



Press Release

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NEWS: Fire Chief Howell Certifications

Bryan County Fire and Emergency Services Chief Freddy Howell received two certifications last week, a recertification as Georgia Fire Chief and a new certification as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director. Certifications such as these signify that someone has achieved the pinnacle of training in Georgia, and Chief Howell is among only a few to hold both of these certifications in Georgia.

The process to achieve these certifications are years in the making. The Georgia EMS Director's Certification, created in 2022, is offered by the Georgia Emergency Medical Services Association and requires several years of service in EMS leadership positions, several advanced classes, and a board evaluation. There are a variety of options to gather the required points to qualify and a large percentages of Chief Howell's points were gathered through his Professional Certified Emergency Management certification and his years of service.

The Georgia Fire Chief certification, created in 2015 by the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, must be obtained every three years. It also requires experience and a series of classes. This is Chief Howell's second certification.

Chief Howell noted that good leadership in a fire department is important. "This is not the end of the road, there is always more to learn and ways to grow in this job. The goals for my position aren't so much in fighting a fire or treating an injury, but about leading those who do. People change more frequently than the technology and leaders must learn to adapt to employees."

Chief Howell started taking the required classes in 2016 and he must continue to take a number of class hours each year to maintain the credentials. The majority of the classes are offered at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth, Georgia and the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, Maryland.