

# THE BLAZE

NOVEMBER 2019

DEKALB COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

ISSUE 8



3rd QUARTER  
STATS

MAINTAINING  
THE FLEET

FIREFIGHTER  
FITNESS



## 3rd Quarter 2019 Statistics

DeKalb Fire Rescue responded to **22,813** incidents in the third quarter, including **13,970** EMS calls and **8,843** fire related calls.

The Fire Marshal's Office conducted

- **1,897** requested business permit/license inspections,
- **1,777** fire prevention code compliance sessions with DeKalb County businesses.

The Public Education Unit interacted with **29,423** people.

### On the Cover

This group photo of DCFR Chief Officers, was taken at the Annual Chiefs Retreat, held on October 24, 2019.



3rd Quarter 2019 CALL STATS			
MUNICIPALITIES	MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALLS	FIRE RELATED CALLS	TOTAL OF CALLS
ATLANTA	165	375	540
AVONDALE	37	38	75
BROOKHAVEN	628	585	1213
CHAMBLEE	442	351	793
CLARKSTON	230	111	341
DECATUR	9	121	130
DORAVILLE	272	154	426
DUNWOODY	622	465	1087
LITHONIA	66	50	116
PINE LAKE	22	8	30
STONE MOUNTAIN	134	70	204
STONECREST	1204	810	2014
TUCKER	838	588	1426
UNINCORPORATED	9,301	5,117	14,418
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>13,970</b>	<b>8,843</b>	<b>22,813</b>

On September 11, 2019, DeKalb paused to honor the members of public safety who gave all 18 years ago. This year also marks the eighth commemorative year of the DeKalb County 9/11





# MAINTAINING THE FLEET

When the word “fleet” is defined as a noun, it means a large group of ships, planes, trucks, et cetera. When it is defined as an adjective, “fleet” means swift or rapid. Lastly, when defined as a verb, “fleet” means to move swiftly. So when the phrase DeKalb County Fleet Management Fire Rescue Division is said, it strongly conveys that a large group of fire rescue apparatus will be maintained swiftly for DeKalb County. Fleet maintenance for such a busy department is a massive operation. The DeKalb Fleet Management Fire Rescue Division has nine dedicated technicians and three fleet supervisors to keep its vehicles ready to respond, and is renowned as one of the best fleet maintenance divisions in the country. DeKalb Fire Rescue operates with a daily deployment model of 47 units available daily for emergency response, and has a total fleet of 175 units. In 2018, Fleet Management performed for DeKalb County Fire Rescue:

- 355 oil changes
- 30 brake jobs
- 180 preventative maintenance service repairs
- 1332 other repairs not listed above.

Support Services Battalion Chief Melvin Carter says that in addition to this deployment model “in case of a breakdown of frontline units, [DCFR] has 21 vehicles in reserve that can be put into service.” These

reserve units are strategically located across the county to assist with speedy deployment. This level of readiness offers an added benefit to emergency response. DeKalb chiefs can quickly put those units into service, during severe weather events or major incidents, staffing them with reserve personnel.

Nigel Wilson, the Fleet Superintendent, says that “as vehicles are brought in for minor repair issues, they are also inspected to ensure major components of the apparatus meet standards and recommendations.”

DCFR has four personnel coordinating the logistical operations of its fleet. Battalion Chief Melvin Carter, Captain Bryan Dobson, and Master Firefighter Donald Chappell, all of whom report to the Deputy Chief over Logistics and Support Services Chief Jason Smith. The redundancy of this effort is needed to maximize effectiveness while balancing a well maintained fleet. As such, DeKalb Fire Rescue syncs well with DeKalb Fleet Management, as their goals closely mirror each other. “If a vehicle goes down, we’ve got to get it back in service as soon as possible, and be able to have a ready reserve in place while repairs are being made,” says Deputy Chief Smith.

DeKalb Fleet Management, along with DeKalb Fire Rescue, helps ensure that the fleet is ready to respond and that no call goes unanswered.

The AirExpress Tiller serves DeKalb County and is based out of Brookhaven. This tractor drawn, 100HD foot vertical reach, heavy-duty ladder of firefighting power, can safely flow 1,500 gallons of water per minute at full extension.





# FIREFIGHTER FITNESS



**Purchased  
equipment at  
Station 23**



**Purchased equipment  
at Station 19**



**Donated equipment  
at Station 5**

Some DeKalb Fire Rescue stations average over 7000 calls a year. That kind of call volume can test the physical limits of even the most physically fit. To meet the vigorous demands of the job many DeKalb firefighters physically train everyday. With the unconventional 24-hour shifts that firefighters work, getting a decent workout in usually means training at the station. This means that many DeKalb firefighters have to physically train utilizing donated equipment, or gym equipment that firefighters have brought from home. DeKalb Fire Rescue Health and Safety Officer (HSO) Chris Cavender was tasked by Chief Fullum to purchase new equipment for each

fire station. Capt. Cavender says "one of the goals of the department is to make sure that all of our members have access to safe gym equipment at their stations and that they make fitness a key part of their daily routine." Progress is being made, as some of the newer stations have more modern fitness equipment. But, as of right now, many of the older stations have little to no equipment at all.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, or desire to offer expertise in physical training, nutrition, or healthy living, please contact Capt. Cavender at [ccavender@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:ccavender@dekalbcountyga.gov).





**Fire Chief Darnell Fullum was invited as the honored guest of Atlanta United at a game earlier this season. Also representing DeKalb County were the DCFR and DKPD Honor Guards, who presented the colors before the start of the game.**

