

Hood Named Acting Chief Of Hall County Fire Services

8/18/2014

Hall County Administrator Randy Knighton announced Monday morning the appointment of Jeff Hood to Acting Chief of Hall County Fire Services and David Kimbrell to Director of Hall County Emergency Management.

The appointment is part of a larger effort to streamline Hall County's public safety departments. Kimbrell is now assuming the role of Emergency Management Director full time, a position he previously split with his duties as fire chief. Hood previously served as deputy fire chief.

Hall County Administrator Randy Knighton said placing one person over each department/agency also allows each employee to focus more fully on their specific area of expertise, thereby increasing the safety of and service to Hall County citizens.

"Giving these public servants more focused roles within Hall County Government will enhance our ability to serve and protect the public, whose health and well-being is, as always, our first priority," he said.

He said the need for a full-time EMA Director became increasingly apparent following a number of recent emergency events, including the severe ice and snow event Hall County experienced this past winter and the flooding that occurred in the area last May. As a part of his duties as EMA Director, Kimbrell will also oversee 911 Emergency Services.

"In this streamlined structuring, David will be able to provide the County with a framework of how to prepare, respond, operate and recover in the wake of a significant weather event or emergency occurrence, while Chief Hood maintains the day-to-day operations of Hall County Fire Services," said Knighton.

Hood began his career with Clayton County Fire and Emergency Services in 1978 and remained with that department until his retirement in 2013. During that time, he became state-certified as a firefighter, paramedic, Level III Paramedic instructor and Georgia-certified Emergency Manager. He was also named Clayton County's Fire Chief and Emergency Management Agency Director in 2011. In addition, Hood was appointed by the State Homeland Security Director to represent the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs on the State Homeland Security Task Force in 2013 before being named deputy chief of Hall County Fire Services in January 2014.

Knighton said Hood has done an outstanding job as deputy chief.

"We have been very pleased to have Chief Hood's knowledge and expertise on our side, and we feel confident that his presence will continue to enhance the level of public safety for the citizens of Hall County," he said.

Hood said he and his staff are ready to continue the department's legacy of service to citizens.

"I am grateful for David's years of leadership to Hall County, and I look forward to partnering with him in the future as he fully assumes the role of Emergency Management Agency Director," he said.

Hood's appointment is effective immediately.