



Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office

THE FLAME

Emergency Services News Letter



/// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS /// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS /// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS ///

APRIL, 2006

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Rockford Fire Photo Gallery
- Spring Time Buzz
- NWS - TADD
- Assistance to Firefighters Grants
- Change Your Clock... Change Your Battery

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Annual Fire and Rescue Awards Banquet

The annual Yadkin Co. Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association awards banquet was held on March 4, 2006 at the Yadkin Valley Senior Community Center. Guest speaker this year was Tom Summey. The four awards given this year were, Firefighter of the Year, Rescue Member of the Year, Officer of the Year and Telecommunicator of the Year. This years recipients were Sandy Yeatts of the Courtney VFD, Firefighter of the Year; Link King of the Yadkin County

Rescue Squad, Rescue Member of the Year; Renee Mullis of the Buck Shoals VFD, Officer of the Year and Heather Spicer of the Yadkin County Sheriff's Office, Telecommunicator of the Year. Congratulations to this years recipients.



Pictured left to right: Heather Spicer, Sandy Yeatts, and Renee Mullis. Not Pictured: Link King.

N.C. Division of Forest Resources Announces The Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant

The NCDFR is offering the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant this year to fire departments serving a population of 10,000 people or less to purchase Wildland Personal Protective Equipment. The grant is a 50% matching grant and fire departments will receive a maximum of \$2,000 in matching funds. Grant applications must be received by the close of business on May 31, 2006.



Fire Safety Tips



- Make sure address is clearly visible for emergency personnel.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your house, test monthly and replace batteries at least once a year.
- Identify two escape routes from each room.
- Never open doors that are hot to the touch.
- Make sure windows open with little effort.
- Develop an escape plan with outside meeting place.
- Practice your escape plan.
- Never go back into a burning building.

NC Forest Service Burning Permits



Get Your Burning Permits Online

www.dfr.state.nc.us

Upcoming Events / Deadlines

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Fire Chief's Association Meeting - Yadkin Co. Rescue | April 5, 2006 |
| • Fire / Rescue Budgets Due | April 17, 2006 |
| • 1st Responder Committee Meeting - Yadkin Campus SCC | April 19, 2006 |
| • Fire & Rescue Association Meeting - Fall Creek VFD | April 20, 2006 |
| • Automatic Aid Agreements Due | April 24, 2006 |
| • Local Emergency Planning Committee - Yadkinville VFD | May 4, 2006 |



Boonville VFD Takes Delivery of New Truck

Boonville VFD recently took delivery of this new 2005 GMC Equipment/1st Responder truck. The new truck was built by Northwestern Emergency Vehicles in Jefferson, NC. This truck replaces a 1983 Chevrolet Van.

The new 1315 is a support truck for the fire department and responds on all calls. The unit carries medical supplies, AED, air packs, vehicle stabilization equipment, ropes and a refrigerator. The truck is also, equipped with portable lights and a winch.

Chief Smith says the design and layout of the truck was a group effort of the fire department. On average, Boonville VFD responds to 35 calls per month.



Photo: Courtesy of Chief Danny Smith

Dry, Windy Conditions Increased Fire Danger & Red Flag Warnings

During the month of February and March, there were several days the National Weather Service issued increased fire danger statements and Red Flag warnings due to low humidities and gusty winds. County fire departments increased their initial response to a two department response on all grass and woods fires. Despite the warnings, fire departments responded to several grass and woods fires. The largest fire reported was approximately 16.2 acres in the Fall Creek fire district. This fire originated in the Rockford community of Surry County. Fire debris spotted over the Yadkin River into Yadkin County. Several fire departments, Emergency Management, Rescue Squad, EMS and Red Cross responded to the fire. The NC Forest Service responded with a Plow Unit, Observation Plane, Helicopter and the CL-215 "Super Scooper" Air Tanker.

Rockford Woods Fire Photo Gallery

Photos: Courtesy of Tim Weatherman





Yadkin County Sheriff's Office News



★ Sheriff's Line - Do not cross ★ Sheriff's Line - Do not cross ★

The Sheriff's Office welcomes three new deputies. The new deputies are Lisa Moncus, School Resource Officer for Fall Creek and East Bend, Angela Ramirez, Court Officer and Willie Shouse, Court Officer.

During the month of February 2,461 calls were dispatched. Calls dispatched as follows:

343 EMS related
72 Fire related
636 Town Law Enforcement
45 SHP and Animal Control
220 Rescue Squad
1145 Yadkin County Sheriff's Office



Deputy Ray Davis, Court Officer is having serious health problems. Please keep him in your prayers.

A new baby boy was born to Deputy Jimmy Adkins and wife, Deborah. His name is William Ralph. William was born at Duke University Medical Center and has had heart surgery. Little William needs your prayers as he is still having serious complications.

Congratulations!!! Sheriff Cain and wife, Betty are the proud grandparents of a baby boy, Caleb Clifton Shew. He was born March 23, 2006 at Forsyth Hospital to Justin and Heather Shew and weighed 7lb 11 oz.

Julia K. Howell, daughter of Margie Howell went to the Republic of Slavakia on a mission trip with Campus Crusade during spring break. Julia is a junior at NCSU majoring in Geology.

Spec. 4 Eddie Adams, son of Sgt. Beverly Oliver, is serving our country at Camp Anaconda in Iraq. Please pray for his safety.

Ashley Groce, daughter of Detective Tim Groce, graduated Summa Cum Laude from UNC Greensboro in December with a degree in Spanish with an add on N. C. licensure for K-12 teaching. Last year Ashley studied abroad in Madrid, Spain. Ashley is a graduate assistant at UNCG and plans to study and teach abroad in Spain this summer.

Spring Time Buzz

Donnie Martin, EMT-P Supervisor



Spring is near and the warm weather is coming. With the warm weather also comes the bees, wasps, yellow jackets, hornets and all the stinging insects as well as the snakes. This is the time of year that we have a lot of encounters with these animals simply because they too, are becoming more active after the cold winter months.

Being stung or bitten by any of these can be painful as well as a potentially life threatening experience for some. Some people when stung have little or no reaction. Some may have a local reaction with swelling and itching and hives while others will have a more serious generalized reaction and may evolve into an anaphylactic reaction. When treating stings, assessment is a critical factor in recognizing the signs and symptoms of the allergic reaction. You must reassess continually to ensure the patient is not developing a life threatening response.

Initial treatment as always is to make sure that the critters are not still there and avoid becoming a victim yourself. In the case of honey bee stings you will have to remove the stinger or stingers that are still in the skin along with the attached venom sac that will still be pumping venom. To do this use a credit card, drivers license or similar item to scrape the stinger out. You can put cold packs over the sting site to alleviate pain as well as commercially available products such as sting kill to the site. The cold will help with the swelling as well. Be careful with ice and place a cloth between the ice and skin. Be sure to watch the patient closely for any signs of respiratory distress. If the person should complain of any shortness of breath you should dial 911 immediately. The patient could be developing a serious and potentially life threatening reaction. Anaphylaxis is a life threatening allergic reaction to the venom or any foreign protein from food or medicines. The patient will complain of shortness of breath and you may hear wheezing. They may also complain of difficulty in swallowing and some may drool. Their blood pressure will be dropping and the heart rate will increase. You may see large hives and the skin may turn red. If the patient presents with these signs and symptoms their life is in danger. These patients need fast aggressive treatment. Epinephrine is the drug that the patient needs to treat the reaction. Some people have their own kits. Epi kits have auto injector pens that deliver a measured dose of epinephrine into the body. If the patient has their own pen you still need to call 911 for further advanced life support care. People often ask about using Benadryl for the reaction. Epinephrine is the **ONLY** drug that will break the reaction. Benadryl is used as an adjunct to the Epi and should not be used in place of the epinephrine. If you have oxygen available you should apply it at high concentrations with a mask. Monitor vital signs every 2-3 minutes. Continue to reassess until paramedics arrive. " People need to seek immediate help in the

(Continued on page 7)

cases of allergic reaction" according to Lisa Miller, Emergency Department Manager. These reactions can progress rapidly and become life threatening in a matter of minutes. If you do not call 911 the patient needs to be brought to the Emergency Department as soon as possible.

The stinging insects are not the only hazard that people run into during the spring. Snakes are on the move as well and occasionally cross paths with people. Most, but not all snake bites occur when people attempt to catch the snake or try to kill it and the snake gets a bite in before it's demise.

Approximately 30% of bites from a venomous snake will be a dry bite. A dry bite is a bite where there is no venom injected. There will be the typical fang marks and some pain at the bite site but there will be no swelling beyond the site. Treatment of these bites involves cleaning the bite area and you may want to check on your tetanus status. If there is any question about the bite call 911.

A wet bite or one in which venom was injected is quite painful and in some cases can be very serious. Bites from Copperheads are the most often encountered, however bites from the Timber Rattlesnake have occurred in the county. When treating these bites make sure that the snake is not still near by. Often times you will need to calm the patient down before you can provide any treatment. Typically you will see two fang marks however you may only see one or there may be three fang marks. Remove all constricting items such as rings, watches and expose the bite area. Begin marking the swelling with a pen to document how fast the swelling progresses. Simply make a dashed line around the swelling edge with the time. Do not apply ice to the bite area and do not use the cut and suck method. Using a constriction band is still controversial but if you choice to use one ensure it is at least an inch wide. Thread and rope are not appropriate. Keep the patient as calm and still as possible and apply oxygen if you have it. Continue to reassess the bite area for swelling and assess the pulses in the extremities. These bites can be very painful and complications can arise quickly. Continue to monitor closely until EMS arrives.



It is not imperative to have the snake on hand for examination. The signs and symptoms will determine if it is a wet bite. Do not get bitten trying to catch or kill the snake. The anti-venom if required, will work on any venomous species in Yadkin County. Hoots Hospital does not have anti-venom on hand according to Lisa Miller, Emergency Department Manager. We will assess the severity of the bite, treat it and if anti-venom therapy is required we will arrange transport to WFUBMC.

Spring time gets everyone outside enjoying the warm and beautiful weather. Insect and snakes are becoming active as well. Be aware that these animals are here and are part of the environment, to avoid a confrontation that could be an unpleasant and potentially life threatening experience.

Courtney Fire Department Firefighter of the Year

On January 21, 2006 Courtney Fire Department held their annual Awards Banquet. On that night several awards were given, from Rookie of the Year to First Responder of the Year. The last award given was the Firefighter of the Year. Sandy Yeatts received the Courtney Fire Department Firefighter of the Year Award for 2005.

Sandy Yeatts is an individual who has shown enormous growth and maturity this past year. He has proven his dedication to the fire service by participating in many training and real life situations. He has increased his knowledge of the medical aspects of our job as well as the fire fighting techniques necessary to perform operations safely and effectively.

He has performed his duties well as a first responder then as an EMT, however we are especially proud, of his recent actions as a firefighter. He has trained for many years, as we all have, for that moment when we could make a difference. Though not always successful, we do train many hours for those situations. Sandy has had that moment in time when he could and did make a difference. Sometimes the outcome may not seem successful at first, but after time, wounds to our soul heal and we realize we did all we could do, we gave 100% and that's all anyone can ask.

On September 12, 2005 Courtney, Forbush, Lone Hickory, and Yadkinville responded to a house fire on Courtney Huntsville Rd. Initial reports were that there was a child trapped inside of the house. Upon arriving on the scene, several neighbors and passer byers were attempting to rescue the little girl from her bedroom window. After reaching the window, Sandy with help from other firefighters crawled headfirst through the smoke filled room and pulled the little girl from her bedroom.

The little girl did pass away the next day from her injuries as a result of the fire, but due to Sandy's efforts along with the other firefighters that day they gave her a chance. But Sandy was right in the middle of it. Doing what he had been trained to do.

We would also like to congratulate Sandy on receiving the Firefighter of the Year Award from the Yadkin County Fire and Rescue Association.

Five Mile Fire Insurance District Maps Approved

During the last few months, the Fire Marshal's Office has been working with the Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments converting the five mile fire insurance district maps from the point to point DOT maps to the GIS mapping system. After the maps were completed, the NC Department of Insurance had to review them before approval by the County Commissioners. The districts were approved and a resolution was adopted at the March 2, 2006 Yadkin County Board of Commissioners meeting. The maps and resolution has been sent to the NC Department of Insurance for official documentation.

National Arson Awareness Week

May 7 - 13, 2006

ARSON FACTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Arson Kills more than 700 Americans a Year.

55% of all those arrested for arson are under 18 years of age.

Arson is the most expensive crime in America....costing more than \$2 billion a year in property loss.

Only 16% of arson offenses ever lead to arrest, and only 2% of those arrested are convicted.



REWARD
STOP ARSON

Rewards of \$100 to \$1000 are available for information leading to the arrest and indictment of persons setting arson fires.

 North Carolina
Arson Awareness Council

1-800-334-3000

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLOOD INFORMATION

TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN™

What Is Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD)?

TADD is a NOAA National Weather Service campaign to warn people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through flood waters.

This is an official sanctioned Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration Road sign. For details on producing and using this sign, go to http://weather.gov/os/water/tadd/TADDroad_sign.pdf



Why is Turn Around Don't Drown So Important?

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or ear flood waters. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

What Can I Do to Avoid Getting Caught in This Situation?

Most flood-related deaths and injuries could be avoided if people who come upon areas covered with water followed this simple advice: **Turn Around Don't Drown™**.

The reason that so many people drown during flooding is because few of them realize the incredible power of water. A mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles. This includes pickups and SUVs.

If you come to an area that is covered with water, you will not know the depth of the water or the condition of the ground under the water. This is especially true at night, when your vision is more limited.

Play it smart, play it safe. Whether driving or walking, any time you come to a flooded road, **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!**

Follow these safety rules:

- Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. **Turn Around Don't Drown™**
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. **Turn Around Don't Drown™**
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

DHS Announces Application Period for Assistance to Firefighters Grants

The Department of Homeland Security began accepting applications for the Assistance to Firefighters Grants on March 6, 2006. The deadline for receipt of the AFG fire grants applications is 5:00 p.m. eastern daylight time on April 7, 2006. The AFG grants are accessible on the AFG website: www.firegrantsupport.com. Congress provided \$648 million for the Assistance to Firefighters grants, with \$108 million of the funding specified for SAFER grants and a minimum of \$27 million for the Fire Prevention and Safety grants.

Change Your Clock..... Change Your Battery



Daylight Saving Time Begins

April 2, 2006



NEWS LETTER INFORMATION

Submit news letter information to **Eddie Weatherman**
eweatherman@yadkincountync.gov

To receive a copy of the news letter, send email request.

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