



**WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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Chief

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Westfield Volunteer Fire Dept,
Inc.**

<https://westfieldvfd.com/>



Westfield Volunteer Fire Department Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

1st Quarter, 2022

What's Inside

- **News from the Chief**
- **Fall Fire Frenzy**
- **Christmas Toy Drive**
- **Fire Department Awards Ceremony**

**We are always
looking for
new members!**

**Stop by on Sundays or
contact a member for
more information!**





Creating a Culture for the Next Generation



2021 has been a year of great progress in the fire service for the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department. From receiving the State Fire Grant and SAFFER Grant to ordering the first of its kind in our area Mini pumper. To giving out roughly, 100 book bags with schools supplies to the children in the community when school began in August, to catering to roughly 275 children this Christmas season with gifts. To responding to more than 350 emergency calls this year, to our department having more than 4000 hours of training this year.

Our department is a volunteer/part time community-based department with strong support from hard working men and women who love helping their community in its time of need.

Over the last two years, the officers have made it a mission to make the culture of our department the best it has ever been. Family is a word most of us use to represent our wives, husbands, parents, siblings and cousins. However, we sometimes have other families such as a work family, church family, and friends we consider family. The members of this department are what make us a department family. There are many weeks we see our department family more than we see our actual families. This is one reason the culture of the department has to be positive in all aspects. Building this culture starts with the officers, and each member of the department has bought into the philosophy. This is a culture where members understand leadership positions, members understand their roles on emergency scenes, and members understand why we are in the department: putting the community first.



From the desk of the Fire Chief, Continued

While building this culture along with the chief officers understanding the direction that the department needed to go as a family, one change we made was to re-design our department patch. This patch was created from our newly designed department emblem. Bill Sluys, firefighter and treasurer of our Board of Directors, designed a new department emblem for our 2020 building dedication ceremony. This emblem can be seen above the entryway into the department. And from this emblem came our new symbol of the department, our department patch.



This newly design patch has different symbols that represent our department in this new culture the officers have created. We also wanted to represent our past with several items. First, the new emblem designed in 2020 is the centerpiece of the patch. This centerpiece represents when the department began along with our station number. The next area of redesign goes back to the 1980's when the First Response program was implemented. This is represented with the EKG lines behind the emblem



From the desk of the Fire Chief, Continued

Another item represented on the patch that the designers are proud of is the tobacco leaf located in the lower left corner. From 1963 to 1985, our department operated almost totally from monetary contributions from the community. Most of the contributions were given from monies made in the tobacco fields around the community. In the lower right hand corner of the patch, we wanted to represent one of the biggest undertakings of our department through its history; the reduction in our insurance rating. This allows citizens within a 5-mile driving distance of our fire department to receive a sizable reduction in their homeowners and property insurance each year. Our current ISO rating is a 5/9E. Finally, the designers wanted to represent our latest undertaking; becoming both a Fire and Rescue certified department. In early 2022, our department will become State Rescue Certified and begin offering Rescue services along with our current Fire and Medical protection services. This patch and symbol can be found on many items that the department uses on a daily basis. For example: the department letterhead, department clothing (hats, shirts, beanies), paid staff clothing, license plates, velcro patches, class A department uniforms, bumper stickers, pins, and more.

From our updated culture comes many things; expectations, understanding unity, and responsibilities. Over the previous years, our culture has evolved to what it is today. Many firefighters before us began creating the culture of today and the current members are now continuing to improve the culture on the day-to-day basis. It is very important to the leadership of our department that our past is not forgotten but is incorporated into aspects of what we do in today's services. Thank you to all members who have embraced today's culture of the Department and understand that the culture built today will help change the future for the next generation of firefighting.

Jonathan Sutphin, WVFD Chief



Safety First

Driving on black ice may be one of the most dangerous aspects of winter. Prepare yourself with these safety tips.

Facts About Black Ice:

1. Black ice isn't actually black. It is ice that forms on road surfaces, with fewer air bubbles, which gives it the look of innocent wet spots.
2. Black ice forms when road temperatures reach freezing while rain or sleet continues to fall.
3. Problem areas are curves, bases of inclines, and anywhere water may collect on roadways.

How To Avoid Black Ice:

1. Be aware of weather conditions.
2. Assume every wet spot you see is black ice.
3. Try to drive around "wet spots" that appear to be black ice if at all possible.
4. Know your city. Avoid areas you know are prone to black ice.
5. Lastly, keep an eye out for skid marks or stranded motorists. There is a good chance you're not the first one to have found a patch of black ice.

4 Tips For Staying Safe:

Since you can't always see or avoid black ice, we are going to let you know 4 simple ways to stay safe while driving over it:

1. Go Slow and Steady.
 - Just like driving in snow, you will want to go slow and steady. Black ice is smooth, and offers no traction for your tires at all.
2. Avoid Braking or Pump Brakes.
 - Let off your brake when reaching black ice. Pump brakes if you need to slow down, and avoid slamming on brakes under any circumstances.
3. Know How to Handle a Skid.
 - Do not overcorrect. Gently turn into the skid, while pumping the brakes.
4. Watch the Temperature!
 - If you do not feel comfortable driving—stay home.

**IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY** Call
911



WVFD CHRISTMAS DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY

On December 12th at 6:00pm, the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department had its yearly annual Christmas dinner with a celebration of the years accomplishments afterwards. This year, Randy Brown catered our dinner. The departments members and families enjoyed a beautiful garden salad, ribeye steak, grilled chicken, cheesy potatoes, green beans, rolls, and a large selection of deserts. There were roughly 60 people in attendance including firefighters, rescue members, first responders and their families. This dinner always brings out the unity of the department and shows how each member is appreciated for what they do for the community. We are thankful for times like these when the department comes together celebrating the lives we have helped, property we have saved, and goals we have accomplished the past year.

There were many awards given out throughout the night. The first award went to the members who had recently received their NC State Medical Responder Certification through Surry Community College. These members spent over 80 hours in class time and skills evaluations, along with passing a certification exam to improve the services of the department and to help the citizens in the community. These members received a token of appreciation from the Chief and nice pocket knife for their hard work. Pictured are: Lt. Kevin Nunn, Firefighters Kamron Nunn, Alan Young, and Henry Key. Not pictured: Safety Officer Jimmy Harrison





WVFD CHRISTMAS DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY CONT.

The second set of awards went to our volunteers who received their certification for two specialty classes in Technical Rescue (TR) certification. The two classes were TR – Machinery and Agriculture and TR – Vehicle Rescue. Both of these classes combined were 80 hours. These members took this training through the Surry Community College Emergency Service Center. Each member who completed the classes received two window punches and a two glass breaking tools to help them in the field of work. Pictured are: Captain Jordan Smith, Henry Key, Lt. Glenn Lamb, Lt. Kevin Nunn, Bill Sluyes, Landon Martin, and Chief Jonathan Sutphin.



The third award went to an officer that completed his Fire Officer I and II certification, Engineer Matt Hutchens. These classes develop firefighters into better officers who can take a leadership role on the scene managing the department. These classes also help in the ISO inspections every five years. The state inspectors look for officers with this training because of the amount of leadership required to operate an effective fire department.



WVFD CHRISTMAS DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Matt, received an engraved pocket knife to commemorate the certification. Pictured are: Engineer Matt Hutchens and the presenter of the award Deputy Chief Matt Martin



The next two awards were presented to two firefighters that went above and beyond the call of duty this year. Not only did they respond to the most fire calls this year but both also completed over 700 hours of training. Captain Jordan Smith completed his Firefighter I and II, TR - General, TR - Ag and Machinery, TR - Vehicles certifications, and is currently working to complete his EMT certification through Forsyth Technical college. Lt. Glenn Lamb received 794 hours of training including Firefighter I and II, TR - General, TR - Ag and Machinery, TR - Vehicles Rescue, TR - Structural collapse, TR - Water Rescue, TR - Wilderness, and Chiefs 101 certifications. Both of these volunteer firefighters have given their all this year for their community.



WVFD CHRISTMAS DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY CONT.

We are lucky to have these focused and goal driven men to serve in our department. Pictured are: (1st picture) Presenter Deputy Chief Matt Martin, Captain Jordan Smith. (2nd picture) Presenter Matt Martin, Lt. Glenn Lamb.



The next award to be presented was the 2021 Firefighter of the Year. The members of the department vote on this award each year. While voting, each member takes into consideration who has given the most effort in training, meetings, calls ran run, planning big events in the department, taking on new roles in the department, working as a department member with the counties to implement policies and procedures, etc. This year's Firefighter of the Year award went to Glenn Lamb. Glenn has given 110% to the fire department in 2021. He has pushed other members to become better firefighters and took on a leadership role by being the mentor to others.



WVFD CHRISTMAS DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY CONT.

Congratulations Glenn for your achievement and hard work you have given to the community over the last year. Pictured right to left, presenter - Chief Jonathan Sutphin, Firefighter of the year - Lt. Glenn Lamb



The next award to be presented was the 2021 First Responder of the Year. Just like the Firefighter of the year, the First Responders of the department vote on this award each year. This year's First Responder of the Year award went to Kamron Nunn. Kamron received his Medical Responder Certification in the Spring of 2021. Since receiving his certification, Kamron has run many calls while learning different ways of practicing patient care throughout the community. Over the last year, Kamron has run the third most calls in the department with 140 calls — all while working a full-time job and attending school to receive his Firefighter I and II certification



WVFD CHRISTMAS DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY CONT.

Kamron is a young First Responder but shows great skills and understands improving his skills will help the community in its time of need. Congratulations to the 2021 First Responder of the Year Kamron Nunn.



The final award to be presented was the 2021 Junior Firefighter of the Year. In 1995, the department started a Junior firefighting program that has produced many good firefighters over the years. This year's award went to Landon Martin. Landon is a Junior at Millennium Charter School in Mt. Airy NC. While playing two sports and working on the farm, Landon gave his all to the fire department and his community. Landon is learning the different roles and jobs on a fire scene, the equipment used on a scene, handling himself while working with other, along with many other aspects of becoming a great firefighter.



WVFD CHRISTMAS DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY CONT.

This program is vital to our community while producing good firefighters at a young age. Congratulations to Landon Martin on being the 2021 Junior Firefighter of the year. Pictured right to left are Junior Firefighter of the Year - Landon Martin, Presenter, proud father and Deputy Chief - Matt Martin.



To end the night, the Chief Jonathan Sutphin introduced the 2022 officers to the attendees. These officers have made it a mission to provide the best possible services to the citizens in the Westfield Fire response district. All of the officers are unified on the direction of the department and understand the tasks at hand with growing and developing firefighters to run scenes and the operations of the department



WVFD CHRISTMAS DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY CONT.

Over the next few years the officers will continue to lead this department into the future and make strides to advance our younger generation into leadership roles in the Department. Pictured are left to right, Chief Jonathan Sutphin, Engineer Matt Hutchins, Lt. Kevin Nunn, Captain Jordan Smith, Lt. Glenn Lamb, Deputy Chief Matt Martin (Absent: Assistant Chief Lee Edwards and Safety Officer Jimmy Harrison)



Thank you to all the members of Westfield Volunteer Fire Department for your service to our community and for the tireless work you put in to keep our residents safe.



I'was the Day Before Christmas

ON DECEMBER 24, 2021, THE WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED A 6-YEAR TRADITION OF GIVING GIFTS TO CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY AT CHRISTMAS TIME. OVER THE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS HAD A GREAT PARTNER IN THIS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT WITH THE FAMILY DOLLAR STORE IN WESTFIELD. THAT CONTINUED THIS YEAR AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE ABLE TO DROP OFF GIFTS FOR ALL AGE GROUPS AT THE STORE ENTRANCE. THIS YEAR THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PARTNERED WITH WESTFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH (MONETARY DONATIONS AND COLD WEATHER ATTIRE), WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH (MONETARY DONATIONS), RESCUE BAPTIST CHURCH (CHILDREN 'S GIFTS AND COLD WEATHER ATTIRE), DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FROM ALL OVER THE US.





I'was the Day Before Christmas Cont.

THE DEPARTMENT MET EARLY ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND BEGAN ORGANIZING THE GIFTS THAT WERE DONATED FOR DISTRIBUTION. FOURTEEN DEPARTMENT MEMBERS, ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES, AND 22 WESTFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERS WERE ABLE TO MEET TO DISTRIBUTE THE GIFTS. WE BROKE UP INTO THREE DIFFERENT GROUPS. ONE GROUP STAYED AT THE STATION AND GAVE THE GIFTS TO ROUGHLY 75 CHILDREN THAT STOPPED BY THE STATION. THE OTHER TWO GROUPS SPLIT UP AND DELIVERED GIFTS TO ROUGHLY 200 CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WESTFIELD FIRE DISTRICT IN SURRY AND STOKES COUNTY. EVERY YEAR IT HAS BECOME A TRADITION THAT WE DELIVER THE GIFTS IN FIRE TRUCKS, WE PULL INTO EACH AREA WITH SIRENS BLARING AND LIGHTS FLASHING. AS THE CHILDREN HEAR THE SIRENS, THEY WILL COME OUT RUNNING OUT OF THEIR HOMES TO GREET US. THIS HAS ALWAYS HELPED BUILD THE EXCITEMENT FOR THE FIREFIGHTERS AND THE CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY.





I'was the Day Before Christmas Cont.

NORMALLY, THE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO DISTRIBUTE GIFTS TO AROUND 120 CHILDREN. THIS YEAR, WITH THE HELP OF THE PARTNERS AND THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT WE WERE ABLE TO GO OVER AND BEYOND THAT TO PROVIDE EACH CHILD WITH MULTIPLE TOY GIFTS, HYGIENE SUPPLIES, BLANKETS, WINTER WEATHER ATTIRE AND MUCH MORE. THIS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT HAS BEEN SPECIAL TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS EACH YEAR. IT TRULY TAKES A COMMUNITY TO SUPPLY ALL THESE GIFTS AND DISTRIBUTE THEM THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT ON CHRISTMAS EVE.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE SUPPORT IN THIS PROJECT AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SURPRISING CHILDREN EACH YEAR WITH GIFTS DONATED FROM THE COMMUNITY.



Fire on the Mountain: November Sees Two Local Landmarks Set Ablaze

Unauthorized campfires were responsible for major wildfires on two figureheads of our area. On Tuesday November 9th Stokes County Emergency Services received reports of a fire burning in an uninhabited area on Sauratown Mountain. Upon investigation firefighters and forestry service workers located an active woods fire. While earthmoving equipment was able to make containment lines to protect structures the fire itself wasn't easily accessible, requiring firefighters to hike to fight and resupply. Approximately 40 acres was burned before containment.

Several days later a second fire was reported at Pilot Mountain State Park. What became known as the Grindstone Fire was also started by a campfire during a Burn Ban period. Burning over 1000 acres, and coming within 200 feet of the new Visitor Center, the Grindstone Fire put NC Forestry workers to the test. At a press conference Governor Roy Cooper stated "The mountain will soon come back to life and we were excited about that.... Nature is resilient".

We would like to once again remind all citizens of our district to please abide by Burn Ban guidelines. In 2021 North Carolina saw double the number of wilderness fires as we have in the past 10 years. According to Forestry Service statistics November alone saw nearly 800 wildfires in our state.



Remember! Make way for emergency vehicles!

Move to the Right for Sirens and Lights!



JANUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING	10	11 SURRY Co. CHIEF'S MEETING	12	13	14	15 JUNIOR F.F. TRAINING
16	17	18	19	20 MONTHLY TRAINING	21	22
23	24	25 STOKES Co. CHIEF'S ASSN.	26	27	28	29
30	31					



FEBRUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 SURRY Co. CHIEF'S MEETING	9	10	11	12
13 MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING	14	15	16	17 MONTHLY TRAINING	18	19 JUNIOR F.F. TRAINING
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



MARCH 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 JUNIOR F.F. TRAINING
6	7	8 SURRY Co. CHIEF'S MEETING	9	10	11	12
13 MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING	14	15	16	17 MONTHLY TRAINING	18	19 RESCUE DAY ONE
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 STOKES Co. CHIEF'S ASSN.	30	31		