

# THE BLAZE

October 2018

DEKALB COUNTY FIRE RESCUE



GIS & FIRE  
PROTECTION

DCFR'S FEDERAL  
AGENT

REVIEWING THE NEW  
CAD

95 RECRUITS

DEPLOYED OVERSEAS

TWO-TIME WINNER

Firefighters  
looking at  
burned delivery  
truck after a  
Briarcliff Road  
Publix fire.

# The Geospatial MATRIX is real

The geospatial matrix is real, and DeKalb is using it to fight fires. In 1952, DeKalb Commissioner Scott Candler and DeKalb Fire Chief Mike Lynch, reviewed maps to best protect DeKalb from fires. They were trailblazers and paved the road for fire protection based on geospatial mapping.



Study Fire Station Locations—Commissioner Scott Candler (right), whose efforts toward according his county the best possible fire protection is drawing statewide praise, scans a map of DeKalb County with Fire Chief Mike Lynch. Chief Lynch, a native of Ireland, has enjoyed a most enviable safety record during the years he has been at the helm.

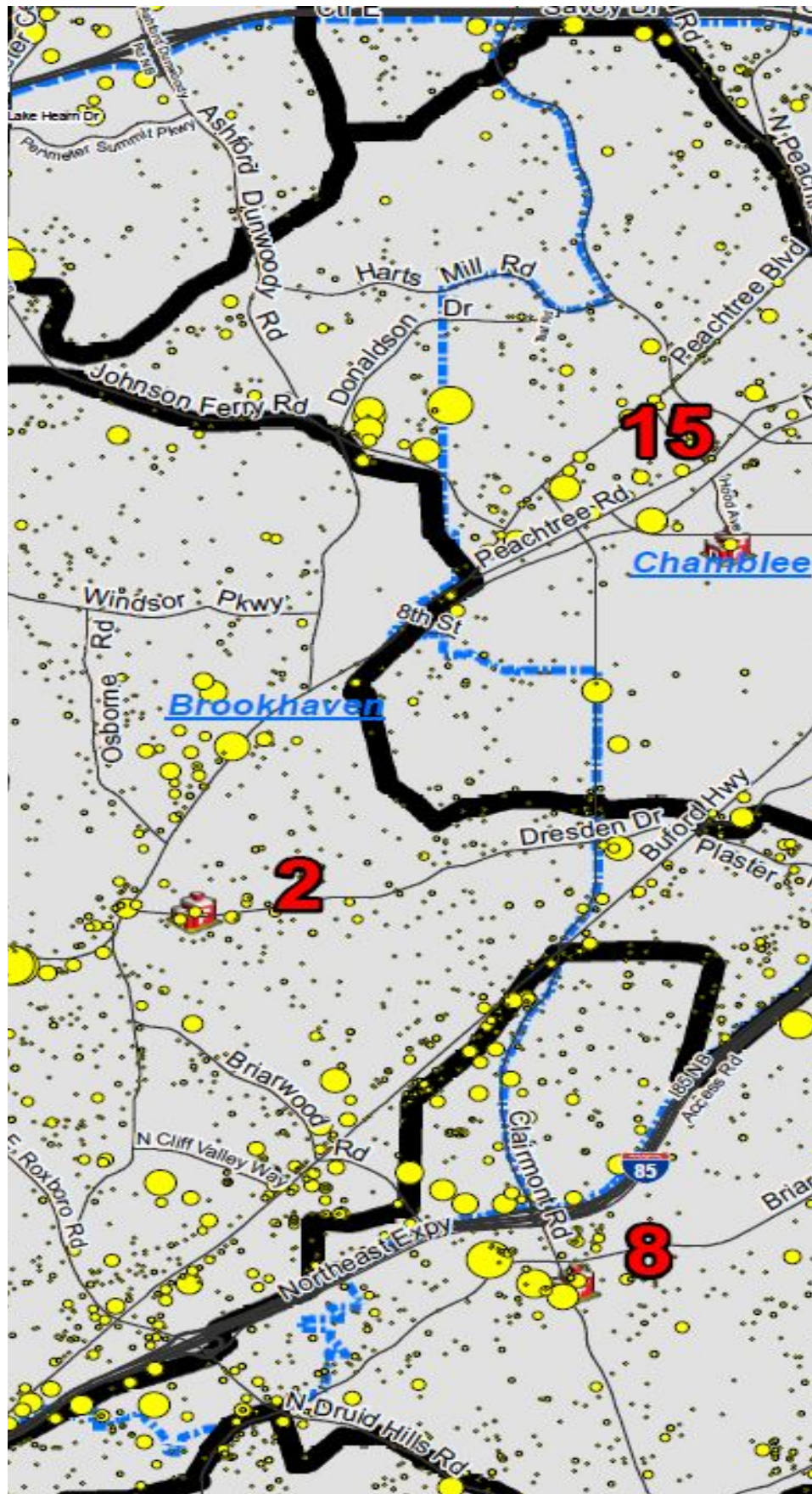
Geospatial mapping originated in the 1960s, but today's technology, which collects the data for maps, is groundbreaking. DeKalb Fire Rescue relies on a wide variety of geospatial maps. Which are vital tools in planning the fire protection for a county the size of DeKalb. Fire officials collect multiple streams of data from the computer aided dispatch system, the image trend records management system, census block records, American community

surveys, and tax accessors records. This data is sorted and then given to DeKalb County's Geographical Information Systems (GIS) department. DeKalb GIS then translates this data into maps which show: a fire incident dot matrix by the year; emergency response per station including travel times, geography, and road conditions; station boundaries and typical service areas; target hazard locations based on pre-planning and parcel

IDs; and heat and zone density based on call data. DeKalb GIS can geocode addresses from the call logs that Fire Rescue provides. DeKalb GIS specialist III Dontae Warren says that "by geocoding those addresses to a physical location on the earth, GIS is able to create a point density of emergency calls." Once this is done, geospatial maps, can be rendered from that information. (cont'd)

Geospatial maps can be used to analyze and reduce at-large risks. County and fire officials use these maps to identify where to focus resources for improvement. Mutual aid agreements with surrounding fire departments can be drawn to provide coverage in areas impacted by travel distance for fire protection. High incident areas can be addressed through prevention and public education campaigns. Enforcement and inspections efforts, benefit as well, as a planned approach based on these geospatial maps become apparent.

Almost everything that Fire Rescue does can be shaped and improved by using geospatial maps. Or, as DeKalb Fire Captain Tom Burrell says, “Information systems like GIS have become a critical tool in the modern fire service. When your role in the community is all about responding to what could be the worst day of a customer’s life, then you want to make sure that you are prepared and can respond quickly. DeKalb County Fire Rescue relies upon GIS to not only make sure that we are sending the closest resource to emergencies, but to also ensure that we handle them. This utilization is helping us to ensure that we are strengthening our response network to address the growth and future needs of a vibrant DeKalb County community.” The more we utilize these new tools and plan our reactions off of what the data yields, the safer DeKalb will be in the future.





# Agent Ace

DeKalb County Fire Rescue saw two of its own members deployed to the U. S. Virgin Islands on September 13, 2018. Ace, and his K-9 handler DeKalb Fire Investigator Henry Patterson were called in by The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to investigate two murders at separate fire scenes. Several scenes were investigated by Ace. The task force included local law enforcement, military police, the ATF, and two members of DeKalb County Fire Rescue. Both crime scenes had marked similarities. As local fire investigators and the ATF began their investigation, it was determined that further assistance was required to gather any potential evidence. At that point, the ATF called in Ace.

Ace is not your average K-9. Not only is he the accelerant detection canine for DeKalb Fire Rescue, but Ace is a federal agent that can be tasked and deployed wherever the U.S. flag flies. Ace is one of 50 federal K-9 agents within the state that can be readily deployed. Ace was born on November 12, 2013, and joined DCFR on April 21, 2015. This means that, Ace's tour of duty is set through the fall of 2023. Ace trains twice a day, seven days a week, must qualify annually and is an invaluable part of the federal government and DeKalb County Fire Rescue. While certain details of this case remain classified, the participation of Ace and Investigator Patterson is general knowledge.



# AVL CAD Improves Safety

DeKalb County E-911 transitioned to the Tri-Tech computer aided dispatch system, or CAD, on April 10, 2018. It is an automatic vehicle location-based dispatch system, or AVL, and replaced DeKalb's zoned based dispatch system. The AVL is better for DeKalb County citizens as it allows for the closest emergency vehicle to respond to a call. Instead of relying on zones and territories for dispatch, this system quickly assesses road speed, routed distance, and real-time GPS data to determine which units are dispatched. This speaks to the effectiveness of the new CAD system: the response time

has improved by 20 second since switching to the Tri-Tech CAD.

The Tri-Tech CAD also allows personnel to upload pre-planned information about locations within the county. Pre-planned information such as gate codes, site maps, tactical hazard info, and stand pipe locations is now available on the mobile data terminals of any unit dispatched to those locations. Fire officials continue to analyze the new CAD while working towards maximizing its effectiveness.

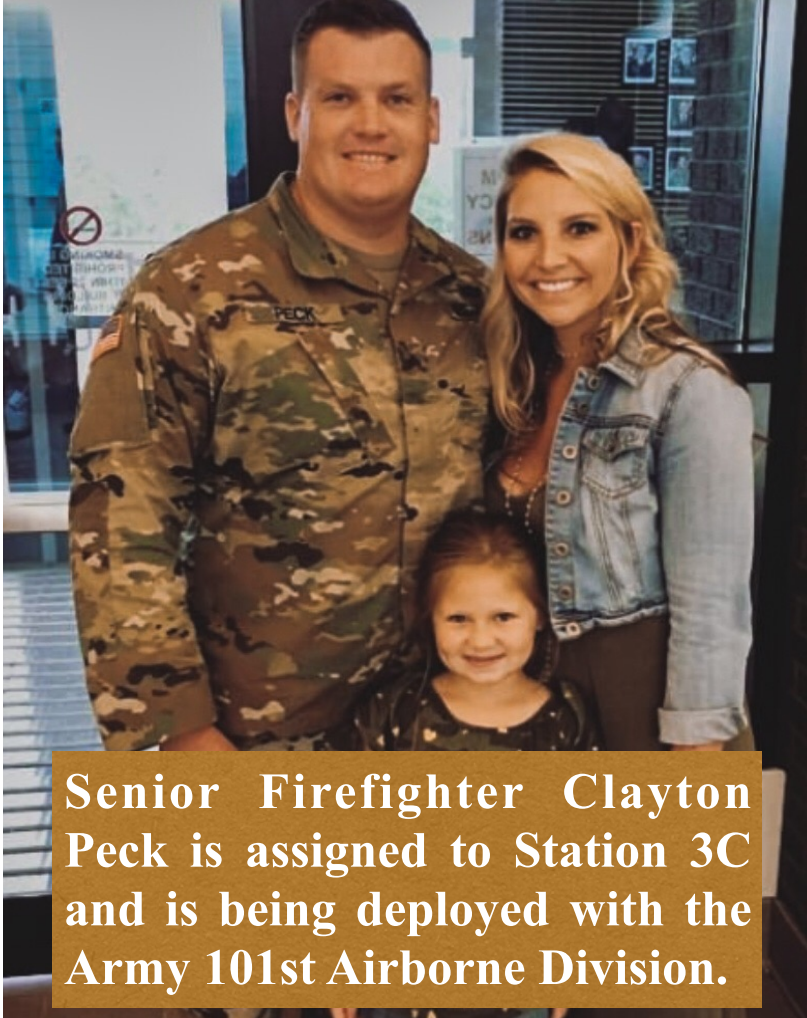


# What Can 95 Recruits Do For You?

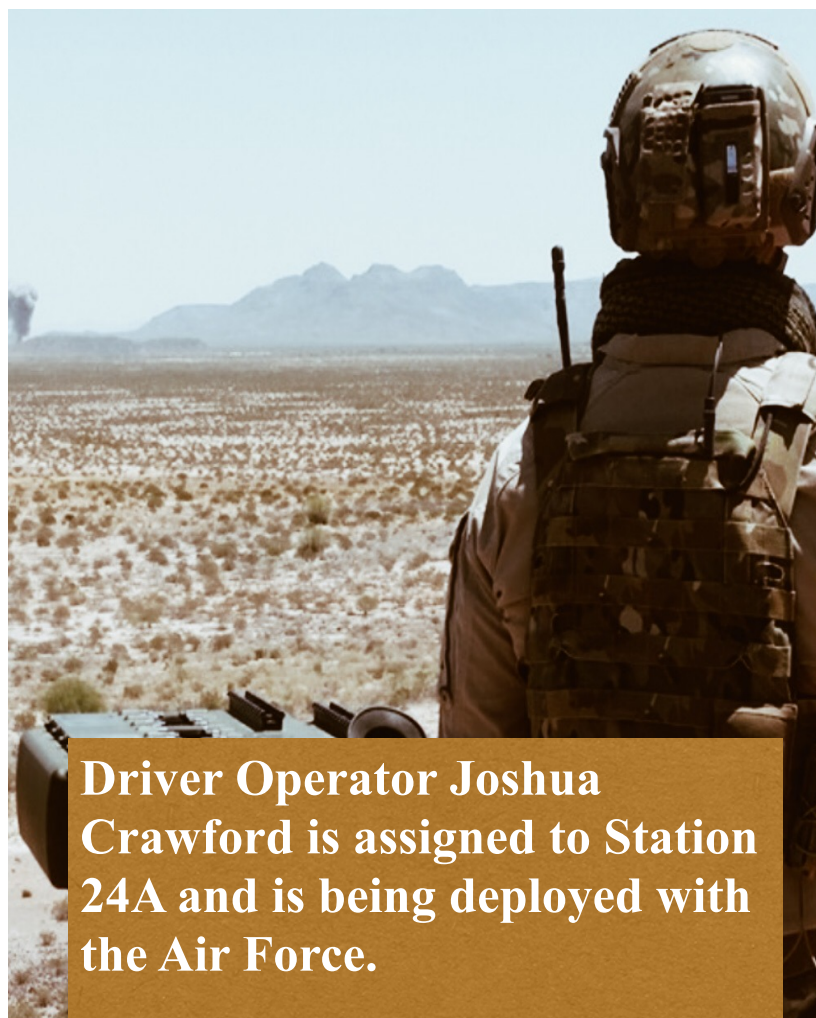
DeKalb County Fire Rescue is currently training 95 recruits to be DCFR firefighters. That number raises the ranks of DeKalb Fire Rescue to 635 positions, and to almost a full staff with of 660 funded positions. Increases in numbers translates to more available personnel to relieve crews, and improved staffing on

responding vehicles. These numbers reflect the commitment to readiness and public safety that is a priority of DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond. The next group of DeKalb firefighters is set to graduate in January 2019.

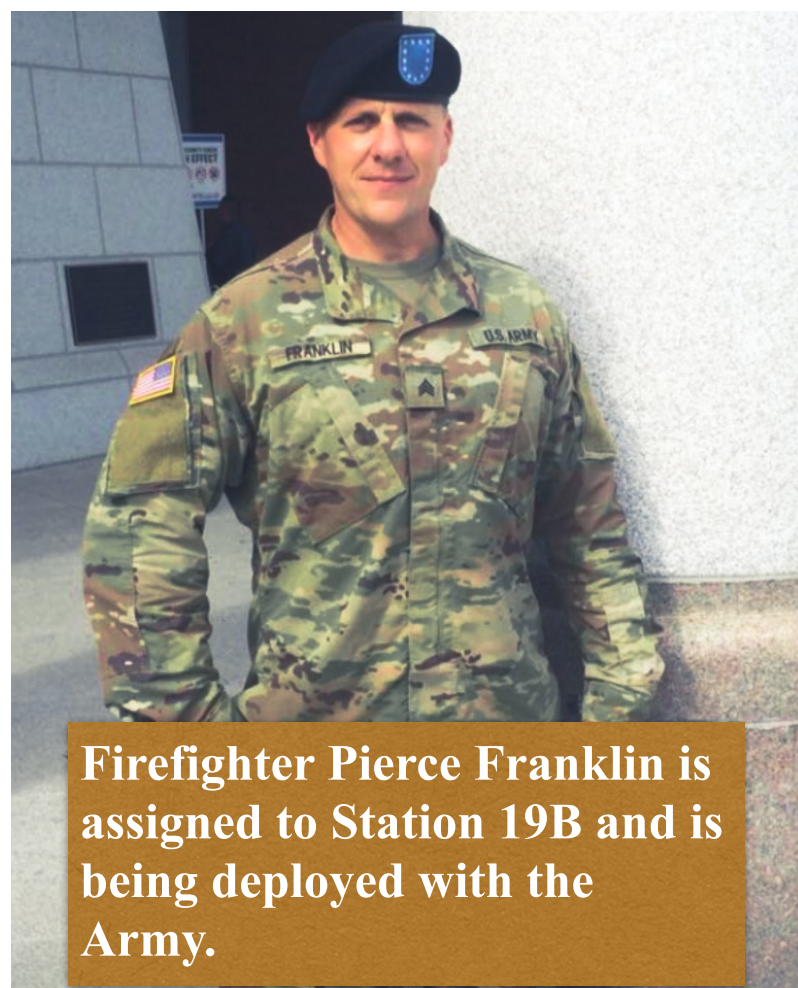




Senior Firefighter Clayton Peck is assigned to Station 3C and is being deployed with the Army 101st Airborne Division.



Driver Operator Joshua Crawford is assigned to Station 24A and is being deployed with the Air Force.



Firefighter Pierce Franklin is assigned to Station 19B and is being deployed with the Army.

**DeKalb County  
Fire Rescue  
proudly salutes  
three of our own  
serving our  
country and  
being deployed  
to Afghanistan**



(From left) Fire Chief Darnell Fullum, Capt. Victor Madison, Senior Firefighter Lee Battles

# On October 20, 2018 DeKalb Fire Rescue Capt. Victor Madison successfully defended his title as the now two time winner of the DeKalb Breast Cancer Awareness 5K Run



# BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



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## HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- »» **When choosing a costume**, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- »» **Provide children** with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- »» Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. **Keep all decorations** away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- »» **Use a battery-operated** candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- »» **Remember** to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- »» **Make sure** all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- »» **Tell children** to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

If your children are going to **Halloween parties** at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

### Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in **900** reported home fires each year. Two of every five of these fires were started by a candle.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

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**Buford Highway  
fire at Esquire  
Apartments**

