



*John Wilcher Photography*



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT





# MISSION STATEMENT

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

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# CHIEF'S LETTER

Community Members-

I am pleased to share the Bedford Fire Department's 2016 annual report. As a department, we strive to provide the best possible service to the Town of Bedford and surrounding communities we service. This document captures some of our most significant collective accomplishments over the last year, tells the story of our outstanding fire service professionals, and reflects on the impressive diversity of skilled services we provide to our community.

The department has a long, proud legacy and is steeped heavily in tradition. As we complete our 128th year we are proud to report that as a department we are focused on remaining dynamic, preparing for new challenges, recognizing our accomplishments, and learning from our failures. As I write this, we have a dedicated group of members who are developing a long-range plan to identify and prepare for the new and ongoing challenges that face volunteer agencies across the county.

I am very grateful for our members who continue to provide services above those typical of other departments, and are held in high regard among their peers. These men and women are devoted to providing the best service possible to our community and spend hundreds of hours training to provide the expert service our residents have come to expect. On behalf of the Bedford Fire Department, I thank Mayor Bob Wadrei, Town Council, the Bedford County Board of Supervisors, and the community for their continued support of our department.

Sincerely,  
Brad Creasy  
Fire Chief





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 businessmen 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: 182 square miles
- Total Service Population: 22,200
- Active Fire Stations: 1
- Apparatus Fleet: 10

# 2016 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Years of Service</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Stevens	Russell	42	Firefighter/EMT-B
Parker	James	38	Hose Foreman
Fulton	Greg	28	Firefighter/EMT-B
Long	Brandon	20	Firefighter
Creasy	Brad	20	Chief of Department
Musgrove	Kevin	15	Firefighter/EMT-B
Cunningham	Zeph	14	Firefighter
Garten	Jeremy	14	Assistant Chief
Evans	Jeremy	13	Firefighter/EMT-B
Creasey	Billy	12	Firefighter/EMT-B
Baker	Chad	12	Firefighter/EMT-P
Shutt	Matthew	11	Firefighter/EMT-B
Overstreet	Jason	11	Firefighter/EMT-B
Carter	Eric	11	Firefighter/EMT-B
Ohlinger	Jon	11	Firefighter/EMT-P
Pavich	Garrett	10	Firefighter/EMT-B
Marshall	Curtis	10	Firefighter/EMT-P
Scott	Matthew	8	Deputy Chief
Moore	John	8	Firefighter/EMT-B
Gardner	Chris	7	Firefighter
Gulatsi	John	7	Firefighter/EMT-I
King	Ryan	7	Firefighter
Hailey	Stacey	6	Firefighter
Crouch	Brandon	6	Firefighter
Wills	Stacey	6	Lieutenant
Hacker	Jerry	5	Firefighter/EMT-E
Cornett	Barry	5	Firefighter/EMT-B
Walters	Willie	4	Firefighter
Beisser	Jacob	4	Firefighter
McGinnis	M.J.	4	Firefighter/EMT-E
Rice	Nick	4	Firefighter/EMT-B
Elston	Mike	3	Firefighter/EMT-P
Campbell	Scott	3	Firefighter/EMT-P
Neas	Taylor	2	Firefihter/EMT-P
Allen	Matthew	2	Firefighter/EMT-B
Musgrove	Tiffaney	2	Firefighter/EMT-P
Hecker	Rudy	2	Firefighter/EMT-I
Overstreet	Jacob	1	Firefighter/EMT-B
Wodicka	Reid	1	Firefighter/EMT-B
Adkins	Matthew	1	Firefighter/EMT-B
Dixon	Joshua	1	Firefighter/EMT-I

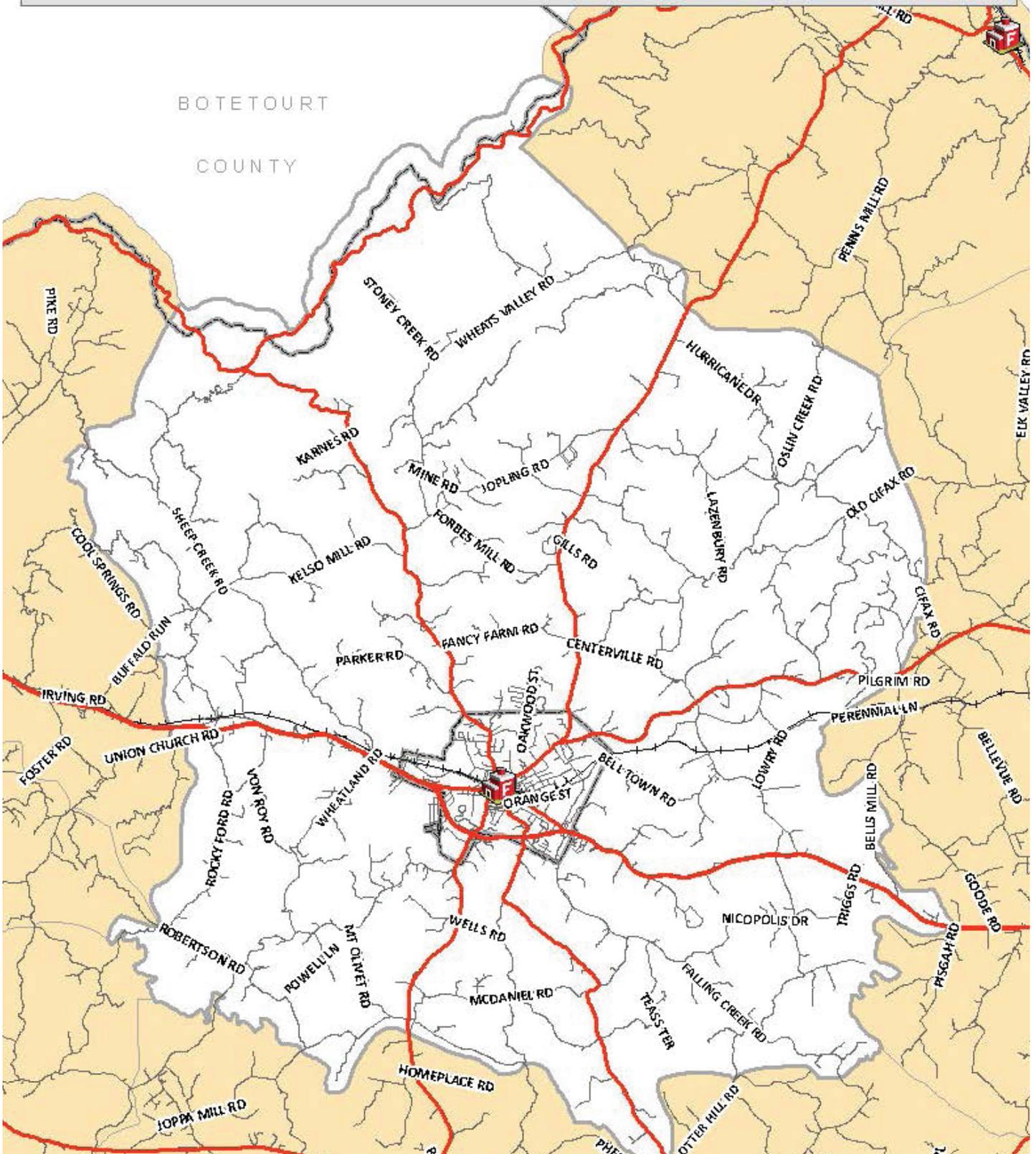


# SUMMARY OF RESPONSE

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Total Responses	1,098
Average Firefighters per call	9
Average Reaction Time	2.7 min.
Average Response Time (Town)	4.1 min.
Average Response Time (County)	7.3 min.
Responses that required fire suppression	109
Responses that involved medical treatment	283
Vehicle Extrication	18
Working Fires	48
Total dollar loss	\$928,000
Total On-Scene Man Hours	7,342 hrs

# Bedford Fire Company - First Due Response Area



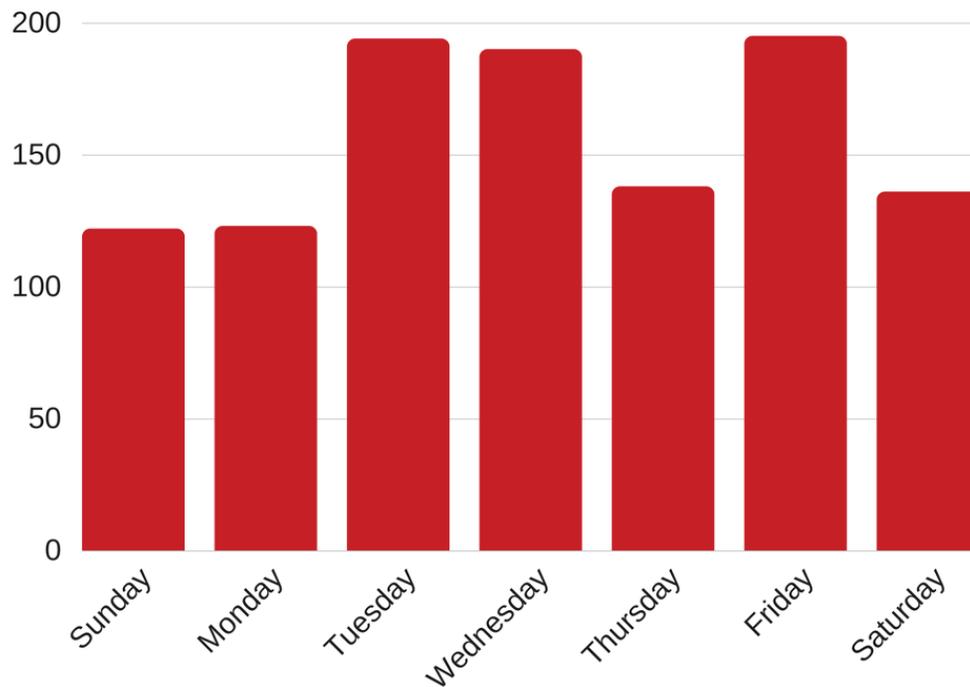
## FIRST DUE RESPONSE AREA

# GOALS ACCOMPLISHED

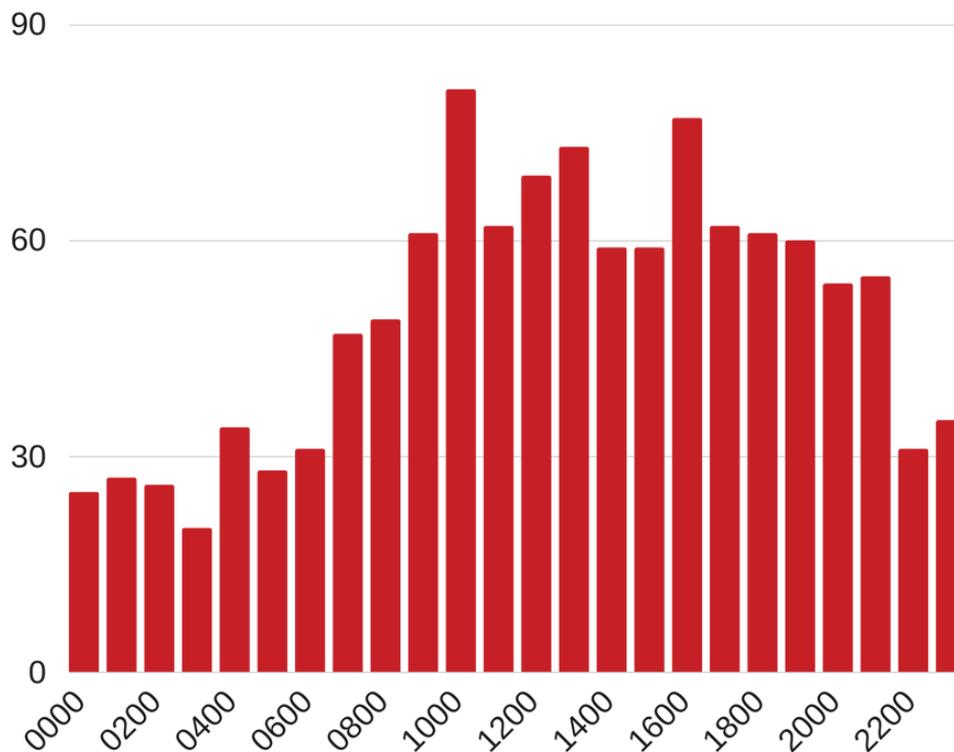
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- *Implemented Target Solutions software to track firefighter training-* Target Solutions software gives the department the ability to deliver customized pre-training online before conducting didactic training. This new trend in the fire service helps departments focus on company drills and multi-company drills by giving personnel a head start before a live event takes place.
- *Secured additional grants to continue free smoke alarm program-* Grants through the American Red Cross, Firefighters Charitable Organization, and Bedford Community Health Foundation funded the purchase of 500 smoke detectors which allowed the department to continue its program which offers free detectors and installation to residents.
- *Replaced emergency generator at fire station-* An 80KW diesel Caterpillar generator was purchased through state contract and placed into service in February 2017. This unit replaced the original emergency generator which was 40 years old and had become unreliable.
- *Purchased 2016 Chevrolet 3500 Support Truck-* This vehicle replaced a 27 year-old truck that is used primarily to conduct hydrant maintenance. The truck is also outfitted with a snow plow and is used to clear snow for responding apparatus during inclement weather.
- *Developed and Implemented Officer In Charge Task Book-* Using the existing probationary firefighter check-off as a template the BFD developed and implemented an Officer In Charge task book to ensure that all those who ride the seat as the officer in charge are qualified and competent.
- *Reduced EMS load on first responder unit-* Working together, the Bedford County Fire & Rescue Department and Bedford Fire Department reexamined the dispatch policies set forth several years ago for life-threatening responses that validated a first responder unit response. These policies were adjusted to lessen the unnecessary dispatch of first responder units which in return lowered annual EMS call volumes for fire stations.

# CALL VOLUME BY DAY OF WEEK



# CALL VOLUME BY HOUR





# 2016 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

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January 7, 2016- Chief Creasy, accompanied by Firefighter-Paramedic Curtis Marshall, and other stake holders from throughout the Commonwealth attended a meeting on the topic of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) at the University of Virginia. The meeting was hosted by the Office of the Secretary of Technology who reported back to the Governor's Office. There were lots of questions and discussion on the Bedford Fire Department's UAS program which is only one of several in the commonwealth.

Feb. 16, 2016 04:17am -Company 1 responded to 1146 Shepherds Store Road for multiple reports of an explosion. Engine 1 (with four firefighters) arrived eleven minutes later to find a two-story home with heavy fire showing. Shelter for the three residents who were displaced was provided by the Red Cross. Damages were estimated at \$290,000.00.

March 2, 2016 08:30am-Company 1 responded to Rocky Ford Road for a MVC with entrapment. Engine 1 (with four) arrived to find a single vehicle off the roadway with heavy damage and one occupant trapped. The critically injured driver was extricated by Rescue 1 and airlifted to Roanoke Memorial Hospital by Lifeguard 10.  
April 20, 2016 9:58pm – Company 1 responded to Monte Video Road for reported structure fire. Engine 1 (with four) arrived to find heavy fire showing from a two-story residence. A heavy fire load and over 10,000 rounds of ammunition made the structure unsafe to enter. Firefighters assumed a defensive position and worked for over three hours to extinguish the fire. Damages were estimated at \$225,000.00

June 24, 2016 -Following a severe thunder storm two structure fires occurred within thirty minutes of each other. 17 BFD firefighters operated between the two calls.

October 27, 2016 05:48 a.m.-Company 1 responded to 1155 Big Easy Place for a large detached garage on fire with immediate exposure problems. Firefighters immediately began protecting the primary residence and held the fire to the detached garage. Damages were estimated at \$200,000.

# SPECIAL AWARDS

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2016 Firefighter of the Year Award was awarded to FF Ryan King.



2016 Top Call Runner is awarded to Captain Matthew Scott.

# CERTIFICATIONS/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.

*Certifications received by: Austin Palmore, Addison Wiecking*

## Basic Pump Operator

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

*Certifications received by: Jacob Overstreet, Austin Palmore*

## 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.

*Certifications received by: Jacob Overstreet*

## Driver Pump Operator

A 40 hour course with detailed instruction on the operation, maintenance, and design of pumping apparatus.

*Certifications received by: Nick Rice*

## Technical Rescue Rope Level I

This 32 hour program includes classroom and practical training in creating multi-point and fixed rope anchor systems, building and operating simple and compound mechanical advantage systems in the high angle environment, ascending and descending a fixed rope, packaging and moving a victim, tending a litter in the high angle environment, rescuing a stranded subject in the high angle environment, operating as a member of a rescue team and directing rescue operations.

*Certifications received by: Reid Wodicka*

## Instuctor I

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

*Certifications received by: Tiffaney Musgrove, Nick Rice, Kevin Musgrove, Jon Ohlinger*

## Fire Officer I

A 64 hour course that is designed for new officers or officer candidates to learn basic skills such as communication, effective supervision and resource management.

*Certifications received by: Reid Wodicka*

# THE COST OF SAVING LIVES

Area Protected	182
Residential Structures in the Primary Response Area	8,539
Commercial Structures in the Primary Response Area	649
Estimated Population	22,000
Average Number of Apparatus per Response	2
Average Number of Firefighter per Response	9
Career Firefighter Needed per Shift	10/Shift
Shifts Needed for 24hr/7days a week Coverage	3
Average Career Chief Officer Salary	\$80,000
Average Career Firefighter/EMT Salary	\$36,000
Average Career Firefighter/Medic Salary	\$38,000
Savings per Firefighter	\$45,010
Savings per Resident	\$549
Total Annual Volunteer Savings	\$4,501,000



# CURRENT APPARATUS

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*Engine 1*  
2007 Seagrave Pumper  
1500GPM/750 gallons



*Wagon 1*  
2014 Seagrave Pumper  
1500GPM/1000 gallons



*Rescue 1*  
2015 Pierce Walk-In Heavy Rescue



*Ladder 1*  
2007 Seagrave 100' TDA

# NEW DELIVERIES

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## *Support 1*

A 2016 Chevrolet 3500 pickup replaced a 27 year-old unit and will operate as Support 1. The new unit will be utilized to perform annual hydrant maintenance as well as transportation for firefighters who are attending training outside of the immediate area. Support 1 also has an 8' snow plow to clear snow-covered streets during emergency responses in inclement weather.



## *Command 1*

A 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe was placed in service as Command 1. With its custom command cabinet and on-board mobile data terminal, this vehicle serves the fire chief as an on-scene command post. The unit is equipped with a magnetic incident management command board, dry erase board, accountability board, two mobile radios, satellite phone, electronic timer, and mobile data terminal. In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, this unit would well serve the fire department and police department as a unified command post.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION

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Our fire safety program includes general fire safety presentations, puppet shows, fire safety trailer demonstrations, health fairs, and fire extinguisher training. The program is designed to teach people of all ages the dangers of fire and how to exit the home in the event of fire.

Our Program, in partnership with the Bedford County Fire & Rescue Department, routinely visits town and county elementary schools together to conduct fire safety and public education training. The program also works closely with local preschool and day care facilities to expose small children to firefighters and their equipment.

Since the leading cause of home fires and home injuries is cooking fires, it's important that we educate members of the community on the use of fire extinguishers. Our firefighters routinely teach fire extinguisher classes for hospital employees, local civic organizations, and school programs.

Thanks to generous grants from the Firefighters Charitable Organization and the American Red Cross the Bedford Fire Department offers a free smoke detector program to bring residences into compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommendations. Over 500 smoke detectors have been installed in Bedford homes since the program began.





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