

THE CALL

EAST POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT BI-MONTHLY GAZETTE

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Photographer: Firefighter Anthony Lee

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

by Fire Chief Corey Thornton

As the Coronavirus continues to impact the globe here at home we too are feeling the effects of this worldwide pandemic from changes in government, businesses, the economy to healthcare, schools and simple everyday life. In times like these strong, resilient leadership is needed to navigate the way and to determine when a change in course is required.

The Fire Department has been at the forefront of the battle against COVID-19 working to keep the community safe and City personnel as well. Early on, we took the aggressive action of sanitizing all fire apparatuses and City vehicles on a daily bases. We are also checking the temperature of city personnel, prior to the start of their workday, to ensure no one reports to work with a fever. Furthermore, we are wearing masks as required by our elected officials and we are sanitizing our work stations and other common areas on a regular basis.

In this issue of THE CALL, we again give attention to the Coronavirus, answering some frequently asked questions and distinguishing between symptoms of a cold, the flu and the Coronavirus. We also provide links to sites where you can do self checks to determine whether you, or a loved one, are infected and what your next steps should be.

Since our last issue, I have received the honor of being officially named Fire Chief of the East Point Fire Department. I want you to know I am humbled by this honor and look forward to the Fire Department bringing you the best fire, EMS and emergency services available.

Honored to Serve,

Chief Corey Thornton

East Point Fire Department Wins the Hermes Gold Award

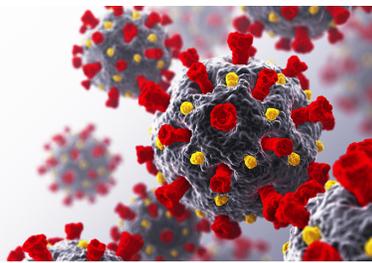


The East Point Fire Department's monthly Newsletter THE CALL was entered into the 2020 Hermes Creative Awards, an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of traditional and emerging media. We are happy to announce that THE CALL won the coveted Gold Award.

The awards are administered by the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals (AMCP) based on excellence in writing, content, creativity and design.

We want you, our readers, to know that we are committed to bringing you Fire Department news and information that is relevant, and helpful in keeping you safe, healthy and informed. That's our pledge to you.

Coronavirus Disease - What it is, What are the symptoms, How to protect yourself



The United States has passed a grim milestone with the number of confirmed cases of Coronavirus topping four million, and more than 150,000 Americans dying of the respiratory disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Georgia has more than 156,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and greater than 3,350 deaths. In this time of pandemic it is important to remain vigilant about following guidelines established by public health officials, and to know the signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus as well as what to do if you suspect you have been infected.

What is Coronavirus

The Coronavirus is a common family of viruses that can cause illnesses such as a cold, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV). Infection with the novel Coronavirus - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2, or

SARS-CoV-2, causes COVID-19, Coronavirus Disease 2019.

What are symptoms of COVID-19

Common signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Tiredness
- Difficulty breathing/shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Chest Pain
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Runny nose
- Loss of taste or smell
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Rash

When to seek medical advice

If you have been exposed to a person who has been diagnosed with the Coronavirus, or you have symptoms of the virus, you should seek medical advice immediately from your doctor or a clinic. It is important to notify your doctor or the medical facility of your symptoms and any exposures you may have had, prior to your arrival.



Photo Credit: Medical News Today

Coronavirus Disease – What it is, What are the symptoms, How to protect yourself (continued)



Photo Credit:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

When to seek immediate emergency help

Emergency COVID-19 symptoms, which require immediate medical attention include:

- Shortness of Breath/Difficulty breathing
- Continuous chest pressure or pain
- Confusion
- Difficulty staying awake
- Blue face or lips

How the Virus is spread

Researchers are learning more about the disease. However, what is known so far is that the virus can spread through respiratory droplets that are released when an infected person talks, sneezes or coughs within approximately 6 feet of another individual. In addition, the virus can spread when an individual touches a surface with droplets on it, and then touches their eyes, nose or mouth.

Risk of Increased Exposures

Persons with an increased risk of the Coronavirus are:

- Individuals traveling to an area experiencing community spread of the virus.
- Those having close contact with an infected person.

Persons at higher risk of illness

The elderly and people with chronic underlying medical conditions, are at increased risk of serious illness from the Coronavirus. The following medical conditions places people at a heightened risk of severe illness:

- Asthma
- Respiratory Airway Disease
- Chronic Lung Disease
- Heart Disease
- High Blood Pressure
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Sickle Cell Anemia
- Kidney Disease
- Liver Disease
- Obesity
- Compromised/Weakened immune system

This list is not conclusive. Check with your doctor or a health professional for any increased risk you may have due to an existing chronic medical condition.



Photo Credit: Columbus, GA. Ledger-Inquirer

Complications

Cases of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe, and in some instances even lead to death. People at high risk of experiencing medical complications are the elderly and people with chronic medical conditions.

Coronavirus Disease – What it is, What are the symptoms, How to protect yourself (continued)



Photo Credit:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Complications of the Coronavirus can include:

- Heart problems
- Blood clots
- Pneumonia
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome
- Organ failure
- Acute kidney problems
- Viral and bacterial infections

Steps toward Prevention

The following guidelines are recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and World Health Organization to help prevent the spread of the the Coronavirus:

- Wear a mask in public places.
- Wash your hands often using soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer that's at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect areas that have a high traffic volume, particularly high-touch surfaces such as light switches, door handles, electronics, and telephones.
- If you are at high risk, limit trips outside the home.
- Stay home from school, work, public places if you're ill - except for traveling to seek medical care.
- Avoid ride-sharing and public transportation if you're sick.

Check with your doctor for additional ways to protect yourself if you're at high risk.

What to do if you think you have Coronavirus

- **Seek medical advice if you're not feeling well, and self-quarantine.** Even if you experience mild symptoms like a runny nose, and headache stay home until your condition improves or you feel better.
- **Immediately contact your doctor if you have trouble breathing.** It's important that you notify your doctor or a medical provider that you are en route instead of showing up unannounced. If you do not have a doctor, contact the local board of health.
- **Follow your doctor's advice and stay tuned to the latest news and information on the Coronavirus.** While your doctor will handle your immediate and personal care, being knowledgeable of the latest news and information on the Coronavirus keeps you up to date on the most recent recommendations, advice and findings of public health providers.

COVID-19 vs. a cold or the flu

COVID-19 symptoms can mimic a bad cold or even the flu. Standouts of an illness being COVID-19 are:

- A person has had contact with an infected individual
- Living in or travel to an area where the virus has been detected.

The chart on the following page will help you determine further whether it is COVID-19, a cold, the flu or allergies.

**Cold vs. Flu vs.
Allergies vs. COVID-19**

Symptoms	Cold	Flu	Allergies	COVID-19 (can range from moderate to severe)
Fever	Rare	High (100-102 F), Can last 3-4 days	Never	Common
Headache	Rare	Intense	Uncommon	Can be present
General aches, pains	Slight	Usual, often severe	Never	Can be present
Fatigue, weakness	Mild	Intense, can last up to 2-3 weeks	Sometimes	Can be present
Extreme exhaustion	Never	Usual (starts early)	Never	Can be present
Stuffy/runny nose	Common	Sometimes	Common	Has been reported
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes	Usual	Has been reported
Sore throat	Common	Common	Sometimes	Has been reported
Cough	Mild to moderate	Common, can become severe	Sometimes	Common
Shortness of breath	Rare	Rare	Rare, except for those with allergic asthma	In more serious infections
Loss of smell and taste	Sometimes	Sometimes	Never	Has been reported
Diarrhea	Never	Sometimes in children	Never	Has been reported

Credit: Chart provided by WebMD

COVID-19 Self Assessment Checker

TOOLS TO HELP YOU DETERMINE WHETHER YOU HAVE THE CORONAVIRUS

The Coronavirus is a respiratory disease that presents with symptoms commonly associated with a cold, the flu or even allergies. However, this new virus, identified as SARS-CoV-2, was recognized as the catalyst of the deadly COVID-19 viral disease outbreak that started in Wuhan, China in December 2019, and reached pandemic stage in February-March 2020.

If you suspect you have COVID-19, you are advised to contact your doctor or a medical provider right away for instructions, and to be checked. When in doubt, check it out is what we advise because your health is of paramount importance.

You can do a self-check to determine whether you possibly have been infected. There are a variety of Self-Assessment checkers online. However, to save you time and for your convenience, the following links are to sites where you can analyze your symptoms, and get help determining whether you should seek medical attention immediately. If you are viewing this page online, hover your mouse over the web address below, then click to go directly to the site.

"When in doubt, check it out."



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>



<https://www.mayoclinic.org/covid-19-self-assessment-tool>



`<iframe src="https://www.webmd.com/covid-assessment-syndication" frameborder="0" width="100%" height="600px"></iframe>`



Airborne Respiratory Droplets and COVID-19 Transmission

Photo Credit: MIT Technology Review

Medical experts have long held that viruses can be spread through respiratory droplets when a person sneezes or coughs. However, a recent study has revealed that person-to-person transmission of the Coronavirus can occur during conversation when virus-infected particles enter the nose or mouth of an individual within close proximity of someone who is asymptomatic or has tested positive for the Coronavirus. The experiment also found that thousands of the oral fluid droplets can remain airborne up to 14 minutes.

The study was performed by a research team with the U. S. National Institutes of Health and published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). Researchers used laser imagery to capture the respiratory droplets expelled when persons loudly repeated the phrase, "Stay healthy," wearing a mask and unmasked. According to the MIT Technology Review, researchers estimate "that a single minute of loud speaking generates at least 1,000 virus-containing droplets" that can linger in the air anywhere from eight to 14 minutes.

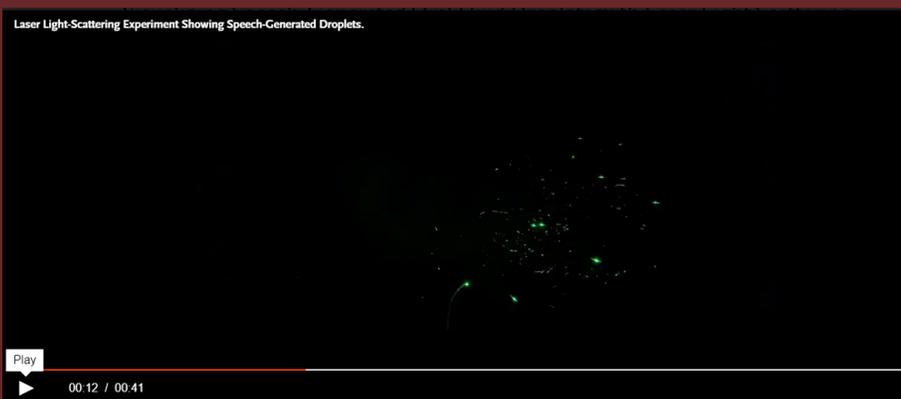
The experiment was conducted in a controlled environment and did not measure how change in temperature or air movement would impact their findings. However, experts feel the results emphasize the importance of wearing masks to prevent further spread of the Coronavirus during this pandemic.



Visual Results of Speech Generated Droplets

Photo Credit: MIT Technology Review

Unmasked: Trajectory of Speech Generated Droplets



Masked: Trajectory of Speech Generated Droplets



Image Credit: New England Journal of Medicine



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I am reminded of how far God has brought me, and how blessed I am to sit in this seat as the head of the same Department where my Dad once worked.



MEET EAST POINT FIRE CHIEF COREY THORNTON

by Renita T. Shelton

It is said that a dream deferred is not a dream denied, but at the proper time it will come to pass. Someone who can attest to that is Corey Thornton, who on April 1, 2020 was officially appointed as Fire Chief of the City of East Point Fire Department. Thornton, a 25-year veteran of the Department, began his Fire Service career in East Point on September 11, 1995. He will tell you that the journey from Firefighter to Fire Chief was long, arduous and fraught with challenges, and that the climb tested his faith, stamina and resolve, but yet it was a journey that was divinely ordered, and as such was well worth the wait. Thornton found inspiration and solace in the memory of his Father working as a Firefighter for the same Department, whose life unfortunately was tragically cut short by his untimely death.

Recently, I talked with Chief Thornton about his career, his goals as Fire Chief and the influence of his Dad, and a very special mentor on his decision to enter the Fire Service.

MEET FIRE CHIEF COREY THORNTON

P.I.O. Shelton: Did you always want to be a Firefighter, and who or what was your greatest influence?

Fire Chief Thornton: Yes, I always wanted to be a Firefighter, and I would say my Father was my greatest influence. I started entertaining the idea at the age of 5, when my Mother and Father purchased memory books for my sister and I. A question was asked, "What are you going to be when you grow up?" I wrote Firefighter. Shortly thereafter my Father tried out for the East Point Fire Department, and I recall that day as my family and I watched from a distance my Dad going through every rotation. What I witnessed was my Dad giving his all for something he strongly desired. He returned to the car exhausted, satisfied and hopeful that he would be extended the opportunity to become an East Point Firefighter, and he was not disappointed."

P.I.O. Shelton: What is the most vivid memory you have of your Dad and his Firefighter career?

Fire Chief Thornton: I recall my Dad returning home, smelling of smoke and telling me stories about his shift. But the most vivid memory is of my Father fighting a structure fire at the East Point Cotton Mill that at the time was located on Central Avenue. The fire was very bad



requiring the help of mutual aid. As the fire worsened my father, Oscar J. Thornton, saw a fellow firefighter struggling with the nozzle, and my Dad bent down to his knees to help the College Park Firefighter stabilize the hose and nozzle. The image was captured by the Atlanta Journal Constitution Newspaper in the early '80s. That picture is framed on the wall in my office, and it has motivated me over the years in everything I've set my mind to accomplish.

P.I.O. Shelton: When did you decide it was time to pursue your dream of working for the East Point Fire Department?

Fire Chief Thornton: My Dad tragically died at the young age of 29 in 1986. During the funeral I recall this well dressed, confident, articulate Black man speaking words of comfort during the service. Afterward, I overheard him telling my Grandfather, "We lost a great one." The person speaking was then Battalion Chief Ronnie Few, and he was talking about my Dad. I was age 10 at the time, and turned to my Mother and pledged to become a Firefighter to make my Dad proud. Before leaving the service, Chief Few spoke to me saying, "Son, I am here for you, and if you decide to become a Firefighter one day, I will help you,"

MEET FIRE CHIEF COREY THORNTON

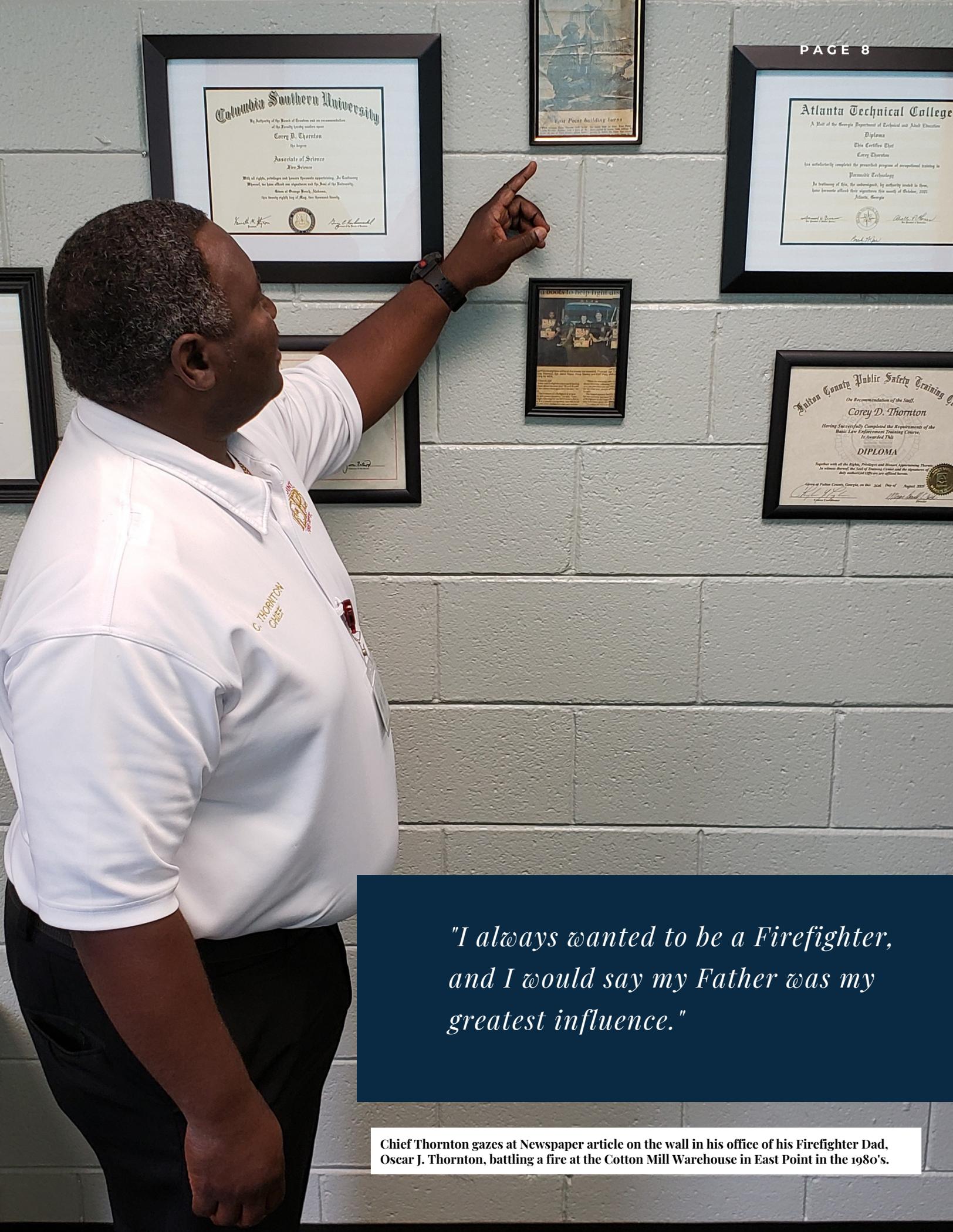
and he held to his promise of grooming me. After graduating from Tri-Cities High School, I applied with the East Point Fire Department. Chief Few by that time had promoted through every rank in the East Point Fire Department, becoming the first African American to move through the ranks of Firefighter, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief to becoming the head of the Department as Fire Chief. I passed the physical agility, other tests and screenings and was hired by Chief Few on September 11, 1995.

P.I.O. Shelton: When did you decide you wanted to become Fire Chief, and did you ever imagine you would do so at the Department where you started and your Dad once worked?

Fire Chief Thornton: I made the decision about five years ago. I was having a conversation with then Deputy Fire Chief William Ware, who said "Son, one day you will be in the seat." I reached out to Chief Few, who was my Mentor, to discuss the matter further, and he encouraged me to set my sights high. I prayed asking for greater confirmation and guidance, and God brought to mind my Dad telling me to go the distance, and be determined to work harder, be better and accomplish more than he did, and so my journey began to rise higher.

P.I.O. Shelton: What were your thoughts when you were informed of your selection?

Fire Chief Thornton: I felt a range of emotions, and I immediately thought of how God and my Father guided my every step and climb. It came with a lot of labor. After joining the Department in 1995 I sought opportunities for promotion. I received my EMT, but decided to rise higher and pursue my Paramedic certification. I promoted into Fire Administration in 2004 as an Inspector and Investigator, and a year later graduated from the Fulton County Police Academy, which paved the way for me being appointed as the Internal Affairs Officer for the Fire Department. I kept pushing and working hard and was eventually promoted to Acting Fire Marshal, then Assistant Fire Marshal and ultimately Fire Marshal between 2007 and 2009. Within three years I was named Deputy Chief of Technical Services and charged with overseeing five divisions: Fire Prevention, Training, Emergency Medical Services, Internal Affairs and Recruitment. By May 2019 I was named as the Interim Fire Chief, and this year, named Fire Chief. I discovered each promotion served as a time of preparation, helping me to build relationships, and learn how to lead on different levels and advance through adversity. It was also during this time that I defined and redefined my goals and mission. In other words, I feel that a foundation was being laid to make me a more effective leader and reveal to me areas of strength and those I could improve upon.



"I always wanted to be a Firefighter, and I would say my Father was my greatest influence."

Chief Thornton gazes at Newspaper article on the wall in his office of his Firefighter Dad, Oscar J. Thornton, battling a fire at the Cotton Mill Warehouse in East Point in the 1980's.

MEET FIRE CHIEF COREY THORNTON

P.I.O. Shelton: What philosophy have you followed that equipped you to prepare for promotion?

Fire Chief Thornton: It's been one my Mentor, Chief Few, held. He always said be fair and treat everyone equal. Therefore, my management style is one of being firm, but fair and applying sympathy and empathy as needed.

P.I.O. Shelton: What are your top 5 priorities for the Fire Department?

Fire Chief Thornton: First to improve community relations between the Fire Department and the community, through more community based programs.

Secondly, improve customer service, which will be achieved by having personnel undergo more training.

Thirdly, I plan to upgrade our equipment and fire apparatuses. Fourth, increasing staffing levels and last, but not least, implement an Emergency Medical Dispatch Program. Details on that will be forthcoming when I develop the program further.

P.I.O. Shelton: What advice would you give someone aspiring to become Fire Chief?

Fire Chief Thornton: My answer would be
1. Believe in a higher power.



2. Have a great mentor to learn from.
3. Be humble and willing to forgive and forget.
4. Learn every position in the Fire Service.
5. Treat everyone equally.
6. Understand the department is not yours, but that it belongs to the community.

P.I.O. Shelton: What do you think your Dad would say about your appointment as Fire Chief?

Fire Chief Thornton: I believe my Dad's first words would be "Well done son," and then he would ask "Now what's next, because the journey doesn't end here," and he would be correct, because it's about helping the next generation get into position and make their mark, and hopefully along the way inspire many to seek a life of service as well ..."



You can read more of Chief Thornton's story in next month's digital edition of Real Hero Report Magazine at <https://realhero.report/>

REAL HERO
REPORT



Do Your Part



Disease Prevention



**Maintain
social
distancing**

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Stop the Spread of COVID-19



FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

The East Point Fire Spring '20 Recruit Class recently received instruction on fire behavior during a live burn. The training took place July 6, 2020 at the Fire Department's Training facility and burn building located on Ben Hill Road.

A Palmer Doll House was used as a small scale prop to allow Fire Recruits to safely see the various aspects of fire behavior. The prop demonstrates the phases of fire development in a room and the effects of ventilation on a fire. This training also teaches Recruits how to read smoke conditions to determine the location and intensity of an interior fire.

A full scale live fire demonstration followed, where small groups of Recruits were suited and taken inside the burn room to watch as pallets were set on fire to experience up close and personal the stages of fire development in a room.



Above: Firefighter uses a Palmer Doll House to demonstrate the various phases of fire behavior



Above: Fire Recruits experience a full scale live fire behavior demonstration

IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY



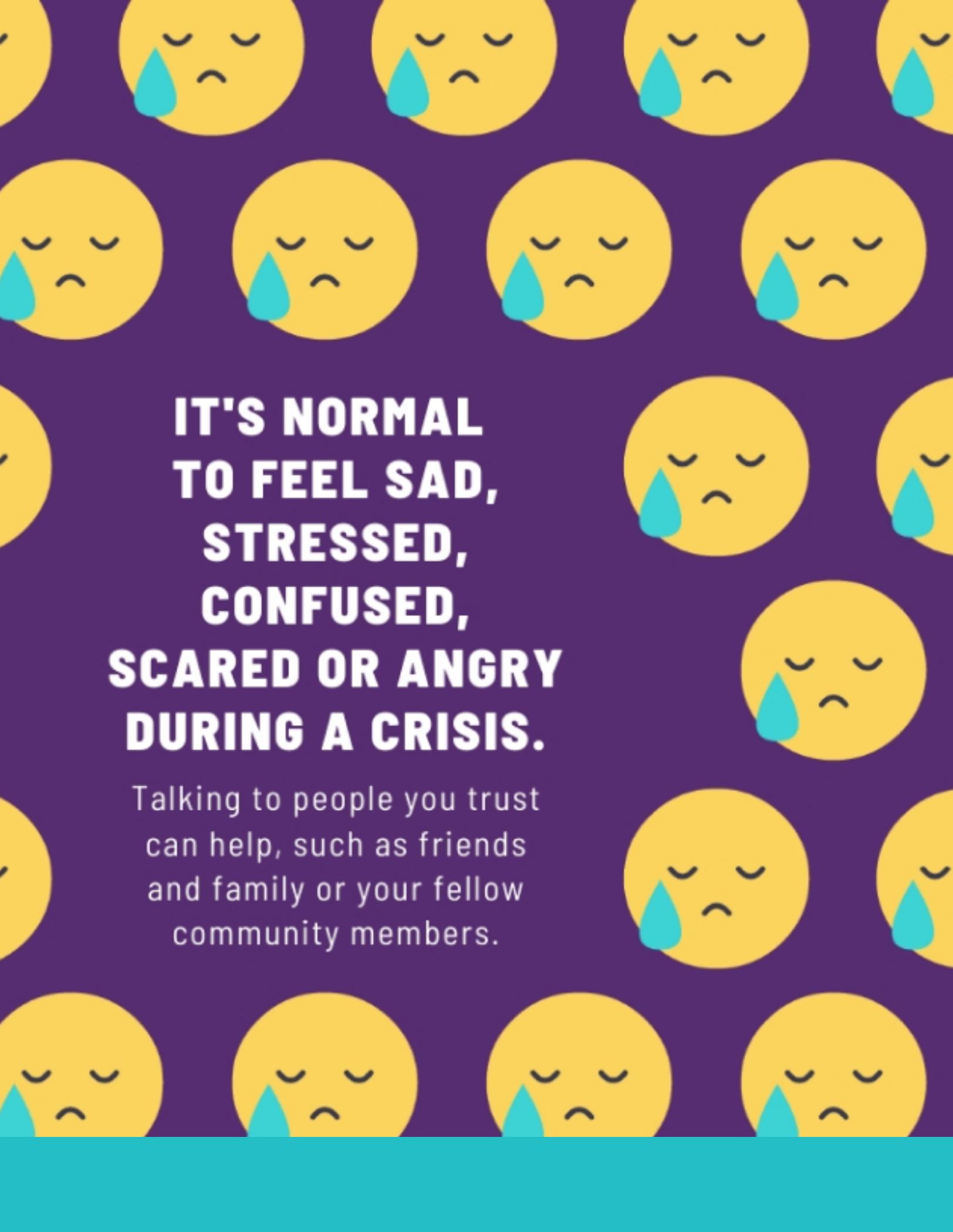
Fire Department Participates in Back to School Supply Giveaways

Pictured Above: (Left to Right) East Point Firefighter Kevin Cooper, Fire Apparatus Operator Kevin Blandenburg and Firefighter Darius Tye.

East Point Firefighters participated in a Back to School event to encourage students to study hard during the upcoming year, and to equip them with some much needed school supplies.

The Back to School Drive Thru was held Saturday, July 25, 2020 at Tri-Cities High School located at 2575 Harris Street in East Point. Students and their parents were able to drive up and receive notebooks, paper, pencil sharpeners and more.

Fulton County Schools announced plans to begin the 2020-2021 school year using Universal Remote learning due to COVID-19. The first day of school is scheduled for August 17, 2020.



**IT'S NORMAL
TO FEEL SAD,
STRESSED,
CONFUSED,
SCARED OR ANGRY
DURING A CRISIS.**

Talking to people you trust
can help, such as friends
and family or your fellow
community members.



Above (left to right): Chief William Tate, Chief Charles Kendrick, Retired Lieutenant Lawrence Harvey and Fire Chief Corey Thornton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

East Point Fire Lt. New Chief Fire Marshal in Savannah

RETIREMENT OF VETERAN FIREFIGHTER

East Point Fire Lieutenant Lawrence Harvey retired from the East Point Fire Department on May 8, 2020 after 20 years of Service.

Lieutenant Harvey said he looks forward to this next chapter in his life, spending time with his family, travelling and attending his daughter's sporting events.

He said he will forever cherish the memories he has of the time spent with the crew, all the laughs and watching his fellow Firefighter's children grow up.

Lt. Whitney Williams-Smith became Chief Fire Marshal for the Savannah Fire Department on April 30, 2020. She is the first African American and woman to hold the position. During her time in East Point Lt. Williams was responsible for Life Safety Code inspections and business plan reviews. She served the East Point Fire Department for 15 years, since 2005.





Image Credit: Boundless

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*We are in this together,
and together we will get through.*

Fire Chief Corey Thornton