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## **WCFD PARTNERS WITH LOCAL AGENCIES FOR TRAINING PROGRAM**

Whitfield County, GA – The Whitfield County Fire Department (WCFD) has partnered with outside agencies such as the City of Dalton Fire Department (DFD) and Gilmer County Fire Department to conduct a comprehensive training program that includes a mix of hands-on exercises and classroom instruction. The training initiative is aimed at enhancing skills and capabilities for both recruits and seasoned employees.

The 14-week training program is state approved and a certified representative from the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) is in attendance and provides the curriculum. WCFD Training Division will provide the facilities and training instructors. The Training Division is represented by 4 firefighting professionals: Division Chief Samuel Hammontree and Captains Tyler Warnix, Keith Gray, and Stephanie Burch.

The collaboration extends beyond training exercise, with participants building professional relationships that will strengthen interagency coordination during real emergencies. This approach ensures that the community receives the most efficient emergency services possible. “Our training division has a passion for the fire service,” said Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Callaway. “It’s that passion and drive where they are continuously learning new skills and new techniques – that’s what gives us the confidence in them training the personnel.”

WCFD aims to ensure that all personnel are well-prepared to respond to any emergency situation, whether it be a structure fire, medical call, or a hazardous material incident. “We are enhancing the efficiency of our fire department and neighboring departments through state approved classes,” said Warnix. “Throughout the program they will get some of the experience that you can’t get unless you run that call.” The program will cover a wide range of essential firefighting skills including but limited to: pressurized container, and handling flammable combustible liquid incidents.

For more information on the WCFD please visit:  
<https://www.whitfieldcountyga.com/fire/fire.htm>