



# **Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department News Release**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Roanoke County Dedicates New North County Fire & Rescue Station**

*New Station to Meet Increasing Emergency Call Volume*

October 22, 2009 (ROANOKE COUNTY, VA) – Roanoke County dedicated the county's newest fire and rescue station today, one of six major capital projects that the county has been working on over the past year. Construction began in July 2008 and was completed in 16 months and within budget. Located near the intersection of Hershberger and Plantation Road, the \$4.2 million North County Fire & Rescue station will help improve emergency response times across the county.

The North County Fire & Rescue Station, along with the Hollins Station, will serve North County along the Peters Creek Road corridor to Williamson Road and out to Hollins and along Plantation Road. The district includes numerous nursing homes, five public schools, a university, and thousands of homes and businesses. The new station will respond to traffic accidents along Interstates 81 and 581 and serve as a back up to the Roanoke Regional Airport. The new North County Fire & Rescue Station will alleviate pressure on the Hollins station and therefore help to improve response times throughout the system.

Growth in North County, coupled with an aging population and increased commercial development, created more calls than the Hollins station could answer. Due to this increased call volume in North County, more than 900 calls in 2006 were turned over to other fire and rescue stations, some as far away as the Town of Vinton.

When Hollins units were unavailable, calls were routed to the next-closest available station. In many cases that meant a north County emergency call was answered by units from Masons Cove, Read Mountain, the Town of Vinton or Roanoke City. When that happened, response times to North County were greatly increased. The new North County Station will help keep units from other districts in their respective communities.

The North County Fire & Rescue Station will accommodate a total of 18 firefighter/emergency medical technicians working in shifts. The station is just over 16,000 square feet and includes living and office space for the three 24/7 shifts along with three drive-thru apparatus bays, training and exercise rooms, and a back-up emergency generator.



Chief Richard E. Burch, Jr. introduces the 18 firefighter/EMTs who are assigned to this station and will serve in three 24/7 shifts.

Although the station is not LEED certified, it does have a number of notable features:

- Shrubs and plantings that are native vegetation to this area thus requiring little to no watering
- White concrete is used on outdoor parking and turn-out areas which limits heat emissions from paving materials
- Many materials and products in building use post-consumer and pre-consumer recycled content including the carpet tiles
- Each room is equipped with light switches and some with motion sensors to allow individual users to control two levels of lighting
- Station is heated and cooled using a series of zones with individual thermostats allowing some parts of station to be cut-back when not in use
- 75% of inside spaces can be lit by daylight

The exterior features of the North County Fire & Rescue Station, including the stone façade and red metal roof, were designed to complement its neighbor, the Samuel Harshbarger House. Built in 1797, this home is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.



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Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department is committed to providing quality fire and emergency medical services to the citizens and visitors of Roanoke County, Virginia. We are a combination department with both career and volunteer personnel operating out of 12 stations and one administrative office.