

# Honoring Our First Responders

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT  
The Sentinel-Progress

# Create an effective fire safety plan Returning home after a fire



**Staff report**

**PICKENS COUNTY** -- While fire can provide warmth and safety, it also can cause immediate and significant damage that can uproot lives and devastate homes. Because fire is such a formidable foe, it's imperative that people from all walks of life have a fire safety plan. The threat of fire The National Fire Protection Association says U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 358,500 home structure fires per year between 2011 and 2015. On average, seven people die in U.S. home fires per day. The Ontario Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services says 48 percent of fires that cause severe losses occur in residential properties. Both the NFPA and the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management in Ontario state that cooking-related fires are the most prevalent, followed by fires sparked by heating equipment. How quickly fire can spread may surprise some people. The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department says that in the average two-story home fire, fire

ignites in 30 seconds, smoke pours into most rooms by 2.5 minutes, and roughly 4.5 minutes after the fire has ignited, flames can be visible from the exterior of a house. Temperatures inside can grow from 190 F to more than 1400 F in two minutes. Planning is critical When fires ignite, time is of the essence to make a fast evacuation. Unfortunately, panic may set in and people may not know how to act when under such acute stress. That's why planning for the event of fire can provide families with the information they need to evacuate safely. Evacuation plans and drills should be established and practiced frequently so that getting out alive becomes second nature. However, only about one-quarter of households have actually developed and practiced a home-fire escape plan, according to the NFPA. The following guidelines can help families customize their fire escape plans. Find two ways out. Look at your home's layout and identify two ways out of every room, if possible. Walk around the house in

each room and practice what to do if a fire broke out in that space, offers Safe Kids Worldwide. Choose an outside meeting place. Establish a spot to meet a safe distance in front of the home where everyone can gather after they've gotten out safely. Assign help to those with mobility issues. Elderly adults, infants or young children may have difficulty escaping on their own. Plan a buddy system so that a key person in the household is responsible for rousing and helping another from the house. Check fire protection. Be sure that there is a working smoke alarm in every bedroom and on every level of the house. Drop it low. Heat and smoke rise and escaping on hands and knees is essential for survival. Practice several times a year. Conduct a fire drill a few times each year, and choose a different escape route each time. Invest in a UI-certified collapsible rescue ladder and attach it at least once, advises The Fire Department of New York, in case a second-story evacuation is necessary.

**Staff report**

**PICKENS COUNTY** -- Home structure fires pose a significant, potentially deadly threat. According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. fire departments responded to an average 358,300 home structure fires per year between 2010 and 2014. Statistics regarding home fires in Canada are somewhat elusive, but a 2007 report from the Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners indicated home structure fires accounted for 73 percent of all fire deaths in the jurisdictions that contributed to that year's report.

A host of factors can contribute to home fires. Cooking equipment, heating equipment and electrical distribution and lighting equipment can spark home structure fires. In such instances, homeowners may soon find themselves picking up the pieces after their homes, and many of their possessions, have burned to the ground. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following tips to men and women who must recover after their homes have fallen victim to structure fires.

Recognize the need to be patient. When a home is on fire, firefighters may take certain actions to ensure the fire is completely extinguished. For example, holes might be drilled in the walls of homes to make sure there are no hidden flames. In addition, holes may be cut in the roof to let out heat and smoke. Such actions can save lives and even homes, but the resulting cleanup can be time-consuming. When returning home for the first time after a fire, men and women must recognize the need to remain patient as they formulate and execute a plan to clean up their homes.

Contact a disaster relief service. The local branch of a disaster relief service like the Salvation Army can help victims

of home structure fires find lodging, food, clothing, and medicine. Don't hesitate to reach out to such organizations for assistance.

Do not enter the home until the fire department deems it safe to do so. Even fires that appear to be out can start again. In addition, the USFA advises that roofs and floors, even those that appear sturdy to the naked eye, can still fall down after the blaze has been extinguished. Avoid entering a home until you have been given the go-ahead by the local fire department.

Contact the police and your insurance agent. Victims of home structure fires whose homes are uninhabitable should contact their local police departments and their insurance agents to inform them about the fire and that they will not be living there. Police departments and/or home insurance providers may require that holes in walls and broken windows be boarded up to prevent trespassers from gaining entry to the home. Renters should contact their landlords immediately as well.

Be careful with items that were not burned. The USFA notes that even items that were not burned may still have been ruined by smoke or been soaked with water. Carefully clean any items that you think can be salvaged before using them.

Save all receipts spent on repairs. Insurance companies may require receipts to confirm spending on repairs, and such receipts may also be required for people who want to claim any losses on their tax returns.

Home structure fires can turn lives upside down. But following the advice of local fire departments and accepting the assistance of local relief organizations can make the recovery process go as smoothly as possible.



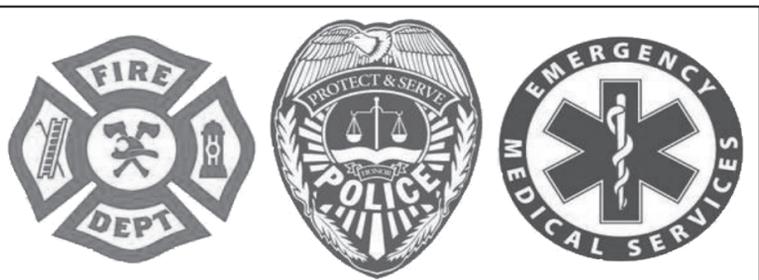
*Thank you to all the  
First Responders  
who give us a hand up!*



**859-3167**

478 E. Main St.  
Easley, SC 29640

Monday-Saturday - 6:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.



*We Appreciate Our  
First Responders*

Every day, our City's First Responders put their lives on the line to protect our neighborhoods and keep us safe. The positive impact of their service and dedication to our communities and our city is invaluable, and we owe them the full measure of our respect and gratitude. We honor and remember the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and recognize those who continue to serve our communities. To all of the First Responders who go above and beyond the call of duty, we thank you for your service. We stand with you, and we keep your safety in our thoughts and prayers always.



# Pickens County



Courtesy Photo



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*We Salute Our Local First Responders  
We celebrate these men and women for their sacrifice, courage and dedication.  
Those who have answered the call of duty deserve our recognition and our thanks.*

**The Sentinel-Progress**  
201 W. Main St. • Easley, SC 29640  
(864) 855-0355

To All First Responders that selflessly give of themselves day after day...

*Thank You*

**Thank you First Responders**

No words seem adequate to express our admiration and gratitude for the brave men & women who run towards danger to selflessly save others...

**Our thoughts & Prayers are with you**  
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# City of Easley Fire Department



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**Thank You**

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Strength, Courage & Service

Easley First Baptist Church  
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# City of Easley Police Department



Kasie Strickland | The Sentinel-Progress



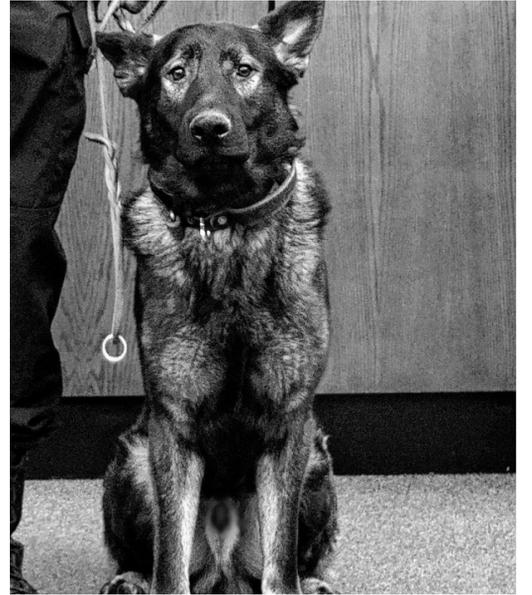
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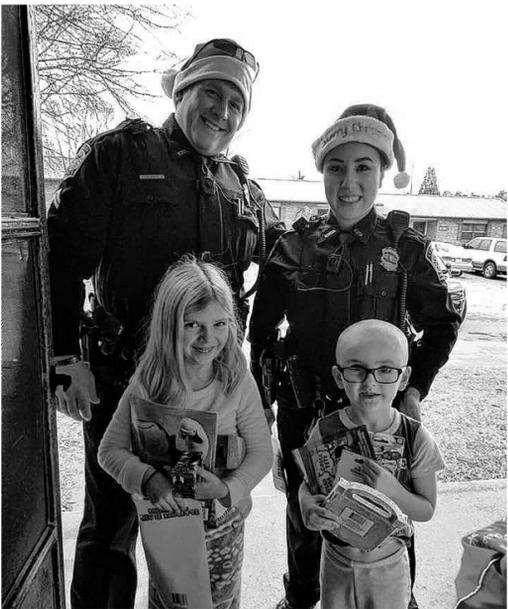
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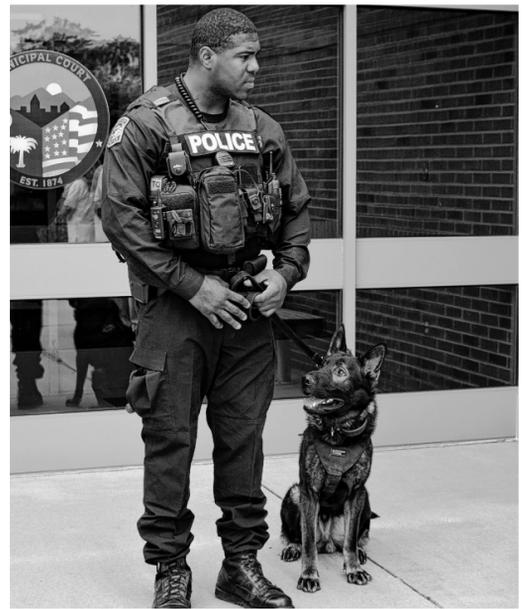
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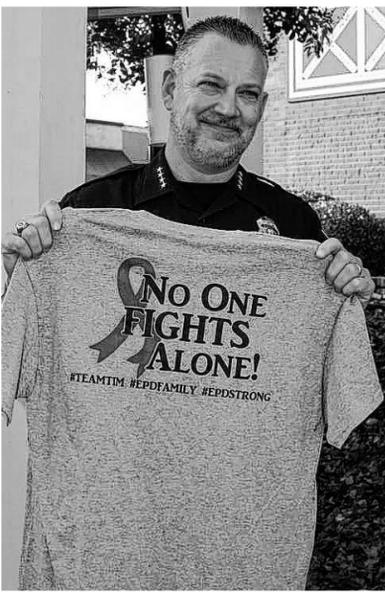
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# City of Pickens Fire Department



Photo Courtesy of Fire Chief Chris Elrod



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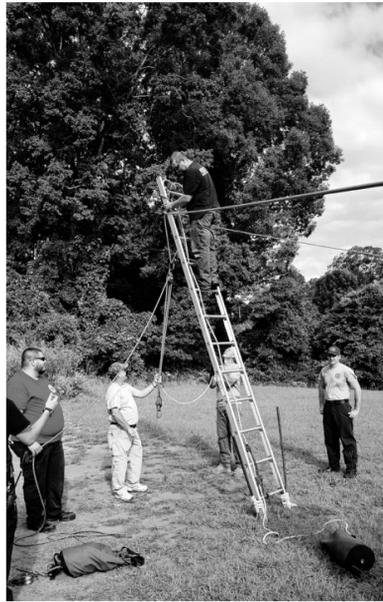


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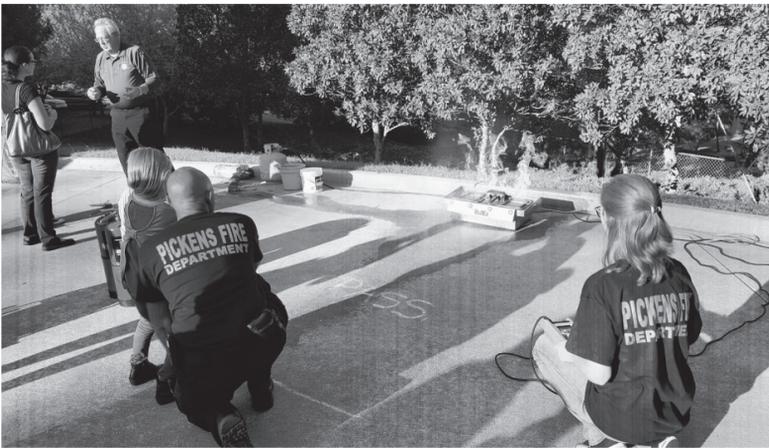


Photo Courtesy of Fire Chief Chris Elrod



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**FIRST RESPONDERS**  
**WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

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Thank you for keeping us safe!

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 pickensautorepair@hotmail.com

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**Thanks to the First Responders Who Touch Our Lives**

*Through their skill, dedication and caring, first-responders make a life-saving difference in the lives of countless people each and every day.*

*We'd like to express our appreciation to these dedicated men and women, whose commitment to helping make our community and our world a better place.*

**benSON Ford**

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**think we don't have heroes? THINK AGAIN.**

**THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS!**

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# City of Pickens Police Department



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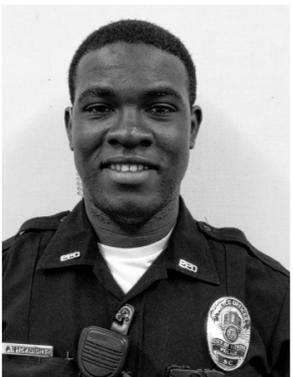
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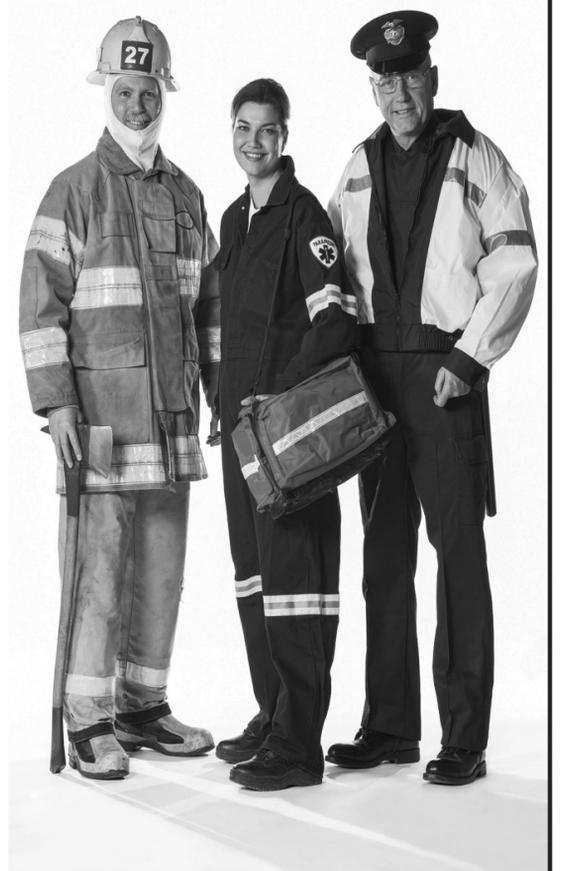


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Words can't begin to describe the life-changing contributions our first-responders make each and every day in our community. We'd like to take a moment to thank these dedicated men and women who follow the calling to make a difference. Their tireless efforts and hard work as caregivers, advocates, educators and innovators make our community and our world a better place.

