

# Fully Involved

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2005

## Inside this issue:

Fire Division	2
Countywide Rapid Intervention Team Plan	2
Rescue Division	3
Hazardous Materials Operations	3
Training Schedule	4
Medic 14-2	4
Administrative Division	5

## From The Director

Some may be asking why “Fully Involved” has been chosen as the title of the Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue Newsletter? This reference can be associated with the report sometimes given to describe the extent or conditions of fire at a structure fire incident or the extent of a medical condition. Though accurate, this title actually refers to the true heart and sole of this organization, its members. The commitment and dedication of the members of all the 24 agencies that make up the entire local fire and rescue family. People who respond to emergency calls, attend business meetings, training and educational programs and all of the other activities that are involved with managing a human services organization. These duties are in addition to a regular job, home and family responsibilities, church and other community activities that many of us are involved in. Those of you that are “Fully Involved” are to be commended, your unique talent and commitment make Bedford County a better place to live and work. As you look through these pages please appreciate the unique abilities and real commitment that our members possess. No one part is more important than the other, yet to function at our most effective level of performance all parts must remain “Fully Involved”.



*I would like to thank James Parker, Bedford Fire Department for giving me the insight to title the newsletter “Fully Involved.” James has been a great source of encouragement and support over the past 4 years.*

*Be Safe ~ Director Jack Jones, Jr.*

## Special Operations Command- SOC

The Special Operations Command, *SOC*, as it is commonly known, was created in December 2002. Chief Todd Stone, of the Bedford Fire Department, was “tapped” by Director Jones to serve as the leader of this specialty unit. A call went out soliciting interested members and training was implemented to meet the requirements for membership. Within the year, there were over fifty members recruited and involved in the formation and activation of *SOC*. Approximately

10% of our total countywide Fire & Rescue members.

The goal of *SOC* is to provide specialty operational response to emergencies that are not an everyday event. The various response capabilities of this command involve Building Collapse, Rope Rescue (High & Low Angle) Urban Search & Rescue, Trench Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Hazardous Materials Response & Mitigation

*continued on page 6...*

## Fire Division

The position of Deputy Chief was filled in August of 2004 by Lee Day, who came to the county from the Monelison Volunteer Fire Department and Lynchburg Fire & EMS Department. Since that time, many new and interesting programs are either being worked on or have been implemented. In this division, we are dealing with any projects, ideas or situations as they directly relate to the fire service.

One of our most important responsibilities is training, which is a constant and on going process. We offer many different training programs throughout the year and repeat our Firefighter I & II training, along with Hazardous



Materials Awareness & Operations training every year. This affords the opportunity for all of our volunteers to receive these certifications within the county. Equipment specification and purchase is another responsibility of our office. There has been an apparatus committee formed that will work closely with each organization on future apparatus purchases to ensure more uniformity, compatibility and familiarity among our firefighters with apparatus purchases. Developing Standard Operating Guidelines for our daily operations is also a priority, with several already approved and issued.

Securing grant funding for the purpose of providing training programs and equipment purchases is also another responsibility that is very beneficial in providing quality instruction and equipment that we could not otherwise afford for the county. Perhaps our most important function is customer service, which includes serving not only our external customers, the public, but also our internal customers, the volunteer fire and rescue members of Bedford County. We are here to ensure that our volunteers have the best training and equipment that can be provided and also to support them in providing the best customer service to our citizens.

*Submitted By: Deputy Chief Lee Day*

## Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue Countywide Rapid Intervention Team Plan

In 2002, the Bedford County Department of Fire & Rescue, working with the volunteer fire and rescue agencies of the county, realized the immediate need to establish a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) program. A message was sent that our member's personal safety was our number one priority in providing professional fire and rescue services to not only to our permanent resident population, but also to many visitors that pass through our county each day.

Assistant Chief Tom McCrickard, of the Forest Fire Department, was selected by Director Jack Jones, Jr. to spearhead this program. He, along with a cadre of instructors, taught several **MAYDAY** – Firefighter Down programs throughout the county, providing an opportunity for each of our members to participate. Tom also developed a countywide RIT policy and provided valuable input in developing the RIT Standard Operating Guideline for our Communications Center.

Once all of this was accomplished, three organizations were selected to become RIT companies, based upon their location, available equipment and number of trained personnel. These companies are **Bedford Fire Department** being Central, **Forest Fire Department** being North and **Stewartsville-Chamblissburg Fire Department** being South.

The Department of Fire & Rescue is very pleased to inform the citizens and members of Bedford County's Fire & Rescue agencies that an award was recently received for this program. The Virginia Fire Chief's Association, at their annual Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium in February, awarded its annual Best Practices in Health & Safety Award to Bedford County for the creation and successful implementation of its **Countywide Rapid Intervention Plan**. This award was received because of our commitment to our member's safety, which is reflected in this program's purpose and guidelines. This program, and also this award would not have been possible without the dedication of each fire and rescue member and also that of our communications officers, who work closely with us on the front lines at every emergency that we respond to. Our thanks to each of you for all that you do.

## Rescue Division

With the first quarter of a new year behind us we have little time to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the previous year. 2004 brought us to a new level, one filled with a group of dedicated individuals planning and executing a structure of Skills Review Days which allowed everyone to have the opportunity to review vital skills required of us as EMS providers. This year the Skills Review Program is off and running again with new and challenging skills. Skill Review Committee, keep up the good work!!



We have begun the New Year with two EMT Classes meeting, with close to 50 participants attending for initial certification and also continuing education credits. Also our annual Rescue Institute this year featured Col. Chris Hicks, M.D., State Surgeon for the Army National Guard, as the keynote speaker with 50 in attendance. Col. Hicks' "WMD" slideshow and an array of classes made for a wonderful day. Thanks to all involved. An Education Schedule for 2005 is also in circulation to give each provider advanced notice of education opportunities. Improving our knowledge and proficiency as EMS providers through education and experience in turn improves the care of citizens in Bedford County.

Thank you for the time you dedicate to the citizens of Bedford County. You really do make Bedford County a better place to live. Stay Safe!!

### Skills Review Committee Members

Sandy Spencer, Chairperson  
 Glenn Dalton  
 Bob Stephens  
 June Leffke  
 John Singer  
 Janet Blankenship  
 Richard Downey  
 Dr. Cohen  
 Dr. Whortly

*Submitted By: Captain Stephen Shrader*

## Hazardous Materials Operations

Bedford County continues to develop its program for hazardous materials response. This program provides the means to respond to chemical spills and mass decontamination incidents. Five Haz-Mat Officers cover various aspects of the program, from training to logistics. The Haz-Mat vehicles consist of a truck and three trailers that house the equipment needed to mitigate such incidents.

Prior to, but especially since the tragic events of September 11, Hazardous Materials is a major concern for our nation. Bedford County leaders recognized that, and to address this concern, the Department of Fire and Rescue has placed into service three mass decontamination (HAZ-TAC #5, #9, #13) Hazardous Materials Tactical Support trailers strategically placed throughout the county.

Each of these trailers can decontaminate one hundred and fifty people.

Haz-Tac 1, the Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle is the central piece or mother ship for Haz-Mat operations, it is equipped with the supplies necessary to handle everything from minor to major spills. This unit contains reference books to better understand the dangers of the material(s) at hand and how to deal with them. Detection and monitoring equipment is also available to continuously test the quality of the air to determine if the efforts taken are successful.


The Department of Fire and Rescue Hazardous Materials Division has aided the Sheriffs Office, Fire Departments, and Rescue Squads in obtaining chem-bio suits as well as detection and monitoring equipment. The purpose of this

equipment is to keep our first responders safe when conducting their daily activities or dealing with unknown chemicals. Training for these agencies in using this equipment is forthcoming so they have a better understanding of the product(s) with which they are dealing.

*Submitted By: Steve Jackson  
 Chief Haz-Mat Officer*



# Training Schedule

<u>April 2005</u>	<u>May 2005</u>	<u>June 2005</u>
<p><b>Mayday Firefighter Down</b> Date: April 9<sup>th</sup> &amp; 10<sup>th</sup> Location: Montvale Fire Department</p>	<p><b>SOC Training – Rope Rescue</b> Date: May 7<sup>th</sup> Location: Lynchburg Training Tower</p>	<p><b>NFPA 1403 Compliance Officer</b> Date: June 8<sup>th</sup> Location: Bedford Fire Department</p>
<p><b>NFA STICO</b> Date: April 9<sup>th</sup> &amp; 10<sup>th</sup> Location: S/C Fire Department</p>	<p><b>Haz-Mat Operations</b> Date: Starts May 22<sup>nd</sup> Ends June 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Location: Bedford Fire Department</p>	<p><b>Advanced Cardiac Life Support</b> Date: June 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Location: FREC</p>
<p><b>SOC Training</b> Date: April 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Location: New River Gorge</p>	<p><b>Firefighter I Graduation</b> Date: May 24<sup>th</sup> Location: Liberty High School Auditorium</p>	<p><b>Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads Rescue College</b> Date: June 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Location: Roanoke, Virginia</p>
<p><b>SOC Training – Tac-1 Maintenance</b> Date: April 23<sup>rd</sup> Location: Bedford Fire Department</p>		<p><b>SOC Training – Collapse Shoring</b> Date: June 18<sup>th</sup> Location: FREC</p>
<p><b>Rural Water Supply</b> Date: April 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup> Location: Montvale Fire Department</p>		<p><b>Skills Review</b> Date: June 23<sup>rd</sup> Location: FREC</p>
<p><b>MCI Class with Mock Drill</b> Date: April 30<sup>th</sup> Location: Moneta Fire Department</p>		<p><b>Skills Review</b> Date: June 26<sup>th</sup> Location: FREC</p>

*continued on page 5...*

# Medic 14-2

Medic 14-2 has been a part of Bedford County now approaching 3 years. In 2002, Medic 14-2 was called upon to provide EMS assistance during daylight hours Monday - Friday. Originally, Medic 14-2 was on duty from the hours of 0600-1400hrs and was based out of Chamblissburg Rescue Squad. Through the efforts of the Medic 14-2 Committee and constant evaluation of the service provided,

the hours of service have been increased to 0700-1900hrs Monday - Friday and is based out of Stewartsville Rescue Squad. In 2004, Medic 14-2 responded to 583 calls in Bedford County.

Please keep in mind that Medic 14-2 is available for students requiring EMS field experience for their classes and also for those choosing to ride for their own experience.

## Medic 14-2 Committee Members

- Eddie Witt
- Sue Sutcliffe
- John Singer
- Richard Downey
- Janet Blankenship



# Administrative Division

**New Office Manager For The Department of Fire and Rescue**

As some of you may know, Michelle Crumpacker became the new Office Manager for the Department of Fire & Rescue effective January 2005. Michelle has been employed with the county since 2002. In the last few months, Michelle has enjoyed learning more about the County Fire & Rescue and looks forward to meeting more of the County Fire and Rescue volunteers. If anyone should need her assistance, she can be reached at 540.587.0700 ext. 1323 or by email at [m.crumpacker@co.bedford.va.us](mailto:m.crumpacker@co.bedford.va.us).

**New Phone Number for The Department of Fire and Rescue**

As a result of a new phone system in the County Administration Building, the Department of Fire & Rescue has been able to establish a direct line. The new number is 540.587.0700.



**Roster Updates and Address Changes**

We would like to thank each Fire & Rescue Department for submitting their 2005 Roster Updates. Please remember that it is very important for insurance and accountability purposes to keep this information up-to-date with our office. Anytime there is a change in membership, officers, addresses, or vehicle changes, please make it a priority to forward this information to the Department of Fire & Rescue.

Note: Each Fire & Rescue Department has been equipped with a fax machine. Should anyone need to reach us by fax, the Department of Fire & Rescue Fax Line Number is 540.586.2176.

# Training Schedule - cont.

<b><u>August 2005</u></b>	<b><u>September 2005</u></b>	<b><u>October 2005</u></b>
<p><b>Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support</b> Date: August 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Location: FREC</p>	<p><b>SOC Training – Confined Space</b> Date: September 3<sup>rd</sup> Location: SOC Training Site</p>	<p><b>Skills Review</b> Date: October 13<sup>th</sup> Location: FREC</p>
<p><b>Virginia State Firefighters Convention</b> Date: August 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Location: Hampton</p>	<p><b>Bedford County Wildland Academy</b> Date: September 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Location: Camp Jaycee</p>	<p><b>Skills Review</b> Date: October 15<sup>th</sup> Location: FREC</p>
<p><b>SOC Training – Collapse Rescue</b> Date: August 21<sup>st</sup> Location: SOC Training Site</p>	<p><b>Central Virginia Regional School</b> Date: September 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><b><u>November 2005</u></b></p>
<p><b>ALS Recertification Program</b> Date: August 2005 (TBA) Location: (TBA)</p>	<p><b>Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads Convention</b> Date: September 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Location: Virginia Beach</p>	<p><b>Virginia Office of EMS Symposium</b> Date: November 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Location: Norfolk, Virginia</p>
	<p><b>Haz-Mat Conference</b> Date: September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Location: Virginia Beach</p>	

Bedford County  
Department of Fire & Rescue  
122 East Main Street, Suite 205  
Bedford, Virginia 24523  
Phone: 540.587.0700  
Fax: 540.586.2176



Do you know someone who would be interested in joining the **Home Town Heroes** of Bedford County?

For more information contact:

Bedford County  
Department of Fire & Rescue  
122 East Main Street Suite 205  
Bedford, VA 24523  
540.587.0700

website: [www.co.bedford.va.us](http://www.co.bedford.va.us)



Photo Courtesy of: [www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org)

## Home Of The National D-Day Memorial

## Special Operations Command-SOC, cont.

and Confined Space Rescue. The members of *SOC* train on a monthly basis for at least a full day in one or more of these disciplines always under the incident command system. This keeps their skills honed and also prepares all members to respond to one of the aforementioned types of incidents on a moments notice.

Along with the training component, the purchase of equipment and supplies to equip each member has also been addressed. Each member has been outfitted with the latest in personal protective clothing and equipment, enabling them to safely respond prepared to mitigate the unique type of incident with which they are presented with. A specialized cache of tools and equipment have been placed into

service to aid in the response and mitigation of whatever type of incident that *SOC* is dispatched to. The latest in hand, power and hydraulic equipment and vehicles to transport this, along with highly trained personnel, are poised and ready to respond. Also available are two enclosed trailers Swift-Tac #5 & #13 equipped and strategically located throughout the county for response to water related emergencies. (Refer to the Haz—Mat section to learn about the HM component of *SOC*, who routinely respond on special operations.)

*SOC* members are especially prepared and a highly motivated group of individuals that are trained, equipped and ready to respond, no matter the incident that faces them.

If there are individuals that are interested in becoming a member there will be open enrollment for applications during posted times of each year.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Chief Todd Stone, Deputy Chief Lee Day or the Department of Fire & Rescue.

