AUGUST 2019

DEKALB COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

THE BLAZE

ISSUE 7

2nd QUARTER STATS

FOUR BUGLES: SUPPORT SERVICES

HAZMAT TEAMS

ADDRESSING OPEN BURNING

2nd Quarter 2019 Statistics

DeKalb Fire Rescue responded to **22,761** incidents in the second quarter, including **14,041** EMS calls and **8,720** fire related calls.

The Fire Marshal's Office conducted

- **1716** requested business permit/license,
- **353** periodic mandated maintenance inspections,
- **793** fire prevention code compliance sessions with DeKalb County businesses.

The Public Education Unit interacted with **28,849** people in the second quarter.

On the Cover

Company 19 responding to a motor vehicle collision on 285 South, while containing subsequent fuel spill.

	2nd Quarter 2019 CALL STATS		
MUNICIPALITIES	MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALLS	FIRE RELATED CALLS	TOTAL OF CALLS
ATLANTA	187	309	496
AVONDALE	40	48	88
BROOKHAVEN	642	485	1127
CHAMBLEE	458	297	755
CLARKSTON	269	116	385
DECATUR	5	115	120
DORAVILLE	243	150	393
DUNWOODY	571	475	1046
LITHONIA	59	42	101
PINE LAKE	10	2	12
STONE MOUNTAIN	96	74	170
STONECREST	1076	930	2006
TUCKER	912	560	1472
UNINCORPORATED	9473	5117	14590
GRAND TOTAL	**14041**	**8720**	**22761**

Company 19 training with DeKalb PD's Bomb Squad. The Bomb Squad can be requested, by incident commanders, to hazardous materials calls that require additional technology and advanced equipment to mitigate.

FOUR BUGLES:
Support Services

Deputy Chief Jason Smith discusses fire station design.

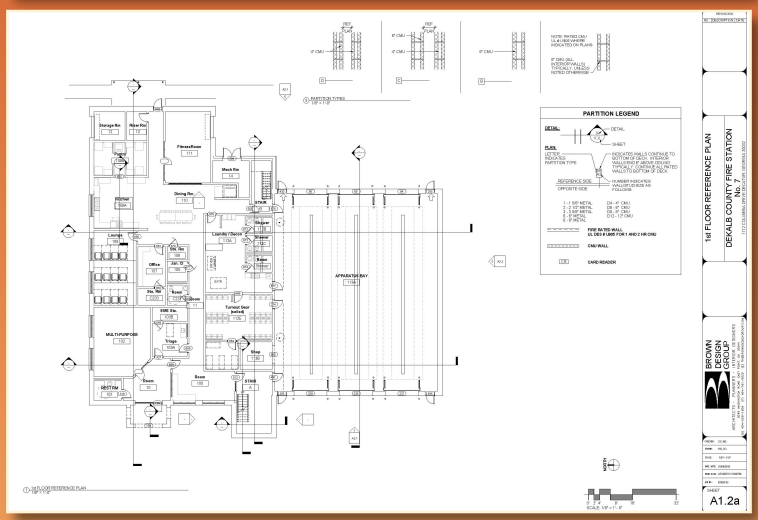
Over the last three years the department has worked to develop a strategic plan. The strategic plan is a road map to improve the department wholly and establish best practices regarding today's professional fire service. Most in the fire service today are aware of the cumulative effects that the occupational hazards of the job present. One focus of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is the prevention of sudden cardiac line of duty deaths. While the IAFC's initiative still applies and is applicable to the prevention of sudden cardiac death, that effort expanded to include broader concerns such as: cancer prevention, stress reduction, and mental health issues facing first responders.

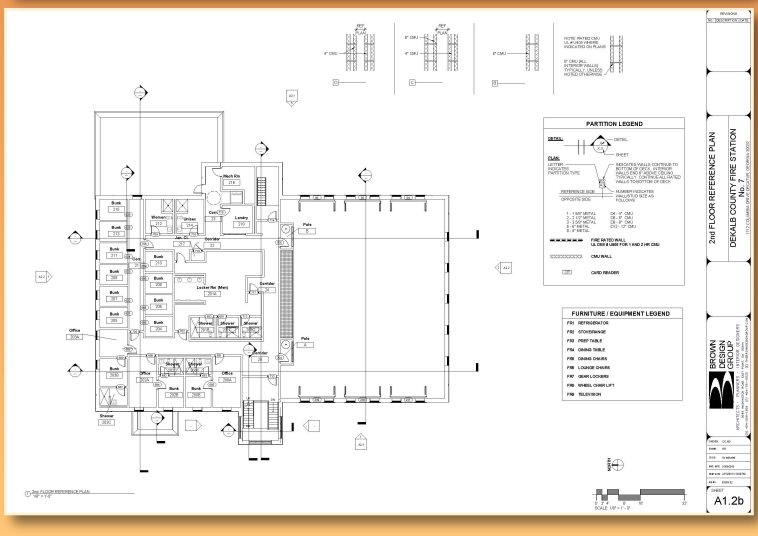
As a department, we realize the challenges of the environment our staff operates in daily while performing the services we provide. The process of developing the strategic plan identified issues which became strategic initiatives. The strategic plan is supported with a special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST), which has specifically dedicated funds for rebuilding fire stations. This prompted the department to begin researching what "best practices" in fire station design and construction look like.

In 2019, DeKalb County Fire Rescue is preparing to build its first fire station designed with modern firefighter safety, health, and well-being in mind. Our firefighters spend 1/3 of their lives in our fire stations working a 24 hour shift every third day. The SPLOST funded Fire Station 7 will be the first of several new fire stations to encompass all the latest features in aiming to reduce a firefighter's exposure to carcinogens and reduce the stresses of the job.

These new stations will include a "hot and cold zone" fire station design that keeps all carcinogenic materials out of the living quarters and reduces the carcinogenic materials from the areas where that cannot be eliminated such as the apparatus bay. This innovative fire station design incorporates separate mechanical/HVAC for the living quarters, turnout gear storage rooms, and other ancillary areas.

Deputy Chief
J. Garret Smith





FOUR BUGLES:
Support Services continued

These new stations will also have turnout gear cleaning facilities and a dedicated decontamination area to ensure we do not carry contaminants into the living areas, within the station where firefighters conduct office work, eat, and sleep.

Some other features to highlight for the new station design are:

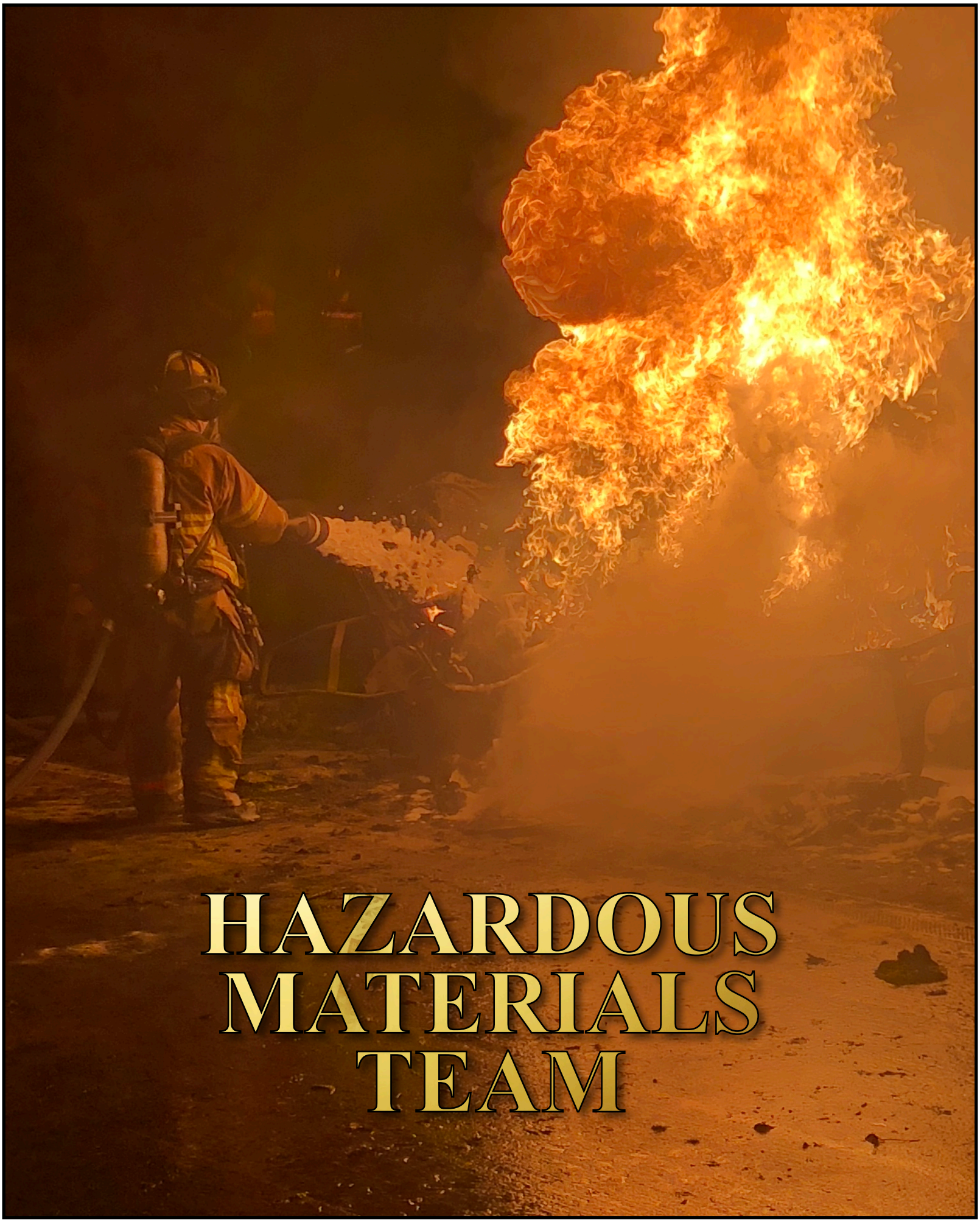
- a medical triage room for walk-in patients;
- a dedicated women's room and unisex bathrooms with lockers will also be located within the facility;
- new alerting systems aimed to reduce stress;
- fast opening bi-fold bay doors which will improve response times;
- progressive tones and lighting, which are not as stressful as old systems;
- a larger fitness room that opens to the rear of the station, so that activities can be moved outside when the weather is nice;
- partitioned sleeping areas to increase privacyUpstairs all bunks are partially enclosed to increase privacy;
- officer's quarters which include an office and full bathroom.

DeKalb County Fire Rescue has developed a strategic plan which has made the health and well-being of each member an initiative. We continually strive to improve the working conditions of each member of the department, and to better the condition of our facilities for our firefighters and the communities we serve.

Yours in service,

Deputy Chief J. Garret Smith

Fire Chief Darnell Fullum with Deputy Chief J. Garret Smith, the Deputy Chief over Supply and Logistics, on-scene at a large fire in DeKalb, ensuring that every needed resource is in place.



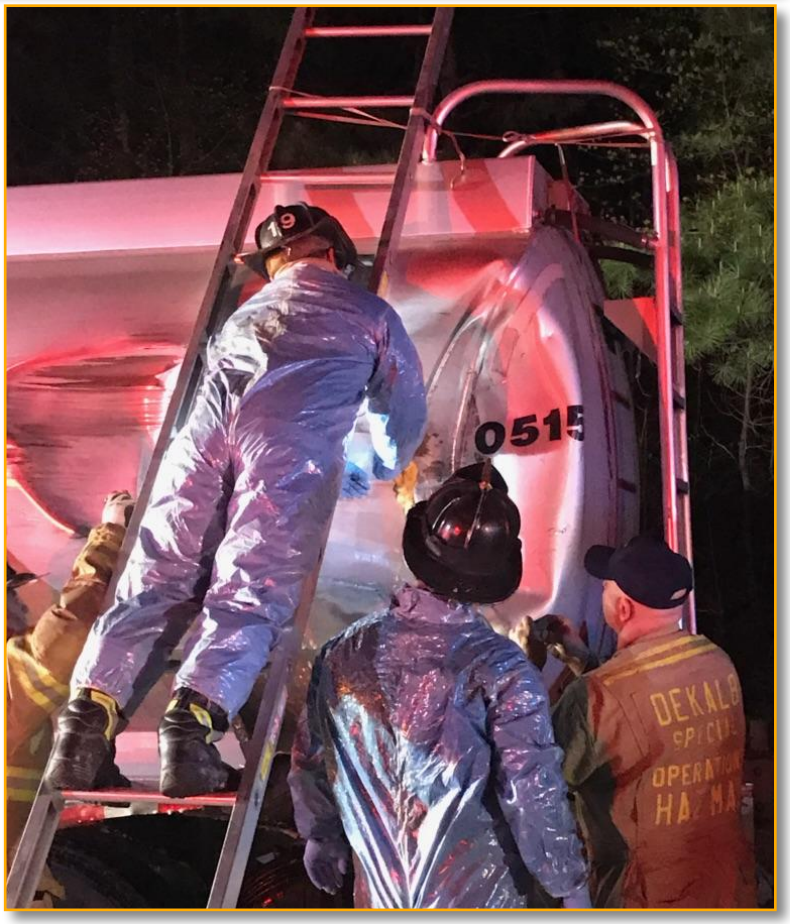
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

What is the Hazardous Materials Team you ask? It is the DeKalb Fire Rescue unit which is deployed for emergencies that go beyond the normal scope.

Station 19, in Chamblee/Doraville, is the hazmat station for DeKalb County. DeKalb Fire Rescue has two additional hazmat supporting stations: Station 18 in Dunwoody and Station 20 in Decatur. The approach of the Hazardous Materials Team begins with effective pre-planning, active relationships with DeKalb County businesses, and a regimen of advanced training. The Hazardous Materials Team often conducts onsite pre-plan walkthroughs of various DeKalb County businesses. These walkthroughs allow crews to familiarize themselves, with the hazards they might face at a particular location, should an emergency occur. Some hazards are readily apparent such as stored fuels or chemicals, while some are not as apparent, such as alternative power units. DeKalb Fire Rescue does this and more, all to make sure that hazmat emergencies don't happen, while preparing for the inevitability of these incidents.

DeKalb County is home to some of the most traveled highways in America. At any given time, there are thousands of vehicles traversing the highways through DeKalb County. The fuel capacity of semi-tractor trailers is between 150 and 300 gallons, light trucks are between 30 and 75 gallons, and cars can be in and around 20 gallons. It is not uncommon for fuel to spill during motor vehicle collisions. Fuel spills over 55 gallons are considered hazmat incidents by national standards. As such, the picture for having a strong hazmat team becomes crystal clear. The Hazmat services afforded to the citizens and stakeholders of DeKalb County can not be overvalued. The economic impact of DeKalb Fire Rescue hazmat operations, can best be understood, in terms of time and cost. Certain hazmat emergencies might require a section of roadway to be closed due to the emergency. If the highway is shutdown due to a fuel spill, DeKalb Fire Rescue responds, contains, and mitigates, but the overall response dictates when the roadway will re-open. This is often the case with gas leaks, which are also hazmat emergencies. The timetable of a gas leak emergency depends upon the size and scope of the response. DeKalb Fire Rescue responded to 671 gas leak incidents in 2018, reinforcing the need for hazmat response capabilities.



DeKalb County Prohibited Open Burning Rules and Exemption Types

Recently, there have been many questions and concerns about what is considered to be a legal burn at a residence in DeKalb County GA. In an effort to bring clarity to this subject, the Fire Marshal's Office would like to share some facts about the burn rule and tips on how to stay safe.

Fact: All Open Burning is prohibited in DeKalb County.

Open Burning is defined as the burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Leaf, brush clearing and trash burning are a few examples of open burning.

Exemptions: Recreational fires used for cooking, warming or pleasure such as campfires are exempt as long as rubbish or other prohibited hazardous materials are not being used. A fire pit, outdoor fireplace, or portable outdoor fireplace, is exempt as long as the total fuel area does not exceed 3 feet or in diameter or is 2 feet or less in height.

Additional safety precautions must also be taken when using exempted types of recreational fires.

- Recreational fire should not be conducted within 25 feet of the home.
- Fires must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- Approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment such as dirt, sand, fire extinguisher, or garden hose shall be available for immediate utilization. As you can see, outdoor fireplaces, portable fireplaces, fire pits, and other recreational fires are not considered as Open Burning and are allowed in DeKalb County as long as they are constantly attended and conducted safely at one and two-family dwellings.

Please contact the DeKalb County Fire Marshal, 404-274-7353, for questions and/or further information.

Fire Marshal
Chief Joseph Cox

Please note even if all guidelines for burning are followed, you may be required to extinguish the fire if it adversely interferes with another's enjoyment of life, use of property, or if someone with a health problem is affected.

HAZMAT 19

COMPANY ★ NINETEEN
DEKALB FIRE
19
HAZMAT TEAM
MAKE NO MISTAKE