



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Summer/Fall, 2006

COBB FIRE ON NATIONAL TELEVISION

Alton Brown, host of the Food Network's weekly show "Good Eats" filmed a segment on cooking safety at the Cobb Fire Training facility on August 18. Mr. Brown is a Cobb County resident, and an advocate of cooking safety. In preparation for the holidays, Brown filmed a segment on the do's and don'ts of deep frying turkeys.

Several scenarios will be shown during the episode, which is slated to air before Thanksgiving. Footage shot includes overheating of the cooking oil, overflowing pots, and well-involved grease fires.

Mr. Brown detailed the "science behind cooking", giving basic tips on turkey frying:
Never use a frozen turkey; thaw and dry first.
Do not overfill the pot with oil; test the liquid displacement with water and the turkey first.
The cooking temperature should remain constant between 375 and 400 degrees F.
The flashpoint of most oils is lower than many people think. For instance, peanut oil is the most commonly used in turkey frying, and will ignite at 600 degrees F. Use a thermometer to constantly check the temperature.



Pictured above: Alton Brown prepares to demonstrate the right and wrong way to deep fry a turkey.

COBB SAFETY VILLAGE GETS THE GREEN LIGHT

Cobb Fire is well underway with plans to build a Public Safety Village. The County Manager has recently approved consideration of a site adjacent to the Al Bishop Softball Complex for the construction of the first safety village in Georgia.

"It's a common fact that people learn more effectively through a combination of teaching methods, especially "hands on" exercises", says Lt. Scott Dodson of the CCFES Public Fire & Life Safety Division. "We are absolutely thrilled that the safety village is likely only 2 years away from becoming a reality".

Lt. Dodson and his Division are working closely with Chief Denlinger, CCFES Senior Staff, the County Manager, the Board of Commissioners, and other community leaders on this project.

The Village will be used to teach a variety of fire and life safety topics, and will cater to all age groups. It will include a training building, car seat inspection station, and a scaled-down village for children. Safety Villages typically have various buildings and attractions such as banks, homes, fast food restaurants, and other venues to simulate a real town. Safety Villages are a unique venue where citizens encounter a variety of everyday hazards they are exposed to in real life. Training curriculums are developed to help students practice safety through a variety of hands-on exercises, role-playing activities, and other innovative and ever-changing participatory techniques. These activities are always intended to reduce fire and other safety-related

accidents, injuries, and deaths.

For more information, contact Lt. Scott Dodson at 770-528-8335.

VIDEO SMOKE SIGNAL

Lt. Chris Stone is preparing to roll out a video version of the Smoke Signal.

Plans are to distribute these broadcasts in DVD format to Stations and other CCFES work locations as frequently as possible. Some of the news will be mirrored in the print version of the Smoke Signal, while other segments will be unique to the video version. If you have any news you would like to see included in future segments, please contact Lt. Stone at TV 23.

NEW WEBSITE LOOK

The CCFES website format has been changed to reflect the look of other Cobb County Government websites. Check it out at www.cobbfire.org.

PERSONNEL CORNER

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services
1595 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008-4021
Phone: 770-528-8000
Fax: 770-528-8323

Complimentary copies are distributed to all Cobb Fire and Public Safety facilities, and placed in the Fire Administration Common Files under "Smoke Signal".

This issue will also be uploaded to our website: www.cobbfire.org

The Smoke Signal is for employees and friends of Cobb Fire. If you would like to see a subject covered in future issues or would like to submit items for possible future publication, please forward to Ellen Black at Fire Headquarters.

Editors:

*Ellen Black
Chief Rebecca Denlinger
Sharron Garner
Joy Allen*

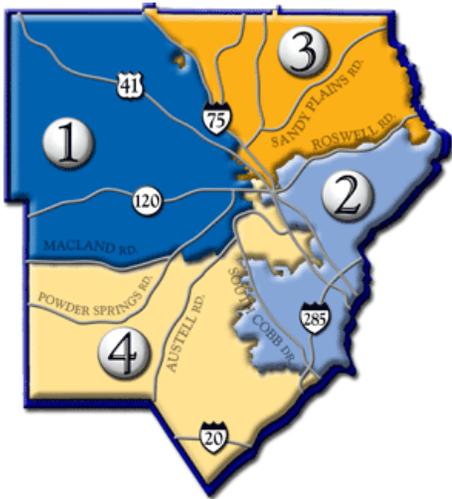
Many Thanks To:

*Craig Ford,
Communications*

*Ron Watson,
Cobb County Print Shop*

COBB FIRE IS A DEPARTMENT OF COBB COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- Samuel S. Olens, Commission Chairman
- Helen Goreham, District 1 Commissioner
- Joe L. Thompson, District 2 Commissioner
- Tim Lee, District 3 Commissioner
- Annette Kesting, District 4 Commissioner
- David Hankerson, County Manager



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

The 2006 CCFES Recruit School is nearing completion, and will graduate 15 new firefighters on Thursday, November 2. The ceremony will be held at the West Cobb Senior Center at 7:00 p.m.



Pictured above: The 2006 CCFES Recruit Class at a training exercise.

Three of these individuals are already in the field, having come to CCFES with EMT certification (see *). Their names are:

- Matt Dammes
- Michelle Fernanders
- Jimmy Gunderman
- Chris Hall
- Walter Jensen
- Aaron Joiner*
- Troy Lange
- Scott McCullouch
- Ryan McKay
- Craig Nemeth*
- Keith Powell
- Homero Salce
- Hunter Schumaker*
- Doug Shumway
- Larry Stevenson



Left: Lt. Mark Ingram assists Recruit Michelle Fernanders in a training scenario.



Right: Craig Nemeth and Walter Jensen take a break in training.

COBB FIRE "GETS WET"!



On August 24, Cobb Fire took delivery on a new inflatable water rescue boat and trailer. The Zodiac Mark III HD is 14'9" long, 6'9" wide, and is equipped with a Yamaha 60 horsepower 4-stroke jet drive outboard motor. The boat will be assigned to Station 4, where Squad members will immediately begin training to expand their water rescue capabilities and become familiar with the boat and all of the associated equipment.

MORE BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



Pictured above: the front and rear of the new Station 14.

If the pictures above look strangely like the new Station 11 in Acworth which opened on April 1 of this year, you're right. The new Station 14 is nearly identical to the design of 11 with a few modifications. In designing the "new generation" of stations, CCFES Management and County officials have found a design which hopefully will function as an effective template for the construction of stations for years to come. Station 14 is situated on 2.5 acres at 2905 Library Lane, which is directly behind the old Station 14 off Sandy Plains Road in the "Mountain View Complex", comprised of Cobb County Government buildings. New Station 14 also has a complete fueling station to the rear of the building.

This \$1.7 million facility has three drive-through bays, capacity for a 10-person crew, including the Third Battalion Chief, and parking spaces for 29 vehicles. The plan is to add a ladder truck to this location. Move-in is anticipated for mid-October, with an Open House in November.

The old Stations 11, 14, and 17 are all more than 40 years old. In addition to the structures exceeding their useful service lives, those facilities no longer meet the needs of a modern fire and emergency services department. Issues such as longer apparatus not fitting in the bays, biohazard sinks with separate drainage systems, modern exhaust systems, ADA compliance, and other functional concerns are presenting new challenges to current firefighting and emergency medical service delivery. In addition, concerns related to the space deficiencies for bunk rooms, exercise and training rooms, and inadequate kitchen facilities.

Last August, Cobb Fire received approval to purchase 2.4 acres on Factory Shoals Road in Austell for the relocation and replacement of Station 9. This past July, the Cobb Board of Commissioners also approved the purchase of nearly 4.7 acres on Kemp Ridge Road in Acworth for a future Station 28. Call analysis has shown a need for another station in that area in the foreseeable future.

There are also major renovations either being performed at this time, or being planned at several stations. There are plans for a feasibility study to be conducted on Station 1. This will determine whether the facility should be renovated or replaced. There are also plans for a renovation for Station 7 and a rebuild for Station 5. A relocation of the Airlab from the old Station 10 to a new space at DPS Training is being explored. The move to this proposed 20 x 40 foot space would allow for Building Maintenance to expand within the existing building.



Pictured above: Firefighter Melee Miller is interviewed by the 790AM Morning Show during their September 11 Public Safety employees tribute, broadcast from Station 4.

NEW TECHNOLOGY IN FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Cobb Fire has recently acquired a BullEx Intelligent Fire Extinguisher Training System. This portable, digital system is designed to provide safe, clean, and cost-effective training on the use of residential and industrial fire extinguishers using compressed air and water. BullEx technology and similar systems uses a propane fueled base unit, with an on-command on-board microprocessor command board to start and stop the fire source.

Live-fire training is cheaper, cleaner, and certainly easier. One instructor can train approximately 400 students using one 20-pound propane tank in a fraction of the time as previously needed with traditional methods. The portable system simulates Class A, B, and C fires, and charges the extinguishers with one liter of water and compressed air, at only about 5 percent of the cost of conventional fire extinguishers. They can also be refilled onsite in a matter of seconds.



Left: Lt. Scott Dodson and FFIII Dennis Rucker demonstrate the BullEx System; the essential unit components are also pictured above.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS by Jeff Moss

Thank you to those who submitted questions for this issue. I submitted them to Deputy Chief Heaton for answers; input was also solicited from Chief Denlinger, Deputy Chief Crider, Division Chief Barid, and Captain Jones. If you would like to submit questions to me, please feel free to send them to me at Station 23, A Shift.

Q: Are Fire Department employees eligible for mileage reimbursement for floats, working the Fair, softball game coverage, etc.?

A: YES. The County policy can be viewed on the CobbWeb in Chapter 2 on page 17 of the Handbook. In summary, the policy states that it should be understood that mileage reimbursement is only applicable in cases where the employee has reported to his or her initial assignment and then was subsequently reassigned. It does not apply to or from an assigned duty location. An example would be prearranged floats. The mileage (real and differential) is not a reimbursable item.

Q: The new Communications policy states that no names are to be used over the radio in the event of a firefighter injury or death. Does this in any way affect the Mayday policy and the fact that names are used in the initial Mayday transmission?

A: NO. You should continue to follow the Mayday procedures as written. Once the initial Mayday transmission has been issued and acknowledged, the names should not be used thereafter.

Q: Once our EMS National Registry Number has expired, how do we reactivate or get it back? Is this something CCFES can assist with, or do we do it on our own?

A: To re-register with the National Registry of EMTs after a lapse of certification, the written and practical exams must be challenged again. To apply for testing, a refresher course must be completed; 36 hours for EMT-I and 48 hours for the EMT-Paramedic. The refresher course must meet US DOT and State curriculum requirements. The current monthly CCFES PPA EMS modules meet these criteria. We completed the first two-year cycle in June 2006, and this is valid for the National Registry for 24 months. All fees are the responsibility of the individual seeking National Registry certification. Any further questions can be directed to the Technical Operations Division at 770-528-8313.

DID YOU KNOW?

That all the current Policy & Procedure Manual (the newer "white book") and the old "yellow book" are on the CCFES L:/Common File?

Q: Will we continue to use Hurst brand extrication equipment or switch to a new manufacturer?

A: We are currently in the process of purchasing 3 new sets of Holmatro extrication equipment. It will be the new CORE technology equipment which has proven to be safer, stronger, and superior to any other tools presently available on the market.

Q: What is being done to address the possibility of the DROP retirement plan?

A: The Finance Department and Human Resources have been made aware of the plan, but that is all the information I have at this time. There is no indication at this time that they are looking into the feasibility of moving towards such a plan. It should be noted that Fire Management has no control over the County retirement plan and the administration thereof. If a change were to occur, it would have to be initiated at the levels of HR, Finance, and the BOC.

Q: Why did we not participate in the LODD ceremonies for Firefighter Bill Craddock of DeKalb County?

A: A phone call was made by the Chief's Office to DeKalb Fire Rescue to offer assistance, and none was requested from them. We are committed to making a more concerted effort in the future to provide presence and assistance. However, we will not self-dispatch.

Q: Please clarify rumors regarding current promotional lists. Why are there so many names on the lists when it seems like not many folks are retiring? Will they promote for Station 14 before April 30, 2007? Finally, are there plans to choose from the current list?

A: The lists are based on a target number that should sustain the list for the time period the list is valid. There's never any exact way to know how many promotions will occur over the life of any list. The apparatus for Station 14 has been approved and as in the bid process now. Once bids are awarded, it could take up to 1 year for the apparatus to arrive. The funding for Truck 14's crew has been requested, but not yet approved. If approved, the projected in-service date is presently Fall when promotions would be made.

Q: Is Station 5 going to be a rebuild or a remodel? Will crews have any input?

A: Station 5 is planned to be a complete rebuild from the ground up at its present site. The crews will not have any direct input. Property Management, a professional architect, and Cobb Fire Management are working together to design and construct the new facility.

Q: Where is Station 29 going to be built, and when?

A: We are currently looking at property around the Cumberland/Galleria area. Nothing has been secured, but numerous prospective sites are being considered. It is in the 10-year plan to be built in 2007.

MORE PERSONNEL NEWS

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL PURSUITS

The following personnel have recently completed or will soon be receiving college degrees:

Engineer Michael Shutz
AAS Fire Science

Lieutenant Chris Starnes
AAS Fire Management/Health

Lieutenant Donnell Campbell
AAS Fire Management

Firefighter Philip Wilbur
AAS Fire Science

Engineer Kyle Smith
AAS Fire Science

Engineer Nick Adams
AAS Paramedic Technology

Firefighter Matt Johnson
AAS Fire Science

Captain Rick Bennett
AAS Fire Science

Chief Rebecca Denlinger
BA Liberal Studies
(the Chief wanted everyone to know that's what you get when you change majors and colleges 3 times)

WELCOME TO CCFES

On September 11, the Fire Marshal's Office welcomed Robert "Rock" Toler to fill the newly created position of Fire Protection Engineer.

Rock graduated from Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, and is a certified firefighter from the Paulding County Fire Department. Stop by and introduce yourself to Rock the next time you are at Fire Headquarters!



Rock Toler



Battalion Chief Gary Jolly retired on August 31 with 32 years of service. A reception was held at Station 22 to wish Gary well.



MEDAL OF VALOR AWARDED TO CCFES PERSONNEL

Recently, members of Truck 19 were awarded the 2006 Award of Merit/Medal of Valor for their decisive and selfless actions performed in the early morning hours of January 15, 2006 at the Holiday Inn fire on Kingston Court in Marietta. The award was presented by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce.

As many are aware, the multiple alarm fire was catastrophic, resulting in multiple injuries, extensive damage, and the death of one hotel guest. Truck 19 personnel were responsible for the search and rescue of two guests from the third floor without the assistance of a hose line. The heat, fire, and smoke conditions were extremely dangerous, placing the crew in the type of perilous situation that some firefighters may never be exposed to in their entire careers.

The crew of Truck 19 who were awarded for their brave actions that night were:

Captain Ron Fagan
Engineer Trevor Levy
Firefighter Kerry Lambert
Firefighter Steve Bennett

Other Units which responded and assisted were:

Cars 102, 103, 104, 110, 114, 118, 120, 7990, 7991, and 7993.

Engine 2, Rescue 2, Engine 3, Engine 4, Truck 4, Engine 5, Engine 7, Engine 8, Engine 12, Engine 14, Engine 15, Engine 16, Engine 17, Engine 19, Engine 20, Engine 21, Rescue 20, and Truck 21.

Marietta Fire Units include:

Cars 500, 501, Engine 51, Engine 52, Rescue 52, Truck 52, Engine 53, Engine 54, Engine 55, Squad 55, and Engine 56.



Pictured above with DPS Director Mickey Lloyd receiving the Cobb Chamber's Award of Merit/Medal of Valor is Ron Fagan, Trevor Levy, Steve Bennett, and Kerry Lambert. The crew will be honored on October 18 at GPSTC in Forsyth by receiving the Governor's Award.