

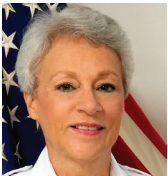
VOLUNTEER DIVISION CHIEFS

MONTGOMERY DIVISION



Chris Mills

SKIDAWAY DIVISION



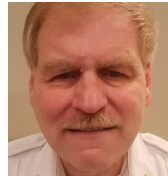
Carey Ruppert

SOUTHSIDE DIVISION



Jonathan McCrary

SEVENTH DISTRICT DIVISION



Tom Bartlett

ISLANDS DIVISION



Jeff Mills, Jr.



CHATHAM EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fall 2021 • "Your Subscriber Fire Service" Tell Your Neighbor

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

CHATHAM EMERGENCY SERVICES' GREEN INITIATIVES

~ Chuck Kearns, CEO



Three years ago, CES began moving in a direction to reduce our carbon footprint. The initiatives we began were designed to have our agency be more environmentally sensitive; resource-preserving; improve efficiency; save money, improve both response time and firefighting performance as well as patient outcomes. The following initiatives are helping to reduce our use of natural resources and impact on the planet:

- Converting the ambulance fleet from diesel to cleaner burning gasoline. 37 of 46 have been converted in the last three years. All should be converted by September 2022.
- CES purchased eight, smaller and more efficient Ford Transit chassis ambulances which get better fuel mileage.
- Solar Panels are being added to ambulance roofs to charge batteries, electronic and medical equipment versus plugging into electric outlets.
- CES recycles and remounts, our used ambulance patient compartment "boxes." Re-using fully-reconditioned and upgraded boxes preserve natural resources and saves approximately \$30,000 - \$50,000 per ambulance.
- CES Purchased several refurbished fire trucks with three-year warranties to preserve natural resources and save hundreds of thousands of dollars over building new apparatus.
- We have greatly increased use of technology to reduce the use of paper and now transmit every call's information electronically between the 9-1-1 center, field crews and hospitals.
- CES is now using cutting edge technology to speed dispatch and reduce response time.
- Ultraviolet (UV-C) lights are being installed in all ambulances to disinfect surfaces without using harsh chemicals.
- Clean-burning, natural gas-powered generators are at 13 fire stations.
- The headquarters complex is built to Category 4 Hurricane resistance. Thick, dark-tinted windows also reduce energy cost.
- CES employs a service that pick-ups, recycles and properly disposes of used vehicle fluids.
- All office papers are shredded and recycled.
- CES implemented online bill pay to save paper and postage

These are the ideas we have enacted to make our agency more efficient and earth-friendly. We intend to keep being inventive and resourceful in these areas as we move into the future.

A LOOK INSIDE CES

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Blood pressure checks are taken at all Chatham Stations between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday (if Firefighter is available).

CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES

When you set your clocks back November 7th, remember to also change the batteries in your smoke alarm.

HOME FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

To schedule a home inspection, please call at (912) 354-1011 during normal business hours. Please be prepared to give us your home address, home/cell phone, and what times are best for you.

CAREERS

Chatham Emergency Services is currently accepting applications for Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic/Dispatcher/Mechanic/Fire Watch positions. You may drop by our Headquarters

to pick up an application or download from our website. **Learn more about career opportunities at www.chathames.org/careers.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Chatham Fire Department is a non-profit public service organization. Every dollar of your subscription money goes for the provision of fire protection and rescue services.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.

Our present insurance classification (class 2/2x) is the best of any combination fire department in the Southeastern United States.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions regarding our services, programs, and subscriptions, please check our website at www.chathames.org.

FOR EMERGENCIES:

Always Call 9-1-1, or our dispatch center directly at (912) 355-6688.

CHATHAM EMERGENCY SERVICES

1399 Dean Forest Rd.
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 354-1011
contact@chathames.org
www.chathames.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FIREFIGHTER FOCUS

~ James Vickers, *Fire Chief*



2020 was an unprecedented year in the history of the Chatham Fire Department (CFD) and our members handled the challenges presented with professionalism, flexibility, with a focus on quality service and safety for our community. As the Fire Chief, I am extremely proud of our members. In March, the coronavirus put our department in a position where we had to evolve the way we deliver service. Unlike many other professions, we cannot close or work from home. Instead, we had to adapt and transform how we respond to emergencies in a manner that protects the community, and still protect our firefighters and their families. The members of CFD have done an amazing job rising to this challenge.

It is impossible to fully capture in an annual newsletter article the many ways our department has positively impacted the community but I would like to highlight a few major projects outside of our normal preparedness and response. By partnering with ESRI ArcGIS, Savannah Area Geographic Information System (SAGIS), and the Chatham County Engineering Department a countywide hydrant / water supply study and drive time analysis were completed. The hydrant and water supply field work was conducted by the on duty firefighters over an 18-month period ending in late 2020. The data configuration and the final product was coordinated by our very own CES Information Technology (IT) Department. The end results were amazing and the public version of the hydrant data is now available for viewing at <https://chathamfires.org/hydrants/>. As such, we have been able to guide two residents through their installation of a dry hydrant (which is connected to a natural body of water), decreasing risk and insurance premiums. Please take the time to find your nearest hydrant. You can help us by making sure hydrants are not hidden or blocked by decorative foliage or a fence. Simply put, if we cannot see or access the hydrant, we cannot use it. This causes substantial delays in extinguishment subsequently increasing fire damage.

The drive time analysis allows us to now measure CFD operational performance reducing risk in the community. These and other data driven projects helps CFD to maintain its 2/2X Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating with the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Fire departments that have achieved better PPC ratings have established procedures, processes, and best practices in place that can serve as examples to other communities. When not involved with this type of special projects, CFD personnel are spending tens of thousands of hours conducting training, building preplanning, or apparatus, equipment and station maintenance.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer or career firefighter, please check out our career link <https://chathamfires.org/applicantpool.com/jobs/>

In closing, it truly takes a village. These improvements and services provided by the CFD were only possible through the collective efforts of everyone in the organization including all the CES departments; career and volunteer firefighters, officers, and chiefs; and with the support of executive leadership, board of directors, elected officials, law enforcement, neighboring fire departments, and last but not least, those we serve – the community. Thank you for your support to ensure the success of CFD.

EMS FOCUS

~ Bengie Cowart, *EMS Chief*



Chatham EMS has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services for its compliance with national standards of excellence. Chatham EMS is one of only 180 ambulance services in the country to successfully complete the voluntary review process which included completion of a comprehensive application and an on-site review by a team of national experts in emergency medical services (EMS). With this achievement, Chatham EMS becomes only the 9th ambulance service to become accredited in the State of Georgia.

The commission is a non-profit organization

which was established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation systems. The primary focus of the Commission's standards is high-quality patient care. This is accomplished by establishing national standards which not only address the delivery of patient care, but also the ambulance service's total operation and its relationship with other agencies, the general public, and the medical community. The Commission's standards often exceed state and local licensing requirements.

Achieving ambulance accreditation represents our firm commitment to our patients and community. We continuously strive to do our best and we view accreditation as another step toward excellence.

Our staff has been key to our successful completion of the two-year preparation process. It gives our team members the feeling of prestige and pride to work in an accredited ambulance service. Everyone here played a valuable role in our ability to meet the Commission's high standards. We have achieved accreditation but it is only a step in our journey for continuous improvement.



COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

~ Barbara Immel, *Communications Chief*



The first ever Chatham Emergency Services Dispatch Recruit Academy was held in January, 2021. This unique learning experience included four weeks of classroom and hands-on instruction. Recruits toured CES Station 3 to learn about fire operations; completed 12-hour ride-alongs on ambulances, and heard from several guest speakers to learn about our service area geography, the PulsePoint App, and other aspects of the agency's operations.

The recruits successfully completed the Call-Taking phase of Dispatch training, and attended a 40-hour Emergency Telecommunicator Course, which is a state certification class. All of the attendees achieved certification as Emergency Telecommunicators.

Since the successful launch of the first Dispatch Recruit Academy, there has been an additional academy that also concluded in the participants and other CES Dispatchers becoming certified as Emergency Telecommunicators.

The Communications Center continues to experience growth and new opportunities for its personnel in areas of quality assurance, continuing education, and training.

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MAKING YOUR FIRE SUBSCRIPTION EASIER!

~ Nakeisha Jones, *Finance Director*



We are making it easier to subscribe and pay your fire subscription service fee electronically.

Visit our website at: www.chathamfires.org from there you can do the following:

- Pay your fire subscription invoice – must have an account number*
- Complete an application for service, sign and upload your insurance declaration page. It will be sent directly to our team for processing.
- Have access to all of our up-to-date financial information.
- You can also receive your invoice via email and pay directly from the email.

Do we have your email address? If not, please send us an email at subscriptions@chathamfires.org so we can add your email to your account. You will then receive your invoice via email before you receive it in the mail.

Thank you for your support of Chatham Fire Department. We can't do what we do with you!

SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS

~ Phil Koster, *COO*



Chatham Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics, Dispatchers, Fire Watch, and a litany of support personnel provide essential public safety protection to all Chatham County citizens and guests 24/7/365. The entire team works together to provide this essential service and data is continually monitored as part of continuous improvement. The following are inside statistics as to the operations of Chatham Emergency Services:

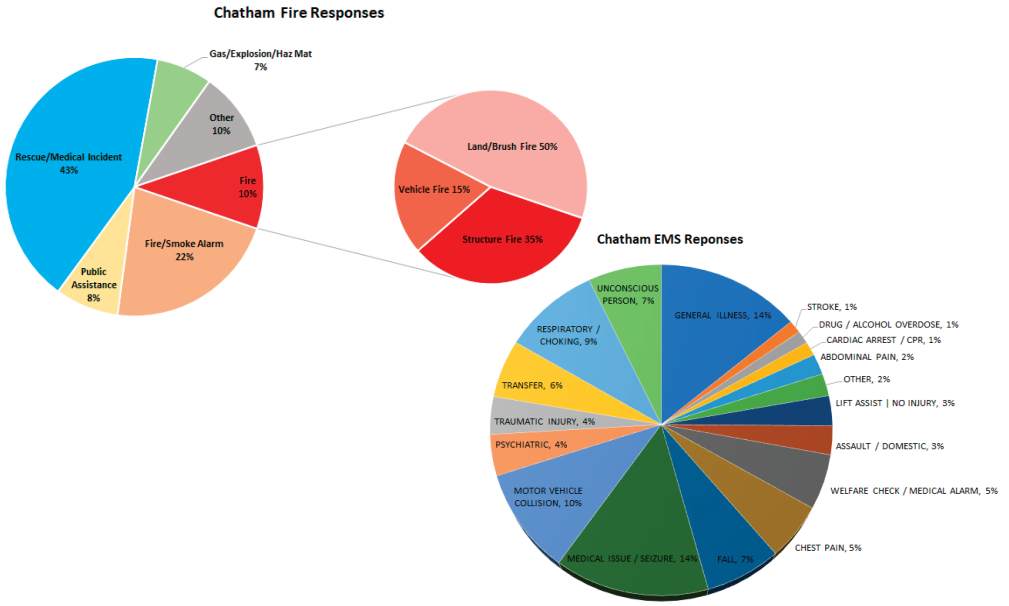
Total Annual Calls: 71,860 (197/day)
Fire: 3,308 (9/day)
EMS: 68,552 (188/day)

Personnel:

- 4 Mechanics
- 17 Dispatchers
- 17 Fire Watch Personnel
- 102 Career Firefighters
- 67 Auxiliary and Volunteer Firefighters
- 187 EMTs and Paramedics
- 19 Administration and Support

Fleet:

- 46 Ambulances
- 20 Fire Engines
- 6 Ladder Trucks
- 4 Water Tenders (tankers)
- 25 Support and Command



HUMAN RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

~ Tiffany D. Stewart, *Human Resources Director*



Recruitment is a large part of any Human Resources department's activities across the country. Currently in the United States, Human Resource departments for emergency personnel are busy and experiencing a surge of hiring during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic, emergency response personnel did not shut down as we are a huge provider of essential services within our local community. Fire and EMS First Responders, Dispatchers, Administration and other support staff jointly form the staffing for emergency response

agencies. Each department plays a significant role within the organization to ensure that Chatham Emergency Services provide quick fire response and the best quality EMS care to our citizens and visitors.

Because our agency never suspended services throughout the pandemic, none of our team members were laid off or lost their job. During disasters of any kind, first responders and support personnel always have job security because our community needs us!

Here at Chatham Emergency Services, we have several opportunities for residents to join our organization. If you, a family member, friend or someone new to the Savannah area is interested in becoming a part of our organization, please visit our website: www.chathamfires.org, click on the career link and apply for any open positions. You can also email our HR Department directly at: hr@chathamfires.org. We provide all of the necessary training! We look forward to more community members joining our team!