



# 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 ///

FEBRUARY, 2006

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- NC Response Rating System
- Yadkinville VFD
- Firefighter Fatalities
- Smoke Detectors
- Generator Safety
- Severe Weather Awareness Week
- NC Disaster Info.
- 2006 Volunteer Fire Department Fund
- Fire Reporting - 101

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## Firefighters Attend Training

Rick Hall & Associates conducted an 8 hour program on the North Carolina Response Rating System on Saturday December 3, 2005 at the Planning & Permits Building in Yadkinville.

The class is designed to enhance the student's knowledge of the NC Response Rating System.

Topics covered in the class were; Communications, Fire Department Operations and Water Supplies.

The North Carolina Department of Insurance conducts insurance rating inspections on fire departments in communities under 100,000 in population.

Firefighters from Yadkin and Davie Counties attended the class.



NC Response System Rating Class on December 3, 2005.

## Yadkinville VFD - Ladder 12 In Service



Yadkinville VFD - Ladder 12  
1986 Pierce 95 ft. Aerial Truck

Ladder 12 went into service on November 8, 2005. Yadkinville VFD purchased the 1986 Pierce 95 ft. Aerial Truck from West Hempstead, NY. The truck can pump 1500 gallons per minute and carries 500 gallons of water. Ladder 12 is the first Aerial Truck purchased in Yadkin County.

# Fire Safety Tips



Do You Know What to Do if Your Clothing Catches Fire?



**STOP** .... Never run, stop right where you are.

**DROP** .... Drop to the ground gently, putting your hands over your face.

and

**ROLL** .... Roll over and over until the flames are out.

## NC Forest Service Burning Permits



Get Your Burning Permits Online

[www.dfr.state.nc.us](http://www.dfr.state.nc.us)

## Upcoming Events / Deadlines



- 
- Local Emergency Planning Committee - Yadkinville VFD      February 2, 2006
  - Fire & Rescue Banquet - Jonesville Senior Center      March 4, 2006

## Arlington Fire District - Receives New Rating After Inspection State Officials Award District a 5/9S Rating

**RALEIGH** - North Carolina Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Jim Long announced that the Arlington Fire District completed its routine inspection and received a 5/9S rating. The inspection, conducted by officials with the Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), is required on a regular basis as part of the North Carolina Response Rating System (NCRRS). Among other things, the routine inspections look for proper staffing levels, sufficient equipment, proper maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities and availability of a water source.

The 5/9S rating is an improvement over the previous rating of 6/9S. The NCRRS rating system ranges from one (highest) to 10 (not recognized as a certified fire department by the state), with most rural departments falling into the 9S category. While lower ratings do not necessarily indicate poor service, a higher rating does suggest that a department is overall better equipped to respond to fires in its district. Higher ratings can also significantly lower homeowners insurance rates in that fire district.

“I’d like to congratulate Chief Calloway for his department’s performance and for the hard work of all the department members,” said Commissioner Long. “The citizens in Arlington Fire District should rest easy knowing they have a fine group of firefighters protecting them and their property in case of an emergency.”

State law requires OSFM officials to inspect departments serving districts of 100,000 people or less, which makes up all but six of the state’s fire districts.

## Yadkin Co. Fire Departments - Receives State Grants

In 1988 the General Assembly created the Fire Grant Fund to help volunteer fire departments raise money for equipment and supplies. The funds are matching grants, the state matches dollar-for-dollar, up to an approved amount. The following departments received the 2005 Volunteer Fire Department Fund.

Arlington Fire and Rescue, Inc.	\$19,802.61
Boonville Vol. Fire Department	\$9,998.03
Buck Shoals Vol. Fire Department	\$20,000.00
Jonesville Vol. Fire Department	\$9,524.19

# U.S. Fire Administration - Provisional Report

## 2005 On-Duty Firefighter Fatalities in the United States

According to the U.S. Fire Administration 106 firefighters died while on duty in 2005. Among the statistics, 48 deaths were the result of heart attacks and vehicle crashes claimed the lives of 26 firefighters.

Classification	Number of Deaths
Career	32
Wildland Full-Time	5
Paid-on-Call	2
Volunteer	63
Wildland Contract	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>

## Fire Fighter I & II Program Started in January

Surry Community College will be offering the full Fire Fighter I & II program during 2006. The classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-10 pm and selected Saturdays. The location of individual classes will rotate between Stations 12, 13 and 9. The first class, Orientation and Safety, began on January 9th at Station 12. Fire Behavior began at Station 13 on January 23rd. Fire Alarms and Communication is scheduled to start at Station 13 on February 1st and Personal Protective Equipment at Station 12 on February 13th. The PPE class also crosses over to the Rescue Technician class VMR Personal Protective Equipment. For more information and/or a copy of the full year's schedule contact Wayne Matthews at 679-4600 ext 5226 or by e-mail at [matthewsw@surry.edu](mailto:matthewsw@surry.edu).

## Yadkin County Rescue Squad - Receives State Grant

The Yadkin County Rescue Squad received a \$25,000.00 matching grant through the Office of State Fire Marshal's Volunteer Rescue and EMS Grant program. The squad will be using the grant to purchase a new truck to pull its structural collapse trailer, a 4x4 Gator and personal protective equipment. The membership is excited to be able to purchase these new pieces of equipment. The Gator will be especially helpful. The squad has responded to several incidents where gaining access to the scene would have been easier with the Gator.



# Smoke Detectors



## What are the Types?

There are two types of smoke alarms -- ionization and photoelectric.

- Ionization smoke detectors activate quicker for fast, flaming fires.
- Photoelectric smoke detectors activate quicker for slow, smoldering fires.

Either one will provide you enough time to get out, but having a mix of the two types is a good idea. Models with both sensors are better than single sensor units, but of course they cost more. Smoke alarms are powered either by household current (ac), a battery, or ac with a battery that keeps it operating during power outages. The battery type is easy to install in existing homes but the battery must be changed annually. Building codes for new homes require ac powered alarms with battery backup. For greater safety, older ac only smoke alarms should be replaced with ac/battery alarm. Any smoke alarm older than 10 years, needs to be replaced.

## Generator Safety from Duke Power

A generator can be very useful during a power outage, but remember to always follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe and proper operation. To protect yourself and your family, follow these rules:

### Always:

- Have a licensed electrician install stationary or stand-by emergency generators.
- Plug appliances directly into an emergency or portable generator. This is the safest way to use a generator. We don't recommend connection of a generator directly to a breaker panel, fuse box or meter box.
- Obey all local, state and national electrical and fire codes.
- Store gasoline in approved fuel containers and out of children's reach.
- Keep children away from generators.
- Have a fully charged fire extinguisher -- properly rated for electrical and gasoline fires -- ready at all times.

### And remember to:

- Never connect generators to your utility service through receptacles, outlets, breakers, fuses or meter boxes.
- Never replenish fuel in a generator while it is running.
- Call an electrician to repair a generator; never attempt to repair it yourself.
- Operate your generator outside. Never operate it inside a building or garage.

# Yadkin County Emergency Management

## Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 12-19, 2006

### Severe Weather Awareness Week

Governor Easley has declared March 12-19, 2006, to be Severe Weather Awareness Week in North Carolina. The annual statewide tornado drill is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15. The National Weather Service will use the Emergency Alert System to announce the drill over radio and television stations across the state. Government officials, school administrators and business owners should take this opportunity to ensure that their facilities have a plan to act in the event of a tornado or other severe weather in their area.

As the severe weather season approaches, planning ahead will lower the chance of injury or even death in the event a tornado strikes. Tornadoes can occur with little or no warning throughout the year, but the peak season in North Carolina is March through May. It is important to know the basics of tornado safety so that you can survive should one strike. Have a plan. Hold tornado drills. If you see a tornado approaching, you will have only a short time to make life-or-death decisions.

### Danger Signs

- If there is a watch or warning posted, falling hail should be considered as a real danger sign.
- An approaching cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado, even if a funnel is not visible.
- Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still.
- Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

### Tornado Safety Tips

- Learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- The safest place to be during a tornado is underground in a basement or storm cellar. If you have no basement, go to an inner hallway or smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Go to the center of the room. Try to find something sturdy you can get under and hold onto to protect you from flying debris and/or a collapsed roof. Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- Listen to the radio, local television, weather channel or a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) radio for information.
- A watch means conditions are right for tornado formation; a warning means a tornado has actually been sighted.
- Mobile homes, even those with tie-downs, are particularly vulnerable to damage from high winds. Go to a prearranged shelter when the weather turns bad.
- If no shelter is available, go outside and lie on the ground, if possible in a ditch or depression. Use your arms to protect your head and neck and wait for the storm to pass. While waiting, be alert for the flash floods that sometimes accompany tornadoes. Never try to outrun a tornado in a car. A tornado can toss cars and trucks around like toys. If you see a funnel cloud or hear a tornado warning issued, get out of your vehicle and find safe shelter. If no shelter is available, lie down in a low area using your arms to cover the back of your head and neck. Be sure to stay alert for flooding.

# Yadkin County EMS Training



At the end of the year in 2005 we had several people from different departments to finish the year without twenty-four hours of medical continuing education. Remember this is a North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services regulation and a requirement of the Yadkin County EMS System Plan for any responder who has patient care contact. In the training calendar for 2006 we have scheduled 154 classes offered all across the county. Some are day classes and some are night classes. With this many opportunities and a little effort no one should find themselves lacking in hours at the end of this year.

Another problem addressed in 2005 was expired certifications. The only way that your training and certification can be properly tracked is for all medically trained personnel to be registered in the EMS Training System. If you have not already done so you will need to fill out and return a New Student Information Worksheet. Please make sure that all areas are complete including; department, certification level, and expiration date. If any of your information has changed you will need to submit a new sheet with the appropriate changes.

Last but not least, Thank you for all of your hard work and long hours. The EMS System Plan can not function to the level of proficiency that it does without the dedication and effort from all of our medically trained personnel. We currently have 257 trained responders from First responder to Paramedic and in 2005 you attended 6113 man hours of training. This shows great dedication to the assistance of all citizens of Yadkin County and all that pass through.

If you have any question or need information about your certification or training please have your Chief or First Responder Captain to contact:

Keith W. Vestal EMT-P  
Personnel/Training Coordinator  
Yadkin County EMS  
336-679-4232  
336-679-7646 fax  
[kvestal@yadkincounty.gov](mailto:kvestal@yadkincounty.gov)

## Yadkin County Emergency Management North Carolina Disaster Information

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), there were 62 weather-related disasters with costs reaching at least \$1 billion per disaster between 1980 and 2004. North Carolina was impacted by 25 (40%) of these disasters – more than any other state in the country.

# Storm Safety Tips from Duke Power

Severe weather can strike quickly creating a variety of dangerous situations. We all have a responsibility to stay tuned to the National Weather Service, local media and emergency management for special warnings or instructions during severe weather events. The following tips are designed to help you safely endure the severe weather anytime it impacts the Duke Power service area.

## During Severe Weather

- Continue to monitor the media for important information.
- If you experience a power outage, please alert us by calling Duke Power's toll-free, automated outage reporting system at 1-800-POWERON (1-800-769-3766). Spanish speaking customers should call 1-866-4APAGON (427-2466) for outage reporting assistance. Those with access to the Internet may report an outage using our [ONLINE](#) report form.
- If you anticipate an extended outage, consider moving yourself and your family -- especially those with special needs -- to an alternate location.
- Consider checking on others who may benefit from your assistance.
- Consider all downed power lines and anything touching them energized and DANGEROUS! Do not get near them and report the problem to Duke Power.
- Don't open freezers and refrigerators any more than absolutely necessary. Opening these appliances will allow food to thaw more quickly.
- During severe weather or power outages, turn off as many appliances and electronics as possible. This will reduce the potential for damage or fire. After the power is restored, wait 5 to 10 minutes before turning them back on.

## Safety Around Power Lines

- Stay away from downed or sagging power lines, and do not touch anything that is on or near a power line (i.e., trees or tree limbs, cars, ladders).
- Keep children and family pets away from areas where lines may have fallen (backyards, fields, school yards, etc.).
- If a power line falls across a car that you're in, stay in the car. If you MUST get out of the car due to a fire or other immediate life-threatening situation, do your best to jump clear of the car and land on both feet. Be sure that no part of your body is touching the car when your feet touch the ground.
- Report all power line hazards to Duke Power or your local emergency services department or agency.

# 2006 Volunteer Fire Department Fund

The 2006 Volunteer Fire Department Fund applications have been sent to each department from the NC Department of Insurance, Office of State Fire Marshal. The grant may not exceed \$20,000. The grant is on a dollar-for-dollar basis. If you plan on applying, please fill out the application completely and return to OSFM, no later than March 1, 2006.

## FIRE REPORTING - 101

NCDOL is requesting that fire reports be sent to them on a quarterly basis. Fire reports need to be submitted to my office by the 15th of each month.



## NEWS LETTER INFORMATION

Submit news letter information to **Eddie Weatherman**  
[eweatherman@yadkincounty.gov](mailto:eweatherman@yadkincounty.gov)

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

### Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office

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