



# THE SMOKE SIGNAL

## Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Spring 2008

### CHIEF DENLINGER RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS

On December 31, 2007, Fire Chief Rebecca Denlinger retired after 30 years of distinguished service to CCFES. A reception was held in her honor on January 11 at the Mansour Center in Marietta.

Several hundred well wishers attended the catered event, which included local dignitaries, fire personnel, out of state family members, friends, and professional associates.

Becky will be leaving Cobb County to become the Fire Commissioner of the Province of British Columbia. This highly regarded position located in Victoria, B.C. is considered the senior fire authority with respect to all matters pertaining to fire safety and prevention. She will be responsible for the administration and enforcement of fire safety legislation, training of local assistants to the Commissioner, fire loss statistics collection, fire investigations and inspections, response to major fire emergencies, providing advice to local governments on the delivery of fire protection, public fire safety education, and firefighter certification.

Becky leaves a long list of accomplishments during her tenure here at CCFES, and we sincerely appreciate her vision, leadership, friendship, and commitment to furthering the Fire and EMS Service here locally and nationally. We will miss Becky greatly, and wish her much success in her new position!



Becky Denlinger shares a moment at her retirement reception with Bob and Laura Foran.



Pictured above is the architectural rendering of the new Cobb County Safety Village to be located on Al Bishop Drive. After incorporation as a nonprofit organization last April and groundbreaking on February 25, construction will commence on the 7.9 acre site. The 27,000 square foot teaching facility is expected to open in January 2009 at a cost of \$4.5 million.

The Safety Village is a collaborative effort between Cobb Fire, Police, Public Safety, and private enterprise. Upon completion, the \$7 million total project will be the most comprehensive safety training environment in the region where residents can gain knowledge through hands-on experiences. Local organizations will construct reduced-scale buildings on sites at the Village, including traffic signals, sidewalks, and other local buildings that reflect the look of Cobb County.

Citizens can also become sponsors, and can also purchase bricks to be installed on walkways in the Village starting at \$50. For more information, contact Lt. Scott Dodson at 770-528-8000, or check out the Safety Village website at [www.cobbcounty.org/safetyvillage/](http://www.cobbcounty.org/safetyvillage/)

# PERSONNEL CORNER

## RECRUIT SCHOOL GRADUATION

On January 23, CCFES held a graduation ceremony and reception for eighteen recruits at the Open Bible Tabernacle. These new firefighters and their initial assignments are:

- Phillip Anderson 1-C*
- Jason Bell 13-B*
- Jacob Clark 15-B*
- DeWayne Cook 3-C*
- Michael Estes 12-C*
- John Harbin 7-C*
- Jonathan Hogeland 10-C*
- Jon Lyday 1-A*
- Justin Maddox 14-C*
- Brandon Moore 3-B*
- Jimmy Nerlich 5-B*
- Ben Rackley 4-B*
- Patrick Rhinehart 21-A*
- Wayne Seling 23-A*
- Jeremy Thompson 1-B*
- Jake Wardlow 8-B*
- Anthony West 20-C*
- Wendy Wohlust 9-C*

Say hello to these new personnel when you see them!

We would be remiss if we didn't take a moment to thank those Training Staff members for all their hard work:

- Chuck Baird, Captain*
- Tom Hancock, Lieutenant*
- Chris Stone, Lieutenant*
- Doug Watkins, Lieutenant*
- Larry Causby, EMS Coordinator*
- Dale Hutson, PT Specialist*
- Ann McKenna, PT Specialist*
- Kim York, Admin Specialist*

### Pictured at Right: The 2007-2008 Recruit Class

Another new face at CCFES Headquarters is Administrative Specialist Deanie Chrisler. Deanie comes to Fire Headquarters from Cobb Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs. Stop and say hello next time you are in the building!



## CONGRATULATIONS

Justin Green has completed an Associates Degree in Paramedic Technology at Georgia Highlands College.

The following personnel recently completed the Smoke Diver course at GPSTC in Forsyth:

- Aaron Joiner
- Charles Robitaille
- Joey West
- David George
- Kyle Williams

## RECENT PROMOTIONS

Spencer Miller was promoted to Technical Operations Division Chief on December 16, 2007. Spencer has been with CCFES for 19 years, and has certifications as an EMT, Paramedic, Cardiac Technician, and Hazardous Materials Technician.

William Tanks was promoted to Captain on December 30, 2007. William has been employed by Cobb Fire for 17 years. He was one of the original Station 10 Med Ops Officers. Captain Tanks transferred to Fire Headquarters from the Training Division.

## RECENT CCFES RETIREMENTS

- Ron Darby 22 Years 7 Months*
- Bob Croft 30 Years 4 Months*
- Diane Kinsey 22 Years 3 Months*
- Mike Lanier 28 Years 9 Months*
- Mike Craft 27 Years 5 Months*
- Terry Martin 24 Years 7 Months*
- Von Redman 19 Years 6 Months*
- Dart Kendall 28 Years 5 Months*
- Hal Hall 28 Years 5 Months*
- JJ Slack 30 Years*
- Gordon Michaels 18 Years*
- Geoff Thomas 27 Years*
- Joe Ethridge 31 Years 5 Months*

**Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services**  
**1595 County Services Parkway**  
**Marietta, Georgia 30008**  
**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](http://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:

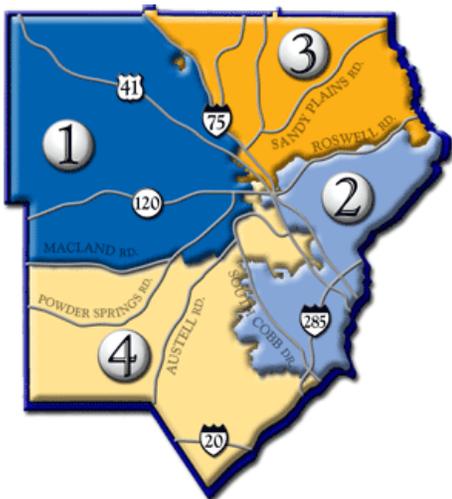
- Ellen Black*
- Sam Heaton*
- Pete Swisher*
- Lynda Paradise*

### Many Thanks To:

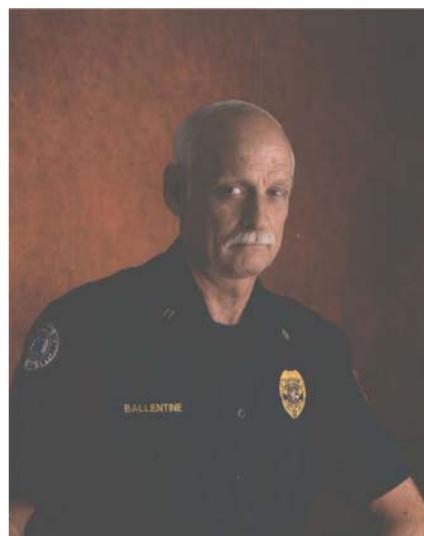
*Cobb County Print Shop*

### 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!*



**IN MEMORY OF**  
**BOBBY BALLENTINE**  
 Captain  
 June 23, 1952  
 to  
 December 17, 2007



**IN MEMORY OF**  
**TONY SMITH**  
 Firefighter  
 October 8, 1962  
 to  
 December 27, 2007





Pictured above is Interim Fire Chief Sam Heaton with Firefighter Denell Boyd accepting the Boot Drive trophy on behalf of Cobb Fire. This year during the annual drive, 79 Fire Departments participated, raising a total of \$774,000. Cobb Fire raised the most ever in its history, receiving third place overall with a total of \$62,767. Many thanks to all who participated!

### **BURN BAN REVISIONS**

Due to recent improvements in environmental conditions, the Cobb County ban on Open Burning will be lifted on March 1. Between March 1 and May 1 only, open burning will be permitted in unincorporated Cobb County, provided such burning complies with the guidelines set forth previously by local and state regulations.

However, there are a number of areas within the County where burning is prohibited due to those citizens with documented medical conditions.

Personnel should address any questions citizens may have regarding this change by referring them to the CCFES website at [www.cobbfire.org](http://www.cobbfire.org). General statewide information can be also found at the Georgia Forestry Commission website at: <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/>

### **FIRE SCIENCE DEGREE NEWS**

Chattahoochee Technical College is now offering an Associate's Degree and a Diploma in Fire Science at the Marietta Campus.

The first class begins on March 25, 2008 with several choices tailored around your particular shift. The Diploma requires 89 credits, and 108 credits are required to graduate with an Associates Degree.

For further information, contact:  
 Patrick McKay  
 Academy of Homeland Security  
 Fire Science Instructor  
[pmckay@chattcollege.com](mailto:pmckay@chattcollege.com)  
 Phone 770-528-4532  
 Fax 770-528-6467  
 Office- F Building # 2131  
<http://www.chattcollege.com>

## **HYDRANT TAGGING PROJECT PROGRESS**

**By Darrell Dunlap**

It's been nearly four years since we began this project. To say the least, some of the hydrants have been extremely difficult to locate. Most recently, we have been going back and finding the hydrants that folks in the field have notified us that we missed on the first pass through. As of February 1 we are finishing up Stations 2, 3, 7, 13, and 19. By the end of January our hydrant count is:

23,129 County  
 5,651 Private/City

After about three years, we are back to the south end of the County to pick up missed hydrants in those territories. This has been problematic due to the upgrades performed by the Water System during that time.

Our hope is to complete our work by the end of this Spring, and then go into "maintenance mode". This would mean focusing on newly installed or removed hydrants, and new rehab areas. Below is an example of what it might look like in this phase, being that about 2% of all hydrants in the County are in some state of flux at any given time:

Total Hydrants 28,780  
 2% in flux 575

Average # per Station 20.5 which will remain in some state of flux

As with any new initiative, it's to be expected that there will be issues to work through. Presently, we are setting up a new software system called MAXIMO. This application will enable us to update information in a much more timely manner. New maps in both hard copy and electronic form are being created to give users a more accurate location of hydrants. Increased proficiency in Firehouse and addressing of hydrants is improving; this will lead to hydrants being entered in the system much quicker. We thank you in the field for assisting us in this effort. If you have any questions, concerns, photos of hydrants, etc. to send us, please do not hesitate to send them to Sheral Race or myself. Listed below are the personnel on our end committed to serving you in the field:

Sheral Race & Darrell Dunlap/CCFES Headquarters  
 Ken Jacob, Lisa Gonzales, Kevin Goldsberry, &  
 Jennie Hayden/Cobb Water System  
 John Knoll & James Primm/Engineering  
 Christian Okeke & Tim Scharff/GIS

### **QUESTION & ANSWERS BY LT. JEFF MOSS (Continued from Page 4)**

*Is it considered to be "out of uniform" if I purchase a lightweight wool equivalent and have it tailored vs. wearing the polyester off-the-rack suit offered through the uniform shop?*

The only allowed variance is in the case that the double breasted jacket doesn't fit properly. In that situation, there is a single breasted jacket that is allowed. However, if there is a specific individual need other than that, it can be addressed with Management Staff.

*We recently had a forum to address the ALS bag situation. This gave us a sense of ownership in the decisions that were made. Is it possible to have a forum once a quarter to address specific topics like we did for the ALS bags? Maybe cover stations, apparatus, equipment, etc. Specific topics will draw more people than a general employee forum which is not a decision making session but rather an information session.*

There are plans to hold some type of an open employee Q & A session either monthly or quarterly to address these and other types of issues. The meeting would not be a mandatory process but rather a chance for anyone to attend who has the initiative to do so.

*Why are we spending money to put backup cameras on fire engines when we already have a policy in place to have spotters on the ground when backing? Wouldn't this money be better spent on Pulse Oximeters?*

Even with the use of spotters, we continue to have backing accidents. The purpose of the cameras is to hopefully further prevent accidents.

*When does our Automatic Aid Agreement commence with Cherokee County? Since they don't have a ladder truck yet, does that mean our ladder trucks in the northern part of the County will respond? How will we communicate since they are VHF and we are 800 Mhz?*

The Mutual Aid Agreement has been signed but there is no Automatic Aid at this time. Our agreement with Cherokee is the same as with Smyrna and Sandy Springs. They have our assistance if requested. The communication with Cherokee can occur by requesting a patch to their frequency through Fire Dispatch.

*Has consideration been given to designating the Med Units in vehicles that are designed for transport?*

No.

*Is there a possibility of Med Unit personnel using an advanced skill set such as RSI, surgical airways, LMA's etc.?*

No. There has been no mention or need brought forward.

**APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT NEWS**

By Lt. Dan Dupree

The new Truck 14 was recently placed in service. Similar to Truck 21, Truck 14 is a Sutphen 70' platform with more compartment space for technical rescue equipment. The apparatus is also equipped with a portable winch receiver on all four sides.

Air 26 was replaced in January 2008. It is a Hackney built body mounted on an International chassis. It is four feet longer than old Air 26, and equipped with a light tower and additional scene lighting equipment.

New Truck 1 is scheduled for completion and delivery in late April 2008. This apparatus is a Sutphen SPH 100' aerial platform.

CCFES is in the process of ordering 50 new backup camera systems on every piece of front line and reserve apparatus. Additionally, 14 support apparatus will also have the systems installed such as the Air Trucks, Fire Safety House, etc. Engine 15 presently has the camera and monitor system installed as a pilot project, with favorable results. All new apparatus Cobb Fire will order from this point forward will have the backup systems written into the specifications.

Some apparatus also have the new Knox Key security devices installed. The "Key Secure 3" system utilizes a keypad system. Details will be forthcoming on how the system operates. The system can be audited using a laptop which reports what date/time/user the devices were used to remove to access the system. To minimize disruptions and out-of-service issues, we will resume the placement of these devices in conjunction with the installation of the backup camera systems. The process will likely require a swap out to a reserve apparatus for a day to complete the needed work.

As the contract with Globe expires this year, we are now in the process of evaluating turnout gear brands through field testing. Approximately six people in the field are wearing different brands to assist the department in determining what will work best. The bidding process will begin during Summer 2008.

Lastly, we are currently in the process of sending each ISG Thermal Imaging Camera back to the vendor for a preventive maintenance check. All components of the cameras will be inspected, operated, and calibrated, to include the rechargeable batteries. We are aware of the issues expressed with the camera mounts in the trucks, and the charging problems. We have discussed these concerns with ISG; they are in the process of designing new mounts and chargers. I am hoping to get some of the new redesigned units out to the field for test and evaluation soon, and replace old designs as funds become available.



New Air 26

**OTHER NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS**

By Interim Deputy Chief Charles L. Carter

In December 2007, the CCFES Training Division administered tests for Incident Safety Officer Certification. The testing process was open to the ranks of Lieutenant and above. After the process was completed, our department finished with the largest number of Certified Safety Officers in the Nation. Those certified will maintain this designation for a 5-year period.

On January 15, 2008, the Incident Safety Officer policy was revised and distributed to read that a "working incident" was defined as an incident where an emergency exists and three (3) or more units are on the scene. In the event that 3 units or more are present on a scene and a Safety Officer is not present, the Battalion Chief or Acting Chief shall be requested to respond to that scene.

The Cobb Fire & Emergency Services Health & Safety Committee is currently working on a comprehensive policy for roadway safety. Listed below is the hyperlink to a file which contains a similar plan, which was developed by Sterling Hills Fire Department in Sterling Heights, Michigan:

<L:\Sterling Heights Michigan Fire Department, Roadway Safety.doc>

Personnel are encouraged to review their plan and communicate any thoughts or ideas to the Firefighter Health & Safety Committee through Battalion Chief Chris Hilton. He is currently serving as the Chairman and Point of Contact for the Committee.

**NEW TRUCK 14**



**OTHER FACILITY NEWS**

By Captain William Tanks

The Fire Facilities Maintenance Division has experienced some significant changes since the last Smoke Signal was published. Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Von Redman retired at the end of 2007. The selection process and screening of over 70 applicants for this position will conclude shortly with his replacement.

Planning and funding efforts are now underway for the remodeling of the Facility Maintenance facility (Old Station 14) and Station 30. The Fire Training facility addition is in the development and bidding phase. Station 3 will have a new driveway and parking lot within the next few weeks.

In compliance with a Cobb County mandate, all fire stations without water conservative toilets and/or urinals, will be retrofitted to meet requirements. This will include all toilets with greater than 1.6 gallon flush capacity and all urinals with greater than 1 gallon flush capacity. Plumbing contractors will start the installs by this March.

## COMPUTER USE VIOLATIONS

By Anonymous

According to the *Marquette Tribune*, six firefighters were terminated for inappropriate use of the department computer while on duty. This is something in which any of us could potentially become involved. Most of us have been there: unknowingly sucked into a practical joke or inappropriate e-mail.

Newspaper accounts of their terminations were sketchy since the Department didn't release much information, other than the six (two of them were Lieutenants) were in direct violation of city and Departmental regulations. One of them thought he was in a private chat with another woman. But investigation revealed that he was conversing with firefighters from another station, who were playing a joke on him. Everyone thought it was funny, and then BAM- they all get FIRED!

Stop for a second- what would you do if you were fired today? Your off-duty job now becomes your primary job. Can you support your family? What about insurance and other benefits? Will you try and hire an attorney to get your job back? Would you subject your loved ones to the embarrassment when the public finds out what happened? I'll bet those six firefighters wish they could rewind history and start all over.

Let's face it- the past is gone. We can't do the same stuff we did years ago and get away with it anymore. During my research for this article, I found many stories of people losing their jobs over inappropriate e-mails and other computer abuses. As firefighters and government employees, we are also held to a higher standard than employees in private companies. Remember once you are investigated for an e-mail or other computer use violation, all your electronic correspondence is subject to review; this includes everyone up the Chain of Command, the DPS Director, County Manager, County Attorney, you name it.

Askmen.com gives the six most common ways you can get fired. Guess what- "E-Mail Misuse" is NUMBER #1. One of the best pieces of advice I have gotten is that if you can't put the material in your e-mail on department letterhead due to its embarrassing or offensive nature, you had better not hit the "SEND" button. If you want to send that kind of sensitive material, do it at home. (NOTE: even doing it from your home e-mail provider on a County computer is a violation).

Take it from me: don't send anything that's not work-related. I sent a joke through the County system. As a result, I inconvenienced 12 fellow firefighters with personal visits from myself and my supervisors to apologize for my actions. I never thought a simple joke would cause such a disruption in my home life, nor did I think it would enter into the realm of the Legal Department for further action. And it certainly didn't enter my mind how close I came to making my part-time job my permanent primary job. Make sure you are doing the right thing when you hit the send button. Be safe out there!



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

By Lt. Jeff Moss, Station 23-A

*What will it take to get a third person staffing the Fire Dispatch Board? Does the County have any long range plans for this? Has there been any further discussion of dividing the County (and Dispatch) into several separate zones with separate dispatchers? Or any other restructuring plans to reduce the load on the single, and often overloaded, dispatch channel?*

Cobb E-911 presently has two dispatchers working Fireboard 24/7 and can quickly move to third or fourth dispatchers when needed, such as SIP. We have discussed the possibility of adding/splitting channels in the future. With split channels comes additional communications issues, but when the channel appears to become overloaded, we will work with 911 to address the issue.

*Are there any plans to bring Cobb County more in line with surrounding departments that pay anywhere from 12% - 18% specialty pay for paramedics?*

There has been no discussion on increasing paramedic pay. We realize that there is a need for more paramedics. CCFES is behind on the training of paramedics due to various problems with the local technical schools. These problems have been addressed, and we plan to work hard to increase the number of paramedics in the field.

*Do we have plans to take over Dive Team operations?*

We have been approached but there has been no decision made yet. There are many logistical decisions that would have to be discussed. If it were to happen, it would not be a part of the Technical Rescue Team, and could be a situation where it would be a combination of police and fire personnel.

*Why can't the County issue an emergency bailout system and/or wire cutters or a multi-tool on the gear or supply order?*

After the current survival training is completed, Interim Chief Heaton plans to meet with the Training Division Staff to determine the priority of this need. It may be a situation where we could place the needed equipment on apparatus versus each individual. That way, it would be available for RIT or whoever else is on the fireground in the case of an emergency situation.

*Why can a person get promoted to Engineer after being with the Department less than 5 years, be in charge of a crew or station for the shift when the Lieutenant is off, but not assist with training until after that promoted person has 5 years with the Department?*

This is done to maintain a high level of credibility with the Training Staff. It is simply due to the fact that it is important to have a certain amount of experience in the field.

*Why aren't engines with LDH called by a different name to remind surrounding companies of their capabilities?*

One issue that NIMS and ICS have maintained is the naming of like equipment, and I do understand this issue. We have always referred to our fire pumpers as "Engines" and will continue to do so unless we start classifying them by the FEMA standard, i.e. Type I, Type II, etc. In my opinion, that is more confusing. The important thing is that Battalion Chiefs and others know what resources are around and request them when needed.

*Why have the MED units been staffed with full-time personnel, but the promotions have not been made?*

Once the recruit school (which was budgeted and approved for this purpose) begins in April, those promotions will be made.

*Could we get a pay scale either by e-mail or in hard copy form ?*

Yes. Go to: CobbWeb-Employee-Compensation & Classification-Class Title & Pay Ranges. This will give an accurate range, but the individual employee wage will be dependant on merit raises and is not solely reliant on years of service.

**(Q & A CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)**

**MORE NEWS FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL***By Division Chief Tom Simler*

The Fire Marshal's Office performed the following number of plan reviews and inspections in 2007: Plan reviews – 5,423, Inspections of new construction – 5,937, Inspection of new sprinkler systems installations – 1,947, Inspections of existing occupancies – 7,023.

The Fire Marshal's Office started in the fall of 2006 converting all of our occupancy files (approximately 25,000 files) from an Access database to a format that is compatible with Firehouse. In March 2007, we started using Firehouse as our occupancy record database. This conversion process is very time intensive but provides us with the opportunity to update all of our files, collect building information not previously documented, and allow statistical analysis previously not available to us.

We are approximately 65% complete with the conversion to the Firehouse occupancy module. We are in the process of address verification, and data entry of building specific information such as building construction, life safety systems installed, etc. We have also started collecting building plans on disk with the hope of downloading certain building plans into Firehouse, and we are starting to scan some documents/photos into Firehouse and attaching them to a specific occupancy file.

Inspectors performing inspections on existing occupancies are now using Toughbook tablets in the field for inspection documentation. Inspectors performing new construction inspections and sprinkler inspections should begin using the Toughbook tablets in the field for inspection documentation this year.

One of the goals of implementing all of these steps is to aid extinguishment personnel with pre-fire plans. Having all of this information entered into Firehouse will enable extinguishment personnel to have access to building-specific information enroute to and/or on the scene of an emergency. Our hope is that by the end of 2008 our data will be reliable enough to allow extinguishment personnel access.

We had local ordinances passed that will improve life safety in multiple dwelling occupancies:

1. Retrofitting hotels that have interior corridors with a sprinkler system. This affected three hotels in Cobb County.
2. All new developments of hotels, apartments, lodging and dormitories except for single story buildings with a door leading directly outside from each dwelling unit, are required to have a sprinkler system installed.

**FIELD INSTRUCTOR NEWS***By Division Chief Stoney Bowles*

The CCFES Training Division is presently in the process of creating a NEW list of Field Instructors, as the previous list is no longer valid. Field Instructors are personnel who wish to assist with Recruit School classes and practical drills.

To qualify as a Field Instructor, the candidate must be employed by CCFES for at least five (5) years, and have successfully completed the 3 hour Training Division Course. NPQ Instructor I certification is preferred.

The CCFES Training Division is offering the Field Instructor Course on Monday, March 17 and Tuesday, March 18, beginning promptly at 0830 hours. Interested personnel should call Training at 770-590-5666.

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS NEWS***By Division Chief Spencer Miller*

There are several new things happening in the Special Operations Division that concern virtually the entire department. I'm going to take the Division one category at a time:

EMS: New ALS, BLS and ALS Special Operations Protocols are on the way. They have been approved by the Medical Director and are awaiting approval from Fire Headquarters. Everyone will have to test again on the protocols that pertain to their level of training. We are also in the process of preparing to place D50, Albuterol and Baby Aspirin on all BLS units. This will also result in some changes to dispatch procedures. We are about to order 10 new Stryker Stair Chairs to be placed on selected units. The new Controlled Access Pharmacological Dispensing Machines are ready to be ordered. The machines will have a secure means for dispensing medications for refilling drug bags after calls. The first two pilot program units will probably go to Stations 1 and 16. This will eliminate out the need to do a drug locker inventory. In the future, we will order ET Tubes with built in stylettes. The new electronic Drug Tracking Form is almost ready to go full time, eliminating the need to fill out a paper version. We are ordering one more set of Holmatro tools (location to be determined). We are due for license renewal this year, so everyone needs to prepare for vehicle inspections. CCFES is also looking at a plan to remove the extrication equipment off the Rescue vehicles and place it on Ladder Trucks and some Engines. Future replacement Rescues would be on a smaller chassis and possibly not have transport capability.

Hazmat: There is a large federally funded exercise on May 12, 2008, involving live radioactive sources. This will involve the entire Hazmat Team on C Shift. Both Federal and State agencies will be continuing the drill for a week. This will present an opportunity to try out the newly purchased radiological equipment. We are in the process of getting several monitors repaired and calibrated. We are also working on Personal Proficiency Assessments (PPAs) for Hazmat Team members. There was a recent selection process that brought our allotted number of Hazmat Team Members up to date.

Technical Rescue: We are in the process of replacing all the Airshores on Trench 4. The helicopter training with the GSP is now complete. Thanks to all the members of the Technical Rescue Team for their input for budget items. We are working to get replacement coveralls. Truck 14 received new Yates harnesses and replacements for the GSAR harnesses are on the way. We also accepted a \$25,000 grant from the State of Georgia to replace expendable items on the GSAR Unit. This is the third \$25,000 award we have received to repair/replace/maintain our GSAR equipment.

Med Ops: We held the first selection process for EMTs and even though the response was light, the process went very well. Some members of the team will be attending the Advanced Trauma Life Support class in Macon and there is an upcoming Active Shooter Drill that will involve Med Ops.

Thanks to all the members of the various teams that have assisted with the selection and budget process. It has made my job a great deal easier.



Students from Milford Elementary School participate in the February 25 Cobb County Safety Village groundbreaking ceremony. Assisting the children are from left to right: Lt. Scott Dodson, Commissioner Tim Lee, County Manager David Hankerson, Commission Helen Goreham, Commissioner Joe Lee Thompson, Sheriff Bill Hutson, Commission Chairman Sam Olens, DPS Director Mickey Lloyd, Retired Fire Chief Becky Denlinger, Interim Fire Chief Sam Heaton, and Police Chief George Hatfield.