

THE BLAZE

August 13, 2018

DEKALB COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

- Canine Save
- Filming Fire Safety
- Swift Water Rescue Training
- Operation Safe DeKalb
- Home Escape Planning
- Joint Safety Task Force





We Paws to Recognize a Great Recovery

Nugget, an incredible canine, was rescued during a July 4, 2018, house fire. Firefighters acted swiftly to save Nugget's life. Smoke inhalation was a concern as crews applied a baby bag valve mask to perform rescue breathing. Once Nugget's respiration began to improve, crews switched treatment, to a pet non-rebreather. The results speak for themselves, as Nugget's recovery, is nothing short of remarkable.





DCFR Partners With Emory to Film Fire Safety

Emory University is one of the largest private employers in Georgia, employing over 30,000 people. Emory reached out to DCFR about an innovative way to reach 30,000 employees, and DCFR was pleased to help. Emory Public Safety wanted to visually impact their community with a short film about campus fire safety. On April 25, 2018, a short film about fire prevention was endeavored. A film crew was brought in, along with a director, as DCFR provided the lights, sirens, and fire safety know how. It's not too often that such a dramatic opportunity comes along, but when it does, DCFR will be right there to impact thousands of people with life saving information. For video highlights of this partnership please see the Emory University YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/XdLBtXKCsig>.



SWIFT WATER RESCUE TRAINING



Fast Currents and Swift Water

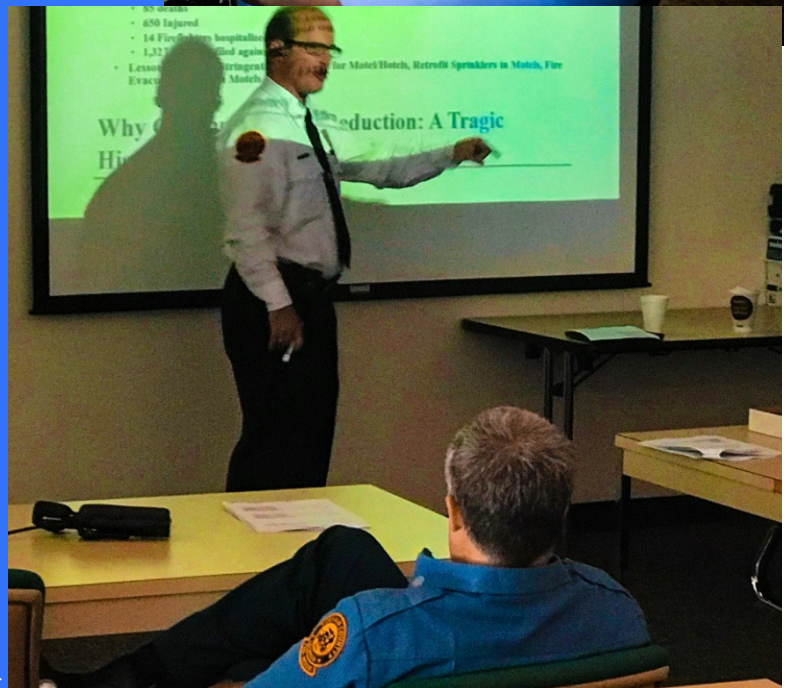
The waters of the Chattahoochee River, on July 18, 2018, were some of the safest in Georgia, as technical rescue teams from around the state took part in swift water rescue training. As such, DCFR was on hand during this fast paced training. Instructors taught swimmers how to detect various currents in the waters, and how to adjust their swimming angle for offensive water entry. Participants practiced swimming assists, controlled swim grabs, fighting cross currents, and rushing water rescues. Evolutions changed as quickly as the current flowed, as seasoned firefighters swapped stories and techniques. The training consisted of a classroom portion with video drills, and the water evolutions followed those sessions. For video highlights of this training please see the DCFR YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/Le33PjROgmE>.





Operation Safe DeKalb

DCFR is ramping up its continued focus on safety with Operation Safe DeKalb. As a part of this effort, company officers receive training in community risk reduction. Operation Safe DeKalb focuses on assessing risks, and addressing them through education and inspections. Safety awareness campaigns are a constant for DCFR, but this particular enhancement allows company officers to give preventative guidance to DeKalb County businesses. Community risk reduction is essential, and Operation Safe DeKalb hits the mark. As DCFR fire crews respond to calls at businesses and apartment complexes, they will additionally point out life safety code issues. The aim of Operation Safe DeKalb is proactive and preventative in nature, rather than punitive.





Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



SAFETY TIPS

- » MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » PRACTICE using different ways out.
- » TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- » If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- » CALL the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ❗ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ❗ According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ❗ While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ❗ **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

Home Escape Planning Can Save Your Life

Home escape planning is essential. Effective home escape plans entail: sitting down with your family, predetermining two ways out of every room (this could be a door or a window), and predetermining a meeting place that every member of your families knows. The meeting place can be the mail box, a large tree in the front yard, or the best option, a designated neighbor's house. Having a designated neighbor's house as your meeting place provides your family with the opportunity to call 911 and report the emergency. The meeting place, however, should be determined and discussed by you and your family.



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2016



Joint Task Forces and Outreach Efforts Signal a New Day in DeKalb



DCFR masses an incredible effort to mitigate or prevent apartment fires before they happen. A joint task force involving DCFR, DeKalb Code Enforcement, Watershed Management, DKPD, and other local partners, seeks proactive ways to help apartment complexes address issues that impact life safety. Since this task force is comprised of entities with mandated authority to enforce code, preventative changes are being made to facilitate compliance. The task force can target inspection issues, life safety concerns, code compliance issues, and emergency access concerns. This initiative represents new proactive steps that DCFR is taking, but there are additional reactive steps that are also being utilized.

After a fire, DCFR sends inspectors, investigators, public safety educators, and fire crews, all to engage those communities with life safety information. Efforts like these hope to increase awareness, facilitate compliance, and increase prevention and mitigation of apartment fires.