



BURNOUT



(A newsletter of the North Spartanburg Fire Department)

Engine 11 Replacement Ordered

The Board of Commissioners recently approved funding for a new truck to replace Engine 11, and an order has been placed for a custom built 2007 Pierce Quantum Pumper to be delivered to our fleet in December, 2006.

The new pumper will have state-of-the-art equipment, including 360 degree roll over protection, and TAK4 independent front suspension. The truck will feature a command zone modular electronics system with display screens showing the truck's performance located in the driver's cockpit and the pump panel. It will have a 6-seater crew cab, a hydraulic ladder rack, a radio controlled deck pipe, and compartments for fire, medical, and extrication equipment. The engine will also feature a Huskey12 foam injection system with onboard 25 gallon foam concentrate storage and a 750 gallon water tank, along with a 2000 gallon per minute pump. It will be capable of carrying up to 3,400 feet of various sizes and types of hose. The engine also has all the regulated warning and running lights.

This style of truck provides the latest in safety and technology available in the fire service market today.

Memorial Day Breakfast

Our annual Memorial Day Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 27 at Station 1 from 7:30 – 9:30 AM. Everyone is invited to bring their families and join in this special time together.



Bernard Harper and Larry Campbell help with the cooking for last year's Memorial Day Breakfast at Station 1.

Birthdays:

Special birthday greetings are extended to the following:

April

- 1 Joy Fought
- 3 Larry Dukes
- 8 Jay Hammett
- 10 Wayne Jennings
- 13 Jason Cohen
- 13 Greg Marler
- 13 Tim Shearer
- 20 Willie Browning

May

- 1 Bryan Shaw
- 4 Steve Haselden
- 16 Ken Toney
- 18 David Shafto

June

- 2 Roger Means
- 4 Scott Ogle
- 6 Tim Cook
- 6 Mike McElrath
- 14 Artie Allen
- 14 Kashata Wallace
- 21 Lee Files
- 22 Lee Inman
- 24 Linda Blanton
- 27 Mark Moore

NSFD Spotlight

Each month we will feature one or more of our full time staff and volunteers. This month's publication features Assistant Chief Randy Mathis who began his career with NSFD in 1984.



Assistant Chief Randy Mathis



Chief Mathis started his career in the fire service in 1974 as a Jr. volunteer fireman in his hometown of Pacolet, South Carolina. He participated in the Volunteer Fire and EMS Service in Pacolet until 1999 when he retired after 25 years of service. During these years he served on the squad's local state championship rescue team; served as Captain of the EMS Rescue Squad, and rose to the rank of Volunteer Assistant Chief and Fire District Commissioner.

In 1984, a paid career in fire fighting overlapped with his volunteer service when Chief Mathis joined the North Spartanburg Fire District. During his tenure at NSFD, Chief Mathis has also served as a Firefighter/EMT, Shift

Lieutenant, Training Director, and Fire Inspector. He was promoted to Shift Captain where he supervised firefighters and served in various capacities coordinating assigned projects and responding to emergency calls for 18 years prior to his promotion to Chief Officer. Chief Mathis currently services as NSFD's Assistant Chief, coordinating Fire District operations.

Chief Mathis has an impressive EMS career as well as firefighting. Originally becoming a licensed EMT in 1979, he became an EMT (1) Trauma Technician in 1984, and a Nationally Registered Paramedic in 1997.

As a field instructor for the South Carolina Fire Academy, Chief Mathis has taught more than 1,000 hours at various fire departments across South Carolina. He served as Interim Regional Director for the fire academy in 1988, and was on the original "Public Safety Training Commission" in Spartanburg, helping to start the local training academy now known as Spartanburg Emergency Services Academy.






Chief Mathis authored and assisted in teaching the original Heavy Rescue Levels I, II, and III, and taught in the early 1980's at the local training center. He was called upon to assist in the first writings of the South Carolina State Fire Marshall's certification program as part of a team of writers.

He was called upon again to serve in 2003 at the national level for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Review Board at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Chief Mathis and his wife Sharon have been married for 27 years and have 2 children. His daughter

Regina works for Union County EMS while attending college, and his son Adrian is a probationary volunteer firefighter with the Pacolet Fire District.

Over the years, Chief Mathis has been honored with many awards and recognitions from both Pacolet and North Spartanburg Fire Districts, including:

-  Firefighter of the Year - 1975, 1980, 1985 – Pacolet
-  Career Firefighter of the Year – 1990 – North Spartanburg
-  Lifesaving Award – 1994 - NSFD
-  Chief's Service Award – 2001 - NSFD
-  Numerous letters of commendation from NSFD, Spartanburg County, and Pacolet

Volunteer Corner

Our spring recruitment drive kicks off again in April, and we are asking everyone to get involved to make it a success.

Do you know someone who would like to consider becoming a volunteer at NSFD? If so, invite them to come with you to one of our meetings and explore options on how they can serve.

They don't have to have a background in fire or a desire to be a firefighter. There are many other areas that they can serve.

Training is provided at the level they would like to undertake, whether it is firefighting, or support of our firefighters. Consider one of the following service areas for involvement at NSFD:

- Volunteer Firefighter
- Volunteer Support Services

Volunteer Firefighters:

NSFD has different categories of employees working together as a team to provide fire, rescue and first response medical service to the citizens of our Fire District, which includes both regular staff and volunteer staff.

Volunteer Support Services

Support Services handles a wide array of duties that directly support and assist the firefighters while on active fire calls, as well as support the overall fire service activities.

A Rehab vehicle is taken by our trained support personnel to all active residential structure fires and is set up to provide nourishment and a place for the firefighters to take a time out before going back into a fire. Many of our support volunteers have taken the First Response Course offered through NSFD so they can also provide basic first aid should it be needed until advanced medical assistance can be provided. Training is provided to our response support team in air cylinder exchanges, refilling of air cylinders, and many other tasks that can directly support our firefighters during an actual fire.

Training meetings are held every Monday night beginning at 7PM, and all volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Many benefits are available for volunteer members, including:

- △ Member of the South Carolina State Firemen's Association (*includes life insurance and other benefits*)
- △ All needed training and required equipment is furnished
- △ Retirement with SC State Firemen's Association (*when minimum requirements are met*)

△ Worker's Compensation with additional extra coverage (*covers to and from emergency calls*)

△ Volunteer Incentive Program (special deduction on SC State Income Tax (*when minimum requirements are met*))

If you know someone interested in learning more about opportunities as a volunteer with NSFD, we would love to talk to them.

Contact Kathy Hurry at bkhurry@bellsouth.net for more information. Applications can be obtained online at NSFD's website at www.nsafd.org, or by contacting Steve Haselden at hcsi@bellsouth.net.

Training Completed

Congratulations to **Bob Grudzien** on the completion of OSHA FF, and to both Bob and **Beverly Grudzien** on the completion of HazMat Operations.

Response Time Critical

Response time is critical in all our calls, whether they be fire or medical, and whether we respond to an outside call or one inside even at our own station. Rapid recognition and intervention of the problem presented saves lives and property, and every precious moment counts towards the final outcome.

This was brought home to us personally on the morning of February 19 when Bruce was brought to Station 1 experiencing what he thought was heartburn, but what turned out instead to be a significant heart attack.

A rapid response to the situation as presented was a key factor in Bruce's favorable outcome, and we can't express enough thanks to both Brent Lewis and Mike Palmer for their rapid recognition, intervention, and initiation of Code Stemi prior to the

ambulance's arrival and transport to the hospital. We also are grateful to the entire B Shift staff who jumped in to do whatever they could to help.

The national average for Code Stemi patients from the time of activation to the Cath Lab is 60 minutes, but because of the rapid initiation into the system and interventions, Bruce was in the Cath Lab in only 29.5 minutes. The doctors and nurses who worked on Bruce have told us that the rapid response, early recognition, and interventions prior to transport undoubtedly created a good outcome for Bruce, and possibly saved his life.

We wish to thank everyone at NSFD for their calls of encouragement, visits, flowers, and prayers. More importantly we are grateful that NSFD places rapid response as a number 1 priority for all calls regardless of the perceived seriousness of the situation, and that ongoing training is provided to emphasize the critical importance of it. Bruce is here as proof that this does save lives.

Sincerely,
Bruce and Kathy Hurry

The Training Corner

(Capt. Brent Lewis)

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT NSFD.ORG OR SEE SCHEDULE POSTED AT STATION 1 FOR A COMPLETE AND UP TO DATE TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS