

City of Burlington  
Office of Public Information  
425 South Lexington Avenue  
Burlington, North Carolina 27215



## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Bud Catoe  
(Office): 336-229-3133

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### **BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES FIRST CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY**

**Burlington, NC** – The Burlington Fire Department is pleased to announce its first ever Citizens Fire Academy. The Citizens Fire Academy is designed to increase the community’s understanding and awareness of the Burlington Fire Department. The Academy, offered at no cost to interested individuals, is structured to include six week night courses from 6:00-8:30pm over a two month period. One Saturday class will be conducted at the Police/Fire Training Center in Haw River. A graduation ceremony will be held at the culmination of the Academy.

During the Academy, citizens will be exposed to diverse aspects of the fire service as well as the day-to-day operations of the Burlington Fire Department. Some topics and activities that participants will experience include: station tours, history of fire service and the life of a firefighter, CPR/AED, fire prevention, arson information, driving, vehicle extrication, thermal imaging, fire suppressing, training, hose operation, ladder truck riding, smoke shack experience, and more.

“If you have ever wanted to experience the fire service first-hand, this academy is for you,” says Captain Bud Catoe, organizer of the first Citizens Fire Academy. “Burlington firefighters will teach participants everything from how to slide a fire pole, to how to drive a fire truck and everything in between. This will be an unforgettable experience for our participants.”

The first session of the Burlington Citizens Fire Academy will be held from April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Interested individuals must be over 18 years old, must be willing to attend at least one 2.5 hour course per week for six weeks, and have no prior felony convictions or misdemeanors that would question the applicant’s moral character.

Applications will be accepted by email to [bcatoe@ci.burlington.nc.us](mailto:bcatoe@ci.burlington.nc.us), by mail to P.O. Box 1358, Burlington, NC 27216, attention: Bud Catoe Citizens Fire Academy, or in person at the Head Quarters Fire Station at 215 South Church Street in downtown Burlington. More information about the Academy may be obtained by contacting Fire Prevention Captain Bud Catoe at (336) 229-3133 or by visiting [www.BurlingtonNC.gov/BFDCitizensAcademy](http://www.BurlingtonNC.gov/BFDCitizensAcademy). Follow [this link](#) to fill out an application online.

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