

**North Carolina Association of County Commissioners  
2004-05 Ralph W. Ketner Employee Productivity Awards Application**

<b>County:</b>	<b>New Hanover</b>	<b>Employee:</b>	<b>Sarah Chapman</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>Sarah.chapman@ci.wilmington.nc.us</b>
<b>County Department:</b>	<b>Fire Services</b>	<b>Employee Title:</b>	<b>Fire and Life Safety Educator</b>		
<b>County Phone:</b>	<b>910-343-4784</b>	<b>County Mailing Address:</b>	<b>230 Market Place Drive, Suite 130, Wilmington, NC 28403</b>		
<b>Is this project being submitted on behalf of two or more employees?</b>				<b>N</b>	<b>YES</b>
					<b>X</b>

If yes, please provide below a listing of all project employees in Number 6. Employee & title as listed above should be for lead team member.

Fair Labors Standards Act Designation: In order for your project to be eligible, you MUST indicate one of the following. If you do not know, please contact your personnel director

**EXEMPT:**       **NON-EXEMPT:**       **BOTH (if applicable to team)**

<b>1. Productivity Improvement Title:</b>	<b>Meals on Wheels – Smoke Alarm Installation Project</b>	
<b>2. Implementation Date (must be between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004)</b>	<b>October, 2004</b>	
<b>3. Please describe the productivity improvement. (Please limit response to these 2 pages.)</b>		
To celebrate Fire Prevention Week 2004, New Hanover County Fire Services partnered with New Hanover County Department of Aging's Meals on Wheels program and the Wilmington Fire Department to reach out to Senior Citizens in our area who are at greatest risk of morbidity and mortality in the event of a home fire. During the month of October, fire service personnel from the city and county fire departments checked and installed smoke alarms in the homes of Meals on Wheels clients. A grand total of 132 homes were visited throughout the month of October and inspected for working alarms. 83 alarms were installed in a total of 68 homes, some received more than one alarm. Of those inspected, 64 homes had working, up to date alarms and did not receive new alarms from the project. Alarms were installed in 52% of homes visited. Alarms were provided by the NC Office of State Fire Marshal through a grant from the NFPA.		
The Meals on Wheels program relies on volunteers to deliver mid-day meals every day of the year. The senior center is in constant need of volunteers and on any given day has more than one route that is not covered by a volunteer requiring extra phone calls or center staff to run the delivery routes. Fire personnel were able, during this month, to deliver meals and check/install smoke alarms, helping senior center staff insure all clients received their meals while also providing this fire safety service. We plan to duplicate this program this October, again to celebrate Fire Prevention Week and help our local Senior Center in providing this valuable meal delivery service.		

**4. Please describe why this project was initiated or what problem it addressed:**

Senior Citizens are one of the highest risk groups for morbidity and mortality in cases of home fires. The theme of the 2004 National Fire Prevention Week was, "It's Fire Prevention Week, Check Your Smoke Alarm!" To celebrate, the county and city fire services partnered with our local Meals on Wheels service to "Check Smoke Alarms!" for this at risk population.

**5. Please quantify the improvement's results in terms of cost savings, cost avoidance and/or a higher level of services provided. (Please indicate what resources were used to achieve your results, and what was done with the time savings, if any accrued).**

This was truly a value-added service that the senior center was able to provide for it's Meals on Wheels clients during the month of October. Fire personnel who know their way around our town, efficiently navigated the meal delivery routes without prior training and also checked smoke alarms in addition to delivering meals. This is a service that is accomplished by volunteers but there never seem to be enough volunteers to cover every route, every day. Fire personnel were able to fill this need and save senior center staff from having to pinch hit During this month.

**6. Please provide any other descriptive information you would like to be considered by the review committee.**

The following personnel participated in meal delivery and smoke alarm testing and installation during this project:

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|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Chief Davis, NHCF   | FF Watson, NHCF     | Lt. Stahl, WFD    |
| Chief Hall, NHCF    | FF Fitzgerald, NHCF | Capt. Born, WFD   |
| F. Pridgen, NHCF    | FF Wiles, NHCF      | Capt. Sykes, WFD  |
| T. Sosebee, NHCF    | FF Rooks, NHCF      | Capt. Powers, WFD |
| R. Griswold, NHCF   | FF Nixon, NHCF      | Capt. Elrod, WFD  |
| D. Heath, NHCF      | FF Horrell, NHCF    |                   |
| Capt. Flowers, NHCF | Chief Blackely, WFD |                   |
| Lt. Beasley, NHCF   | Sarah Chapman, WFD  |                   |

As an employee that is shared by the City and County Fire Services, my job in and of itself is a fiscally responsible, collaborative effort. If our group receives this award, we intend to use the funds to continue our fire prevention efforts. We plan to replicate this effort each October.

<b>County Manager's Name:</b>	<b>Allen O'Neal</b>	<b>Supervisor's Name:</b>	<b>Matt Davis, County Fire Marshal</b>
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Return by **JUNE 1, 2005** via email [Rebecca.Troutman@ncacc.org](mailto:Rebecca.Troutman@ncacc.org) or fax to (919) 733-1065