



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, 2007

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Annual Fire and Rescue Awards Banquet

The 12th annual Yadkin Co. Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association awards banquet was held on March 10, 2007 at the West Yadkin Baptist Church Fellowship Hall and was hosted by the West Yadkin Volunteer Fire Department. 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 Tony Gagliardi of the Forbush VFD, Firefighter of the Year; Chad Poindexter of the Yadkin County Rescue Squad, Rescue Member of the Year; Dale Couch

of the Forbush VFD, Officer of the Year and Telecommunicator of the Year was given in memory of Rebecca Eldridge and was received by David Matthews, Director of Communications. Congratulations to this years recipients.



Pictured left to right: Chad Poindexter, David Matthews, Tony Gagliardi and Dale Couch.

Bob Myers, New Assistant County Ranger

Bob Myers began serving as Assistant County Ranger for the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources on February 12, 2007. Bob was appointed Assistant County Ranger in Stokes County in 1985 where he served until 1990. Bob served in the mountains of North Carolina from 1990 to 1997. Bob has a wide range of wild fire experience here in North Carolina as well as on many fires in the Western States.

Bob has worked as Logistics Chief in several National Incidents both here and in Puerto Rico.

Upon leaving the NC Forest Service in 1997, Bob has worked in several fields that include General Manager of Stokes County Growers Co-op, Pastor of a small church and as a Qualified Mental Health Professional. Bob returns to the NC Forest Service with great expectations to serve Yadkin County and the Division of Forest Resources. Bob states, "its great to be back in the woods."



**“Fire
is
Hot”**

This is Fire!



Every day Americans experience the horror of fire. But most people don't understand fire. Only when we know the true nature of fire can we prepare ourselves and our families. Each year more than 4,000 Americans die and approximately 25,000 are injured in fires, many of which could be prevented.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), believes that fire deaths can be reduced by teaching people the basic facts about fire.

Fire is Hot! Heat is more threatening than flames.

A fire's heat alone can kill. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super hot air will scorch your lungs. This heat can melt clothes to your skin. In five minutes a room can get so hot that everything in it ignites at once: this is called flashover.

Source: US Fire Administration

NC Forest Service Burning Permits



Get Your Burning Permits Online
www.dfr.state.nc.us

Upcoming Events / Deadlines

-
- Fire Chief's Association Meeting - East Bend VFD April 4, 2007
 - Fire / Rescue Budgets Due April 10, 2007
 - 1st Responder Committee Meeting - Yadkin Campus SCC April 18, 2007
 - Fire & Rescue Association Meeting - Courtney VFD April 19, 2007
 - Local Emergency Planning Committee - Yadkinville VFD May 3, 2007



Become a SKYWARN spotter for the National Weather Service

Submitted By: Phil Hysell, National Weather Service

The National Weather Service in Blacksburg will be at the Arlington Volunteer Fire Department, 321 S. Main St., Jonesville, NC in Yadkin County on Thursday April 12th at 7 PM to conduct a free SKYWARN and weather safety presentation. This two hour presentation is open to the public and any one of any age is welcome to attend. This entertaining and informative presentation will discuss how you can 'read the sky' to determine what type of severe weather is coming. In addition, important weather safety information will be provided to help protect you and your family from the hazards of severe weather. If you've ever wanted to be an official storm spotter, or are just interested in weather, we encourage you to attend.

So, what is SKYWARN? SKYWARN is a concept developed in the early 1970s that was intended to promote a cooperative effort between the National Weather Service and communities. The emphasis of the effort is often focused on the storm spotter, an individual who takes a position near their community and reports wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado. Another part of SKYWARN is the receipt and effective distribution of National Weather Service information.

Spotter reports from SKYWARN spotters provide meteorologists at the National Weather Service with much needed input, which is passed along to local media and other emergency officials including those who can activate sirens or local broadcast systems.

SKYWARN spotters are not by definition "Storm Chasers". While their functions and methods are similar, the spotter stays close to home. The term Storm Chaser covers a wide variety of people. Some are meteorologists doing specific research or are gathering basic information (like video) for training and comparison to radar data. Others chase storms to provide live information for the media, and others simply do it for the thrill.

Storm Spotting and Storm Chasing is dangerous and should not be done without proper training, experience and equipment.

*Important
DATE!*

SKYWARN SPOTTER CLASS

*Important
DATE!*

Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 7 PM

Arlington Fire and Rescue, Inc.
321 South Main Street
Jonesville, NC 28642

Boonville Fire Department

Submitted By: Chief Danny Smith



Boonville Fire Department

PO Box 100
Boonville NC 27011
336-367-3018
336-367-3379 fax
Boonville13@hotmail.com

Several members of the Boonville Fire Department sharpened their skills as fire fighters on Saturday morning March 17th in East Bend. The members traveled to East Bend Fire Department's Training Grounds to practice on interior fire fighting operations. They learned to work together with other departments using SCBA equipment and learned different types of hose and nozzle operations. Each member had the opportunity to watch and learn how a single room fire can grow into a structure damaging killer. This type of training is hard to simulate, and firefighters were able to gain experience and confidence from the supervised training in this burn building. It is a comforting feeling to know that putting on the PPE and SCBA and learning when someone's life or property is not in danger. A reminder to all, the Boonville Fire Department is a volunteer fire department, thank you for your continued support.

Danny Smith, Chief



Where AM I?

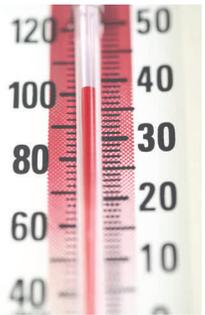
Donnie Martin, EMT-P Supervisor



A child has wandered way from their camp or home and can't find their way back. A hiker or hunter has not returned from their outing. An Alzheimer's patient wandered away from the home. All of these scenarios' have been played out in Yadkin County and most recently in the Stone Mountain area with the Boy Scout and a month prior the middle aged couple in the park.

So what should I bring to the search? What should I teach my son or daughter to do if they get lost? These are questions that people regularly ask me and Emergency Management.

First of all if you are going to a search and plan on being on foot and being active in the search, you need to come PREPARED, Ready to complete a 12/24 hour mission and be self sufficient. Being prepared for the environment is crucial for your safety. You may not be allowed in the search if you do not have proper equipment. I have participated in searches where the safety officer inspected your pack and equipment before being assigned a mission. This may seem intrusive to some but it helps to lessen the Search Managers liability and keeps would be searchers out of trouble. Being prepared also means knowing what is going on in a search operation. Knowing the Incident Command System and understanding how the missions are task. There is nothing any more frustrating than being ready to go and having to wait for long periods of time before being task with an assignment. I have waited as long as 8 hours before being assigned. Often times it is hurry up and wait. Knowing how to read a topographical map and knowing your position is important as Command will often ask your position for a safety check and if you find a clue or the person you need to be able to communicate your position to the command staff for plotting and planning purposes. Not everyone wants to be on foot but can provide equipment such as Gators, Mules, 4 wheelers and horses as well. During the search for the Boy Scout, the Yadkin County team provided valuable off road transportation to teams, (greatly appreciated) staff and the media as well as ground searches. Search is an emergency and does not stop at night. If you are going to be on a night search team you need to be prepared with proper lights and extra batteries/bulbs. If you lose light at 0300 you are now stuck in place till daylight. I will list minimum items that you should bring with you at the end of the article.



What can I teach my child to do if they are lost in the woods? First, talk to your child and teach them the importance of not wandering off and staying together when they are out camping. Staying on the marked trails and telling someone where they are going. Even so, children are easily distracted off trail and suddenly want to explore not telling anyone that they are leaving. Tell them to stay still as soon as they realize they are lost. Find a comfortable spot beside a tree and stay there and Hug-A-Tree. Make them selves big and as visible as they can. Listen for rescuers and make noise to attract them to your location. Often children will actually hide from rescuers thinking they will be in trouble with the parents for getting lost. Let them know it is ok and they won't be in trouble.



These are a few things you can discuss with your child to help avoid becoming lost and if they do how to help rescue themselves. Shelter building and keeping warm are good exercises to practice with them.

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Where AM I?

(continued from page 5)

Search is an emergency and as such you need to be prepared just as you are prepared and trained to handle a structure fire or pin in.

I would like to thank all of the people who volunteered their services during the search for the Boy Scout. My phone rang off the hook with offers to assist as did Dale's. The Yadkin team took 13 rescuers to the search and an off road vehicle. The off road vehicle participated in transporting staff and others to and from operations and the search sites and transported scout leaders to and from the sites. The ground team was task a 10 mile mission during the night operation. It was the longest mission of the search.

Agencies represented; Yadkin County Rescue Squad, Fall Creek Fire Department, Courtney Fire Department, Yadkinville Fire Department, Boonville Fire Department, Arlington Fire Department and Yadkin County Emergency Management.

Here is a "bare minimum" list of equipment you should have in your SAR pack:

A personal first aid kit including any medications you need and a blister kit

30 gallon trash bag

Waterproof matches

Whistle

Some type of shelter material

Rope / 550 Cord

Rain Gear

Gloves

Knife/multi tool

2 water containers

Flashlight / headlamp with extra batteries

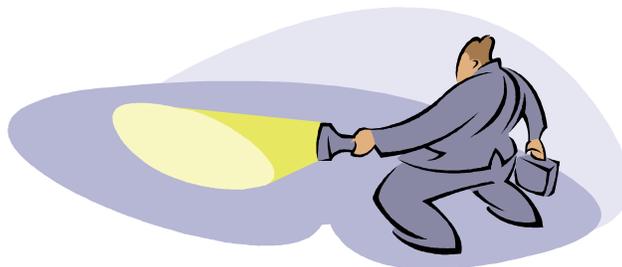
Adequate clothing for weather and environment

Compass



IMPORTANT NOTE:

This is not a complete list of equipment that should be in a SAR ready pack. This may or may not get you into a search area. Remember to come prepared for a long hard day/night, any weather, in some rough environments.



Forbush Fire Department

Submitted By: Dale Couch



FORBUSH VFD RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT:

Forbush Volunteer Fire Department received a 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the area of Operations and Safety for the amount of \$51,962.00

This grant will help Forbush purchase rescue tools, stabilization equipment, AED, pagers, turn-out gear, leather boots, helmets, hoods, gloves, IFSTA manuals, a projector, and several other training manuals and books.

NEW MEMBERS:

Carlisle Hughes
Mark Johnson
Barry McLean
Nathaniel Mosteller

FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATIONS:

Congratulations to Derek Cornelius and Sam Hughes on achieving NC Firefighter Level I Certification.



2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grants

E-Grant Application Period
March 29, 2007 - May 4, 2007

IMPORTANT INFO.
PLEASE! Read the Program Guidance

THE DESIGNATED WEATHER WATCHER

A CRITICAL COMPONENT TO YOUR SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY PLAN

Submitted By: Phil Hysell, National Weather Service

Your workplace, your children's school or your church are all prepared for the next severe weather event. They have a severe weather plan and practice it so everyone knows where to go. They have a NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio with fresh batteries so the instant a severe thunderstorm or tornado warning is issued their severe weather plan can be enacted. A disaster supply kit is also available.

However, even the seemingly most prepared institutions may be lacking one vital component: The designated weather watcher. Some of the most unfortunate weather and flood related deaths and injuries have occurred where people were unaware of a hazardous threat or event in progress. Even though timely watch and warning information was available from the National Weather Service, these people were unaware because they were not paying attention.

The designated weather watcher is a person assigned to pay attention to the weather, while others go about their business. While there have been many great examples of the successful use of this concept over the past several years, the example receiving the most attention is one relating to the Parsons Manufacturing Company near Peoria, IL. In July 2004, an F4 tornado struck the plant, leaving behind a mangled pile of manufacturing equipment, employee vehicles and building material; however, none of the 150 people in the building were killed or seriously injured. A well organized safety plan, a NOAA Weather All Hazards Weather Radio relaying timely watches and warnings, and a Designated Weather Watcher made the difference between life and death.

While tornadoes are not a common occurrence in our area, we've seen our share of non-tornadic wind events that can cause the same destruction.

Please make sure as we enter this severe weather season that your workplace, school, church or other institution where a large number of people gather have a severe weather plan in place that includes a designated weather watcher.

IMPORTANT WEB SITES

- Yadkin County Government - www.yadkincounty.gov
- NC Office of State Fire Marshal - www.ncdoi.com/osfm
- U. S. Fire Administration - www.usfa.dhs.gov
- North Carolina State Firemen's Association - www.ncsfa.com
- North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs - www.ncafc.com
- NC Association of Rescue and E.M.S., Inc. - www.ncarems.org
- NC Office of Emergency Medical Services - www.ncems.org
- NC Emergency Management - www.dem.dcc.state.nc.us
- NC Division of Forest Resources - www.dfr.state.nc.us
- NC Division of Air Quality - <http://daq.state.nc.us>
- U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission - www.cpsc.gov



Interior Firefighting Plan

- **Work as a team!**
- **Stay together!**
- **Stay oriented!**
- **Manage your air supply!**
- **Get off the apparatus with tools and a thermal imager for EVERY interior operating team!**
- **A radio for EVERY member!**
- **Provide constant updates!**
- **Constantly assess the Risk/Benefit model!**



NEWS LETTER INFORMATION

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

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

Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office

P. O. Box 1002
 213 East Elm Street
 Yadkinville, NC 27055
 Phone: 336-679-4231
 Fax: 336-679-2443
 E-mail: eweatherman@yadkincountync.gov



REMEMBERING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

