



# COUNTY of CUMBERLAND

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 30, 2004

FAYETTEVILLE – Christmas came in July for the Scranton Volunteer Fire Department in Hyde County.

Thanks to the generosity of Cumberland County's Stoney Point Volunteer Fire Department, Scranton Volunteer Fire Department is now the pleased and proud custodian of two fire trucks. One truck is a 1987 vintage, the other a 1979 model. Each truck is capable of transporting at least 1,000 gallons of water and together are worth between \$60,000 and \$70,000.

When Hurricane Isabel struck Hyde County in September 2003, Cumberland County sent standby firefighting equipment to Hyde County, becoming aware of the coastal county's need for updated equipment. In fact, the Scranton Volunteer Fire Department's first responder vehicle was a 1960s vintage fire truck. It now has been given to the Stoney Point Volunteer Fire Department, which will restore it and use it as a display.

The opportunity to be generous came about when Stoney Point realized that the Lafayette Fire Department was considering donating a surplus Pierce firetruck to Hyde County. Stoney Point Fire Department has all Pierce trucks, and wanted the surplus Pierce so that their trucks could use the same spare parts. To soften the blow of having intercepted the Pierce from Hyde County, Stoney Point offered up two firetrucks, the 1987 Ford and the 1979 Mack. All parties are quite satisfied with the arrangement and when the two trucks were delivered to Hyde County on July 17, the transfer concluded with a celebratory seafood feast at a local restaurant.

Scranton Fire Chief Mark Carawan says the trucks will be helpful in maintaining a favorable rating with the Department of Insurance and will enable the department to respond reliably to the 12 or 15 calls they receive each year.

Stoney Point Fire Chief Freddy Johnson says the gratitude of the people of Hyde County was overwhelming. "When we drove in there with those trucks, people began following along behind us. It was like a parade."

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