

B E D F O R D C O U N T Y F I R E & R E S C U E

NEWSLETTER



We are so very pleased to bring you our second newsletter! This edition continues to provide valuable insights, updates, and relevant content to keep you informed.

As we strive to enhance the quality and relevance of the information we share, we encourage your feedback to ensure the newsletter meets your needs and expectations.

We look forward to your continued engagement and hope you find this issue both informative and useful. Thank you you for your ongoing support!

COMMAND CORNER



Dear Fire & EMS Family,

As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible dedication, hard work, and teamwork you all demonstrated throughout the past year. Each of you plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, and your unwavering commitment does not go unnoticed. The new year brings fresh opportunities and goals. Together, we will continue to focus on improving service delivery and fostering collaboration among our teams. This year, we aim to build upon the foundation we've laid, ensuring that we remain equipped, prepared, and united to meet the needs of those we serve.

Thank you for your sacrifice, perseverance, and dedication. Here's to a year of growth, success, and making a difference together. May 2025 be a safe, prosperous, and fulfilling year for all of you and your families.

Stay strong, stay safe, and let's make this a remarkable year!

Warm regards,

Janet Blankenship, Chief

Janet Blankenship, Chief

Administration

● **MARCUS ALERT POLICY UPDATE**

A policy change was implemented effective Dec. 13, 2024 regarding our Marcus Alerts. Please make note of two key areas: Marcus Level 3 and Marcus Level 4 which focus on how EMS and Law Enforcement will be dispatched and how they will respond to the call either by going to the scene or staging.

Marcus Level 3: Will be dispatched and be displayed on Active 911 as “EMS to Scene”-LE will stage

Marcus Level 4: Will be dispatched and will be displayed on Active 911 as “EMS stage” - LE will go to the scene.

We understand that policy changes can raise questions, so we encourage you to reach out if you need further clarification or have any concerns. We are committed to ensuring smooth transitions when things like this happen and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

● **CSR Update:**

Progress is being made on the CSR. All the hardware has arrived and is being prepared to be placed in the units. We have received our DEA license, keeping us on track to meet our projected goal date of middle to end of January.

● **Recruitment & Retention**

Our First Recruitment and Retention meeting was held on December 12th, where several great ideas were shared. We will be working on plans to implement a few of these ideas. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Captain Wilkerson for more details.

● **CAD Update**

A review of Fire responses to CAD incident types was conducted early last month. Minor corrections are planned for January. Dispatch and the county GIS team are working on mile markers so that calls to the Blue Ridge Parkway can be dispatched more quickly. Unit-based dispatching has been implemented in the CAD test environment and testing is scheduled for Q1 of CY 2025.

Please help dispatch by remembering to mark your rescue squad units unstaffed if you complete a call and go off-duty. Please do not mark fire apparatus out of service unless the vehicle is inoperable.

Also, please let Fire Admin know if CAD recommends incorrect units. These are investigated quickly, although there are times we have to wait for a fix from Motorola. Thank you for your patience as we have worked through this new system.

Operations

Bedford County Truck School

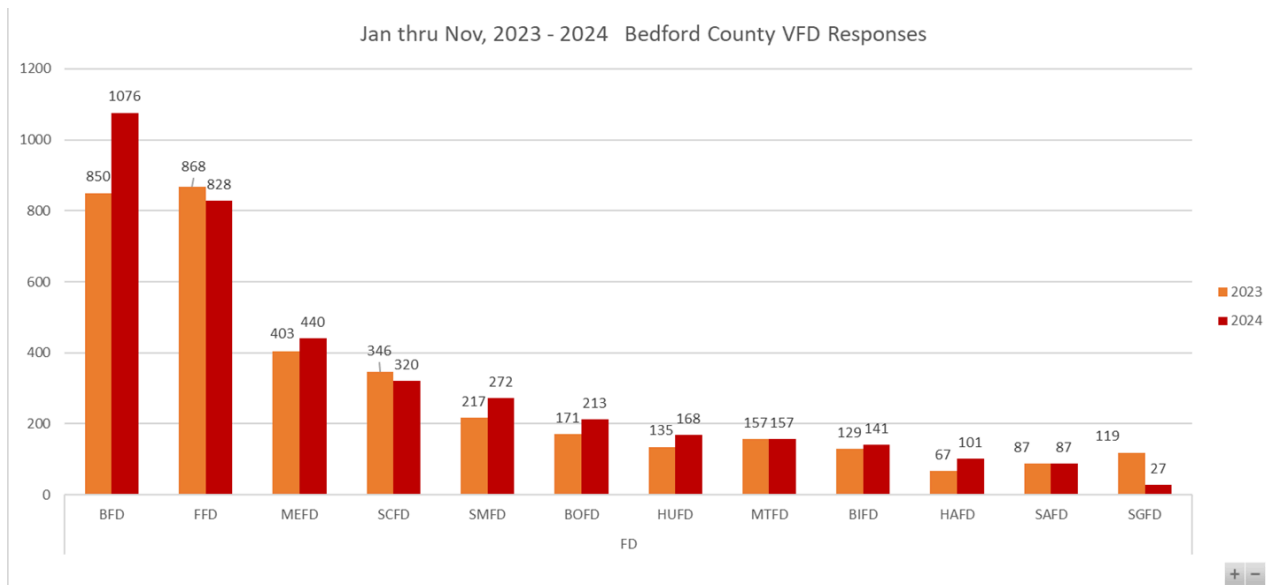
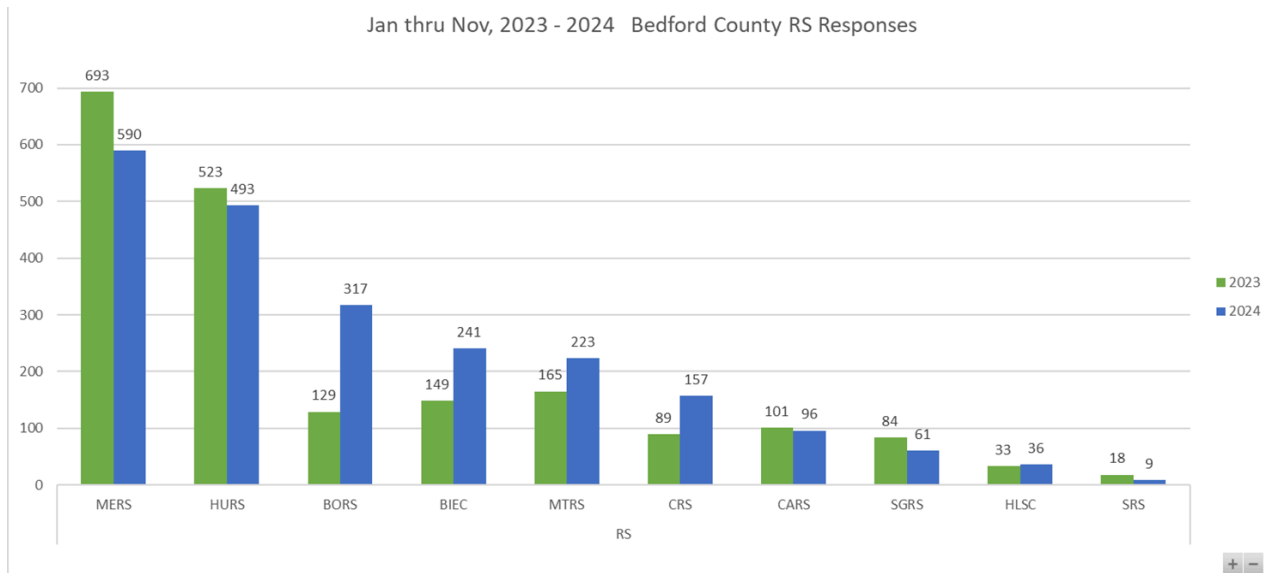
The 8th Annual Bedford County Truck School brought 84 students and 40 instructors to our area. Over the course of 3 days they received lecture and hands-on opportunities to expand their knowledge & skill base in search culture, ladders/VEIS, forcible entry, can confidence, metal cutting, ventilation, and search/RIT operations. We are grateful for the multitude of contributions made by our local Fire/Rescue partners as well as the instructors who travelled from several different states to make this program a success!



Operations

Call Data

Call data is an essential tool for analyzing the efficiency and responsiveness of both career staff and volunteer agencies. By visualizing call data, we can identify trends, response times, and areas for improvement. Below are graphs visualizing our call data for both rescue squads and fire departments.





As of October 1st there have been 10 HazMat related incidents across the county, These incidents have ranged from fuel leaks to explosions and even downed aircraft. As we move into the new year, BC Jessee would like to provide a couple of reminders:

* Any fuel leak greater than 5 gallons must be reported to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Any fuel leaks regardless of amount that end up in waterways (creeks, streams, storm drains, etc.) must be reported. The easiest way to accomplish this is to notify BC Jessee or the Fire Marshal's Office.

* With colder weather, an increase in propane usage can be anticipated. We have already seen several propane related incidents and will likely see more. Please keep in mind that when checking for Lower Explosive Limits (LEL) with a 4 or 6 gas detector, a correction factor must be applied to your reading. These are found on the quick reference tags attached to all monitors and are specific to that monitor. For Example: Your Qrae3 four gas monitor is reading 10% LEL at a propane incident and the correction factor is 1.6, the corrected LEL reading is 16% and not 10%. Remembering this can prevent us from unnecessarily putting ourselves in a hazardous situation.

-- BC Patrick Jessee



With winter among us, please take time daily to check the following:

Check unites for:

- Tire Chains
- Chain Tool
- WD-40

Check station for:

- Ice Melt
- Snow shovel

When doing your truck checks, look under the units as the drop chains. If something looks odd (bent, broken, etc.) report it.

-- LT Chad Baker

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



FFI & EMT Graduation

Front Row: Chief Janet Blankenship, BC Leo George, Sean Sullivan (FFI), Theresa Boyes (FFI), Peyton Jennings (EMT) Kristy Seamster (EMT), Haley Price (EMT), Addison Jennings (FFI), Rebekah Trittipoe (EMT), Captain Jodi McChesney, Captain Katie Wilkerson. Back Row: Derek Hart (EMT), Jalen Williams (EMT), Kevin Walker (EMT), Kaitlyn Fesmire (EMT), Addison Lacey (EMT), Jennie Clark (EMT), and Zach Turner (EMT)

November New Hires



Matthew Norville
Field Operations Lt.
B-Shift



Elizabeth Bobbitt
Paramedic
EMS Only

Bobbie Smith
Paramedic
EMS Only



Kimberly Smith
EMT-B
EMS Only



A BIG CONGRATS to Valerie Press and Emilie Maddox for passing their state test for Firefighter 1. Way to go ladies!

Congratulations

Michelle Duffy
(Sq. 7)
&
Kristy Seamster
(BCoFR)

These two ladies passed their NREMT last month! Awesome job and welcome to a new beginning.



John Singer accepted an award on the behalf of Milt Hobbs for "Most Outstanding EMT Instructor" at the FFI/EMS Graduation from his Moneta EMT class.

Mayday Training

SHOUT-OUT to those who completed November Mayday

Theresa Boyes
Shannon Bale
Jarrett Branch
Dakota Hall
Shannon Walker

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Community Care

On the following pages, we are proud to share the positive feedback/stories we have received recently from citizens, lieutenants, and colleagues, showcasing the profound impact of our collective efforts.

These testimonies serve as a powerful reminder of the positive difference you all make in the community and reinforce our commitment to serving with integrity and compassion.

10-3-2024: Mark Carter & Keagan Tuck responded to a call and ended up transporting a patient. That patient called the office to express her appreciation for the two men who took her to the hospital. She stated that they did a phenomenal job and that their kindness, compassion, and professionalism was just as impressive.

This patient said that she has a unique perspective on what it takes to provide quality care as she was an EMT in NY several years ago. She said that Mark & Keagan exemplified how a call truly should be handled. She was grateful for the support and wanted us to know how much this meant to her.

11-17-24: Wayne Guffey, Bobbie Smith and Meredith Wormser went above and beyond for a citizen in our community. They noticed a citizen struggling with her wheelchair while passing by and stopped to see if they could assist. A part of her wheelchair had broke and our three providers went to Lowe's to get the part she needed, come back and fix her wheelchair. The smile on the woman's face said it all, she was so appreciative and thankful. Kind gestures go a long way, and it lets the community know that you are not just here to do a job, you are here as professionals to support the community.

11-6-24: CO 5 responded to Colonial Hills Golf Course for a CPR call. Elliott, Gavin, and Cody did an excellent job providing patient care and supporting ALS (Jarrett Branch, Chase Coleman, and Bobbie Smith) efforts for the patient. Not all calls go smoothly, especially CPR calls, but with the ALS providers on scene and CO 5, this call went as smoothly as it could have. This isn't possible without an entire team of people who are capable and engaged.

AGENCY NEWS

Company 10 Saunders Fire Department

At Saunders Volunteer Fire Department we have lots going on! Our team of volunteers are working hard to show our pride for our department. We

have a new sign on the front of our building, a nice new big flag to fly, new bollards to dress up the firehouse and our new bulbs at our road sign. Also, we wanted to celebrate Smokies 80 Birthday.

The Department of Forestry graciously donated our new Smokey sign that you can see as you drive by everyday (check out the collage of pictures). Check to see the fire hazard status!



We also have a new 2025 Board of Directors elected on December 5th (see picture with names and positions below). We want to thank the outgoing Board of Directors for their presence and passion for volunteering for SVFC-10, President Sherman Dellis, Chief Eric Morgan and Treasurer John Honaker.

Exciting things are happening at Saunders and we welcome all of our community to come visit and see what things will be coming in 2025!

As always, thank you to our community and for your support!



Moneta Rescue Squad is proud to be hosting another EMT class starting in January! Classes will be held on Tuesday from 6pm-10pm, currently we are sold out at 30 seats with 8 people on the waiting list. We are looking for EMT & above folks who could help us with the classes on Tuesday evenings for the term period. If you are interested in helping, please contact Milt Hobbs @ milthobbs1@gmail.com.

Squad 8 Moneta Rescue



AGENCY NEWS

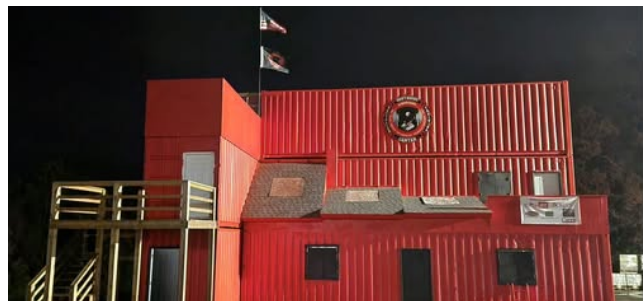


BIG news from Forest Fire...New Tower Ladder is soon to be delivered to the Thomas Jefferson Road Firehouse. This project has been in the making for years. We are proud to say that soon this tower ladder will be coming to a fire near you! A big thanks to those that took the time away from work, family and other responsibilities to be on this committee. Pictured below from left to right: Captain Brad Willis, Chief Monty Coleman, Asst. Chief Chase Coleman, Deputy Chief Zach Coleman, Sr. Firefighter Steven Evans, and Firefighter John Moore.



Company 8 Moneta Fire Dept.

Moneta Fire Department is thrilled to be hosting another Firefighter 1 class beginning in February 25, 2025! Classes will be held three days out of the week, including Saturday @ Moneta Volunteer Fire House (Station 8).



FYI & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Don't let stress and trauma take over your life.
Life is too short to live unhappily.
Take back control and enjoy your life again.

IMPACT
FIRST RESPONDERS

BREMS The Blue Ridge Emergency Medical Services Council

To activate the Regional Support Team to request a critical incident debrief, please email us at cism@vabrems.org

Individual counseling is available at no cost to any first responder in the BREMS Region who reaches out for help. Powered through Impact Living Services, our counselors understand first responder culture. We know life is messy. Counseling is off the grid; services do not require a diagnosis. Just scan the QR Code!

Save the Date

January 11, 2025:
Slap the Clap

Bob Page will be coming to Bedford Co Fire & Rescue Headquarters (EMS Classroom) on Saturday, Jan 11, 2025.

This CE day is sponsored by Bedford Co Rescue Squad Association.

Starting at 8am, lasting until approximately noon, Bob Page will present "Slap The Cap", all about capnography.

After breaking for lunch, Bob Page will present High Performance Ventilation starting at 1pm until approximately 5pm.

If you are unfamiliar with Mr. Page, you can visit his website and specifics of each class below.

[Bob Page Website](#)
[Slap the Cap! The Role of Capnography in EMS High-Performance Ventilation](#)

The classes are both listed on Course Storm here: [EMS | Bedford County Dept of Fire & Rescue](#)

BREMS Blue Ridge Emergency Medical Services Council

ADVANCED PRACTICE PARAMEDIC ACADEMY

February 2025
Attend three days.
5th or 6th
12th or 13th and
26th or 27th

9AM -5PM

BREMS Office
2412 Langhorne Rd.
Lynchburg, VA 24501

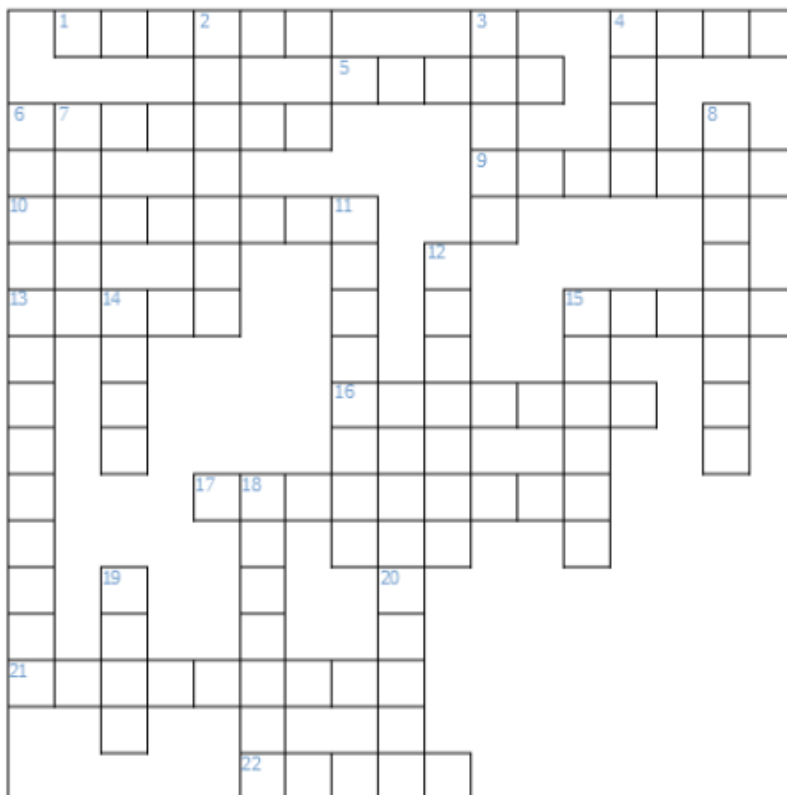
Offering CE for OEMS as well as FP-C and CCP-C

Prerequisites:

- Certified Paramedic with 2 years of experience as practicing 911 paramedic
- 3 years of EMS experience
- Two letters of recommendation, preferably one from agency leadership

Completion of baseline entry test

Winter



Across

- 1 Ice sport played with a puck
- 4 Fun ride down a snowy hill
- 5 Neck warmer
- 6 Change habitat seasonally
- 9 Sometimes has a carrot nose
- 10 Snowstorm
- 13 Hot sweet drink
- 15 The color of snow
- 16 Keeps your hands warm
- 17 Sleep through the winter
- 21 A unique crystal of ice
- 22 Direction birds fly for the Winter

Down

- 2 African American holiday
- 3 Jack _____
- 4 Frozen rain
- 7 House made of ice
- 8 Time off from school or work
- 11 Christmas month
- 12 Gliding on ice
- 13 Holiday of giving
- 14 Opposite of hot
- 15 The coldest season
- 18 Frozen spikes
- 19 Vehicle that clears snow from streets
- 20 Mix of snow and rain

