

# 2015

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Bedford Fire Department



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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Bedford Fire Department is committed to preserving life and property through rapid emergency response, public education, organizational preparedness, and planning.



BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT 2015

## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Members of Council,

On behalf of our professional men and women who make up this fine department I present to you our annual report for 2015. This is a working document that addresses your fire departments daily activities and accomplishments during the past twelve months. It is my privilege to lead these professionals as we complete our 127th year of service to the community, again without a single call turned over to an outside agency. As emergencies increase this becomes more and more difficult but through forward thinking and creativity we continue to recruit and retain the finest firefighters our state has to offer.

As our community and emergencies continue to grow in numbers, so does our responsibility to provide the excellent service our residents have come to expect. We continued to add state of the art apparatus to our fleet this year with the purchase of a new heavy rescue truck. This unit is responsible for vehicle extrication as well as technical rescue incidents such as rope rescue, confined space, and swift water incidents. Our apparatus specification committee spent countless hours designing this unit and did an outstanding job. Since taking delivery, firefighters from four different states and across our Commonwealth have visited to get ideas as they design similar units.

The initiative I am most proud of this year was the implementation of our Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle (UAS) program. This cutting-edge technology has already assisted our personnel to locate a missing hiker on the Blue Ridge Parkway as well as a lost autistic child who wandered away from his home. Our UAS program, one of the first in country, has sparked conversations between the Federal Aviation Administration and local stakeholders such as fire service leaders, aviators, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to discuss regulations, training for public safety departments, and other hot issues that have recently arose with the sudden emergence of drones. Our program has made national news and is receiving a lot of attention as fire departments across the country start to show interest in starting their own programs. I am excited to see where our program goes as we continue to make necessary changes while leading others as they develop their own programs.

This report highlights the significant events and goals accomplished during the past twelve months. We are an exemplary department, thanks to the support of the Mayor, Town Council, Town Manager, Board of Supervisors, and citizens of Bedford which we serve.

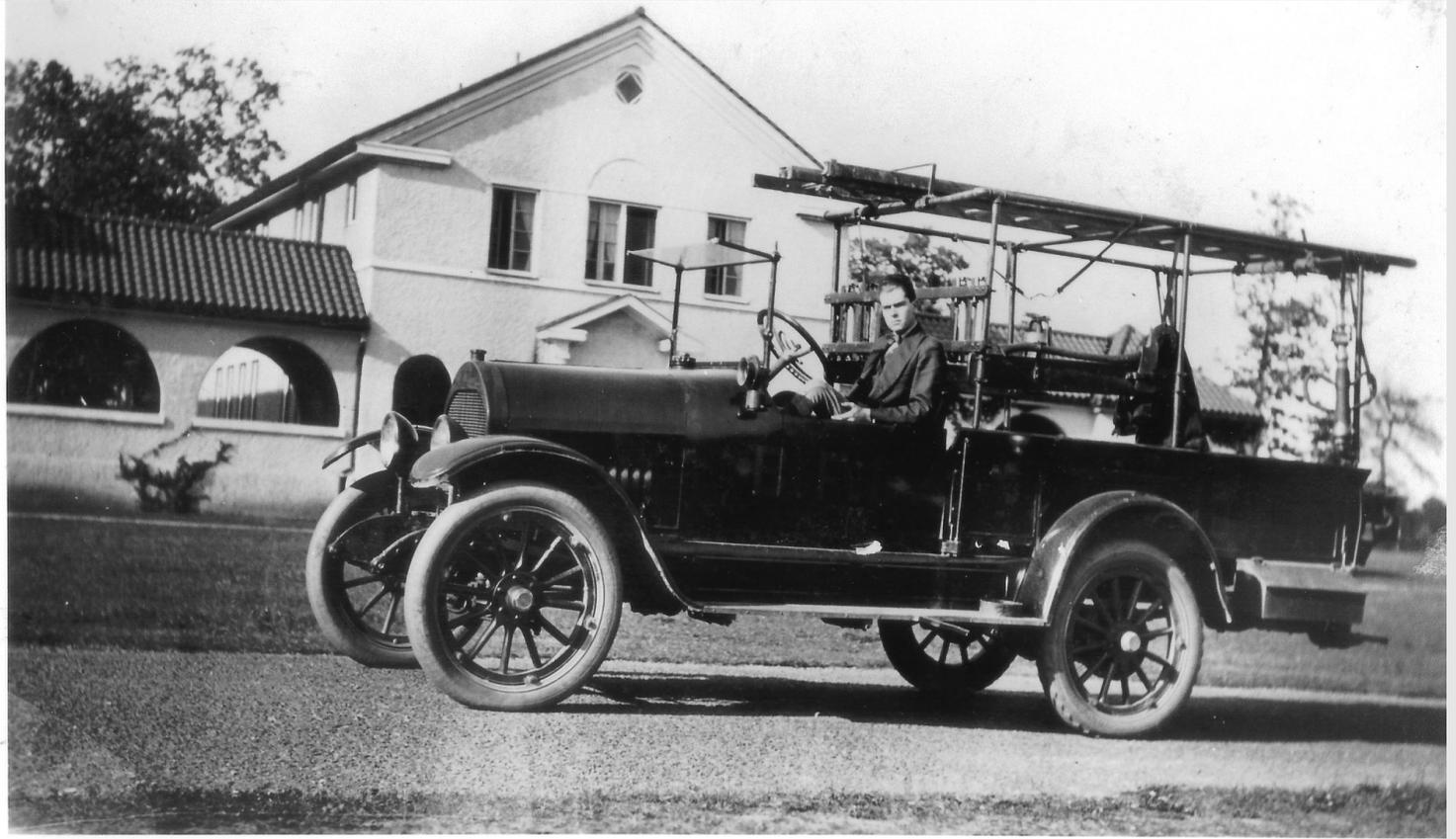
Yours in Service,



Brad Creasy

Fire Chief





## OUR HISTORY

*The need for organized fire protection in the then Town of Liberty became most evident on the morning of October 12, 1884 when a fire began in a store operated by J.N. Early on the southeast corner of Bridge Street and Railroad Avenue. When the fire was discovered in the early morning hours very little could be done, as there was no organized fire department and a meager water supply. When daylight came, only two buildings were left standing, and the scene was one of desolation. In the years to follow several important events contributed to the growth of this small town. When owners began rebuilding their downtown businesses they used more permanent materials such as brick and heavy timber. The town also began installing a municipal water supply and had installed twenty-five fire hydrants by 1886. Area business men met in the fall of 1887 to discuss the need for an organized fire company to protect area businesses and homes. Several months later in early 1888, the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department was organized with a membership of twenty-five volunteer firemen; most of whom were downtown merchant owners.*

*Originally located on Court Street near the intersection of East Main Street, the Town of Bedford constructed a new firehouse for the fire department on West Depot Street in 1927. To accommodate larger apparatus and a growing membership, the City of Bedford built the current fire station at 315 Bedford Avenue in 1974.*

### **B.F.D. TODAY**

**TOTAL SERVICE AREA: 194 square miles**

**TOTAL SERVICE POPULATION: 22,200**

**ACTIVE FIRE STATIONS: 1**

**APPARATUS FLEET: 10**

## 2015 DEPARTMENT ROSTER

Last Name	First Name	Years of Service	Rank
Stevens	Russell	41	Assistant Chief
Parker	James	37	Hose Foreman
Fulton	Greg	27	Firefighter/EMT-B
Long	Brandon	19	Firefighter
Creasy	Brad	19	Chief of Department
Musgrove	Kevin	14	Firefighter/EMT-B
Cunningham	Zeph	13	Deputy Chief
Garten	Jeremy	13	Firefighter
Evans	Jeremy	12	Firefighter/EMT-B
Creasey	Billy	11	Firefighter/EMT-B
Baker	Chad	11	Firefighter/EMT-I
Shutt	Matthew	10	Firefighter/EMT-E
Overstreet	Jason	10	Captain
Carter	Eric	10	Firefighter
Ohlinger	Jon	10	Firefighter/EMT-P
Pavich	Garrett	9	Firefighter/EMT-B
Marsahll	Curtis	9	Firefighter/EMT-P
Scott	Matthew	7	1st Lieutenant
Taggart	Kenny	7	Firefighter/EMT-E
Moore	John	7	Firefighter/EMT-B
Stenzel	Lance	7	Firefighter/EMT-B
Gardner	Chris	6	Firefighter
Gulatsi	John	6	Firefighter/EMT-I
King	Ryan	6	Firefighter
Hailey	Stacey	5	Firefighter/EMT-B
Crouch	Brandon	5	Firefighter
Wills	Stacey	5	Lieutenant
Hacker	Jerry	4	Firefighter/EMT-E
Cornett	Barry	4	Firefighter/EMT-B
Huckaby	Charles	3	Firefighter/EMT-B
Walters	Willie	3	Firefighter
Beisser	Jacob	3	Firefighter
Aud	Denver	3	Firefighter
McGinnis	M.J.	3	Firefighter/EMT-E
Rice	Nick	3	Firefighter/EMT-B
Allen	Matthew	1	Firefighter/EMT-B
Musgrove	Tiffany	1	Firefighter/EMT-P
Hecker	Rudy	1	Firefighter/EMT-I

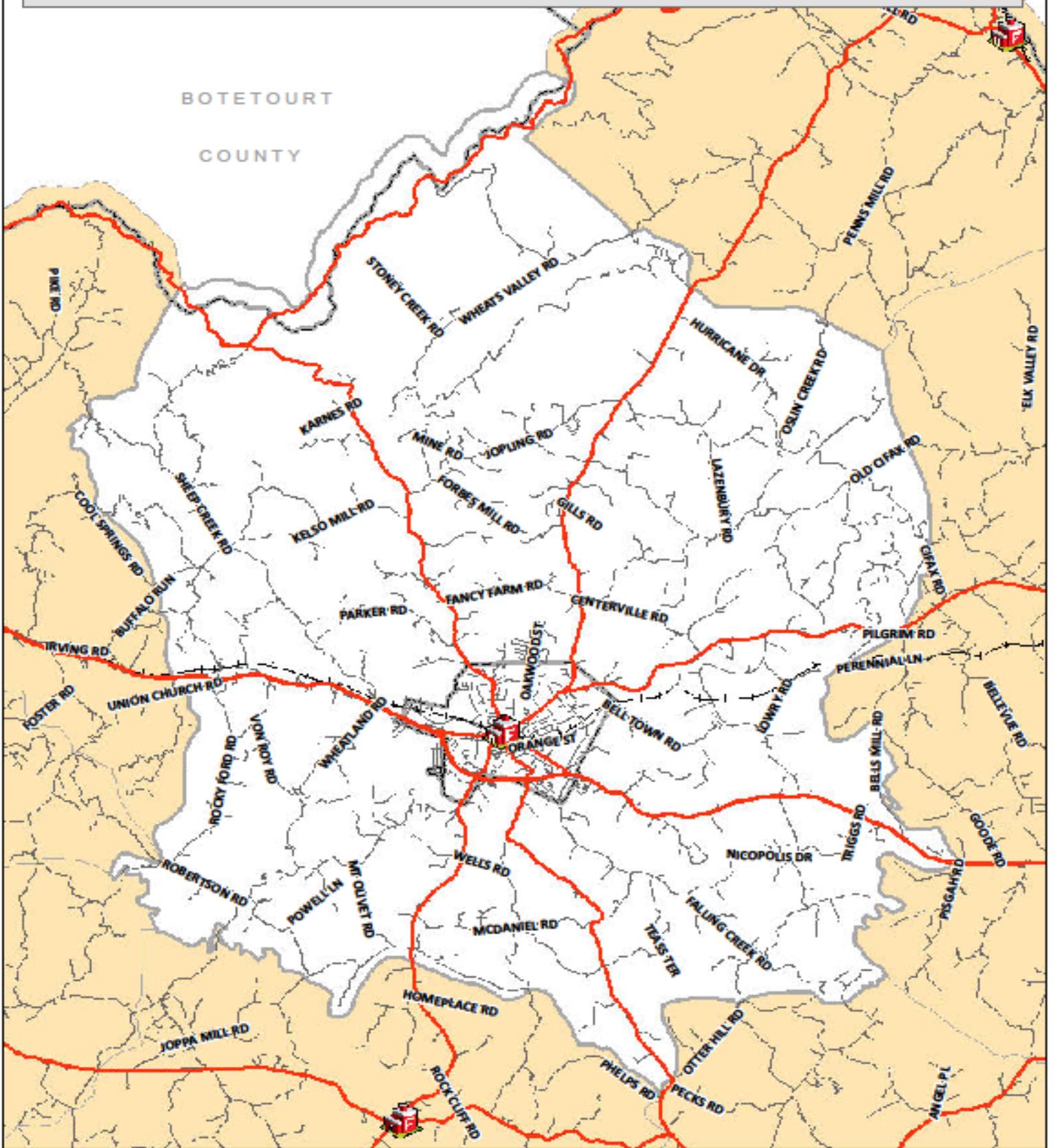
## 2015 Statistics Summary

- Total Responses: 1,041
- Average Firefighters per call: 9
- Average Reaction Time: 3 minutes
- Average Response Time (Town): 4 minutes
- Average Response Time (County): 7 minutes
- Responses that required fire suppression: 103
- Responses that involved medical treatment: 263
- Total dollar loss: \$423,055.00
- Civilian fire related injuries or deaths: 0
- Firefighter Injuries: 2
- Total On-Scene Man Hours: 9,380



Fire Department units responded to 193 motor vehicle crashes during 2015.

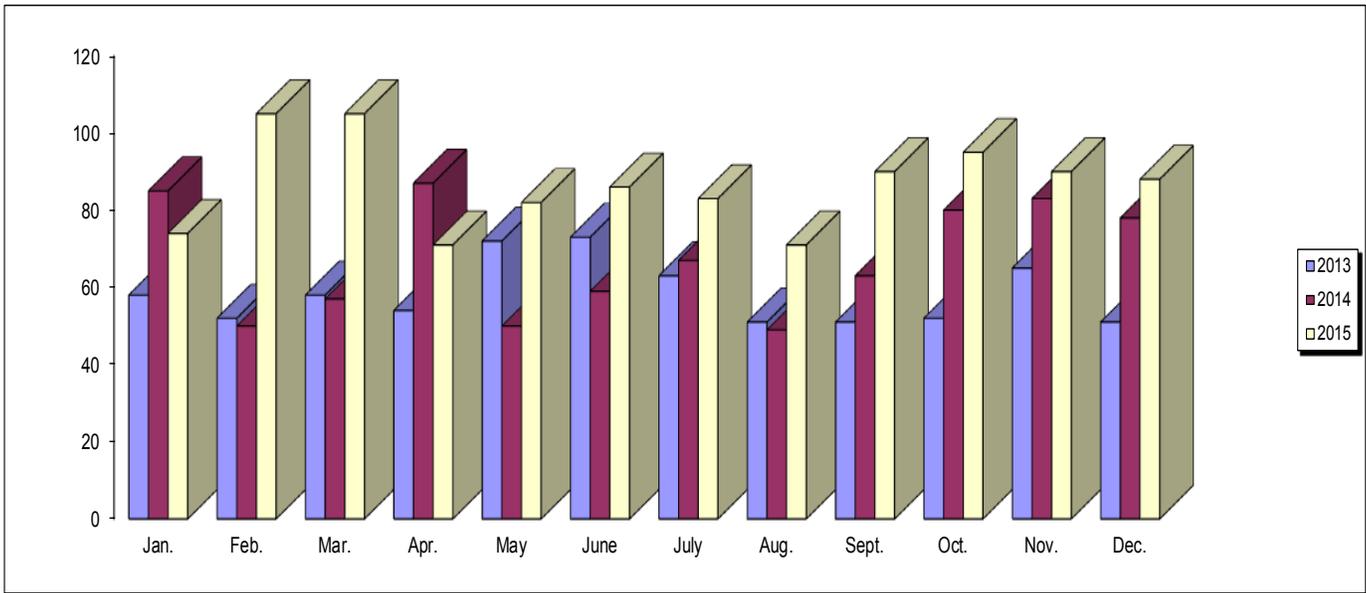
# Bedford Fire Company - First Due Response Area



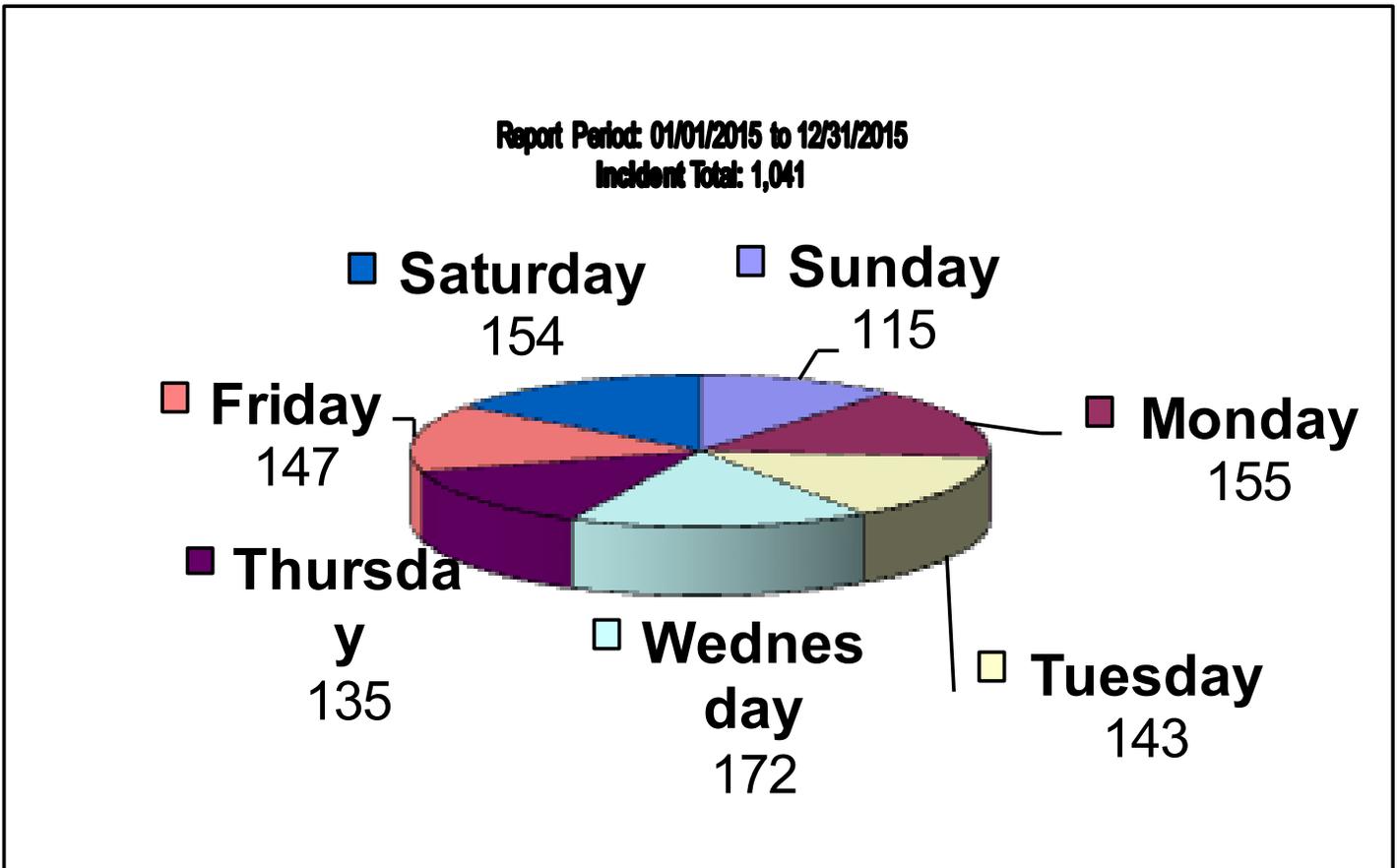
## GOALS ACCOMPLISHED

- 1. Purchase and place in service a new heavy rescue unit.** A 2015 Pierce Arrow XT Heavy Duty Rescue was placed into service on August 1, 2015. The apparatus committee spent over two years researching and meeting to write the specifications for this unit. The result is a \$735,000.00 unit that allows for more storage of technical rescue equipment while offering the most advanced extrication equipment and design available.
- 2. Secure funding to replace thirty self-contained breathing apparatus. (SCBA) .** The Bedford Fire Department was awarded \$168,000.00 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighter Grant to purchase thirty new SCBA; replacing fifteen year-old units. After months of field testing, a research committee gave its recommendation to purchase the Scott X3 Air Pak. Thirty new SCBA and sixty air bottles were purchased.
- 3. Implement an Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle (UAV) program.** After much research a DJI Phantom II UAV was purchased in May 2015. Five firefighters were chosen to become operators and begin training for the newly developed program. Staff are still working with the FAA to complete a Certificate of Authorization (COA) which allows the UAV to be operated in predetermined areas for public safety purposes.
- 4. Add one training prop at the Bedford Area Fire Training Center.** This regional training facility has grown each year since it's inception in 2003. As a joint venture between the town and county, expansion continues with the addition of new training props, shelters, and most recently a restroom facility. A pitched roof simulator was constructed in July followed by a flat-roof prop in September. These new props will allow firefighters to train on vertical ventilation tactics with the ability to quickly reset for multiple evolutions.
- 5. Improve efforts in Recruitment and Retention.** Utilizing social media including the department's website and Facebook page to announce openings, thirty-three applications were received between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31st. Eleven of those applicants passed the necessary background checks, physical examinations, and tests to begin their six month probationary period.
- 6. Research an electronic fire reporting system for National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).** After researching multiple electronic software options, the decision was made to purchase an add-on NFIRS module to the existing EMS reporting software Image Trend. BCoFR is funding this project which is scheduled to go online in June 2016.

## CALL VOLUME BY MONTH



## CALL VOLUME BY DAY OF WEEK



## 2015 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- January 5, 2015- BFD units responded to the 3000 block of West Lynchburg Salem Turnpike for a motor vehicle accident with multiple roll-over. Units arrived to find the driver unresponsive and pinned underneath the vehicle. Using airbags and cribbing, firefighters quickly lifted the vehicle to extricate the critically injured patient who suffered severe burns and lacerations. The critically injured patient was flown to Roanoke Memorial Hospital and where he was released several months later.
- March 12, 2015: Blue Ridge Parkway units requested BFD's newly purchased unmanned aircraft vehicle to assist in a search for a lost hiker in the National Park Service. The UAV or "drone" was deployed and although tree cover was too thick to search for the hiker, she was able to hear it flying and relay her location in proximity to the sound of the drone to the 911 dispatcher. By relaying this information to command, searchers located the hiker fifteen minutes after the drone was deployed.
- March 13, 2015: BFD units were dispatched at 12:26am to 511 South Street for multiple reports of the sound of an explosion. E1 arrived at 12:29 am to find fire showing from a two-story wood frame private dwelling. It took firefighters twenty minutes to bring the fire under control and left seven residents displaced. Fire damage was estimated at \$100,000.
- March 31, 2015: While multiple units operated on a four-acre brush fire, Bedford Communications alerted the BFD to the 600 block of Blue Ridge Avenue for reports of smoke coming from a house. E-1 arrived to find fire showing from the attack but quickly forced entry and extinguished a fire confined to the attic.
- August 6, 2015. Just fifteen minutes after placing Rescue 1 in service BFD units were dispatched to the 2500 blk of West Lynchburg Salem Turnpike for a motor vehicle crash with entrapment. The single occupant was fatally injured in the crash.
- September 11, 2015: BFD units were dispatched to the intersection of Five Forks Road and Wells Road for reports of a head-on collision. E1 arrived six minutes later to find heavy damage to both vehicles and two occupants trapped. Nineteen minutes after arriving all patients had been extricated and removed to awaiting medic units. One patient was flown by medi-vac helicopter to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital.



# SPECIAL AWARDS

(right) Firefighter/EMT Denver Aud was awarded the “Firefighter of the Year” award for 2015. This award came at a difficult time for Denver as he battles Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS). Since his diagnosis In October he has been on medical leave but he hopes to return to full duty in the spring of 2016 after completing a bone marrow transplant at Duke Medical Center.



Fire Chief Brad Creasy presents FF Matt Allen with the Rookie Firefighter of the Year award for 2015. This award, like the FF of the Year award, is decided by secret ballot cast by each member of the company.

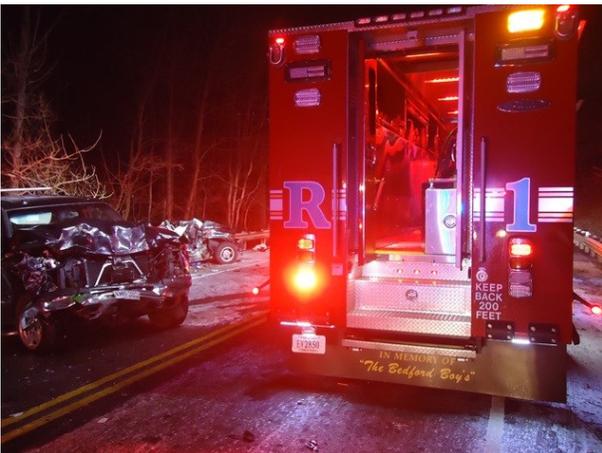


(above L to R) Stacey Hailey, Brandon Crouch, and Stacey Wills received 5 year service awards.

## NEW HEAVY RESCUE PLACED IN SERVICE



The department took delivery of a 2015 Pierce Arrow XT Heavy Rescue in May 2015. This unit carries an assortment of equipment to mitigate incidents that involve technical rescue. Those incidents include motor vehicle crashes with entrapment, confined space rescue, high-angle rope rescue, ice/swift water rescue, and hazardous material responses.



## CERTIFICATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### FIREFIGHTER II

A 40-hour course that is designed for the firefighter who is prepared to take more of a leadership role in the company. Students learn about leadership skills and more advanced fire ground techniques.

**Certificates received by: FF MJ McGinnis, and FF Jacob Overstreet**

### BASIC PUMP OPERATOR

A 16-hour course with detailed instruction on the operation, maintenance and design of pumping fire apparatus.

**Certificate received by: FF Brandon Crouch, FF MJ McGinnis, FF Nick Rice**

### MAYDAY, FIREFIGHTER DOWN

A 16-hour course designed to teach advanced skills in victim/firefighter removal with an emphasis on working under the extreme pressures encountered while rescuing another firefighter.

**Certificates received by: FF Denver Aud**

### SWIFTWATER TECHNICIAN

A 16 hour class designed to teach responders how to quickly respond to emergencies involving swift-moving water. Students learn hazards and hydrology, self rescue techniques, foot entrapments, and rescue techniques from shore and water.

**Certificates received by: FF/EMT-P Tiffaney Musgrove, FF Denver Aud, FF/EMT-P Taylor Neas**

### SWIFTWATER RESCUE-NIGHT OPERATIONS

A 8 hour class held at the National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, NC that is designed to develop day and night search functions, night operations technical skills, advanced boat and rope systems, advanced 2 point Type V PFD operations, night search mission and numerous practical exercises.

**Certificates received by: Captain Jason Overstreet, Lt. Stacey Wills, FF/EMT Kevin Musgrove, FF/EMT John**

### INSTRUCTOR I

40-hour course designed to train participants on advanced techniques in constructing lesson plan development and develop training aids to support delivery.

**Certificate received by: FF/PM Scott Campbell**

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-BASIC

A 120-hour course designed to instruct the student to the level of EMT-Basic who serves as a vital link in the chain of the health care team. It is recognized that the majority of pre-hospital medical care will be provided by the EMT- Basic.

**Certificate received by: FF/EMT Brandon Crouch**

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-ENHANCED

A 102-hour course designed to instruct the student in the following areas of pre-hospital care: preparatory skills, trauma, patient assessment, intravenous access and airway management.

**Certificate received by: FF/EMT-E MJ McGinnis**

# PUBLIC EDUCATION & SAFETY



BFD firefighters spend countless hours each year teaching fire prevention and safety at schools, daycares, businesses, and civic organization meetings. Working closely with the Bedford County Fire & Rescue career staff, BFD firefighters annually visit all four elementary schools that are located within the company's first due response area to teach fire safety in October. Through these programs over 2,000 children hear our fire safety message each year.



# TRAINING



The Bedford Area Fire Training Center, located at 1050 Orange Street in the Town of Bedford, provides a state of the art training facility for area firefighters. The facility is primarily used by the twelve fire companies located in Bedford County but is also utilized by fire-EMS personnel from Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem, and Campbell County. The Class A burn building provides a realistic training experience utilizing class A materials in specially designed “burn rooms”. Two props were added during 2015, a pitched-roof simulator and a flat-roof simulator. Both props allow firefighters to practice vertical ventilation with the use of gas saws.

## Remembering Nate Camfiord

Members of the company first met Nathan “Nate” Camfiord in 2014 when he showed up to the firehouse with his camera in hand. Nate, a Roanoke native, had once worked as a career firefighter/paramedic in the valley but turned his talents to fire photography after becoming disabled by a rare neurological disorder. Nate quickly became a friend of the department and stopped in frequently to shoot apparatus and life inside the firehouse. Several of his BFD photos were actually featured in the VA Fire News magazine along with others he had taken throughout the Commonwealth. Nate’s condition worsened during 2015 and sadly, he passed away on December 4, 2015. This page is dedicated to Nate’s memory and to his love of the fire service.



Photo by Nate Camfiord



Photo by Nate



Photo by Nate Camfiord

<b>Area Protected (square miles)</b>	<b>194</b>
<b>Residential Structures in Primary Response Area:</b>	<b>8,539</b>
<b>Commercial Structures in Primary Response Area:</b>	<b>649</b>
<b>Estimated Population:</b>	<b>22,200</b>

<b>Average Number of Apparatus per Response:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Average Firefighters per Response:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Career Firefighters Needed per Shift:</b>	<b>10/shift</b>
<b>Shifts Needed For 24hr/7day wk Coverage:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Average Career Chief Officer Salary:</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>Average Career Firefighter/EMT Salary:</b>	<b>\$34,500</b>
<b>Average Career Firefighter/ALS Salary:</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>

<b>Savings Per Firefighter:</b>	<b>\$43,778</b>
<b>Savings Per Residence:</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
<b>Savings Per Capita:</b>	<b>\$72.00</b>

**Total Annual Volunteer Savings: \$1,576,000**



# The Cost of Saving Lives

HELMET:	\$400
COAT:	\$1,300
PANTS:	\$900
BOOTS:	\$350
RADIO:	\$2,330
SCBA:	\$5,000
TOOLS:	\$300
<u>T.I.C:</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>

TOTAL: \$20,580.00



## SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS



The fire department continues to share current news and upcoming events with the community and local media agencies through Twitter, Facebook, and [www.bedfordfd.com](http://www.bedfordfd.com); the department's website. The department's website went online in 2003 and currently gets an average of 60,000 hits each day. Website visitors from around the world can read through incident narratives, see personnel profiles, apparatus profiles, ISO rating information, smoke detector installation program information, and more. We currently have over 900 followers on Twitter who track department activity through "Tweets", or activity updates. The latest addition to our social media outlet was the addition of a Bedford Fire Department Facebook page in 2009. Currently there are 11,400 people who "Like" the department's page and follow department activity though Facebook; the second most of any fire department in the state of Virginia.

The Facebook logo, featuring the word "facebook" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font centered on a solid blue rectangular background.

# CLASS A PUMPERS



## **Engine 1**

- ◆ 2007 Seagrave Pumper
- ◆ 1500GPM/750 gallons



## **Wagon 1**

- ◆ 2014 Seagrave Pumper
- ◆ 1500gpm/1000 gallons

## SPECIAL SERVICES UNITS



**Rescue 1**  
2015 Pierce Walk-In Heavy Rescue



**Ladder 1**  
2007 Seagrave 100' TDA

# WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION UNITS



**Brush 1**  
2009 Ford F450  
250gpm/300 gallons



**Brush 1-A**  
2006 Ford F550  
250gpm/300 gallons

