

OCTOBER 2025

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH



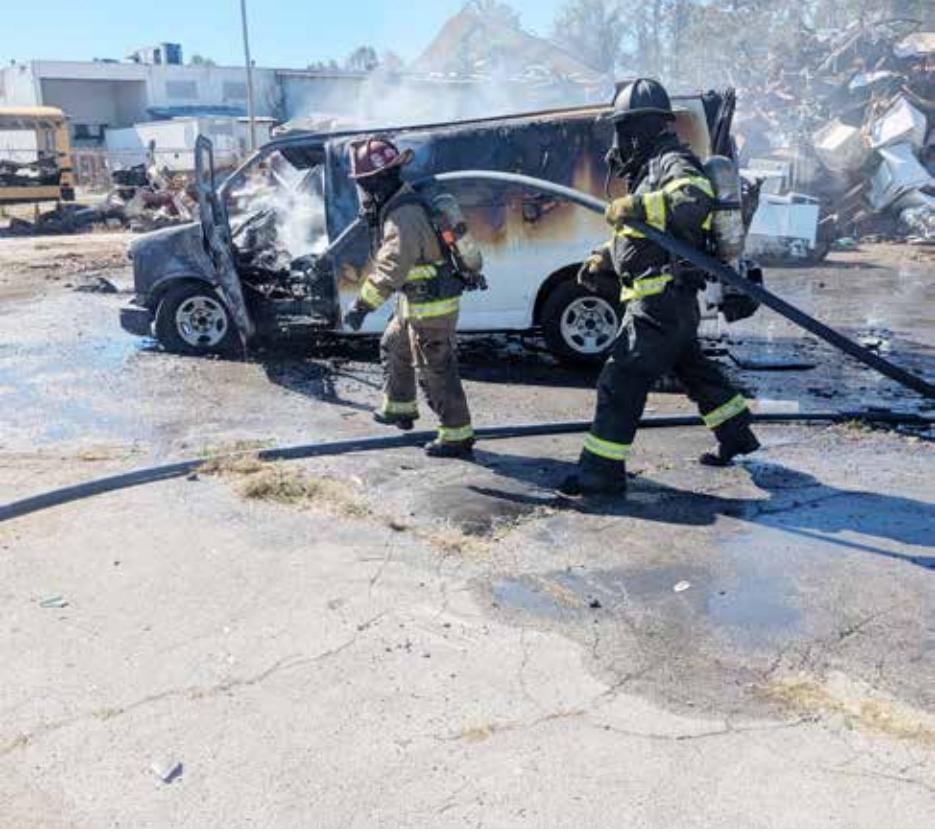
A Special Supplement to
THE EXPOSITOR



**(COVER) WHITE COUNTY VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS ENTER A
STRUCTURE FIRE**



Fire Prevention & Safety



BonDeCrost Volunteer Fire

Department: 8023 Crossville Hwy.
Sparta, TN 38583, (931) 935-3170

Cassville Volunteer Fire

Department: 227 Cassville Lane
Sparta, TN 38583, (931) 761-2476

Central View Volunteer Fire

**Department-Mt. Gilead/Walling,
Quebeck**
14462 Old Kentucky Rd.
Walling, TN 38587, (931) 761-7222

Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire

Department: 124 Montgomery Rd.
Sparta, TN 38583, (931) 738-8511

Doyle Volunteer Fire

Department: 5220 McMinnville Highway
Doyle, TN 38559, (931) 657-2079

Eastland Volunteer Fire

Department: 221 Eastland Cemetery Rd.

Sparta, TN 38583, (931) 935-8200

Hickory Valley Volunteer Fire

Department: 3680 Hickory Valley Rd.
Sparta, TN 38583, (931) 738-3622

North End Volunteer Fire

Department: 115 South Bunker Hill Rd.
Sparta, TN 38583, (931) 761-3657

Sparta Fire Department:
715 N. Spring St., Sparta, TN 38583
(931) 738-7380

Emergency Management Agency

(931) 212-9849
Matt McBride, director
750 Airport Rd.
Sparta, TN 38583

911 Emergency Communications District

931-738-8653
Suzi Haston, director
403 Mose Dr.
Sparta, TN 38583



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CERTIFICATION. BonDeCroft Volunteer Fire Department member Colby Phillips completes his EMR certification.



SWIFTWATER TRAINING. Central View Volunteer Fire Department - Walling/Quebeck/Mt. Gilead In late June, Lieutenant/AEMT Jade Callister and Firefighter/EMR Sam Grissom attended a four-day swiftwater class where they learned tools to rescue victims in moving water conditions. This includes raft/boat operations, entering the moving water environment, and self-rescue. The class is taught by instructors from the Middle Tennessee region, many of which have years of water rescue experience, including a former member of the department (Mt. Gilead Station), Mike McLatchy.



EXTRICATION. BonDeCroft Volunteer Fire Department extrication training

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COMMENDATION. Central View Volunteer Fire Department - Walling/Quebeck/Mt. Gilead Captain/EMR Brannon Randolph, assigned to Station 33/Mt. Gilead Station, received a commendation ribbon from the career department where he works. Brannon serves as a senior firefighter for the Chattanooga Fire Department. It was there his crew on Engine 9 green shift received praise from their transport partner, Hamilton County Emergency Medical Service. The paramedic on that ambulance praised Randolph and his crew's professionalism and obvious concern for the victim of a particular incident. Central View Fire has twelve of the nearly 30 volunteers who serve as career firefighters or EMS personnel, who come home and volunteer their experience and time to serve this community.



DOYLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. We were happy to have been a very small part of a successful operation for a citizen in need. This was a great bunch of professionals that came together to accomplish the mission. The vast majority were volunteers. Doyle Volunteer Fire Department, Sparta-White County Rescue Squad, Piney Volunteer Fire Department (Spencer), BonDeCroft Volunteer Fire Department, Cookeville Fire Department, Eastland Volunteer Fire Department, White County Office of Emergency Management, White County Emergency Medical Service, Hamilton County Cave and Cliff, Tennessee Fire Chaplains, and Eastland Volunteer Fire Department.



DOYLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. Congratulations to Tyler Driver on passing his EMT-B National Registry.



Smoke Alarms at Home

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ! Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ! Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



Fire Prevention & Safety





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ROPE AWARENESS CERTIFICATION. Central View Volunteer Fire Department - Walling/Quebeck/Mt. Gilead congratulates Assistant Chief Randy Conatser on completion of his Tennessee Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education Commission Rope Awareness certification. Assistant Chief Conatser also serves as our fire investigator and holds certifications from the fire commission and the International Association of Arson Investigators.



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Electrical Safety

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffeemaker. Charging a laptop computer. These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.

SAFETY TIPS

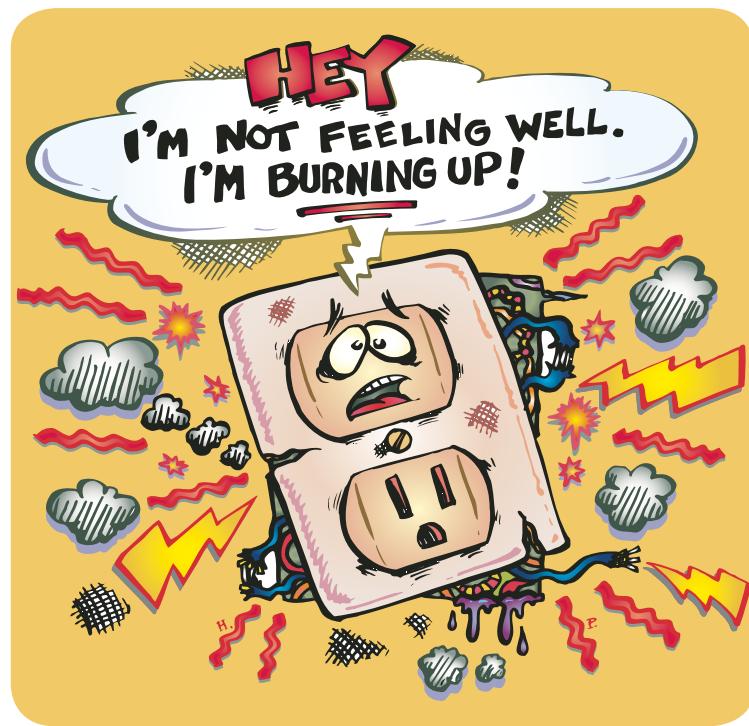
- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified private inspector or in accordance with local requirements.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, microwave ovens, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.
- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month according to the manufacturer's recommendations. You do not need a flame to start a fire. Fires can start when heat builds up near things that burn. This can happen when a hot light bulb is near things that burn, such as cloth or paper, or a cord has been placed under a carpet.
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.
- Use a light bulb with the right number of watts. There should be a sticker that indicates the right number of watts.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet



Fire Prevention & Safety

Volunteer firefighters from White County suppress a fire at the landfill

On April 20, 2025, at 1:07 pm members of that South Group automatic aid group made up of Central View, Doyle, and Hickory Valley volunteers fire departments were notified of a possible fire at the landfill. First arriving units gained access and found a section approximately 100x200 at the back of the landfill actively burning. Cassville fire department was added to the dispatch to bring an additional water tanker.

In all three engines, three 3,000-gallon tankers, two brush trucks, and two service companies responded with 20 personnel who operated at the scene for more almost

five hours. Waste Management company, who operates the landfill responded three employees who moved dirt to help smother the flames.

"The coordination of equipment and limited water supply nearby made this a challenging incident that was overcome through partnerships between these volunteer agencies, our water utility districts, DeWhite Utility and Quebec Walling utility district, and the owner of the landfill," said Thomas Steele, deputy chief for Central View Volunteer Fire Department-Walling/Quebec/Mt.Gilead.



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DOYLE FIRE DEPARTMENT. On April 30, 2025, emergency personnel responded to an excavator fire on Pettit Cove Road. FF Kolster arrived and reported the excavator was fully involved. South Group departments had 10 personnel and four apparatuses on the scene: Doyle Volunteer Fire Department, Central View Volunteer Fire Department - Walling/Quebeck/Mt. Gilead, Hickory Valley Fire Department



Eastland Volunteer Fire Department



Bill Smith, Chief
 John Holland, Asst. Chief
 Rebecca Edmonds, Secretary
 Carolyn Holland, Treasurer
 Tim Smith
 Dustin Holman
 Matthew Reed
 Coty Holland
 Sarah Shockley
 Daniel Shockley

Tom Holland
 David Edmonds
 Lucas Holland
 Caden Shockley
 James Ray
 Kelly Gambini
 Joshua Reed
 Dakota White
 Brandon Reed

Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home

Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that's rechargeable uses this kind of battery.



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hoverboards



tablets



cordless vacuum cleaners



e-vehicles



power tools



mobile phones



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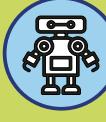
golf carts



smart watches



headphones



toys

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES store a lot of energy in a small place. These batteries can overheat, start a fire, or explode if overcharged or damaged. By learning how to **BUY, CHARGE, and RECYCLE** these batteries safely, you can help prevent a fire in your home.



BUY only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.



STOP using your device right away if the battery smells weird, gets too hot, makes popping noises, changes in shape or color. If it is safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.



CHARGE devices safely. Always use the cables that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.



RECYCLE batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire.



CHARGE your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.



RECYCLE your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

Fire Prevention & Safety



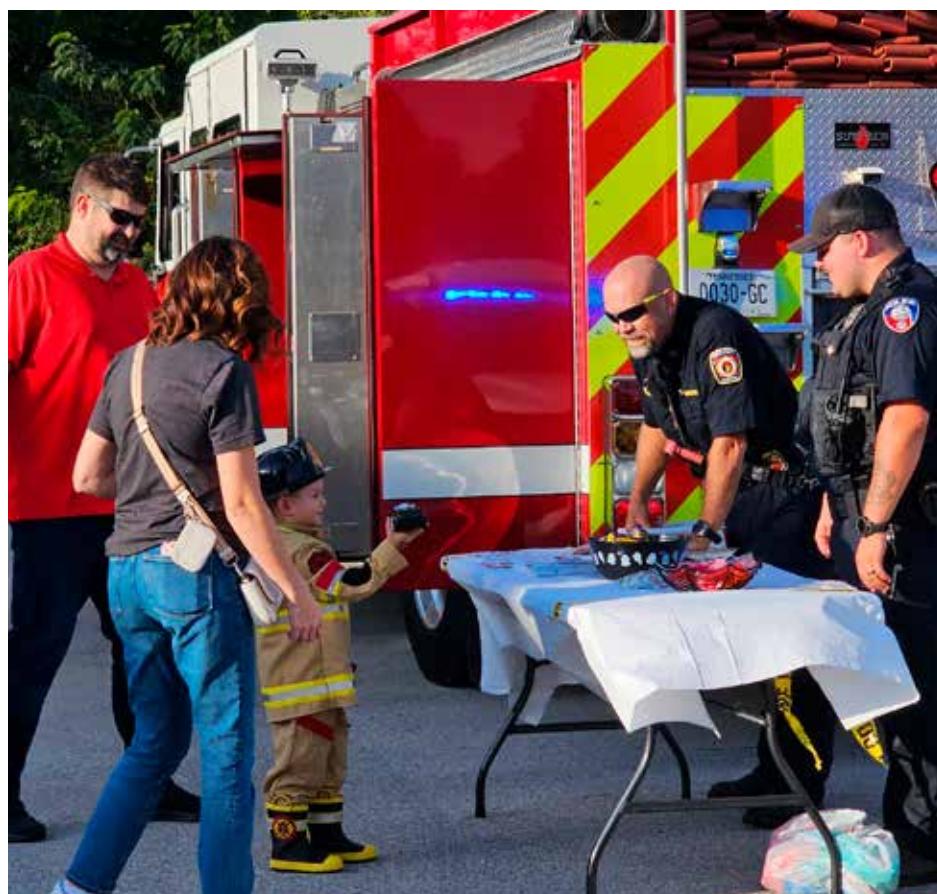
SPARTA FIRE DEPARTMENT. Jessie Buttrum



SPARTA FIRE DEPARTMENT. Mark Saylor, Dusty Kerr, Bryant Broyles, Richard Taylor, Derek Wilson



HAY ROLLER. South Group departments responded to a hay roller on fire that was threatening a structure, as well as a small fire in a field. The fire was quickly brought under control without further property damage: Central View Volunteer Fire Department Walling/Quebeck/Mt. Gilead, Doyle Volunteer Fire Department.

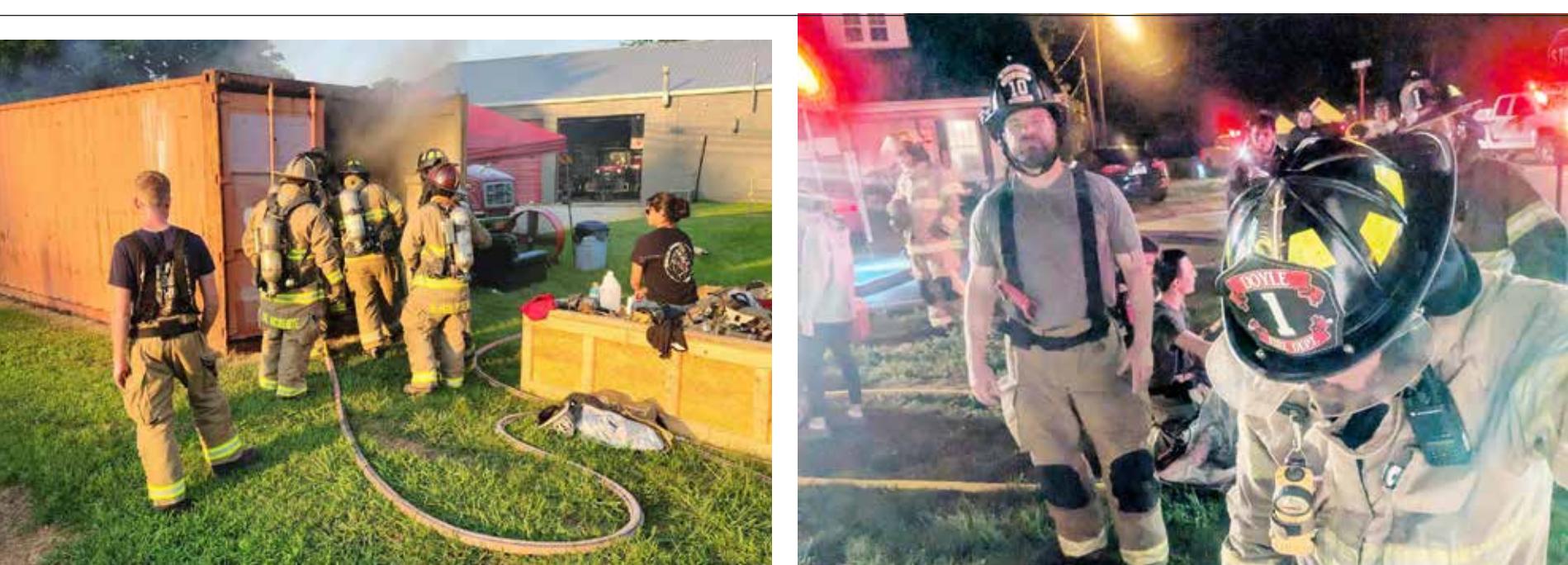


SPARTA FIRE DEPARTMENT. Ben Knox

Fire Prevention & Safety



Cassville Volunteer Fire Department



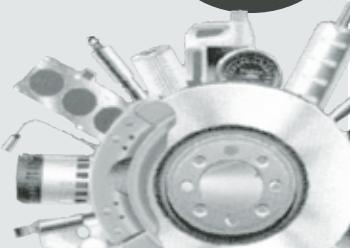
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Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

FACT

! The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.

Fire Prevention & Safety



NORTHEND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sparta-White County Rescue Squad, along with North-End Volunteer Fire Department, White county Sheriff's Office, White County Emergency Medical Service, and Tennessee Highway Patrol, responded to a motor vehicle accident on Burgess Falls Road.



CHERRY CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. Sparta-White County Rescue, along with Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire, BonDeCrost Volunteer Fire, White County Emergency Services, White County Sheriff's Office, and Tennessee Highway Patrol were dispatched to an MVA with confirmed entrapment. Agencies worked together to ensure a safe extrication of the subject. Once subject had been removed, they informed members on scene there was a dog in the vehicle. Responders then began to safely remove the pet and return it safely to a neighbor on scene.



Fire Prevention & Safety



Hickory Valley Volunteer Fire Department



