

THE BLAZE

JUNE 2019

DEKALB COUNTY FIRE RESCUE



FIRST QUARTER
STATS

FOUR BUGLES:
OPERATIONS

SPECIAL
OPERATIONS

EMPHASIZING
RISK REDUCTION

First Quarter 2019 Statistics

DeKalb Fire Rescue responded to **21,341** incidents in the first quarter, including **13,300** EMS calls and **8,041** fire related calls.

The Fire Marshal's Office conducted

- **1,853** requested business permit/license inspections
- **331** periodic mandated maintenance inspections
- **1,631** fire prevention code compliance sessions with DeKalb County businesses
- **762** Fire Company level inspections done.

The Public Education Unit interacted with **48,488** people in the first quarter.

FIRST QUARTER CALL STATS			
MUNICIPALITIES	MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALLS	FIRE RELATED CALLS	TOTAL OF CALLS
ATLANTA	259	310	569
AVONDALE	89	77	166
BROOKHAVEN	604	457	1061
CHAMBLEE	475	239	714
CLARKSTON	205	98	303
DECATUR	37	120	157
DORAVILLE	248	147	395
DUNWOODY	601	416	1017
LITHONIA	65	31	96
PINE LAKE	10	4	14
STONE MOUNTAIN	113	63	176
STONECREST	1109	860	1969
TUCKER	785	509	1294
UNINCORPORATED	8700	4710	13410
GRAND TOTAL	13300	8041	21341

On the Cover

On May 7, 2019 at Peachtree DeKalb Airport, day 2 of the GSAR Task Force 7 Drill took place, with crews from DeKalb working along side crews from multiple municipalities. Evolutions featured center core drill, search cam operations, drone operations, patient search, tunnel breaching, gas monitoring, and manual ventilations.



FOUR BUGLES: Operations

As DeKalb enters into the season for possible tornadic activity, we would like to take this opportunity to discuss our inclement weather response plans, as well as some of the precautions that are made for our responding units. In conjunction with our partners at DeKalb Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), and as threatening weather approaches the region, we at DeKalb County Fire Rescue are keeping a watchful eye on potential weather events. When inclement weather is forecasted, we begin to consider what adjustments need to be made to our normal emergency operations. Here is just a brief look at some of the items that are considered as bad weather approaches.

- During an inclement weather event, the Deputy Chief of Operations is monitoring the overall system to ensure the most appropriate response.
- In the event that call volume starts to overwhelm the E-911 Center, Fire Rescue will open the Area Command, a Fire Rescue nerve center [war room], in an effort to prioritize the dispatching of units.
- At the time call volume has exceeded normal capabilities, Operations can task our internal divisions such as the Fire Marshal's Office, the Training Division, and sworn administrative personnel. As our reserve units are placed in service, those personnel are assigned to these units to handle the excess call volume.
- In winter weather situations, tire snow cables are assigned to every apparatus within Fire Rescue. This gives each unit the chance to deploy the cables at a moment's notice. The on-duty Assistant Chief (Shift Commander) stays in constant communication with the Battalion Chiefs during the event, in order to decide when units should consider deploying the cables.

The above items are just a quick snapshot at some of the internal processes that take place during inclement weather events. Our goal is to make sure that DeKalb Fire Rescue is meeting the needs of the community in the most effective and efficient manner at all times.

Yours in service,



Deputy Chief A. Shane Dobson



Deputy Chief
Shane Dobson



Business fire on Old McDonough RD on February 14, 2019

SOME EMERGENCIES DEMAND SPECIAL OPS



The DCFR Dive Team conducting recovery operations of a submerged vehicle at Kelly Cofer Park.

In public safety there are emergencies so unique in nature that they belong to Special Operations. Special equipment, required certifications, and advanced training are the given standard in Special Operations.

Firefighters train and prepare themselves for the demands of “regular emergencies.” DeKalb Firefighters are skilled responders who deploy to medical, fire, and other service oriented calls. That’s the job description of being a firefighter.

However, when emergencies happen that require special tactics, DeKalb Fire Rescue is ready to respond. DeKalb Fire Rescue’s Special Operations Teams, respond to hazmat emergencies, forestry emergencies, emergencies requiring the deployment of drones, airport rescue firefighting emergencies, underwater emergency calls, high-angle and low-angle rope rescues, extrications, confined space emergencies, structural collapses, and swiftwater rescues.

HAZMAT Station 19, the hazmat station for DeKalb County, is strategically located for access to 285 and I-85 in Chamblee/Doraville. DeKalb Fire Rescue has two additional hazmat support stations: Station 18 in Dunwoody and Station 20 in Decatur. Crews at Station 18 stand ready to deploy for decontamination emergencies, which are hazmat incidents that can arise at industrial laboratories, hospitals, and sensitive installations. If an emergency of that magnitude should occur, crews would respond from station 19, along with the two hazmat support stations to mitigate the potential crisis.

FORESTRY The Forestry Team is based out of Station 17 in Stonecrest. Wild-land, woods, or brush fires, that are beyond the capability of standard fire fighting techniques, could lead to incident commanders activating the Forestry Team. This team can clear brush and engage wildfires with different tactics. Bulldozers and apparatus that are designed to support crews deep in the woods can be deployed in the event of wild-land emergencies.

DRONES The drone team is based out of headquarters in Tucker. This team can be deployed for emergencies that limit sight lines of the incident commanders. The use of drones offers incident commanders a birds-eye view of a given working incident. For compliance, The drone team adheres to applicable FAA guidelines.

ARFF Airport Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) is based out of Station 15 in Chamblee, at PDK Airport, the second busiest airport in Georgia. The equipment, apparatus, and training for ARFF are specialized to handle airplane emergency incidents.



Hazmat Response Training

SOME EMERGENCIES DEMAND SPECIAL OPS continued...

ARFF Apparatus Crash 15



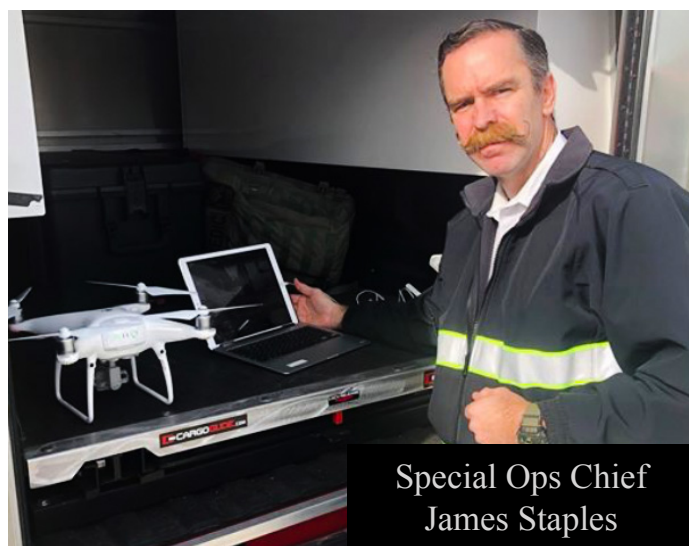
DIVE TEAM The Dive Team stands ready to deploy for submerged vehicle rescues and underwater recovery operations. The Dive Team Response Apparatus is located in Avondale, and Dive Team members are located at various stations and shifts within the county from where divers can rapidly deploy.

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM The Technical Rescue Team (TRT) is based out of Station 24 on Redan Road. TRT crews at Station 24 stand ready to deploy for structural collapses, confined space emergencies, high-angle and low-angle rope rescues, trench rescues, and vehicle extrications. TRT crews are trained to stabilize these situations so that patients can be removed from the scene and receive treatment. They recently received training and equipment for tree rescues, which ordinarily occur in areas where ladder trucks can't reach.

Battalion Chief James Staples supervises all Special Operations teams. This year DCFR is taking the Training Lead for Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Task Force 7. This responsibility rotates among each of GSAR Task Force 7 member departments. This rotation ensures standardized capabilities and response. GSAR is a vital part of making for a safer DeKalb, as it consists of Special Operations teams from various departments that are deployed by the State of Georgia, as a task force to respond to emergencies. TRTs from various

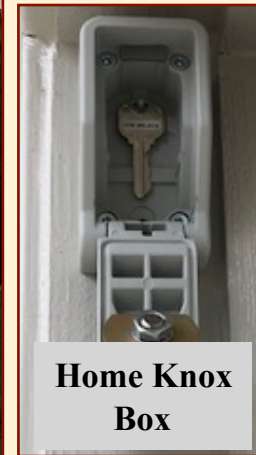
departments make up the different GSAR Task Forces. The specialty equipment and apparatus provided to DCFR because of our participation in GSAR, is housed in DeKalb and can also be used for emergencies occurring within DeKalb.

SWIFTWATER RESCUE Recently, the DeKalb Board of Commissioners approved the budget submitted by DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond, which included funding to staff and equip a soon-to-be created Swiftwater Rescue Team. Certain water emergencies involving moving water, such as flooding, necessitate a Swiftwater response. Rescue Swimmers on this team will be able to deploy for offensive mode water rescues, against-current rescues, wade assists, and fast-current emergencies.

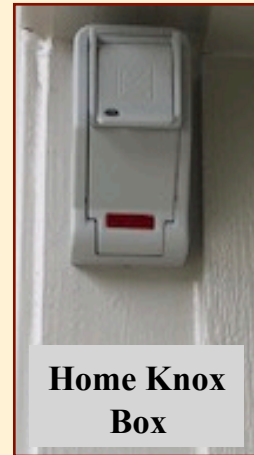


Special Ops Chief
James Staples

Fire Marshal Pushes Risk Reduction



**Home Knox
Box**



**Home Knox
Box**

In January 2018, The Fire Marshal's Office launched the innovative and comprehensive "SafeDeKalb" Community Risk Reduction Initiative throughout all of DeKalb County. The overall mission of this initiative is to remove and/or reduce some of the risks that our citizens, businesses, communities, and firefighters face on a daily basis. The "Building Blocks" for this community risk reduction outreach are: The 5 "E's" of Community Risk Reduction:

- Evaluation Measures- detailed incident data collection, risk analysis, and development of risk reduction solutions through origin/cause investigation, planning/ISO, and accurate operations incident reporting;
- Engineering Measures- fire code plans review and ordinance/regulation research and development;
- Enforcement Measures- new construction fire code compliance and company inspections for all existing occupancies;
- Education Measures- identifying real risks affecting DeKalb County and research, design, development, and implementation of education materials and programs to remove and/or reduce those real risks for solutions;
- Emergency Response- notification of potential conditions to fire rescue operations for response .

In January 2019, the Fire Marshal's Office began offering the residential "Home Knox Box" program. This voluntary citizen program is similar to the required Commercial Business Knox Box Program,

but less expensive for the citizen to purchase and install. The program targets emergency response for single-family residential locations that may be occupied by persons who are older, have special needs, or are chronically ill, and who desire Fire Rescue to have a safe way to access their private residence in case of an emergency. All installed residential Home Knox Box locations commissioned by the FMO, will be followed up by an Operational Awareness Notification sent to the immediate responsible station, as well as, added to the CAD for a cautionary informational note during actual dispatch. Interested residents can contact Chief Joseph Cox, DeKalb County Fire Marshal direct at jkcox@dekalbcountyga.gov.



Fire Marshal Chief Joseph Cox

On February 14, 2019, crews responded to a two alarm business fire at 4150 Memorial Drive. While 29 units responded to that fire, DeKalb Fire Rescue still had units available to respond to additional fire emergency calls. During the course of that massive fire, some available units were seamlessly dispatched to an additional working house fire in DeKalb .

DeKalb Fire Rescue utilizes the Live Move-Up Module (LiveMUM) software which pairs with E-911's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) to provide real-time unit status, shows coverage gaps, unit location, provides incident assignment, and unit move-ups for maximized efficiency and optimized response.

