CFR Cares



Risk Identification and Mitigation Outreach

2024 Annual Report

CFR Cares Community Risk and Mitigation Outreach

Annual Report – 2024

Background

CFR Cares was launched in October 2015 after three pedestrians were killed and several others were seriously injured by motorists and cyclists along Route 12. These incidents also prompted the construction of the bike/pedestrian path that community organizations had advocated for many years. While CFR Cares was initially focused on bike/pedestrian safety, it has since branched out with numerous initiatives designed to enhance the safety of residents, visitors, and seasonal workers in Corolla. CFR Cares actively partners with state, local and community assets such as the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Currituck County Sheriff's Department, American Red Cross, WEVS Charter School, local businesses, vacation rental management companies and Homeowner Associations.

Mitigating the effects of accidents and fires in our community is the mission of all members of Corolla Fire and Rescue. Our goals for CFR Cares in 2024 were to educate and encourage local businesses to add Knox Boxes and AED's to their place of business, to educate the public on public safety issues using various media platforms, and to partner with local law enforcement, businesses, homeowner associations and vacation rental companies to evaluate and mitigate potential risks within our community.

2024 Accomplishments

Under the leadership of Chief Richard Shortway, CFR Cares continues to increase involvement of its membership and visibility within the community. CFR Cares participated in community events and outreach programs, totaling 844 volunteer hours. A monthly status report is presented at each CFR General Business Meeting to inform membership of upcoming events, encourage volunteer participation, and to share opportunities/needs that may exist within the community. New activities added this year were involving volunteers in Mental Health training to provide basic skills and resources when interacting with community members and our own department personnel, expanding participation in County and locally sponsored events to increase safety opportunities, collaborating with Ocean Rescue to assist in monitoring and repairing beach flag system poles, and adding a sponsorship program to assist with tuition needs of our J1 international student workers. The attached 2024 Activity Tracking Report specifically documents CFR Cares' accomplishments for this year. Below is a summary of the major events CFR Cares participated in this year.

Adopt-A-Highway Program

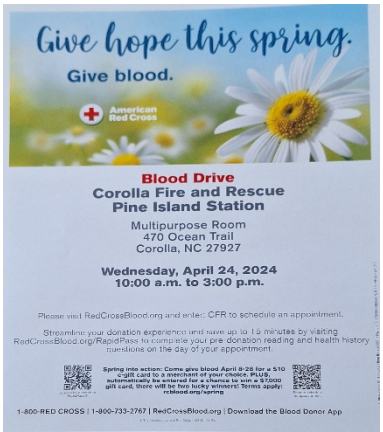
In 2019, CFR Cares was awarded a 1.8 mile stretch of route NC 12 by the North Carolina Department of Transportation as part of its Adopt-A-Highway Program. The purpose of the program is to create an ongoing public involvement to protect the beauty and preserve the environment of North Carolina roadways. We have dedicated our stretch of roadway with 2 highway signs commemorating pedestrians who lost their lives while walking along the highway's shoulder. CFR Cares conducted a total of 4 volunteer highway cleanups in 2024 during the months of March, May, September, and November. We collected 40 bags of trash.





American Red Cross Blood Drive

In April and December 2024, CFR Cares hosted the American Red Cross Blood Drives at our Pine Island Station. Chief Shortway and the CFR Cares Blood Drive Coordinator Trinity Yanez collaborated with the Red Cross to ensure a successful blood drive. A promotional blitz of flyers and social media platforms were used to inform residents about the Blood Drive. Roadside signs were put up, an electronic billboard advertised the event, and emails were sent out to local civic organizations and neighborhood HOA's to notify their membership. CFR Cares collected 59 units of blood through our two 2024 Blood Drives.





International Student Outreach Program

CFR Cares coordinates efforts with local employers, student sponsors, Corolla Chapel, and businesses to provide a safe and successful experience for exchange students who temporarily live and work in the Outer Banks every summer. CFR Cares provides safety materials for approximately 230 international students. We also partner with Corolla Chapel to provide student workers with bikes for which we supply bike lights and reflective back packs to keep students visible as they move around the community. Each reflective backpack is filled with goodies and safety materials (Pedestrian/bike safety, Rip current/beach safety, First Aid safety, CPR card, local FAQ brochure). These materials were distributed to the students along with a tutorial about our area, safety tips and how to reach us if needed.









College of the Albemarle International Student Tuition Assistance Program

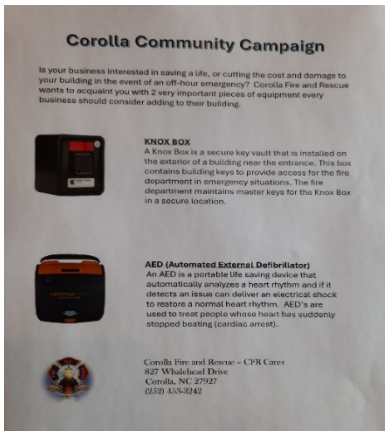
This is a new program initiated in 2024. With a generous donation of $5000 made by the CFR Foundation, CFR Cares can sponsor up to 5 nonresidents of the United States at instate tuition rates to take classes at the College of the Albemarle. As a North Carolina nonprofit entity, we

will accept financial responsibility for the student's tuition and any other required educational fees The students in turn pay CFR Cares back at the reduced instate rate and we can continue to sponsor students each semester going forward. This saves international students a considerable amount of money in working towards an educational degree. We have sponsored our first 2 international students for the upcoming spring semester of 2025.

Knox Boxes and Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

CFR Cares continued educating and marketing the benefits of adding a Knox Box and/or AED to local businesses. Any new or renovated businesses are required to add a Knox Box to allow the Fire Department access to the business after hours in case of emergency without causing additional property damage. New this year was the addition of Home Knox boxes. Five residential Home Knox boxes were purchased in the Whalehead Subdivision.

AEDs are valuable life saving devices that need to be disbursed throughout the community for easy access in case a patron has a cardiac arrest. Chief Shortway and Trinity Yanez continue to educate local businesses and building owners of the benefits of adding these valuable devices to their businesses. Buck Island Subdivision added AED's in their public building areas in 2024.


Corolla Community Campaign

Is your business interested in saving a life, or cutting the cost and damage to your building in the event of an off-hour emergency? Corolla Fire and Rescue wants to acquaint you with 2 very important pieces of equipment every business should consider adding to their building.

KNOX BOX
A Knox Box is a secure key vault that is installed on the exterior of a building near the entrance. This box contains building keys to provide access for the fire department in emergency situations. The fire department maintains master keys for the Knox Box in a secure location.

AED (Automated External Defibrillator)
An AED is a portable life saving device that automatically analyzes a heart rhythm and if it detects an issue can deliver an electrical shock to restore a normal heart rhythm. AED's are used to treat people whose heart has suddenly stopped beating (cardiac arrest).

Corolla Fire and Rescue - CFR Cares
827 Whalehead Drive
Corolla, NC 27927
(252) 453-8242


KNOX

KNOX HOMEBOX

Knox HomeBox® provides homeowners with the same secure rapid access system that currently protects hundreds of thousands of government and commercial properties in over 15,000 fire jurisdictions across North America for over 40 years. When lives, safety and property matter, a Knox HomeBox can make all the difference.

FEATURES
- Holds 1 key
- Weather-resistant

BENEFITS
- Provides first responders with quick entry during medical emergencies
- Reduces forced entry damage and repair costs
- Reassuring a property is simple and fast
- Utilizes jurisdictional master key
- Durable design that requires no monthly monitoring fees
- Reduces risk of injury to responding personnel

OPTIONS
- Available in 3 colors: Antique White
- Mounting Options: Wall Mount (with or without faceted backplate) or Door Hanger (standard or security doors)

WEIGHT:
Wall Mount (faceted backplate) - 3.60 lbs
Wall Mount (no backplate) - 2.20 lbs
Door Hanger (standard door) - 3.50 lbs
Door Hanger (security door) - 3.55 lbs

DIMENSIONS:
4.3"H x 2.87"W x 2.05"D

ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS
To insure procurement and delivery of the Knox HomeBox, it is suggested that the following specification paragraph be used:
Dimensions: 4.3"H x 2.87"W x 2.05"D
Lock: UL Listed, Double-action rotating tumblers and hardened steel pins accessed by any emergency responders.
Finish: Powder coated for weather resistance
Color: Antique White
P/N: Hamilton 3000 (HH's cat. G)
Hin's Name: KNOX COMPANY

ABOUT KNOX COMPANY
Since 1975, the Knox Company has successfully developed innovative rapid access solutions for first responders with products that provide fast, safe, and secure entry into commercial, industrial, and residential properties, while minimizing damage and maximizing safety. Today, more than 15,000 fire, EMS, and law enforcement departments/agencies depend on Knox products to gain access into over one million buildings/properties.

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Beach Wheelchair Program

In 2021, the local company who rented Beach Wheelchairs in Corolla discontinued this service. CFR Cares secured 5 beach wheelchairs which can be reserved through our Whalehead Station to ensure visitors and locals with disabilities are able to gain access to the beach with their families. An online reservation system was set up to manage the wheelchairs on a first come-first serve basis. Chief Shortway managed the reservations, and staff assisted with wheelchair pick-up/return, cleaning, and inspection of returned wheelchairs. This service requires a

refundable deposit on the front end to ensure the wheelchair is returned but was a free service to the public. We provided over 75 families with Beach wheelchairs this summer.



WEVS School Safety Programs and Fire Drills

CFR Cares and the paid firefighters assisted the local charter school (WEVS) with their quarterly fire drills and sponsored a spring bicycle and pedestrian safety program. The spring safety program for 2024 included a bike tune up and inspection station, helmet fitting station and a talk by local deputies, EMS, and a tow truck driver on the “slow down and move over” traffic campaign. The children participated in bike safety instruction, the dangers of not wearing a helmet and then used their skills riding their bikes through obstacle courses and practice skill areas. Pedestrian safety skills were also discussed.













Collaboration with Ocean Rescue on publicizing Ocean Safety Conditions

Another new program initiated in 2024 was the collaboration between CFR Cares and Corolla Ocean Rescue in regard to publicizing unsafe ocean conditions. An electronic billboard announces dangerous ocean conditions such as yellow flag days when rip currents are present and red flag days when swimming in the ocean is prohibited due to rough conditions. Ocean Rescue manages the installation of yellow and red flags for the poles that stretch along the County's beach and CFR Cares is undertaking annual checks and maintenance of these County flag poles.



Mental Health Training

New in 2024, CFR Cares members participated in 2 mental health awareness and training classes. These classes were aimed at teaching members to spot and respond to mental health and substance abuse issues when interacting with community members and members within our own department. It aims to reduce the stigma, offer available local resources, and promote better mental health in the community.



Social Media and Public Education Campaigns

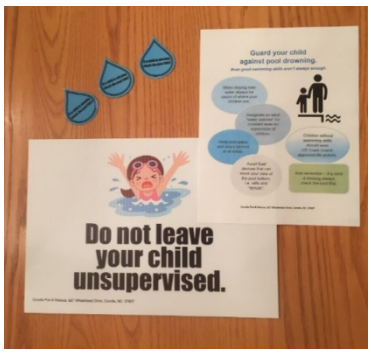
Volunteer member, Trinity Yanez, manages content on numerous social media platforms. He continually updates safety information, public service announcements and events. You can find CFR on Facebook, Instagram, and our own website at Corollafireandrescue.com. CFR Cares also manages an electronic billboard to post safety information such as ocean conditions, safety reminders such as changing batteries in smoke detectors and advertising upcoming CFR Cares sponsored events like the Red Cross Blood Drives. This electronic billboard is located in the heart of the Corolla shopping district where it has the greatest visibility.

Corolla has experienced drownings or near drowning calls involving children and pools at rental homes. CFR Cares created a campaign to educate the public and especially those visiting the area about being vigilant watching children in homes with pools. We distribute refrigerator magnets, pool signs and flyers outlining the dangers of home pools and children. CFR Cares also pays for shopping cart ads to reinforce this message.

Approximately half of the fire calls in Corolla are for faulty smoke/CO alarms. Chief Shortway continues to speak at Community HOA annual memberships meetings discussing the importance of detector maintenance and replacement. In addition, CFR attends various community events where literature and information is provided to participants about properly maintaining their

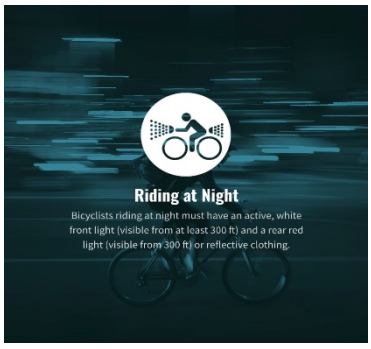
home's alarm/detector systems. We also provide safety tips regarding home pools, reflective address signs, decks, fire pits and elevator safety/regulations.













Community Event Participation

CFR Cares continues to participate in County and local events educating the public on fire prevention and pedestrian and bike safety. Events we participated in this year include 4th of July Celebration in Historic Corolla Park, Coastal Home Improvement and Maintenance Expo (CHIME), Corolla Trunk or Treat, and the Currituck County Holiday Parade.









Fundraising activities to support community outreach programs.



To assist with funding of CFR community outreach programs, we partnered with local businesses for a community fundraiser. Participating Corolla businesses display a fireman boot at their store where patrons can donate money to the Fire Department. In addition, a majority of our beach wheelchair reservations ended up donating their deposit money to the Fire Department. In 2024 we were able to raise approximately $9,762 between the Boot Drive and donations from beach wheelchairs.

Goals for 2025

Besides continuing with the aforementioned programs, CFR Cares has established the following goals for 2025. Membership will continue to present new opportunities found within the community and divide up leadership roles for each major event. Goals the Board has outlined for 2025 include:

- Continued increase in participation of CFR Cares projects by Corolla Fire and Rescue membership.
- Aid in ISO rating points by continuing to meet the safety and wellness needs of the local community.
- Reaching out to the local community to discover areas of need or ideas to improve safety within Corolla such as educating visitors on yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks. collaboration with Ocean Rescue on notifying the community of ocean conditions. and assisting International Students with tuition assistance.

- Provide our first responders (fire fighters and EMS crew) with items for children they encounter on calls. This would include child fire helmets, fire safety activity books, and stuffed animals.