

Overview of Fire Service Organization

Newnan Fire Department is a municipal fire department; geographically, Newnan is 40 miles southwest of Atlanta on Interstate 85. The Department was founded in 1894. We now serve the citizens of Newnan with a staff of 42 personnel. Newnan Fire Department's fleet consists of 5 fire engines, 1 aerial apparatus, 1 special operations truck and 5 support vehicles.

By pooling resources, with other agencies we have obtained equipment and facilities that would be cost prohibitive for just one department. With membership on the West Georgia Regional Hazardous Materials Team we have access to a Mobile Command Center, atmospheric monitoring equipment and the added bonus of more trained hazardous materials technicians during an adverse event.

Through Chief Whitley's joint efforts with Coweta County Fire Department, Newnan Police Department, Coweta County Sheriff's Department and other public service agencies in the county the old outdated Newnan Fire Training Center was transformed into the modernized Newnan-Coweta Public Safety Training Center. Over a 2 year period, this training facility was transformed from an old block building with a fire hydrant to a multi-station facility with a new burn building, natural and LP gas simulators, electrical transformer and power lines simulators, automobile extrication stations and a classroom.

During 2003, Newnan Fire Department responded to 2195 alarms. Emergency medical call volume rose approximately 748% over a three-year time span. In the past eighteen months, firefighters have successfully used an Automated External Defibrillator to resuscitate three (3) victims PRIOR to the arrival of an ambulance.

Newnan Fire Department Community Involvement

- ❖ Smoke Detector Program with follow up for proper function and battery check
- ❖ Bi-Annual "Ghost Out" to educate high school students about drunk driving/seat belt use
- ❖ Annual Special Olympics
- ❖ Annual Red Cross Fund Raisers
- ❖ Annual "Boot the Burn" Fund Raisers
- ❖ Mentors to students in public schools
- ❖ Fire prevention classes at local schools
- ❖ Station tours with fire prevention education

Overview of Local Community's Need

Due to Newnan's convenient location and small town charm, we've experienced explosive growth. The U.S. Census Bureau reports, Newnan was the **3rd fastest growing city in the State of Georgia with a population of over 10,000 during the time frame of 2001-2002**. Now in 2004 our estimated population is 22,489.

In **2000** there were **6,643 residential units** in Newnan- 4,285 single family (homes, townhouses) and 2,326 multi-family units (apartments, condos) and 32 mobile homes. During the time frame from **2001-2003**, Newnan granted 1,819 single-family residential building permits and **707 units of multi-family permits**. In the development stage for 2004 are 9 subdivisions totaling 3109 housing units. *Over a three- year span multi-family housing has increased 30.4%.*

Revenue has fallen due to the economy. For example, collection of interest income: during 2000 we received \$657,711 in 2003 we only collected \$69,599, the **total dollars lost for those 3 years alone are \$1,275,431**. Due to a hospital merger, the City **lost another \$50,000** in revenue annually. Also, a change in the occupational tax will **decrease revenue by about \$55,000 annually**. This lack of funding has resulted in many budget requests being denied. The fire department alone has been denied, a fire-training officer, computers and vehicles.

Risk Assessment

According to the National Fire Protection Association, (NFPA) cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Most cooking equipment fires start with the ignition of common household items (e.g., food or grease, cabinets, wall coverings, paper or plastic bags, curtains, etc.). Newnan Fire Department is requesting funding for a project to reduce the number of stovetop cooking fires that occur in the City.

A formal risk assessment of nationwide statistics on home cooking fires was conducted by using search engines to consolidate data from the National Fire Protection Association and the United States Fire Administration. This search revealed the major cause of fires in the home and the target groups most at risk of death and injury in a fire.

Facts & Figures from the NFPA

Home Cooking Fire Patterns and Trend, OCT 2003

- In 1999, there were 96,200 home structure fires associated with cooking equipment, resulting in 331 deaths, 4,183 injuries and \$511.3 million in direct property damage.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.
- Three in every 10 reported home fires start in the kitchen – more than any other place in the home.
- 25% of single family home fires start in the kitchen
- 48% of apartment fires start in the kitchen

United States Fire Administration FactSheet:

Facts on Fire

- Senior citizens age 65 and over and children under the age of 5 have the greatest risk of fire death.
- The fire death risk among seniors over 65 is more than double; over age 75 triple; over age 85, 3 and one half times the average population.
- Children under the age of 10 accounted for an estimated 22.2 percent of all fire deaths.
- Although African Americans comprise 13 percent of the population, they account for 26 percent of fire deaths.

Newnan Fire Department Statistics and Facts

Newnan Fire Department conducted an informal evaluation by compiling data based on a three-year time span. The cause of dwelling fires in our department was surveyed by using our fire incident reporting software to research the incidents. Each dwelling fire was first pinpointed through the use of the software. Then, the incidents were manually reviewed to verify the accuracy of computer records. The years of 2001, 2002 and 2003 paralleled the national statistic revealing stovetop cooking to be the number one cause of fires in the home.

Single or Multi Dwelling Fires Caused by Stove-Top Cooking for City Of Newnan

| Date Range Surveyed | Percentage of Dwelling Fires Caused by Stove Top Cooking |
|---------------------------|--|
| Jun 2001 – May 2002 | 42% |
| Jun 2002 – May 2003 | 53% |
| Jun 2003 – May 2004 | 50% |
| Three Year Average | 48.3% |

These figures have taken a very personal slant for the members of Newnan Fire Department. On March 3, 2002, a structure fire was dispatched at an apartment complex in town. On arrival firefighters found two children in the upstairs apartment. The apartment was engulfed in flames. Both children suffered from smoke inhalation, one child died, the other child suffered a brain injury due to oxygen deprivation. Once the child was discharged from the hospital, he had an extensive rehabilitation process to attempt to regain proper brain function. Additionally, four more families were displaced from their homes. Food left cooking on the stove caused this deadly fire. By funding our request for Stove Top Fire Stop you can possibly help prevent this tragedy from recurring. Additionally, several firefighters received minor injuries ranging from sprained ankles to first-degree burns during this and other stovetop cooking related fires.

Fire Safety and Prevention Program Request

The Fire Service in the United States has aggressively pursued placing smoke detectors in every home. Deaths and injuries from home fires have decreased, as smoke detector programs became the fire prevention weapon of choice. Imagine for a moment, the positive impact that alerting residents of a stove fire and *extinguishing* the incipient stage of that fire. *Wow!* This is an opportunity to fund a pilot program for one of the first affordable major innovations in home fire protection since the advent of the smoke detector.

Stove Top Fire Stop is an automatic home stovetop fire extinguisher certified by Wyle Labs to UL standard 1254. The extinguisher which uses a magnet to mount underneath the vent hood of a stove is 3.375 “diameter x 3.5” inches tall. When a cooking fire grows out of control, or even if an object, such as a roll of paper towel, falls onto the stove and creates a fire, the Stove Top Fire Stop extinguisher will discharge and extinguish the fire. When the units are triggered, two events occur; a bicarbonate of soda is discharged across the stovetop to extinguish the fire and a 146-decibel alarm is triggered to alert the resident(s).

The Stove Top Fire Stop extinguishers will be offered in two different rounds. Based on the National Fire Protection Association and United States Fire Administration statistics, high-risk households with *persons over 65 years of age, children under the age of 18, and handicapped adults are the targeted groups for this campaign.*

The first round of installations will be specified for households that meet the high risk criteria and live in the geographical area within Newnan defined by the United States Census Bureau as having a poverty level of between 18.1 % and 36%. Once those citizens have been offered the opportunity to participate in the fire prevention campaign, the program will be opened up for the second level. On the second level, citizens that have household members that fall a high-risk category, regardless of income, will have the opportunity to request installation of the stove top fire stop.

Captain Jeffery Patterson and Lieutenant Denise Freeman will spearhead the Stove Top Fire Stop Fire Prevention Program at Newnan Fire Department. Captain Patterson is a Shift Commander, and has been employed at Newnan Fire Department for 15 years; he achieved a Fire Science degree in 2003, graduating with honors from West Georgia Technical College. Capt. Patterson successfully directed the Smoke Detector Installation program during 2002. Newnan Fire Department has employed Lieutenant Freeman for 17 years; she is a station officer in charge of a fire crew at the McKenzie Fire Station. Lt. Freeman is also on the department's Emergency Medical Services Committee, which is responsible for setting medical protocols and conducting quality assurance audits. Both of them are eager to launch this fire prevention campaign.

Community Partnerships

Newnan Fire Department is partnering with three different groups to facilitate this project.

Fireman's Fund Insurance is partnering with the department by furnishing employee volunteers to assist with the actual installation of the devices in homes. Additionally, two local community groups are partnering with us to increase awareness of the fire prevention project in targeted neighborhoods and to schedule installation appointments.

G3 Communities, Inc., a local community organization, was formed to address the issues of the distressed and underserved neighborhoods of the City of Newnan. Their mission is to serve the low to moderate-income community by providing housing solutions, business development and education services that empower people to create a complete and healthy community.

United We Stand for Positive Results is a grass roots organization that works with youths in inner city Newnan -- providing recreation, tutoring, mentoring, and other activities for at risk youth. Their mission is to bring together family and community to enhance the positive development of our youth. The group also encourages abstinence from sexual involvement and conflict resolution based on the principals set forth in Critical Thinking That Empowers Us to Choose Non-Violent Life Skills by Julia A. Davis and Postponing Sexual Involvement- An Educational Series for Young Teens by Marion Howard Ph.D. and Marie E. Mitchell R.N.

During our smoke detector installation program, quite often firefighters would knock on a door, hear people talking in the home, hear footsteps inside the home and even see a person look through the curtains. However, they would not open the door to discuss the smoke detector program with the firefighter. Our goal is to eliminate that problem. By partnering with organizations that are already making a grassroots effort and facilitating change in the targeted neighborhoods we will reach out to the community in a more effective manner.

Firefighters will be scheduled to conduct fire prevention classes educating the public and raising awareness of the dangers of stovetop cooking fires. By reaching out to our highest risk citizens through the organizations that serve them we can improve our opportunity to place life saving equipment in their homes. During the fire prevention classes we will be educating the public about cooking fires and distributing informational flyers. The flyers will include information on stovetop cooking fires and the number to call for an appointment to have the Stove Top Fire Stop extinguishers installed. Through our community partners' assistance, some of the groups we will be able to reach include:

United We Stand for Positive Results works with various groups in the community:
Community Garden

At risk youth are mentored in a community garden; vegetables are shared with the elderly and handicapped in the community. The program also encourages the youth to perform “Good Samaritan” task and reflecting if acts they perform daily are “selfless or selfish”

Girls on the Move

Is an after school program for 10-18 year olds that offers after school tutoring, life skills development and promotes postponing sexual involvement.

Newnan Housing Authority Resident Council

Serves as a mediator between the Newnan Housing Authority and the residents to resolve problems.

The Boys and Girls Club

Provides after school tutoring, mentoring and recreation for school age boys and girls.

G3 Communities, Inc., reaches out to the community with a variety of programs:

The Timothy Project

Children have academic training, physical activity, computer training, field trips and Bible study, also the project offers an academic program developed and registered by *A Thousand Points of Knowledge*, an organization that uses the same model for remediation as the Sylvan Learning Centers

The Senior Citizen Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program (SCOORP)

This program focuses on the Senior Citizens who own and live in homes in the Chalk Level Neighborhood. The goal is to provide upgrades to the home to bring it up to proper safety codes and to provide energy saving improvements to the home.

The Historic Preservation Initiative for First-Time Homebuyers (HPI)

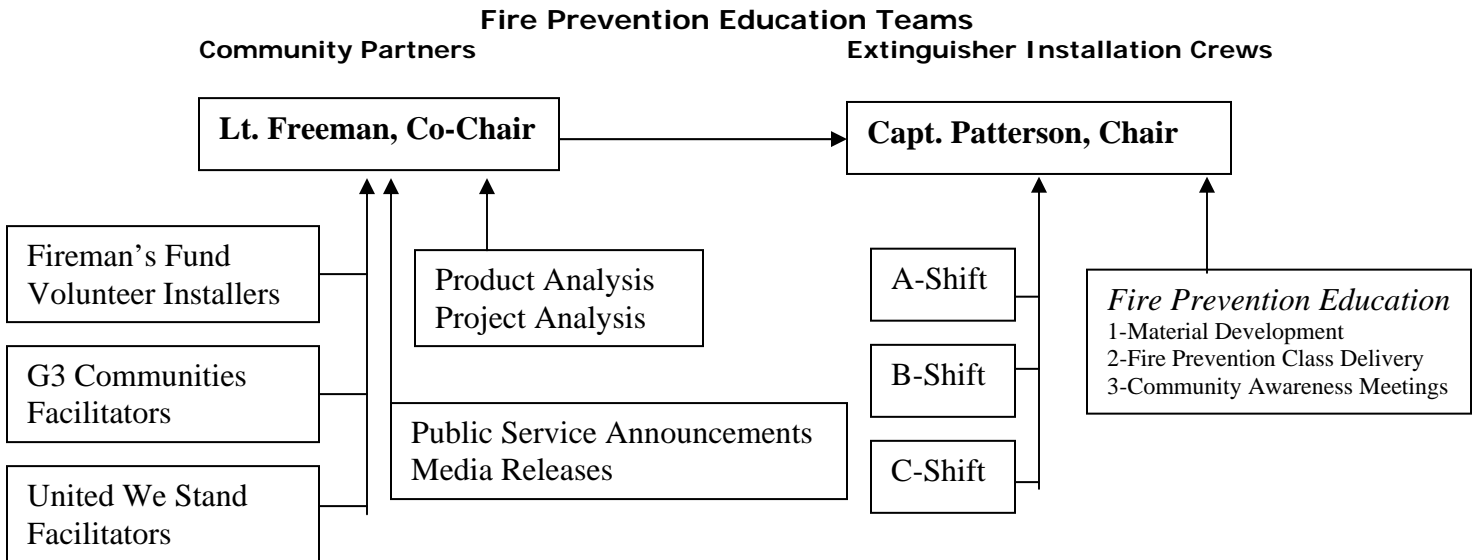
This program involves renovation of the current housing stock in the Chalk Level Neighborhood.

The Digital Business Program

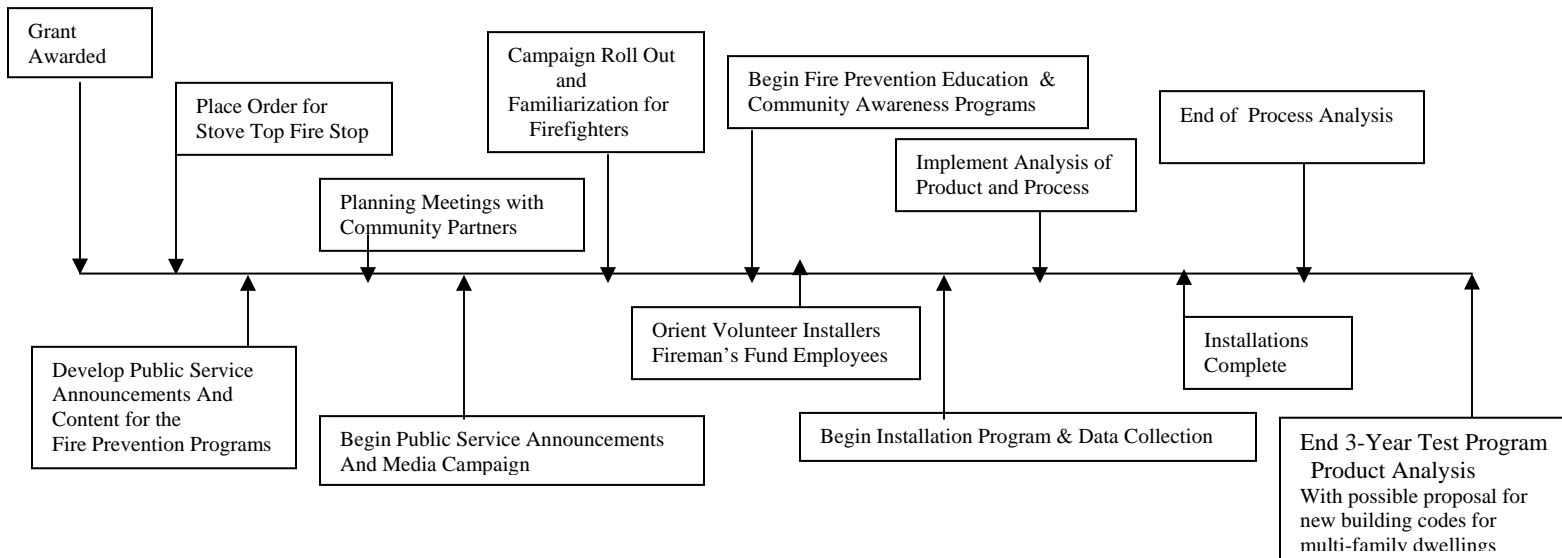
The WOMEN Project (Women On the Move Enterprising in the Nation) is for low-income single mothers who have a desire to start a business. G3C will provide computer access for business development, assist in acquiring certification from West Central Technical College in addition to specialized field training, and G3C will incubate or grow the business for eighteen months

Fire Prevention Campaign Program Outline:

Organizational Chart for Project Stove Top Fire Stop



Synopsis of Timeline for Stove Top Fire Stop



Expanded Time Line for StoveTop FireStop Campaign

Announcement of Receiving the Fire Safety and Prevention Grant

Time Frame: Day 1

Place Order for Stove Top Fire Stop Fire Extinguishers

Time Frame: Upon receipt of funds

Responsibility: Chief of Fire Department and Finance Director of City of Newnan

Place order for a blanket purchase order with delivery of the product to coincide with launch of installation program. Lead times and ship dates must be coordinated to manage stock properly.

Develop Public Service Announcements (PSA's) and Content for the Prevention Programs

Time Frame: 8 weeks

Responsibility: Lt Freeman with assistance of City of Newnan Public Information Office

Develop all public service announcements for radio, newspaper, Internet websites and television

Responsibility: Capt. Patterson with assistance from Pump Engineer Lehtimaki

Research and develop class information and flyers for community awareness programs and fire prevention classes. Design the brochures with contact information to request installation of the stovetop fire stop extinguishers.

Planning Meeting with Community Partners

Time Frame: Initial Planning Period-8 weeks,

Concurrent with Developing PSA's and Prevention Programs

Responsibility: Newnan Fire Department, Capt. Patterson and Lt. Freeman

G3 Communities

United We Stand For Positive Results, Inc.

Fireman's Fund Insurance

Begin Public Service Announcements and Media Campaign

Time Frame: Media Events to announce grant and launch campaign within 2 weeks of award

Public Service Announcements and media updates duration of 3-year program

Responsibility: City of Newnan Public Information Office

Release of material to all outlets and markets

Campaign Roll Out and Familiarization for Firefighters

Time Frame: Begin within 12 weeks of awarding of grant, complete with 16 weeks

Responsibility: Capt Patterson, Lt Freeman and Pump Engineer Greg Lehtimaki

Familiarize the firefighters with the fire prevention information, class format, program goals, duration of the program, their role in the analysis of the product and the duration of both, the grant and the analysis of product.

Begin Fire Prevention Education & Community Awareness Programs

Time Frame: Start within 17 weeks of receiving grant; continue for 3 years

Responsibility: All Members of Newnan Fire Department

Orient Fireman's Fund Employees Volunteer Installers

Time Frame: Begin Orientation after Firefighters Campaign Roll Out and Familiarization

Responsibility: Lt. Freeman

Conduct orientation programs with Fireman's Fund Insurance employee volunteers to familiarize them with the Stove Top Fire Stop Extinguisher, Newnan Fire Department's fire prevention campaign against stove top cooking fires and proper installation of the units.

Begin Installation Program & Data Collection

Time Frame: March 2005 through November 2005

Responsibility: Newnan Fire Department in partnership with volunteers

Visit citizens homes, educate residents concerning stove top cooking fires, explain the Stove Top Fire Stop Extinguisher product and limitations to the residents, collect data for product and process analysis

Implement Analysis of Product and Process

Time Frame: From beginning of installation through the 3 year evaluation period

Responsibility: Lt Freeman - Development of methods

Administrative Assistant to Chief – data collection point, cross-reference of address of stove fires to determine if part of program

All Members of Newnan Fire Department- visual confirmation of and recognition of Stove Top Fire Stop upon dispatch to a stove fire

Installations Complete

Time Frame: March 2005 through November 2005

Responsibility: Capt. Patterson, Chair of Program

All members of department responsible for contributing to success of the program by having all Stove Top Fire Stop Extinguishers installed.

End of Process Analysis

Time Frame: December 2005

Responsibility: Lt Freeman - Development of methods to evaluate process

Administrative Assistant to Chief –data collection/compilation point

End of 3-Year Program Product Analysis with possible proposal for new building codes for multi-family dwellings

Time Frame: Data collected within 36 months of installations being completed

Data compiled and analyzed with 8 weeks of three-year program end

Responsibility: Lt. Freeman- Data collected/compiled/analyzed

Fire Chief, Fire Marshall, and Fire Officers to review data and make decision based on effectiveness of product concerning possible revisions to multi-family housing units building codes by requiring Stove Top Fire Stop extinguishers in new construction. If the data supports this step, the Fire Chief or his designee(s) and the Fire Marshall shall be responsible for drafting the regulation and presenting it for approval by the City Council.

Product Analysis Plan

The control group will be an apartment complex in a predominantly African-American neighborhood that historically has one of the highest incidences of stovetop cooking fires. This complex is located in an area where numerous people live below the poverty level. The complex provides a wide cross section of living situations; persons over 65, handicapped adults, and single parent households with children under the age of 17.

Stove Top Fire Stop extinguishers will be placed under the stove vent hood in each apartment unit. Our department will evaluate the effectiveness of the extinguishers over a 3-year period. Effectiveness of the product will be measured based on the following criteria:

- Number of stove top fires extinguished by device
- Number of stove top fires contained to area of origin until fire department arrival
- Decrease in number of resident injuries/deaths
- Decrease/Increase reported by complex manager for repairs after a stove top fire

If the number of stovetop cooking fires extinguished or contained to the area of origin by the Stove Top Fire Stop exceeds 50 % fire prevention program will be considered a success. This will generate a recommendation to amend new construction building codes requiring Stove Top Fire Stop extinguishers in all new multi-family construction.

Process Evaluation Plan

Process evaluation will be comparison of the number of households that participate in the Stove Top Fire Stop Fire Prevention Program compared to the number that participated in the Smoke Detector Installation Program. By establishing the number of households that participated in the Smoke Detector Installation Program as the baseline; any increase in the percentage above that base line will indicate improvement of delivery process. A decrease below that baseline will indicate the process delivery method needs to be re-engineered.

Desired Benefits and Outcome for Community

The goal of this fire prevention and education campaign is to decrease both, the number and severity of dwelling fires started by stovetop cooking. The end result will be fewer injuries and deaths, plus less property damage, which will result in decreased renovation cost after a fire. The entire community of 22,489 will be our target for education, however only 700 homes will be provided with Stove Top Fire Stop in this launch of the fire prevention and education program. In hard cold numbers, the cost of the program per citizen based on increased awareness of the entire community is \$1.07 per person. If you break the figures into the number of homes protected by the Stove Top Fire Stop, the numbers increase to \$34.29 per household. However, can a price of \$34.29 per household out weigh the life of one child and the brain damage incurred by another?

Budget for Stove Top Fire Stop

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Unit Cost</u> | <u>Gross Price</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stove Top Fire Stop | 700 | \$33.00 | \$23,100.00 |
| Shipping Cost | as quoted by the supplier | | \$500.00 |
| Office Supplies * | | | \$400.00 |
| | | | \$24,000.00 |

* Includes printed material for public fire prevention classes, supplies for training classes for volunteer installers and supplies for training classes for campaign launch at the Fire Department