



**WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

3386 OLD WESTFIELD RD.

WESTFIELD, NC 27053

(336)351-2576

**Jonathan Sutphin**  
*Chief*

**Jordan Smith**  
*President of the Board*

**Matt Martin**  
*First Responder Captain*



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Westfield Volunteer Fire Dept,  
Inc.**

<https://westfieldvfd.com/>



## **Westfield Volunteer Fire Department Newsletter**

**Volume 2 Issue 2**

**2nd Quarter, 2022**

### **What's Inside**

- **News from the Chief**
- **Lawn Equipment Safety**
- **Firefighter Recruitment**
- **Calendar of Events**

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

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





## From the Desk of the Fire Chief

### Expanding Services



**Over the last few years the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department has moved forward in the 21st century to achieve many milestones that will benefit the community for years to come. Since the department's beginning, fire protection has been on the forefront of services. During the mid-80's, the department added the First Response program to help people in the fire district during medical emergencies. We have provided these services in Surry and Stokes County under the leadership of the department's Fire Chiefs and First**

**Response Captains to help many citizens in emergency situations with the skills of trained members and equipment they use.**

**At the end of 2020, the leadership of our department began developing plans to move our department towards becoming Light Rescue Certified – adding this service to our arsenal. After many meetings discussing the process and purpose of this endeavor, the board of directors decided in early 2021 to move towards this goal. One of the main reasons the Board of Directors followed the Chiefs' direction was to improve the lifesaving services in the Westfield Fire District. One of the missions of the department is to protect life and property from loss by fire and other accidental events in district. This new service of light rescue greatly improves this mission of helping protect and save lives in the community.**



# From the desk of the Fire Chief, Continued

**On February 9, 2022 the North Carolina Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services inspected our department and awarded the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department certification as a Light Rescue Provider and a Medical Responder unit.**





## From the desk of the Fire Chief, Continued

**To obtain these certifications the department must consistently have eight certified Rescue Technicians on the State roster with specialties in Vehicle Rescue and Agricultural Rescue. This training consists of roughly 200 hours of training. Our department presently has nine certified technicians with six additional members scheduled to be certified in June. This will give our fire department 15 fully certified Technicians to cater to an array of services. Along with the training, the State required the department to invest in the tools needed for this certification. Through the training, our members have become very proficient in using these tools. On February 28, 2022 we were awarded Light Rescue Certification. Some of the tools required to assist in these emergencies not already carried for Fire Protection include:**

Cribbing for stabilization (different sizes)	Pickets
500Ft of ½ rope	Two Class 2 harness or Class 3 harness
Assortment of carabiners	Assortment of descenders
Assortment of rigging plates	Assortment of prussik slides
Assortment of body cord for a minimum of 8 people	Assortment of flat and tubular webbing
Stokes basket	Assortment of pullies
Assortment of edge protectors	Many different handled tools
Assortment of cutting tools	Traffic and crowd control equipment
Pulling, lifting, and towing equipment	Assortment of hand tools
Water rescue equipment	Medical care equipment
Maps of state, county, and district	Incident command tools



## From the desk of the Fire Chief, Continued

**On March 21st the Surry County Commissioners granted a contract change for the services provided by the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department. This contract change aligned our revised charter (2021) to the services we now provide with Surry County. The commissioners understand in today's world of volunteerism, it is becoming extremely difficult to find dedicated volunteers to help the citizens in the County. This contract change allows the WVFD to start rescue services, assist other rescue squads, and perform light rescue techniques to help save lives in our fire district and the surrounding areas. As the top priority of the leadership in the department, this growth will continue to aid the citizens of our district during emergencies involving the protection of life and property. This is one way the WVFD continues to grow while providing better services in our community.**



**Spring is a Prime Time for wildfires!**  
**Always pay close attention to updated fire danger notices and be sure to follow all recommended guidelines.**



# Safety First

Spring is here again! And for most of us that means its time to start mowing our lawns again. Mowing can be a rewarding and meditative activity, but always remember these simple safety tips. Always wear safety equipment such as eye and ear protection, never remove the blade guard from your mower, and be sure to pick up sticks and rocks that may be thrown by your mowers spinning blades. And always remember that drugs and alcohol and power equipment can be a deadly combination!

## BEFORE MOWING



Allow enough daylight



Avoid bad weather and wet grass



Have safety equipment in place

## WHILE MOWING



Wear close-fitting clothes and closed-toe shoes



Wear safety goggles with side shields



Protect your hearing

## AFTER MOWING



Turn off and let engine cool before refueling



Turn off and let blades stop to remove grass catcher



Make sure everything's shut down before leaving the mower



## **New Firefighter Recruitment**

The volunteer fire service, as a whole, has been transitioning through many changes over the last 20 years. There are less volunteers entering the fire service because of many factors that have occurred over the years. In Westfield, those factors include job status, family life, obligations outside of work, etc. Over the last few years, the leadership of our department has tried to create ways to bring people into the fire service. A few examples are:

- The department has obtained a federal grant to reimburse volunteer firefighters to run calls. \$15.00 per call
- After qualifying, the department pays for the firefighter's retirement each year for 20 years. \$120.00 per year
- The department provides meals at trainings.
- The department provides a stipend to all members that run Stokes County calls.

Our department is a true believer in our junior firefighter program. Over the years, this program has produced many good firefighters and other emergency service personal throughout the state. It is essential that the junior firefighting programs across the county and state thrive because these young firefighters will, one day, be filling the shoes of the current generation. To help the fire service in Westfield and to make sure the department continues to grow, the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department participated in promotion presentations at all three Surry County High Schools on April 6th, 7th, and 8th.



## **New Firefighter Recruitment**

During these presentations to the students, we encouraged them to enroll in the new firefighter curriculum at Surry Community College taught by Ian Harrell. Through this curriculum, the students will earn their firefighter certification through 3 semesters at Surry Community College while attending high school. They will also earn high school credit for taking these classes that count towards their graduation. If the students choose this pathway, they will be eligible for hire with most of the Surry County volunteer/part time departments after graduating high school. This program allows students to obtain an advantage over others because they can acquire their certification during high school hours. This program was developed for students in the 11th and 12th grade. With the creation of this curriculum, students are able to learn the skills necessary to help their community in emergency situations at a younger age. Through these experiences, these students can enter the ranks of senior status at the age of 18 with experience already under their belts.

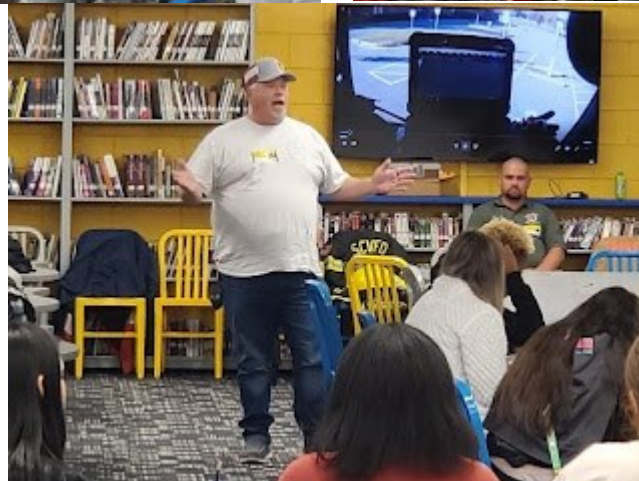
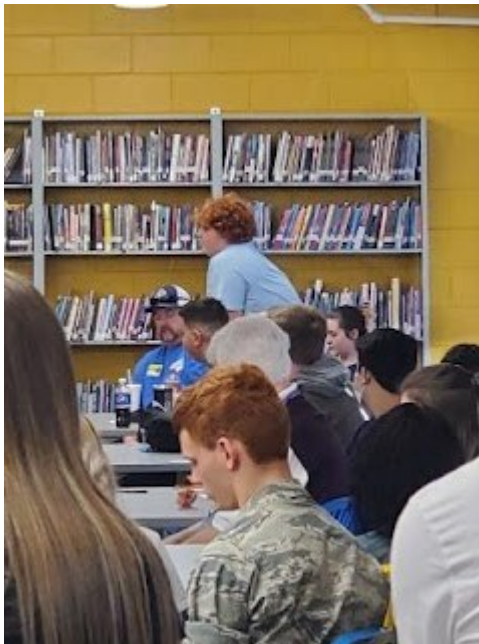
Another goal during these three sessions was to promote our junior programs. The Westfield Volunteer fire department sent four firefighters to East Surry to help with the promotions – Jonathan Sutphin, Kevin Nunn, Bill Sluys, and Royce Clodfelther. These men were able to give their testimonies about the department and help with the efforts of promoting this community service endeavor. Each firefighter was able to answer questions from the students and give their feedback to help the students better understand what the Westfield Volunteer Fire Department had to offer its community.





# New Firefighter Recruitment

In years past, students attending Surry County Schools did not have the opportunity to take classes such as this through the college and earn credits for Graduation. With Surry County Schools participating in the training of our next generations, the volunteer fire departments will hopefully have a larger pool of qualified candidates to obtain volunteers and help the citizens in our county. The WVFD continues to recruit new members and promote itself as a department that trains to help our citizens in their time of need.





# APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Junior F.F. Training
10 Monthly Business Meeting	11	12 Surry Co. Chief's Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Monthly Training	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



# MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Junior F.F. Training
8 Monthly Business Meeting	9	10 Surry Co. Chief's Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Monthly Training	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Stokes Co. Chief's Assn.				



# JUNE 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Junior F.F. Training
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Rescue Day Two
12 Monthly Business Meeting	13	14 Stokes Co. Chief's Meeting	15	16 Monthly Training	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		