



Paulding County Fire & Rescue Contact:

Steve Mapes
Public Information Officer
678-383-3416
steve.mapes@paulding.gov

PAULDING COUNTY TO COMMISSION NEW HEAVY TACTICAL SQUAD

Dallas, Georgia – August 20, 2019. On Friday, August 23rd, Paulding County Fire & Rescue will officially commission “*Squad 1*” into emergency service.

Equipped with highly-trained Tactical Rescue personnel, Squad 1 will carry specialized equipment designed to handle a wide range of emergencies. Those include structural collapse, complex vehicle extrications, high-angle & rope rescues, hazardous materials, water rescues, and trench & confined space rescues. Squad 1 is also designated to respond (along with engine & ladder companies) to all structure fires county-wide with its high intensity scene lighting and crew trained in rapid intervention techniques.

According to Chief Joey Pelfrey, “This is an exciting day for Paulding County. Squad 1 is a tremendous piece of apparatus that will help us protect the lives and property of our citizens. Paulding County has grown rapidly. With that growth we’ve experienced a dramatic increase in the number of complicated emergency situations. In the past, depending on the incident and type of equipment needed, we were reliant on mutual aid assistance from surrounding departments. Today Squad 1 significantly expands our local capabilities. It also helps us vastly reduce the amount of time needed to get specialized equipment and personnel to the scene of nearly any emergency situation. We are very excited to commission Squad 1.”

About the “Push-In” Ceremony: A long standing tradition - the "Push-In" - is celebrated by many fire departments in the United States. The ritual dates back to the 1800's when horse-drawn pumpers were used throughout the nation's Fire Service. Anytime new horses or pumpers were purchased, neighboring fire departments, political figures, and citizens from the surrounding community would celebrate. Local clergy bestowed blessings by sprinkling holy water unto it for long life, strength, speed and good health. Horses and the fire wagon were then washed, the horses fitted with their new harnesses, stabled and fed, and everyone in attendance would then help push the fire wagon into its newly assigned firehouse.

The “Push-In Ceremony” will be held at Fire Station 1, located at 169 Thomas B. Murphy Drive, in Dallas at 10:30am on Friday August 23, 2019.

###