



Board of County Commissioners

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Press Release

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4:00PM EDT, February 11, 2014

Historic Mutual Aid Agreement Signed



Woodbine, Ga. (February 11, 2014) - History was made last week when a Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreement was signed that joined together Camden County Fire Rescue (CCFR), the Kingsland Fire Department (KFD) and the St. Marys Fire Department in a manner designed to improve efficiency, reduce response times and improve the level of service for the citizens of Camden County. Under the agreement the three departments will begin training together and the unit that is geographically closest to a call location will respond. The first joint training sessions were held on February 5.

The agreement is the result of unprecedented cooperation between the Camden County Board of Commissioners (BOCC), the Kingsland City Council and the St. Marys City Council. The agreement was one of the options proposed by the International City/County Management

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County Administrator

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Commissioner, District 5

Association (ICMA) Center for Public Safety Management who had been hired in 2013 to study the feasibility of consolidation of fire services within the county. Following the study a committee comprised of elected members of the two city councils, the BOCC as well as the County Administrator and the two City Managers.

All the City and County Elected Officials as well as the City and County Fire Chiefs involved in drafting and implementing the new mutual aid agreed that this is a positive step forward in providing all the citizens of Camden County the best possible fire and EMS service.

County Administrator Steve Howard said the agreement is testament to the power of committed cooperation. "This is an important milestone and clearly demonstrates to the people of Camden County that their elected officials and their local governments will work together for the common good. This is a proud moment in the history of Camden County."

The ICMA final report stressed the need to increase safety for the citizens of Camden County by improving response times to emergency calls. According to the ICMA study, "When implemented properly, consolidation works to overcome jurisdictional boundaries, ensures that the closest unit responds after receipt of a 911 call, and potentially improves response times and mitigation efforts."

This press release was drafted and prepared by our BOCC Intern Jennifer Butler.

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