



THE SMOKE SIGNAL

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services

Summer 2012

IN MEMORY

Cobb County lost two retired members of the Department of Public Safety in August- Director Robert Hightower, and Fire Engineer John Kelly. For more on John, please see page 4 of this issue.

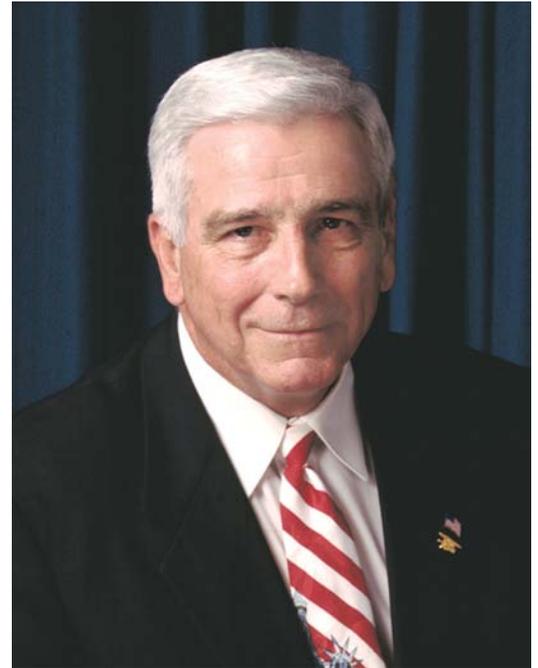
Surrounded by his wife and other family members, retired Cobb County Director of Public Safety Robert Hightower passed away on August 21 at the age of 78. A memorial service was held on Saturday, August 25 at Roswell Street Baptist Church.

Director Hightower was born on May 7, 1934 in Havana, Florida. He served as a member of the U.S. Naval Underwater Demolition Team. Following his Naval service, he worked for the FBI in Washington and the Metropolitan Washington, DC Police Department for seven years before relocating to Georgia in 1963.

Upon settling into the Metro Atlanta area he worked for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for nine years, before being named the Cobb County Police Department Director. In 1993, he became the Director of the newly- created Department of Public Safety.

In 1999, Director Hightower retired from Cobb County and was quickly appointed by Governor Roy Barnes to take over as Colonel of the Georgia State Patrol. One year later he was appointed to another new position as the Commissioner of the new Georgia Department of Public Safety. By late 2001, he was serving as the very first Chairman of the Georgia Homeland Security Task Force. He served in this position until his retirement in 2003.

On June 14, the Cobb Police Headquarters building was dedicated to Hightower in a formal ceremony. The Cobb County Board of Commissioners presented him with a proclamation that honored his 26 years of public safety service to the citizens of Cobb County. He was recognized by many colleagues for his leadership during critical periods of growth and his progressive creation of specialized units to better serve the local community.



Director Hightower is survived by his wife of 58 years, Shirley, and three children: Robert Hightower, Jr., Kimberly Hightower-Hulsey, Lance Hightower, and eight grandchildren.

If anyone wishes to honor Director Hightower, the family requests donations to be made to the Navy Seal Foundation (info@navysealfoundation.org), or the Navy Seal Museum (www.navysealmuseum.org) in Fort Pierce, Florida.

PERSONNEL NEWS

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services
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(770) 528-8000

www.cobbfire.org

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

Editors:

Ellen Black
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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



Firefighter Patrick Rhinehart has been selected to fill the Fire Protection Analyst position in the Fire Marshal's Office vacated by Anthony Caffey. Patrick is assigned to plan review over sprinkler and fire alarm systems. Patrick holds an Associates Degree in Fire Science from West Georgia Tech, and a Bachelors Degree from Columbia Southern University. Patrick joined CCFES in 2005 after serving for two years with DeKalb County Fire Rescue. He is also a Georgia State Certified Fire Inspector, Inspector I certification from the Pro ICC and the NPQ Pro Board.

Firefighter Matt Johnson has been selected to fill the Inspector Tech position in the Fire Marshal's Office. Matt is assigned to existing inspections.

Congratulations to Firefighter III Drew Logothetis, (pictured below) who retired on Friday, August 31 after 28 years of dedicated and loyal service.



Engineer Len Cooksey (Station 30-A) recently obtained his BA degree in Public Safety Organizational Leadership from Reinhardt University.

Firefighter III Denell Boyd graduated in August with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Fire Science from Chattahoochee Tech.

Firefighter Daryl Fox (Station 22-B) graduated in May with an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology Degree from Chattahoochee Tech.



Engineer Stacey Dearborn (Station 17 B-Shift, pictured on right) retired at the end of August with over 23 years of loyal service to the Department.

Firefighter III Barry Lewis (Station 28 B-shift, pictured on right) retired on August 27 after 26 years of dedicated service to Cobb Fire.



Firefighter Melissa Crider was selected to fill the Fire and Life Safety Educator position in the Safety Village.

Fire Investigator Ken LeCroy was selected to fill the Air Lab Technician position, effective September 2.

Engineer Russell Wright (Station 17-C) was honored on September 9 by the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Marietta with their "Servant of the Year" award.

2012 PROMOTIONS TO DATE:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Firefighter II Brian Arnold to Engineer | Engineer Tom Covington to Lieutenant |
| Firefighter II Brandon Grimes to Engineer | Inspector Tech Jeff Baxter to Inspector I |
| Inspector I Chad Collins to Inspector II | Firefighter II Casey Kreun to Engineer |
| Firefighter II Eddie Martin to Firefighter III | Firefighter II Jan Brown to Firefighter III |
| Lieutenant Tim Farist to Captain | Lieutenant Kevin Gross to Captain |
| Lieutenant Keith Schneider to Captain | Firefighter II Dru Dunn to Engineer |
| Firefighter II Kevin Tieman to Firefighter III | Engineer Jeremiah Lewis to Lieutenant |

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU ON YOUR CAREER MOVES!

COBB FIRE HAS 2 CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

On July 10, two of Cobb Fire's own were formally recognized by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners with a continental breakfast with their families, followed by the presentation at the Commission meeting. There were a total of nine winners for the second quarter of 2012. Recipients were nominated by their co-workers and selected because of their outstanding job performance. Congratulations to Engineer Sean Gray and Lieutenant Kyle Smith, both assigned to Station 19 A-shift!

Sean was selected this past year to teach a course he had personally designed at the Fire Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis. A fellow crew member expressed regret in not being able to attend due to a lack of funds. Sean and Kyle took it upon themselves to secretly raise the \$1,200 needed for the conference for their co-worker by telling that crew member that they had won a contest. This type of creativity and camaraderie enabled their co-worker to accompany them to the conference and gain valuable fire service knowledge.

Sean and Kyle's giving spirit also extends within and outside of the borders of Cobb County. Together, they spearheaded an "adopt-a-family" project during this past Christmas season to raise funds, shop, and deliver items to a needy family in the area. They also dug into their own pockets to ensure they could also fulfill each child's individual wish list.



Pictured above: Sean Gray and his family



Pictured above: Kyle and his family

Lieutenant Kyle Smith spent a week in Ekiti, Nigeria this past year. He assisted the town in establishing a local fire department and train with a newly donated ladder truck. Kyle regularly donates his free time to assist the CCFES Haz Mat Team, although he is no longer a member.

Kyle has also been nominated for Cobb County Public Safety Employee of the Year Award. The Cobb Chamber of Commerce will announce the winner at their annual breakfast this Fall.

Congratulations and a huge thank you to Sean Gray and Kyle Smith- your servant hearts are greatly appreciated!

(Thanks to Carla Lario in Cobb County Human Resources for the photos)

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF ONE OF OUR OWN

Retired Engineer John Kelly, 55, lost his long battle with cancer on Monday, August 27. John passed away at his home, surrounded by family and friends. The memorial service was held at Orange Hill Baptist Church in Austell, followed by John being laid to rest at Sunrise Memorial Gardens in Douglasville. CCFES Battalion Chief Stoney Bowles and Pastor Donald Johnson officiated the service.



John is survived by his wife, Kim, and their four children; John Jr., Austin, Candyse, and Christopher. John also had a large extended family.



JOHN WILLIAM KELLY, SR.
February 27, 1957
to
August 27, 2012

John came to work at Cobb Fire on March 3, 1980, retiring on October 31, 2009. He was a member of the Hazardous Materials Team, and was heavily involved in the project to identify, rack, and monitor the large number of Underground Storage Tanks located within Cobb County.



John had a true servant's heart, and was committed to community service. He was also the founder of J. Kelly Athletic Training. The mission of this program is to provide mentorship, sports coaching, and assistance to young people in the local South Cobb community in applying for and obtaining academic scholarships. Being a coach and role model to students in the community around his Mableton home was a passion of John's.

John served as a "community coach" for the South Cobb High School boys and girls varsity basketball teams. John was able to coach three of his children

throughout their school years, and three of the children were awarded college athletic scholarships. His impact on his children in this regard is apparent:

John Jr. attended College of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee; Austin attended Duke University; and Candyse attended Gardner-Webb University. John Jr. was also an alternate for the United States Olympic Men's Handball Team.



John's unwavering commitment to his family, community, and career are truly inspiring, and he will be greatly missed.



EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER NEWS

Earlier this year, Cobb Fire Captain Chuck Baird completed the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and was awarded the prestigious EFO designation.

The Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) is an initiative of the USFA and the National Fire Academy. It was originally designed in 1985 to provide senior officers with a broad perspective on various facets of fire and emergency services administration. The four year curriculum and research framework explores how senior authority figures can exercise leadership when dealing with difficult, adaptive problems within their own jurisdictions. All of the material covered in this demanding program is either upper-level college undergraduate or graduate-level.

Following each of the four 2-week courses each year, an Applied Research Project (ARP) must be completed. The ARP identifies a problem or issue that presently exists within the students' department or home jurisdiction which relates to the course they just completed. The ARP resembles a graduate-level thesis in terms of volume, complexity, and extent of research. Presently assigned to the Training Division, Captain Baird's final course project was titled, "Pre-Incident Planning: The Cavalry of the American Fire Service". (Pictured at Right: Chuck diligently working on his final paper)



OTHER PERSONNEL NEWS:

Lieutenant Kevin Lewis recently suffered a major injury as a result of an accident at his home. If you would like to offer any assistance to Kevin and his family during his recovery, please contact departmental liaisons Engineer Walt Jensen (Station 2-A) or Captain John Conniff (Station 4-B).



The new CCFES Mail Truck was recently placed in service.

APPARATUS NEWS:

Three new Pierce Engines are scheduled for delivery in September. They are tentatively designated for deployment at Stations 1, 2, and 8. The Station 8 engine is a "PUC" (Pierce Ultimate Configuration) model. This particular model is a pumper tanker with a foam system for use at McCollum Airport.

Two Sutphen ladder trucks currently in production are scheduled for delivery in January and March of 2013. The present plan is to assign these apparatus to Stations 4 and 22 upon delivery.

The Air & Light truck presently under construction will be deployed at Station 27 when it is delivered in November.

LATEST BOOT DRIVE RESULTS:

\$53,271.44

Thank you to all who participated!

QUESTIONS FROM THE FIELD:

Jeff McCloud asked:

“What do we do with materials dropped off at the station? Oftentimes, these items such as antifreeze, used oil, gasoline, propane tanks, old paint cans, fire extinguishers, etc. are left when we are out on calls”.

Answer from Deputy Chief Jimmy Taylor and Chief Sam Heaton:

“If the items are waste generated by department personnel or left at the Stations when crews are not present ,then CCFES Building Maintenance is to be contacted, and they will pick it up for proper environmental disposal. If employees witness citizens dropping off these items, they are to advise those citizens that hazardous materials are not to be brought to stations, and advise them to contact Cobb County’s Solid Waste Division for proper disposal information”.

“What procedures do we follow and who do we contact when we have problems with computers, printers, FIREHOUSE, landline telephones, fax machines, hydrant issues, pre-plans, etc.?”

FIREHOUSE – For data entry problems, contact firehousehelp@cobbcounty.org . Please e-mail first, then attempt to contact Charles Ottosen at 770-528-8190. When those contacts do not return your call within a reasonable amount of time, then contact the Call Center at 770-528-8740.

After Hours FIREHOUSE RMS Contact: Phone 678-910-7899 or Pager 404-415-4667

Computer Based Training – For content errors or password problems, contact Chuck Baird at cbaird@cobbcounty.org or 770-590-5662.

FEMA Training – For password problems, contact the FEMA webmaster at netwebmaster@dhs.gov . If you have trouble using the site after logging in, make sure your popup blocker is disabled.

Pre-Plans – E-Mail prefireplans@cobbcounty.org

Hydrants – Call Sheral Race at 770-528-8177 Monday through Friday 8am till 4:30pm. After hours, please e-mail the problem to Sheral.race@cobbcounty.org.

MDC (or MDT) – Call Dan Dupree at 770-528-8317 or E-mail at ddupree@cobbcounty.org Monday- Friday, 8am to 5pm Please contact Dan before going to Diversified Electronics. They work on the mount that charges the MDC, not the Air Card or MDC. If you cannot reach Dan, contact the Call Center at 770-528-8740

Computers, Printers, Telephones or Fax Machines – For password resets, when FH will not function at all, or for other problems not covered above, please contact the Call Center at 770-528-8740. You may also e-mail them at callcenter@cobbcounty.org. This E-mail is only checked during normal business hours Monday thru Friday, 8am until 5pm.

Landline Telephones – Contact the Call Center at 770-528-8740 .

“Do we accept medications and sharps from the public?”

Generally, NO. We do not accept sharps from citizens; only from the clinics at Cobb County schools. A CCSD representative MUST submit a disposal form, which is to be signed by the Station Officer and forwarded to the EMS Division at Fire Headquarters. Those sharps containers shall be disposed of in the sharps containers at each station and disposed of per department policy.

CCFES DOES NOT accept expired or any other type of medications, chemicals, or medical supplies from members of the public. Keep Cobb Beautiful and other Cobb County Departments may occasionally hold drug disposal days. Local organizations routinely hold drives for recycling electronics, paint, and other chemicals. Please advise citizens to be on the lookout for public announcements from outside organizations to that effect.

NEWS FROM THE FIRE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT:

On August 15, the CCFES Fire Investigations Unit hosted a one day seminar and live burn demonstration at the Cobb County DPS Training Academy. In conjunction with several private insurance and investigations organizations, the seminar provided classroom instruction on handling fire claims, with the unique opportunity to witness three different live burns set in burn cells. These burn cells were provided at no cost by several private class sponsors, and Cobb Fire personnel assisted with the setup, burns, and fire suppression of each of the various fires set within them. The cells will remain at the DPS Training Academy for future use by CCFES personnel.

Over 100 attendees were present for the event, consisting of Fire, Insurance Adjusters and Investigators, Claims Representatives, and Special Investigations personnel from around the Southeast Region.

(photos courtesy of Ken Lecroy)



SAFETY VILLAGE NEWS



On Saturday, September 29, the Cobb County Safety Village will hold its first “Touch-A-Truck” event at Town Center Mall between 10am and 4pm. This fundraiser for the Village will be a fun day of hands-on learning for children, where they can explore different vehicles and apparatus.

For \$5 per person or a \$20 family maximum, you can get up close and personal with Fire Engines, Rescue Trucks, Police Cars, SWAT Trucks, a Helicopter, Military Trucks, Television Trucks, Dump Trucks, and other heavy construction vehicles. Bring the kids for a great day of fun and learning! For more information, please call 770-528-3270.

Another fundraiser for the Village is the “Buy A Brick” program. These personalized bricks will be used in a special walkway so, in the future, you can bring your children and grandchildren to the Safety Village to see your name and their names as permanent legacies. You can create your own message or choose from selected designs for your brick. You can buy a brick, either for you or for someone else, to commemorate special occasions or to honor a loved one. It is a great way to commemorate and acknowledge special occasions such as the birth of a child, baptism, weddings and graduations. The bricks are 4 inches by 8 inches by 2 ¼ inches or 8 inches by 8 inches by 2 ¼ inches and are laser engraved. The cost per brick is \$50 for a 4” x 8” brick paver, and \$100 for an 8” x 8” brick paver. The engraving can be with or without artwork choices, which can be found on the order form or Village website.



In addition, there is an opportunity to purchase a miniature replica of the original. This mini brick can be used as a paperweight, given to a loved one or friend as a remembrance, or just as an everyday reminder. The mini bricks for the 4 inch by 8 inch pavers are 1 ½ inches by 3 inches by 5/8 inch and the replicas for the 8 inch by 8 inch pavers are 3 inches by 3 inches x 5/8 inch. The cost is \$20 for a 4” x 8” replica, and \$25 for an 8” x 8” replica. You can order online or download the order form on the Village website (see link below).

For more information on any of these projects, please contact the Safety Village at 770-852-3270, or visit their website at: http://portal.cobbcountyga.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=108&Itemid=196

