



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Spring, 2012

COBB FIRE REACCREDITED

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services has been awarded reaccreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Cobb Fire was one of 18 agencies nationwide undergoing the post-onsite panel review, and received the distinction at the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) March 2012 conference. Falling under the CPSE, the CFAI is comprised of 11 members representing a cross-section of the fire service industry, including fire departments, City and County management, Code Councils, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the International Association of Firefighters.

As most of you know, accreditation is a process of self-assessment and evaluation by trained CFAI peer reviewers and the Commission. The accreditation process allows us to achieve excellence through self-assessment in order to promote continuous quality improvements and enhancement of service delivery to our communities. This ongoing process involves a 5-year cycle of self-assessment and continuous evaluation of service delivery and mechanisms for improvement before the team of peer reviewers spend a week at CCFES thoroughly examining every aspect of our operations.



Fire Department Chiefs face increasing pressure to “do more with less” and justify their expenditures by demonstrating a direct link to improved or expanded services. Particularly for emergency services, local officials need criteria to assess professional performance and efficiency. The CFAI’s process provides a well-defined, internationally recognized benchmark system to measure the quality of fire and emergency services. While it is a voluntary process, it requires an agency to look at the level of service it must provide to the community, the resources available, and how to make the most of those resources to provide the most effective and efficient model of service delivery available.

Accreditation has forced us to look at what we do, how we do it, and how we can continually make improvements. For nearly seven years, Cobb Fire has been a model for examining past, current, and future service levels and performance and compare them to industry best practices. Cobb County was the first in Georgia to have Police, Fire, and E-911 all accredited. Pictured above is Chief Sam Heaton, Lieutenant Dennis Thayer, and Firefighter Wendy Korotkin accepting the recognition award from CFAI Executive Director Paul Brooks.

IN MEMORY

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services
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Sam D. Heaton, Chief
Randy Crider, Deputy Chief
Jimmy Taylor, Deputy Chief

Electronic copies are e-mailed to all CCFES employees and retirees, placed in the Fire Administration Common Files and on the CCFES Resource Site under "Smoke Signal".

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

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COBB FIRE IS A DEPARTMENT OF COBB COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Tim Lee
Chairman
Helen Goreham
District 1 Commissioner
Bob Ott
District 2 Commissioner
JoAnn Birrell
District 3 Commissioner
G. Woody Thompson, Jr.
District 4 Commissioner
David Hankerson
County Manager



Retired CCFES Lieutenant John D. Riley passed away on April 1, 2012 at the age of 66. John served the Department for 28 years, retiring in 2001 from the Fire Marshal's Office.

John was an active longtime member of Milford Baptist Church, serving as an ordained Deacon and a dedicated Sunday School teacher. He was also a longtime volunteer at Windy Hill Hospital and the Cobb Marietta Federal Credit Union (CMAR).



John was preceded in death by first wife Judy, and is survived by wife Donna, and 3 children. John's gentle demeanor will be truly missed.

JOHNNY DALE RILEY
1946-2012

HORACE KENDALL NIXON
1936-2012



Cobb Fire also suffered another loss on April 5 when retired Assistant Chief Horace "HK" Nixon passed away at the age of 76. The funeral was held at Roswell Street Baptist Church on April 9, and Chief Nixon was laid to rest in his native town of Hartwell, Georgia.



Chief Nixon had served in the Army National Guard, and retired from CCFES after 35 years. He also held the position of Treasurer and Secretary for the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, and had previously been active as an ordained Deacon for Roswell Street Baptist Church.

Known as a devoted family man, Chief Nixon is survived by his wife, Virginia Nixon of Marietta; his 2 sons and their spouses, Todd & Karen Nixon of Kennesaw, Troy & Ellen Nixon of Powder Springs; brother, Charles N. Nixon of Marietta; one sister, Geraldine Brown of Canton, GA and 6 grandchildren.

SEASONAL AND STATUTORY CHANGES IN LOCAL ORDINANCES

It's now that time of year for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources annual ban on open burning. The ban is in effect each year from May 1 until September 30 for 54 counties in Georgia, including Cobb. CCFES is responsible for enforcing the statewide ban for all of unincorporated Cobb and the cities of Acworth, Kennesaw, and Powder Springs. The total ban also prohibits the use of air curtain destructors for land clearing.



Burn Ban In Effect

FIRE LANE CHANGES FOR SCHOOLS

On March 13, 2012, the Cobb County Fire Lane Ordinance was amended to include a provision for picking up students at local schools. The ordinance which went into effect on April 9, permits a vehicle to be located in a fire lane for up to 30 minutes prior to dismissal and 30 minutes after dismissal, provided that the driver of that vehicle remains behind the wheel at all times. Stopping or parking a vehicle in a fire lane any other time than what is listed above is still prohibited, unless passengers are actively loading or unloading.



The end times for all schools are listed on the Cobb County School District website, www.cobbk12.org. Fire lanes can be identified by "No Parking Fire Lane" signage and/or red curbing. The ordinance also applies to private schools, with violations resulting in a fine currently set at \$135.00.

The ordinance can be found in Section 118 of the Official Code of Cobb County at: http://www.municode.com/library/GA/Cobb_County

DID YOU KNOW?

The Cobb County Safety Village is teaching fire and life safety to a large number of students in the area virtually every day during the academic calendar year. These children attend schools in Cobb County, the City of Marietta, home schools, private schools, and special need educational institutions. Attendance posted during the 2011-2012 fiscal school year reflect:

- Second Grade - 8,929 children
- Fourth Grade - 9,222 children
- Total - 18,151

Kudos to the Cobb Public Safety employees who make the delivery of this lifesaving training possible!

Pictured is just a few of the dedicated employees working to educate students on fire and life safety topics:

Front to back row: FFIII Drew Logothetis, FFII Brad Blakeney, POIII Davy Moss, FFIII Alan Land, Eng. Regan Acosta, FFIII Charles Blackwell, FFII Joel Earwood, Eng. Len Cooksey, "Sparky", FFII John Grimes, FFII Michael McIntosh, and FFII Matt Ereddia.



2012 BOOT DRIVE NEWS



It's time for the Annual Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation (GFBF) "Give Burns The Boot" fundraising drive! The 2012 dates for all 3 shifts are:

- A Shift - Friday, May 4
- B Shift - Friday, May 11
- C Shift - Friday, May 18



Last year, Cobb Fire raised \$49,719. for the GFBF's primary fundraising drive. CCFES placed fifth in funds raised behind Roswell, DeKalb, Hall, and Gwinnett.

Camp Twin Lakes will host Camp Oo-U-La during the week of June 3-9, and remains Georgia's only program designed exclusively for burn-injured children between the ages of 7 and 17. The week-long summer camp provides children the opportunity to engage in various self-esteem building activities and special events. While attending Camp Oo-U-La, burn-injured children are offered opportunities to grow in both their physical and emotional recovery, while forging and strengthening friendships and facilitating peer support in a safe and accepting environment. This has become a labor of love for many in the firefighting profession.

The primary mission of the GFBC is to help burn survivors in their journey of recovery, and also to prevent others from experiencing the traumatic event of a burn injury. This is done through fundraising efforts to support the functions of education, support, prevention, and recovery. For more information on this program, contact Firefighter III PIO Denell Boyd at Headquarters at 770-528-8325. We appreciate everyone's support in this effort!

CCFES PARTICIPATION IN FEMA THINK TANK FORUM

Cobb Fire Lieutenant Nick Adams had the honor of meeting FEMA Deputy Administrator Richard Serino in person and participating in a nationwide conference call in relation to the "FEMA Think Tank". This Think Tank initiative is a forum to reach out and engage FEMA's partners, promote innovation, and facilitate discussions in the field of emergency management. The conference call mostly focused on strategies and approaches for incorporating and integrating disability related access and functional needs, as well as, issues and concerns into emergency management actions and activities. Nick was chosen as one of three members of the emergency management community to represent FEMA Region IV.



This initiative by FEMA seeks to solicit ideas on how to improve the federal emergency management response by involving local and state stakeholders and soliciting their input on experiences and suggestions based on their technical knowledge and expertise. Nick is also completing his college degree in this subject area.

COBB FIRE AND CLARK'S CHRISTMAS KIDS

Members of Stations 14 and 15 B-Shift participated in an impromptu radio charity appearance this past December at the WalMart in East Cobb.

While driving into work one Saturday before Christmas, Wayman Jordan and Neal Stewart heard a spot on WSB 750 AM advertising that Atlanta resident, philanthropist, and nationally syndicated radio host Clark Howard would be broadcasting that day from the WalMart location on Johnson



Ferry Road. For 21 years, Clark Howard and News/Talk WSB have joined with the Georgia Department of Family and Children's Services to provide gifts for foster children across Georgia. Clark's Christmas Kids Campaign collects over half of all the gifts DFCS gives to these children.

Wayman and Neal asked for permission to offer the assistance of the crews at Station 14 and 15 in this campaign that day. Upon arriving at the store, they began by taking the wish lists of several children, and purchasing the items on their lists with their own money. Other shoppers inside the location were inspired by the actions of the crews, and several made the decision to purchase items for more of the children on Clark's list. Battalion Chief David Blount was interviewed by Clark on the air during the live broadcast.

The kindness and generosity of the personnel that day will not soon be forgotten by those children in need who may not have received gifts that holiday season. Our thanks to those who made that possible. For further information on this program, the web link is: http://www.clarkhoward.com/topics/christmas_kids/

APPARATUS UPDATE

Pursuant to the March 15, 2011 referendum, voters approved the four-year SPLOST (Special Local Option Sales Tax). CCFES is in the process of replacing several pieces of apparatus.

Lt. Dan Dupree advised three much needed new Pierce Engines will be delivered later this year, with two of those will be assigned to Stations 2 and 8. Two new Sutphen Ladder Trucks and two new Air Trucks will also be forthcoming. The first of the Air Trucks will be built by V.T. Hackney.

Capital replacement vehicles include five Staff vehicles, two Ford F250 trucks for Battalion Chiefs, two Ford F150 crew cabs for Training and Building Maintenance, and an E250 van fitted with space for air bottles will be designated for the Mail Courier. Thanks to the Board of Commissioners and voters for their support in this endeavor!



MORE CCFES PERSONNEL NEWS

Adding to the ever-growing list of accomplishments of Cobb Fire personnel, we have some published authors in the house. Four of our employees have articles published in Fire Engineering Magazine:



Tom Hancock and Walter Jensen: “Role of the Proactive Driver”,
February 2012 issue.

Sean Gray: “Attack from the Burn Side Can Save Lives”, November 2011 issue.

Tom Hancock: “Portable Firefighter Survival Maze”, April 2009 and March 24,
2011 issue.



We also have four firefighting personnel who have taught classes at FDIC conferences:

Kyle Smith: 2011 and 2012 “What the Fire Protection Engineer Didn’t Tell You”.

Tom Hancock: 2009, 2010, 2011 “Portable Firefighter Survival Maze”.

Sean Gray: 2011 and 2012 “Attack From the Burn Side”.

Chris Sobieski: 2011 “Case Study- the Holiday Inn Fire”.

FAMILY FUN DAY

Mark your calendars for the CCFES Family Fun Day on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28. This year’s event will be held at Al Bishop Softball Complex from 10 am until 4 pm. It’s a bargain at \$5 per pre-paid ticket for a complete hamburger or hot dog meal package. A variety of activities and sports are scheduled for the day, such as:

1-Pitch Softball Tournament

Bucket Brigade Relay

Moon Walks

Relay Races

Family Sport Competitions

Kid’s Kickball Competiton

Music

The First Annual Ultimate Frisbee Tournament will begin at 11:00 a.m. Teams should consist of both employees and family members, ages 13+, with five members per team. Please submit your team’s Captain and member names to:

FF Justin Green, Station #11 (770) 917-0673

justin.green@cobbcounty.org

For more information, contact:

Denell Boyd, Fire HQ

Brittany Ingram, Fire HQ

Capt. Jon Redwine, Station 14-A

Lt. Doug Watkins, Station 24-A