



## PERQUIMANS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

P.O. Box 563 - 159 Creek Drive - Hertford, NC 27944

(252) 426-5646 Phone - (252) 426-3306 Fax

Jonathan A. Nixon, Director

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### Fire Department Automatic Aid Benefits Residents & Business Owners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 23, 2021

Contact: Julie Solesbee

Phone: 252-426-5646

The Bethel, Belvidere, Durants Neck, Hertford, Intercounty and Winfall Fire Departments continue to provide quality service to Perquimans County, including the Towns of Hertford and Winfall. Over the last several months, these all-volunteer departments have been working hard to improve their level of service to you, the citizens and property owners of Perquimans County.

Here are a few highlights:

- All 6 Fire Departments entered into an automatic aid agreement saying they will respond with at least one engine 24/7/365 to all reported structure fires in the neighboring fire district, provided they have equipment in service to respond.
  - As a result, the Office of State Fire Marshal, NC Department of Insurance has confirmed that if a Fire Department's primary fire district has an area over five miles from their station, but the neighboring fire district has a fire station within five miles of that same area, then automatic aid for station location for that area can be applied.
  - By applying this automatic aid area, the property owners will then receive the primary fire districts five-mile district rating.
- All 6 Fire Department are constantly maintaining/updating/replacing equipment.
- Durants Neck and Winfall Fire Departments have used the water-haul method to reduce their insurance ratings, which in turn lowered property insurance premiums.
- Other departments are in the process of undergoing the rigorous training and documentation needed to implement the water-haul method.
- Durants Neck Fire Department is actively raising funds and working to add a substation for their community.
- Bethel Fire Department is exploring options for adding a substation for their community.

If there are any questions concerning individual insurance ratings or other inquiries about the volunteer Fire Departments, please contact the Fire Chief of the district in which you reside or own property.

Bethel Fire Department	Chief Darren Saunders	252-333-7907
Belvidere Fire Department	Chief Lee Dail	252-331-3279
Durrants Neck Fire Department	Chief Robert Eure	252-331-3640
Hertford Fire Department	Chief Drew Woodard	252-562-2070
Intercounty Fire Department	Chief Michael Cartwright	252-312-9504
Winfall Fire Department	Chief Corey Stallings	252-619-2203

When you see any of our firefighters, congratulate them on the great work they do on our behalf!