



PERQUIMANS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Jonathan A. Nixon, Director

PRESS RELEASE – WINFALL FIRE DISTRICT IMPROVES INSURANCE RATING

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We are excited to announce that Chief Corey Stallings and the Winfall Fire Department were recently recognized by the North Carolina Department of Insurance for their dedication and commitment to making their community a safer place to live. The commendation comes after a recent inspection completed by officials with the NC Department of Insurance Office and the Office of State Fire Marshal.

Inspections are required on a regular basis as part of the North Carolina Response Rating System (NCRRS) and it reviews several areas including staffing, equipment, maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities and the availability of a water source. The results of these inspections help determine homeowner's insurance rates within that fire district. Effective March 1, 2021, homeowners in the Winfall Fire District will now have a rating of 6/9E, effectively lowering the rating within five road miles of the fire station. This is an excellent rating for a rural volunteer fire department!

"I'd like to congratulate Chief Stallings for the department's performance and for the hard work of all the department members," said NC Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey. "The citizens should rest easy knowing they have a fine group of firefighters protecting them and their property in case of an emergency."

When speaking of his department, Chief Stallings stated, "I want to thank all of our members first and foremost for the hard work and dedication they provide for the community on a daily basis. They truly stepped up even more for this process and it shows!" Volunteer firefighters must complete a minimum of 36 training and continuing education hours per year to remain active. In the midst of a pandemic, the 22 members of Winfall Fire Department logged over 1,194 hours of training, which was over 400 more hours than the required amount.

Chief Stallings also spoke of how the process of preparing for this ratings inspection was a team effort and wanted to thank the other agencies that helped them achieve this goal. He stated, "I want to thank all of the fire departments in the county for relaying information back to me as required for the inspection and giving helpful tips and advice. Belvidere Fire Department, Inter-County Fire Department and the Perquimans County Water Department played an important role in us achieving this rating". He also commended the Board of County Commissioners, County Manager Frank Heath, the Perquimans 911 Center and Perquimans County Emergency Management for their support through this tedious process.

Lastly, Chief Stallings had a note for the Winfall community, "I want to thank our community for supporting us and loving us the way they do! We are WINFALL STRONG."

We would like to thank all the departments involved for constantly working to improve services provided to the citizens and visitors of Perquimans County.

