

BARTOW COUNTY FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES 2020





MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



2020 was a very challenging year for the department. We not only dealt with a world-wide pandemic, but also several disasters and severe weather events. We had many of our members infected with COVID19. Several of our command staff had to adjust their roles and adapt to months in the Emergency Operations Center helping manage Bartow County's response to COVID19, leaving others to step up into new roles to assist with fire operations. The command staff and operational personnel have done an outstanding job dealing with everything that has been thrown their way and have persevered. I am extremely proud to serve with these brave professionals and honored to be their Chief.

2020 also served as the 50th anniversary of our department. Former Chief Harold Carlisle was hired as the first Bartow County Fire Department employee in December of 1970 to form a county wide fire department. Prior to that, fire response was handled by the Civil Defense volunteers. The number of fire calls got to be more than what the Civil Defense could handle so they approached the County Commissioner about forming a fire department to address the increasing need.

Many changes have taken place since the early days of Civil Defense and Volunteer Fire Departments across the county covering each community. The department has taken on several additional roles over the years since the early days of just fighting fires. We now are a licensed EMS agency, respond to Hazardous Materials incidents, have a certified Wildland Crew, have our own in-house Technical Rescue Team, we are part of the state's regional Urban Search and Rescue Team, we have our own Dive Team, and have taken on Emergency Management. Therefore, we thought a name change was in order this year to better reflect who we are and what we do. In 2020 the Bartow County Fire Department officially became Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services.

Other changes in 2020 included reinstating the Lieutenant's position in our ranks, adding a part time Emergency Management Specialist to assist with day-to-day EMA clerical work and planning, adding a Full Time Plans Review and Inspections Captain in the Fire Marshal's Office to keep up with the growth and demand of construction and new businesses, and we promoted our Fire Investigator the rank of Captain, and promoted a Division Chief of Emergency Management to fill the vacant position.

Each and every day the men and women of BCFES are committed to delivering the best possible level of service to our citizens and visitors. We strive for excellence and build on our core values of HONOR, SERVICE, and VALOR.

Respectfully,
Dwayne Jamison
Fire Chief/EMA Director

NOT JUST CLOWNING AROUND

In 2020 Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services revived an old Public Safety Education program that had been dormant for years. Discussions began in 2019 about restarting the department's Clown Corps that was once part of our Public Safety Education program. The problem was that the class that was once provided by the Georgia Fire Academy to teach educators how to conduct PSE programs as clowns and how to put on puppet shows for PSE that was formally called "Alternative Teaching Methods for Public Safety Educators" had not been given by the Fire Academy in over seven years. Fortunately for us, one of the founding instructors is currently serving as the Bartow County Fire Marshal. Gary Garland had been teaching the class for years since the very beginning of the program. He was able to contact some of the original instructors and they agreed to bring their equipment, props, and volunteer their time to teach the curriculum here at BCFES. Several of our PSE Educators signed up to take the class and the class was a huge success. The graduation ceremony at the end of the class was a PSE show including the clowns and puppets complete with skits and props. The program was presented by the students for the BCFES command staff and the family members of the students. A great time was had by all.

Our BCFES Clown Corps have since participated in the annual Cartersville Christmas Parade and several PSE events. We plan on utilizing their expertise to educate and entertain children and citizens of our county in the future. We are extremely proud of the progress they have made and the impact on our youth.

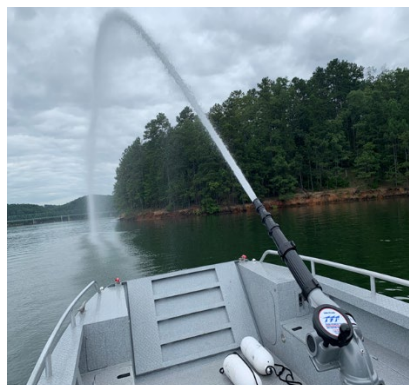


WATER RESCUE CRAFT



In 2020 Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services took delivery of 2 boats. Fireboat Valor is a 28' Lake Assault landing craft style fireboat with twin 225 horse power outboard drive engines and a jet drive fire pump capable of pumping 1250 gallons of water per minute. Fireboat Valor is one of two fireboats stationed on Lake Allatoona. The fireboats are staffed by the nearest engine companies when there is an emergency on the lake. The two fireboats are also staffed with trained operators on major holidays during the summer to patrol the lake for quick responses to emergencies. Both boats serve as support craft to our BCFES Dive Team for dive recovery operations on Lake Allatoona.

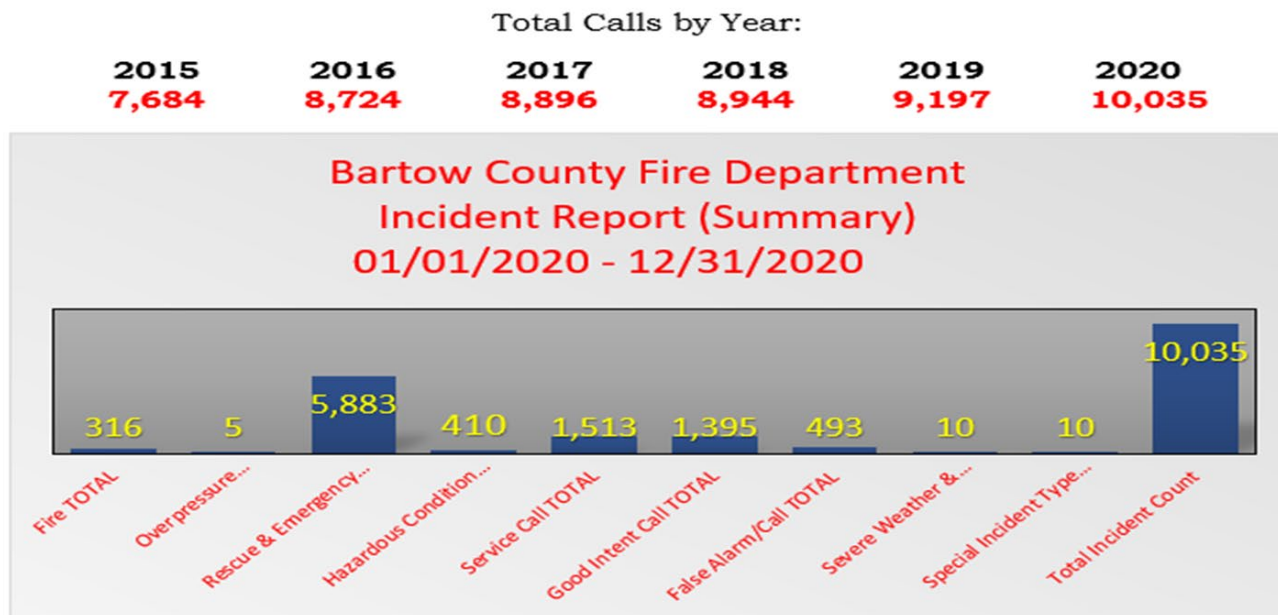
The second boat we took delivery of in 2020 was Rescue Boat 9 (RB-9). RB-9 is a Rock Proof Jet Boat. It is our second of its kind to be stationed along the Etowah River for river rescue operations. This type of boat allows us to respond to calls in shallow and deep water such as that along the Etowah River. With the many fish traps, sand bars, and varying water levels due to the Allatoona Dam generations and flood control schedule, navigation along the Etowah is very difficult. The boat's hull is protected by a thick sheet of plastic type material to enable it to go over rocks and other obstacles and the jet drive motor allows it to run in shallow water.



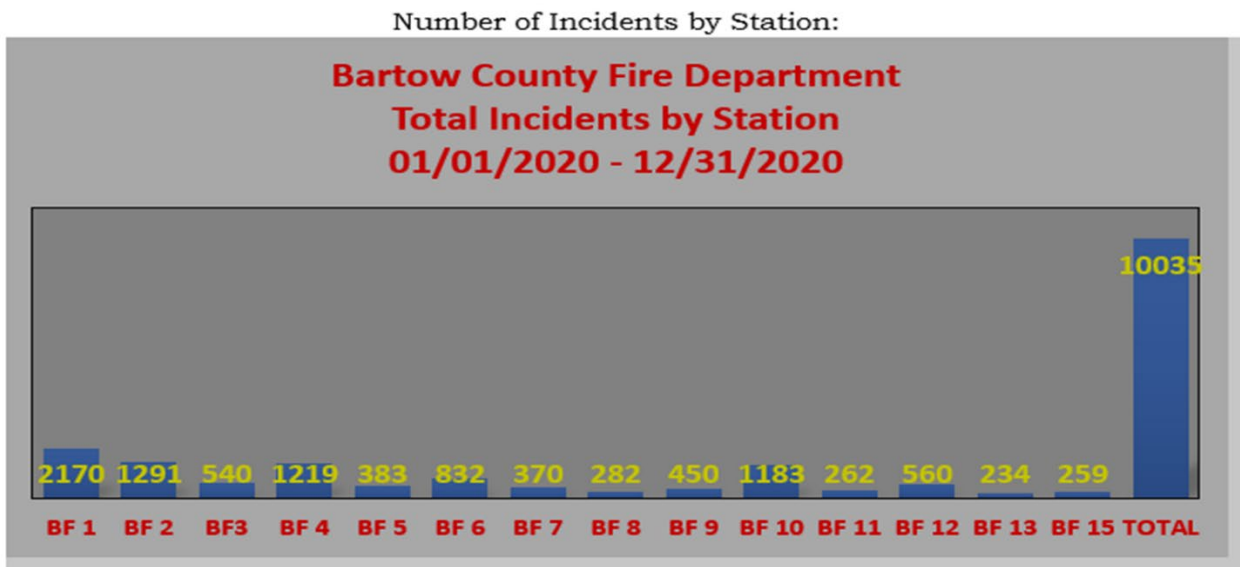
2020

BY THE NUMBERS

Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services responded to a total of **10,035** calls for assistance in 2020



Number of Incidents by Station:



2020 By the Numbers

• Civilian Fire Fatalities	6
• Civilian Fire Injuries	10
• Firefighter Injuries	36
• Structure Fires	102
• Property Loss	\$6,427,696.00
• Property Saved	\$19,260,242.00
• Wild Fires	94
• Total Acres Burned	26



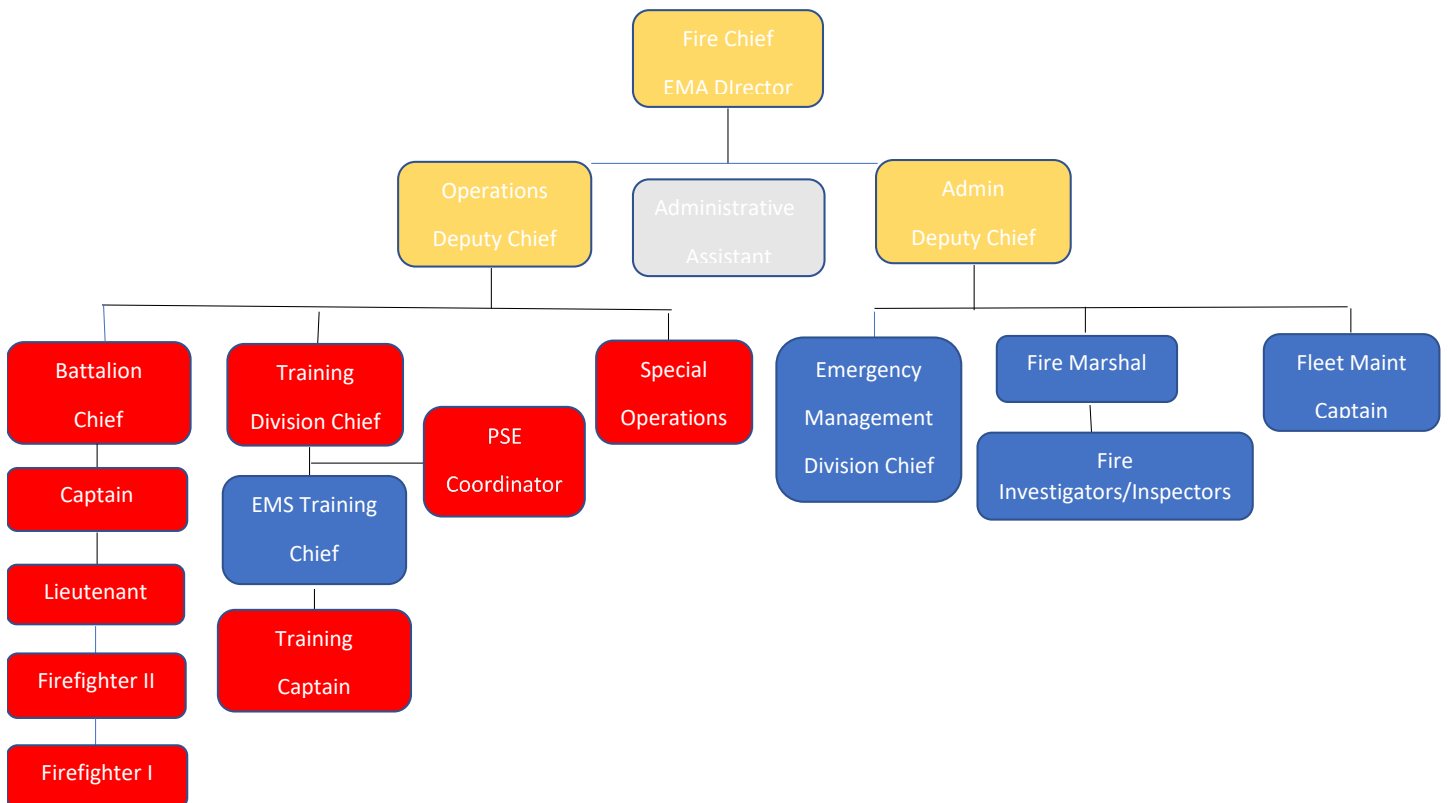
BARTOW COUNTY FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Organizational Chart

Citizens of Bartow County

Bartow County Commissioner

Bartow County Administrator



Administration



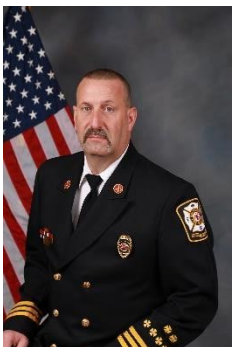
Fire Chief/EMA Director – Dwayne Jamison is a 30+ year veteran of Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services. Chief Jamison was awarded Chief Fire Officer of the Year by Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs in 2019. Promoted to Fire Chief/EMA Director in 2019, Chief Jamison oversees the operation of the Fire Department and Emergency Management for Bartow County.



Deputy Chief – David Levey was promoted to the Deputy Chief of Operations in 2019. Chief Levey oversees the day-to-day operations of suppression, training division, and all the Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services special teams such as the Wildland team, Haz Mat team, Technical Rescue team, Dive team, and Honor Guard.



Deputy Chief – Marcus Warren was promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration in 2019. Chief Warren oversees the Emergency Management Division, Fire Marshal's Office, logistics, payroll, maintenance, communications, Information Technology, and purchasing.



Training Division Chief – Chad Woodall heads up the Training Division. Chief Woodall has 30 years with Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services and supervises the EMS Training Chief and Training Captain. He oversees the annual training and certification of all firefighters and EMTs. He also oversees the department Public Safety Education Program and the Explorer Post Program.



Emergency Management Division Chief – Bruce King

Chief King oversees the day to day operations of the Emergency Management Division. He is responsible for maintaining the required plans by FEMA and GEMA/Homeland Security. He oversees the county's outdoor warning system, emergency notification system (Everbridge), and has served a key role in logistics during the COVID19 Pandemic.



Fire Marshal – Gary Garland serves as the Bartow

County Fire Marshal. With over 40 years' experience in the fire service, Chief Garland is responsible for Fire Investigations, Fire Inspections, Plan Reviews, and Burn Permitting.



EMS Training Chief – Alex Wright the former Deputy Director of Bartow County EMS serves as the EMS Training Chief for the Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services. Chief Wright is assigned to the Training Division and oversees the Advanced EMT Training Course for the department as well as overseeing the department's EMS program. He served multiple roles in the county Emergency Operations Center during the COVID19 Pandemic.



Administrative Assistant – Brandy Nation transferred to the Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services in 2018 to serve as the department's Administrative Assistant. Brandy is responsible for records management, payroll, and assigned clerical duties.

Operations

Battalion A

Battalion Chief
Darrell Abernathy



Battalion B

Battalion Chief
Andrew Haygood



Battalion C

Battalion Chief
Sandy Turner



Emergency Management Division



2020 started off with the appointment of a new Emergency Management Division Chief, Bruce King. Our first activation of the year of our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was due to a minor snow storm. 2020 turned out to be the most active year in the history of Bartow County's Emergency Management program. On March 1st a special church service at Liberty Square Church in Cartersville became ground zero for one of the first outbreaks of a new virus known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19). The virus originated in China and quickly spread around the world. One of the choir singers was unknowingly infected with the virus and spread it to others in attendance. The outbreak became one of the initial outbreaks in the state of Georgia and the Southeast. The EOC was activated and a Pandemic Task Force was put together and headed by EMA Director Dwayne Jamison. The task force included community leaders, public safety agency heads, long term care facility administrators, and local healthcare administrators. The EOC remained operational throughout the rest of 2020 to support the community's response to the COVID19 Public Health State of Emergency.

During the Public Health State of Emergency, the BCFES Emergency Management Division tracked daily COVID case counts, assisted with supplying PPE to public safety agencies, assisted nursing homes with PPE requests, coordinated National Guard COVID testing and facility sanitizing for nursing homes, and placed logistical requests for local municipalities. BCFES worked closely with the local Health Department and the Department of Public Health to support COVID testing and vaccinations.

By the end of 2020 over 6,700 Bartow County residents had been infected with COVID19 and over 120 had lost their lives to the virus.



Resources Distributed by BCFES Emergency Management Division to support COVID19 Response in Bartow County in 2020

Face Shields-----488

N95 Masks-----1,940

KN95 Masks-----441

Surgical Masks--8,460

Cloth Masks-----39,500

Medical Gloves-262 boxes

Hand Sanitizer—31 gallons and 262 various sized bottles

Disinfectant-----51 ½ gallons

Tyvek Suits-----2 cases

No Contact Thermometers—12

Hand Soap-----164 gallons

Air Freshener---12 bottles

I Pad Tablet-----1

Distributed among Non-Profit organizations, Church groups, Nursing/Assisted Living Homes and approximately 30 agencies.



The Emergency Management Division also placed a total of 48 resource requests through the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security for state and federal resources to assist local governments and organizations with COVID19 support.

In addition to the COVID19 response, the BCFES Emergency Management Division also managed severe storms in the community, tornadoes, tropical cyclone events, civil protests, and flooding. 2020 was one of the most active years for disasters in U.S. history.



BCFES Emergency Management Division also oversees the Etowah River Marker system and Life Jacket Loaner Program along the Etowah River in Bartow County. We are very grateful to our local sponsors that donate life jackets to the program to make this happen such as Walmart, Academy Sports, Yamaha Outboards, and Tow Boat US.

The Emergency Management Division also completed the following projects and plans in 2020:

Threat Hazard Identification Assessment for FEMA

Renewed the County Debris Removal Contract

Updated the BCFES Disaster Response Plan

Assisted with updating the BCFES Strategic Plan

Updated Shelter locations for Red Cross

Updated the Bartow County Points of Distribution Plan for FEMA

Assisted with creating a Surge Plan for Cartersville Medical Center

Rearranged and updated the Emergency Operations Center

Renewed the County's Storm Ready Certification with the National Weather Service

Created Standard Operating Procedures for the County's Emergency Operations Center

Created Standard Operating Procedures for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Updated the Outdoor Warning Siren System to an automated activation system



Training Division



Required Annual Training

- 192 hours of ISO company level training (at the station) per year
- 12 hours of ISO officer training per year
- 60 hours of initial drivers training and 12 hours per year
- 18 hours of ISO facility training (conducted at the training center) annually
- 6 hours of hazmat training per year
- 24 hours of certificated accredited training to maintain state firefighter certification each year
- 40 hours every 2 years to maintain EMT/Paramedic certification
- 24 hours per year to maintain Certified Emergency Manager certification



Classes Completed in 2020

(Internal Training)

- 9 Week Rookie school – 25 students
- 16 hour Structural Fire Control Class
- 8 hour Water Rescue Class
- 40 hour Alternative Teaching Methods Class (1st class in many years)
- 16 hour Crash Victim Extrication Class
- 8 hour Pressurized Container Fire Control Class
- 80 hour Hazardous Materials Technician Class (100% pass rate)
- 40 hour Confined Space Rescue Technician Class
- 16 hour Interior Search & Rescue Class
- Twelve 3 hour Automatic Aid Drills with Cartersville Fire Dept.
- Two 4 hour Hands on Skills Review sessions with Rookie Firefighters
- Twelve 3 hour Wildland Firefighting Drills with all personnel
- Inservice Training on New Fireboat Valor
- 6 Instructors attended the In-Service Driver Simulator Class (LGRMS)
- All Suppression personnel attended LGRMS Driver Simulator Training
- Advanced EMT Class – 25 students including Cartersville Fire Dept.
- Preceptor Class for existing Paramedics and EMTs at MFR stations.
- 2 – Medivac Helicopter Landing Classes
- Certa Dose Epinephrine Training
- 40 hour EMT/Paramedic Recertification Class



BCFES Training Division

(Outside Training)

- 62 BCSO Deputies trained on SCBA use.
- 20 DTF Agents trained on use of Narcan
- Worked with Cartersville Medical Center on Annual EMS Summit
- CPR/AED/First Aid Training – 26 Students
- Fire Extinguisher Classes – 31 students



BCFES Training Division

BCFES EMS Program



- **Advanced EMT Class 20-01 graduated with 27 students**
 - 19 BCFES personnel
 - 8 Cartersville Fire Department personnel
- **Partnered with Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services to send 2 Firefighters to Paramedic School**

Enhanced Medical Response Capabilities

BCFES Engine 10 increased their medical response capabilities in 2020 to become an Advanced Life Support capable engine company. This means that they now have Firefighter/Paramedics assigned and trained to provide advanced cardiac medications and defibrillation capabilities in their response area.



Trauma Grant

- ▶ BCFES Received \$ 1452.30
- ▶ Purchased Simulaids Pediatric ACLS Simulator and Simulaids Junior Training Mankin for our EMS Training Program.



Fire Marshal's Office



In addition to the Fire Marshal who supervises the office and serves as the BCFES point of contact for fire code related matters, there are two separate functions of the office that are overseen by Captains.



Captain Jessie Aliberti oversees the Fire Investigations functions of the office. Capt. Aliberti responds to fire calls as requested and investigates to determine the cause of the fire. If the fire is believed or determined to be Arson then she works with local, state, and federal law enforcement as well as local prosecutors and insurance companies to see that those responsible are charged and prosecuted. She also assists with inspections as needed.

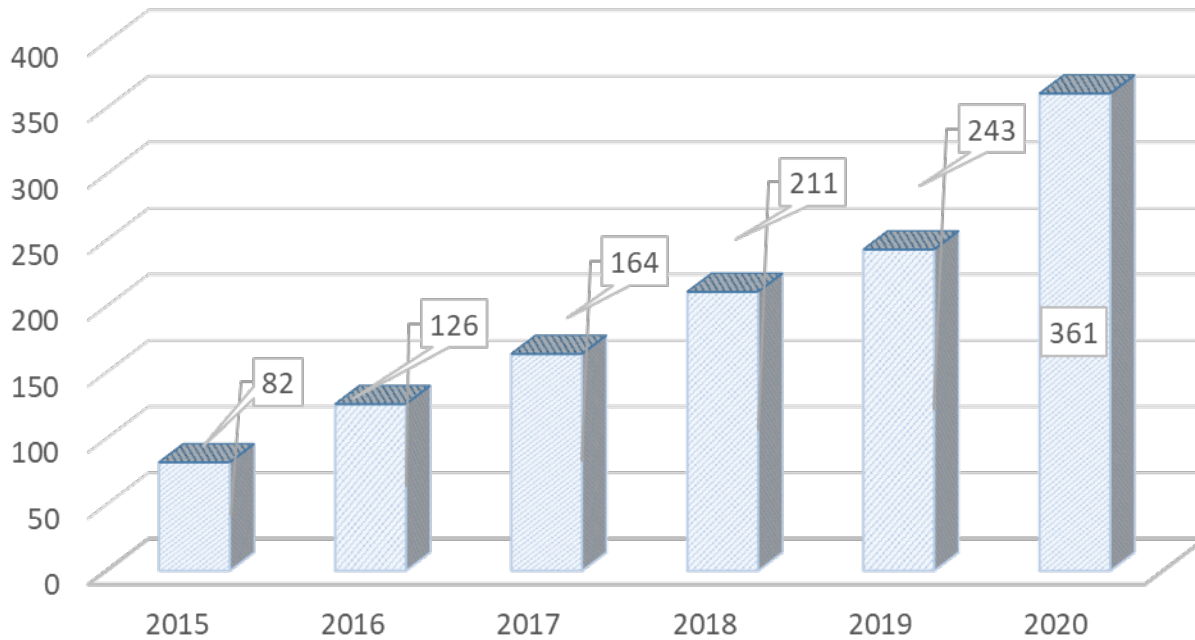


Captain Andy Moore oversees the Inspections and Plan Review functions of the Fire Marshal's Office. He is responsible for supervising Part Time Inspectors as well as working with contractors, architects, and developers with reviewing building plans. Capt. Moore also serves on multiple Planning Commissions to represent the Fire Marshal and assists with Fire Investigations as needed.

BY THE NUMBERS

2020 Plan Reviews – 361

PLAN REVIEWS BY YEAR



Fees collected for Plan Reviews in 2020 - \$106,652.92

2020 Inspections 367

Due to COVID19 in person annual inspections were halted in 2020. The only fire inspections being completed were on new businesses and building projects.

Fees collected for Inspections \$3,750.00

2020 Fire Investigations 54

Public Safety Education



Public Safety Education Coordinator – Captain Derrick Evans is responsible for coordinating Public Safety Education and Public Relations events. Even through COVID restrictions in 2020 BCFES Public Safety Education was able to Partner with Safe Kids Bartow and add new Car Seat Technicians to inspect and install car seats, partner with the Bartow County Recreation Department with the Rolling Rec Program to provide public safety education to the public, participate in Camp Bartow to provide PSE to camp participants, coordinated drive by birthday party parades for Bartow County citizens while they were quarantined at home, and worked with the Bartow County Career Academy to promote careers in the fire service.



Special Operations

Haz Mat Response Team



The Bartow/Cartersville Haz Mat Response Team was formed in 2002. The team is a FEMA Type II Regional Response Team headed by Capt. Derrick Evans. The Haz Mat Truck and equipment is currently assigned to Bartow County Fire Station 9. There are approximately 12 trained Haz Mat Technicians per shift on the team. The team trains monthly to prepare for a variety of potential hazardous materials release scenarios in our county or for mutual aid requests from surrounding counties.

Technical Rescue Team



The BCFES Technical Rescue Team Leader is Battalion Chief Sandy Turner. The team members have to train many hours on specialty rescue certifications to include Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Swift Water Rescue. The team trains quarterly to keep up their skills. Several members are also part of the regional USAR Team.

Dive Team



Capt. Josh Castleberry serves as Dive Team Coordinator for the BCFES Dive Team. The team was reinstituted in 2018 after several years of being inactive under Bartow County EMA. The team trains quarterly and primarily respond to drowning recovery calls on Lake Allatoona.

Wildland Crew



Capt. Brian Nation serves as Crew Boss for the BCES Wildland Crew. All Wildland Crew members are trained to meet federal Wildland Firefighter requirements. Some crew members exceed those requirements with additional training and certifications. The Wildland Crew is the most utilized of all Special Operations Teams. They not only operate locally, but have been deployed to

numerous regional and state requests to assist with wildfires and tree removal during disasters. This year the team added a new off road UTV to replace an older model for wildfire suppression.



Honor Guard



It is the mission of the Bartow County Fire and Emergency Services Honor Guard to honor Fire service members, both past and present, and the United States of America with the highest degree of professionalism, dedication, and dignity that is possible whenever we are called upon.

Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services Honor Guard



Our Hometown Hero Noah



On Sunday February 9th, 2020 Bartow County Fire & Emergency Services units responded to a reported Structure Fire on Howard Street in Kingston. Upon Arrival crews found a residential structure with heavy smoke showing. Crews found a young man with minor injuries and smoke inhalation. Once the fire was extinguished it was discovered that 5-year-old Noah Woods had awakened to a fire in his bedroom and the room filling with smoke. The only way out was through a nearby window. Noah first got his 2-year-old sister and his dog out before exiting the window himself. He then went next door to wake his uncle to help get the rest of the family members out of the house. Noah and 4 other family members were treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Noah is credited with rescuing himself and 7 other family members from the fire. The story became international news.

Fire Chief Dwayne Jamison presented Noah with a Civilian Life Saving Award and made him an Honorary Bartow County Firefighter. Had it not been for Noah's quick actions and bravery, the outcome would have been much different.

