purchases.



Millage Rate

The Fire Department is funded by a separate property tax, or millage rate, rather than through the use of Forsyth County’s General Fund resources. The Fire Department’s 2013 millage rate was 1.975. Forsyth County’s millage rates continue to be among the lowest in the metro Atlanta area.

Forsyth County Fire Department Millage Rate				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
1.841	1.975	1.975	1.975	1.975

Impact Fees

The Fire Department also receives funding from the county’s Impact Fee program. Impact Fees are a charge on development to pay for the construction or expansion of capital improvements that are necessitated by and benefit the development. Forsyth County’s Impact Fee program began in January 2004 and, as of December 31, 2013, has collected \$8,205,00.68 for the Fire Department. These funds can only be used to construct capital facilities such as fire stations or to purchase capital firefighting equipment.

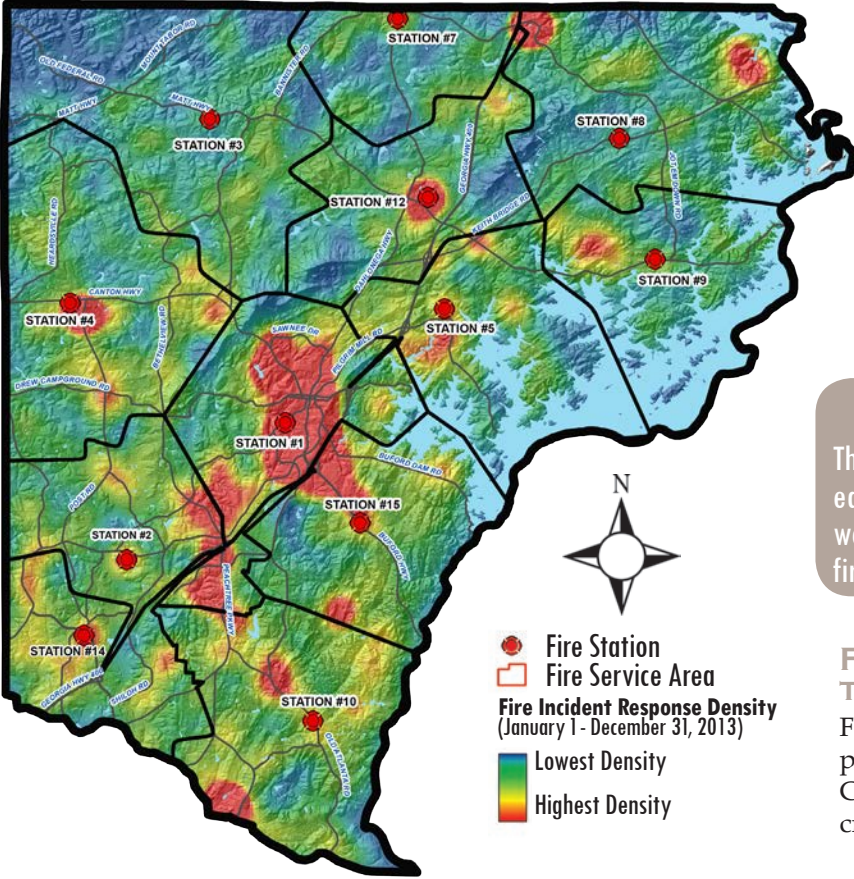
SPLOST

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



The previous SPLOST program, SPLOST VI, expired June 30, 2013. SPLOST VI collections funded new Fire Station 3, new Fire Station 4 and a new 100-foot aerial apparatus.

FIRE INCIDENT HOT SPOTS



110 POUNDS
 The total weight of a firefighter's protective gear and equipment. When the gear becomes wet, the total weight can be much more. It is therefore imperative a firefighter remains in top physical condition.

FORSYTH COUNTY POPULATION THROUGH THE YEARS

Forsyth County has experienced phenomenal growth since the Forsyth County Fire Protection Committee was created in 1972.

CENSUS TOTALS*

1970:	16,928
1980:	27,958
1990:	44,083
2000:	98,407
2010:	175,511
2012:	187,928
2013:	195,405

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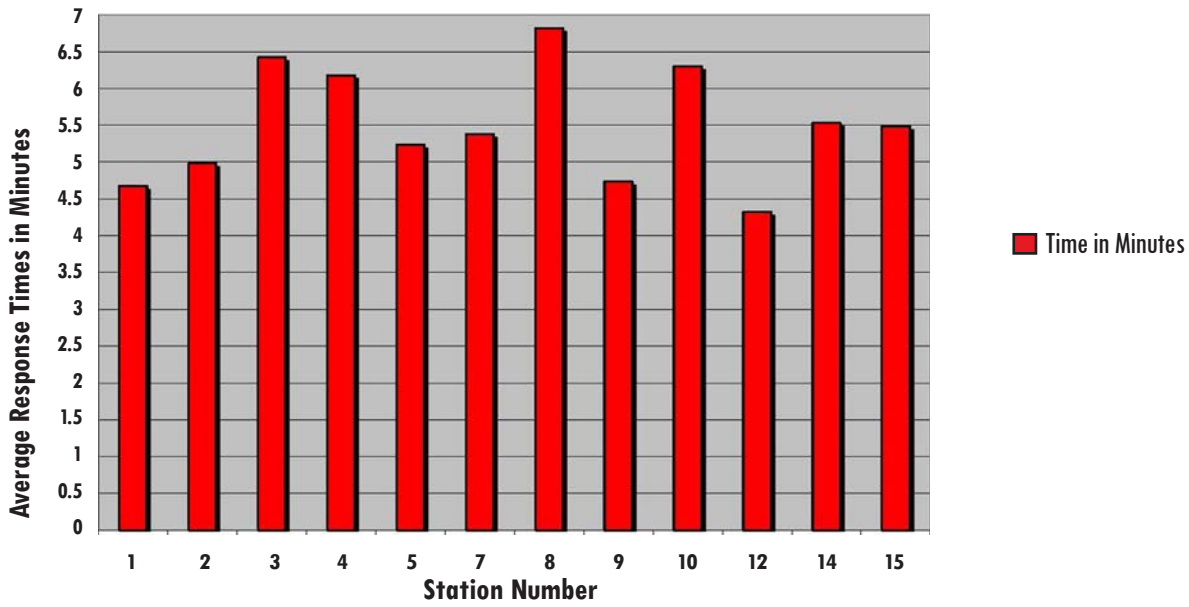
560 HOURS
 The number of hours of training before a recruit graduates to become a probationary firefighter. Throughout their careers, firefighters must continually train to maintain the highest level of preparedness.

247 SQUARE MILES
 The total area within Forsyth County (including a portion of Lake Lanier) covered by the Forsyth County Fire Department.

A simple black outline map of Forsyth County, North Carolina, showing its geographical shape.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau

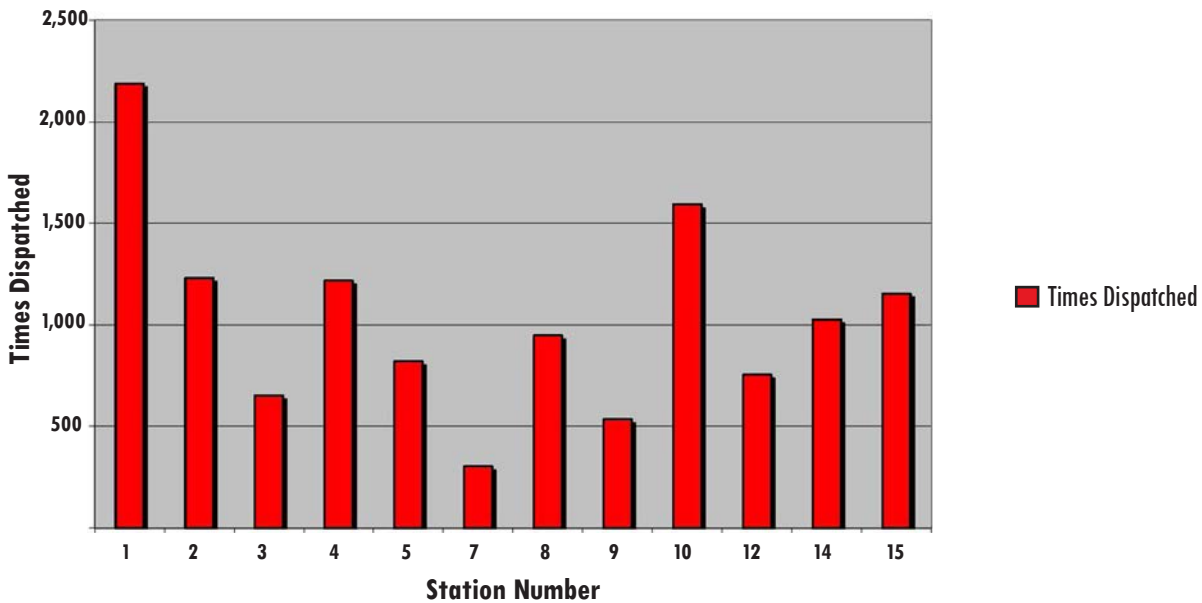
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES BY STATION IN 2013



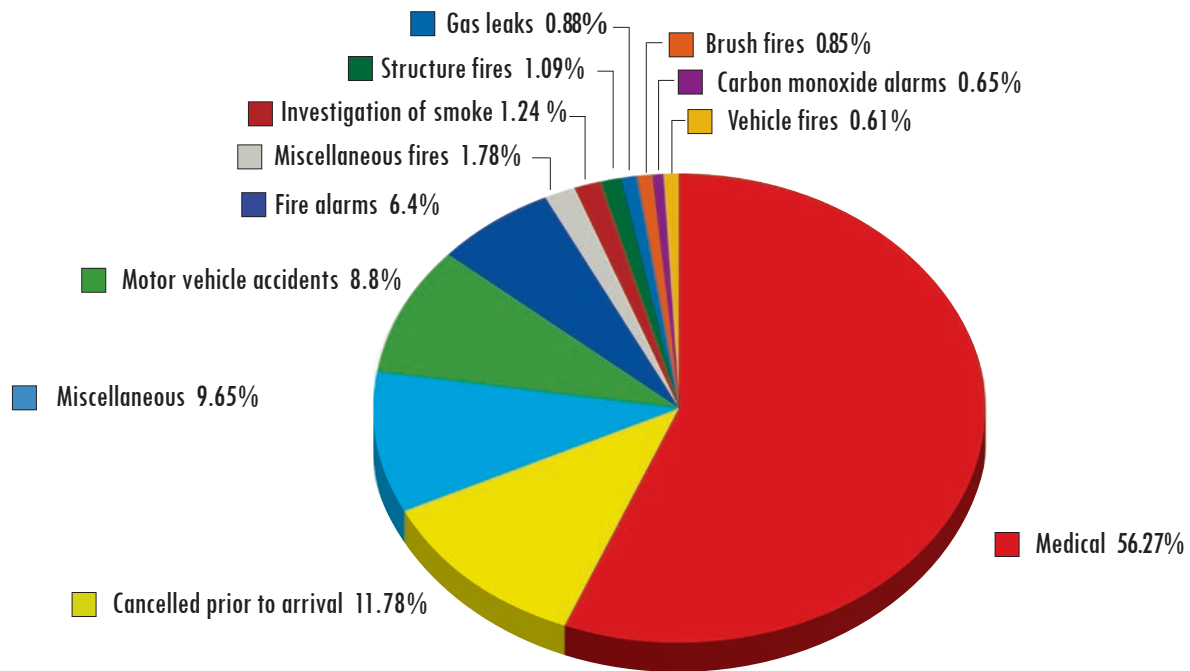
The Forsyth County Fire Department’s 2013 average response time for on-scene arrival was five minutes and 31 seconds.* Fire station response times vary as a result of travel distances and other factors. In 2014, the department will continue to evaluate response times and seek ways to improve service to the community.

*Source: Forsyth County Fire Department Research Library

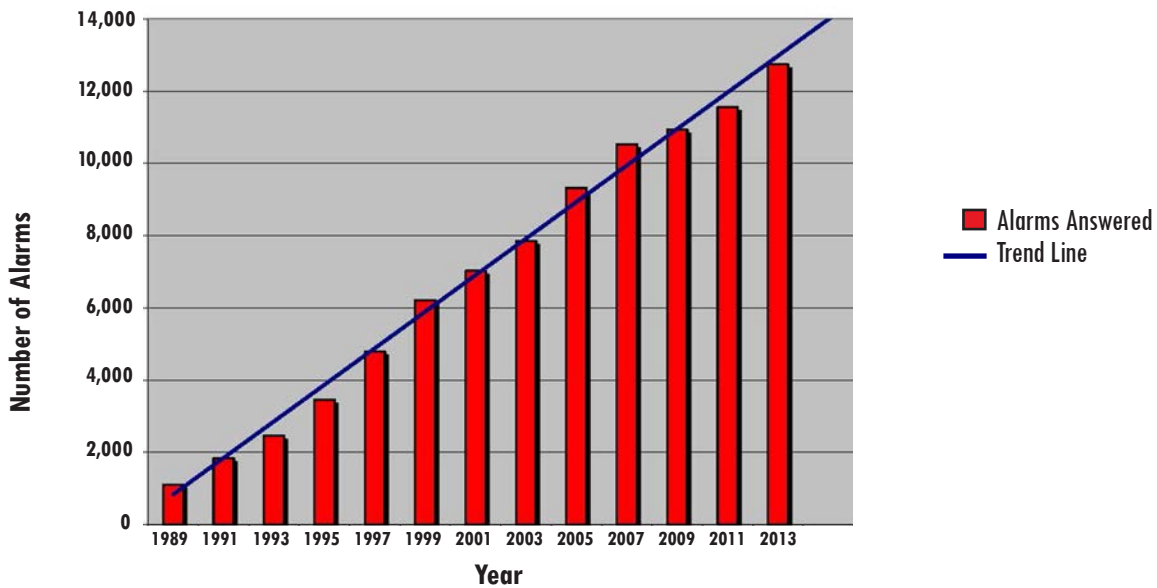
NUMBER OF TIMES DISPATCHED BY STATION IN 2013



RESPONSES BY INCIDENT TYPE IN 2013



ALARMS ANSWERED BY YEAR



In 2013, the Fire Department responded to 12,768 incidents. The total number of Fire Department emergency apparatus movements (a movement is any time an apparatus is dispatched from a station) was 14,731. As is evident, the demand for the county’s emergency fire services has grown steadily over the years and this pattern of growth is expected to continue.



Department Promotes Six

The Forsyth County Fire Department promoted six personnel to a variety of ranks and positions in a ceremony held March 8. Family, friends and Fire Department staff attended the ceremony, which was held at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex. Lieutenant Barry Head was formally promoted to the rank of division chief, Fire Marshal; Arson Investigator Debbie Lindstrom was formally promoted to the rank of deputy fire marshal; Senior Vehicle Equipment Technician Matthew Suggs was formally promoted to the rank of maintenance supervisor; Firefighter/EMT Brian Christie was formally promoted to the rank of lieutenant; Firefighter/EMT Jeremy Hamilton was formally promoted to the rank of lieutenant; and Vehicle Equipment Technician Jack Tribble was formally promoted to the rank of senior vehicle equipment technician.

Department Recognizes Retirement

During a ceremony held March 8 at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex, the Forsyth County Fire Department recognized the retirement of Captain Dwight Clark, who retired after nearly 54 years in the fire service. Clark began his career in San Angelo, Texas in July 1959 and, following a tour with the Georgia Fire Academy, came to Forsyth County in April 2001. His last day with the Forsyth County Fire Department was February 28.

Department Recognizes Boy Scouts for Heroic Actions

On April 18, the Forsyth County Fire Department recognized three Cub Scouts for their brave actions in notifying family members that they smelled smoke in a home before smoke alarms sounded. The scouts noted that they used the fire safety training they had received from both the Forsyth County Fire Department and scouting.

Fire Safety Poster Contest Held for Third Year

The Forsyth County Fire Department held its third Fire Safety Poster Contest by inviting all local third grade students to display their artistic talents while promoting a commitment to fire safety. The three winners were: Audrey Padgett, a student at Haw Creek Elementary School; Ava Leavitt, a student at Shiloh Point Elementary School; and Shayla Noelle Zwingman, a student at Brookwood Elementary School. The three runners up were: Rileigh Sheridan, a student at Matt Elementary School; Caroline Willman, a student at Brookwood Elementary School; and Pia Ghosh, a student at Brookwood Elementary School. The six students had the honor of having their artwork displayed in county buildings and were recognized during the May 2 meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

Annual Boot Drive Fundraiser Raises More Than \$21,000

The generosity of the community was once again overwhelming as the Forsyth County Fire Department's 2013 Boot Drive generated more than \$21,000 to support the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and local fire safety and burn prevention programs. The event was held on three consecutive Saturdays in May and was part of the "Give Burns the Boot"® boot drive. The Forsyth County Fire Department received 10 percent of the funds raised for use toward fire safety and burn prevention programs in the community.



Department Personnel Participate in Senior Services' Prom

Members of the Forsyth County Fire Department and Forsyth County Sheriff's Office participated in a "Senior Prom" event in May at the Sexton Hall Enrichment Center. The event was hosted by Forsyth County Senior Services and coordinated by Girl Scout Sarah Bock.

Memorial Day Ceremony Held in Cumming

The Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard participated in the May 27 Memorial Day Ceremony on Veterans Memorial Boulevard in Cumming.

Third Annual Fire Camp, Junior Fire Academy Held

In June, the Forsyth County Fire Department hosted the third annual Fire Camp and Junior Fire Academy for local youth. The programs provided attendees the opportunity to experience the different aspects of being a career firefighter. Both the Fire Camp and Junior Fire Academy were held at the Fire Department Headquarters on Settingdown Road.

Department Participates in Safety Town

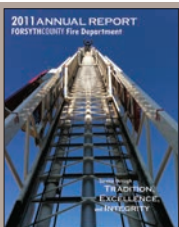
The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in the instruction of young children in important safety tips during several Safety Town camps hosted by Forsyth County Parks and Recreation in June and July. Safety Town teaches children about safety awareness and preventive safety measures.

Participation in Fire/EMS Safety Week

The Forsyth County Fire Department participated in the 2013 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (Safety Week) during the week of July 8. Safety Week is an event sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Fighters. The annual event aims to improve firefighter safety and health to give all a better chance of survival in emergencies and in the long-term. Fire departments across the U.S. and Canada took time during the week to go over the messages and resources to help achieve that goal.

Department Hosts City of Charleston Fire Department for Training

The Forsyth County Fire Department welcomed representatives of the Fire Department of Charleston, South Carolina for training during the summer. The training involved a multitude of topics in regards to operating a tiller-drawn ladder truck. Charleston took delivery of their first tiller in 2013 and looked to Forsyth County Fire, who has two such apparatus in their fleet, to provide their firefighters with the requisite training and knowledge for such a unique apparatus.



2011 Annual Report Wins NACIO Award

The Forsyth County Fire Department's 2011 Annual Report received national accolades, garnering an award in the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) 2013 Awards of Excellence Competition. The publication was named 'Best in Class' in the competition's annual reports category.



Fourth of July Parade

The Forsyth County Fire Department once again took part in the city of Cumming's annual Fourth of July Parade.

Bowman Recognized for 10 years as Chief of Department

Friends, officials and Fire Department staff gathered at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex on July 14 as Danny D. Bowman celebrated ten years as the chief of department for Forsyth County Fire.

Opening of New Fire Station 3

In July, Forsyth County officially opened new Fire Station 3 with a ceremonial uncoupling of a fire hose. New Fire Station 3 is located in the Matt area of northwest Forsyth County. Construction of the new two-bay, approximately 7,333-square foot facility was funded by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) VI program and Impact Fees. The new station replaced the previous Fire Station 3 which was located nearby on Doctor Bramblett Road.

Fire Department Remembers 12th Anniversary of September 11

The Forsyth County Fire Department held a brief ceremony remembering and honoring those lost on September 11, 2001. The ceremony was held at the Forsyth County Public Safety Complex.

Honor Guard Invited to National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend

The Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard was once again invited to play a critical role during the 32nd Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend October 4-6 at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Honor Guard members served in a variety of capacities, including serving as family escorts and logistics officers. The annual event pays tribute to fallen firefighters from throughout the United States.

Department Takes Part in Halloween Safety Event

Personnel from the Forsyth County Fire Department, 911 Center and Forsyth County Sheriff's Office joined together October 26 for the Trunk or Treat event at Forsyth County's Coal Mountain Park in an effort to promote a safe Halloween season and fire safety. Many booths encompassing different aspects of safety were part of the event including "Stop, Drop and Roll" and costume safety inspections.

Honor Guard Participates in Veterans Day Ceremony

The Forsyth County Fire Department Honor Guard participated in the Veterans Day Ceremony held in downtown Cumming on November 9.



Fire Department Lines Up for Christmas Parade

Fire Department personnel and apparatus took part in the annual Cumming Christmas Parade, held December 7 on Market Place Boulevard.

Department Promotes Personnel and Graduates Recruit Class

In a ceremony held Friday, December 13, the Forsyth County Fire Department promoted personnel to a variety of positions and graduated its newest recruit class. Family, friends and Fire Department staff attended the ceremony, which was held in the auditorium at the Georgia Army National Guard Armory in Cumming.

In the promotional portion of the event, the following personnel were promoted: Fire Lieutenant Zach Buice to the rank of battalion chief; Fire Lieutenant Paige Colwell to the rank of battalion chief; Plans Reviewer, Sr. Steve Baker to deputy fire marshal; Fire Lieutenant Joseph Smith, Jr. to fire instructor; Firefighter/EMT Sam Adams to the rank of fire lieutenant; Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Keyman to the rank of fire lieutenant; Firefighter/EMT Paul McAfee to the rank of fire lieutenant; and Firefighter/EMT Dan Witcher to the rank of fire lieutenant.

In the graduation portion of the ceremony, ten recruits were officially welcomed as Forsyth County firefighters.

Department Presents Awards to Personnel

During the December 13 ceremony, the Forsyth County Fire Department presented twenty Life Saved and Unit Citation awards to Fire Department personnel in recognition of outstanding actions over the past several years. Family, friends and Fire Department staff attended the ceremony, which was held in the auditorium at the Georgia Army National Guard Armory in Cumming. The department also presented a plaque to Gary Patty, a volunteer firefighter, for his efforts in restoring the department's antique ladder truck, which is often used in parades.

Aerial's House

The Fire Department's annual Aerial's House toy collection brightened the holidays for more than 1,900 local children in need. Generous donations from the community allowed the Fire Department to help make Christmas possible for children who may otherwise not have received any gifts. Toys were collected at county fire stations, Fire Department Headquarters, the Forsyth County Administration Building, and county libraries. Aerial's House also resulted in the donation of 120 pounds of canned and dry food.

2013 GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD



Danny D. Bowman, chief of department for Forsyth County Fire, was recognized December 12, 2013 by Governor Nathan Deal with a 2013 Governor's Public Safety Award in a ceremony held at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC). In the above picture, Chief Bowman (right) is congratulated by GPSTC Director Tim Bearden (far left) and Governor Deal.

Bowman was one of only seven 'Contribution to Profession' award recipients statewide. The annual Governor's Public Safety Award program began in 1998 to recognize public safety officials who go above and beyond the call of duty to protect citizens and make significant contributions to the public safety profession at large.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Georgia's public safety professionals who risk their lives daily and sacrifice time away from their families to protect the community," Bearden said.





The original Forsyth County Fire Department patch was adopted more than 30 years ago and served the Fire Department until being decommissioned in the summer of 2004. With the naming of Danny D. Bowman as fire chief in July 2003, a committee was designated to explore and design a new patch for the department. The work of the committee resulted in the current patch design.

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

“THE NOBLENESS AND WHOLE-SOULEDNESS OF A FIREMAN’S NATURE WILL EXHIBIT ITSELF ON EVERY SUITABLE OCCASION. IT MATTERS NOT WHETHER IT BE GREAT OR SMALL, IT IS ALL THE SAME, THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND, NOR TRY TO UNDERSTAND DOING ANYTHING HALF-WAY. WHETHER IT BE A PARADE, A BALL, A PRESENTATION, OR THE QUENCHING OF A FIRE, IT MUST BE WELL DONE AND FINISHED.”

– *NATIONAL AMERICAN*
JANUARY 11, 1858



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