Bradly Long

"Captain Long died in the line of duty while working the scene of a drowning at Lake Norman. Captain Long and two other firefighters were conducting an underwater rescue operation in attempt to locate a drowning victim when they experienced an emergency underwater. Two of the divers were able to return to the surface, but Captain Long did not. A rescue effort was implemented. Captain Long’s body was brought to the surface and he was pronounced dead at the scene. The two firefighters that resurfaced were taken to Lake Norman Regional Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. This investigation is going to be lengthy and very detailed."

Diver searching for missing swimmer unaccounted for, officials say


Jun 6, 2016 by: Dave Faherty

MOORESVILLE, N.C. —
A diver from Sherrills Ford Fire and Rescue is missing in Lake Norman, officials said. Two other firefighters were rescued after a diving accident in about 50 feet of water.

Channel 9 reporter Dave Faherty was there Monday afternoon as three divers went into the water looking for the a 29-year-old swimmer who was reported missing Sunday.

About an hour later a call went out for more ambulances and help to search the area along Lake Norman where we could see wildlife officers running to meet two of the boats.
Onboard, Faherty could see firefighters working on two injured divers who had gone down between 50 to 80 feet.

Catawba County Emergency Services confirmed there was an emergency situation underwater involving three divers from Sherrills Ford Fire and Rescue. Only two of the three divers made it back to the surface.

"It's difficult. This is one of our own that's out there missing and the other two who were hurt, they were our own," said Emergency Management Coordinator Karyn Yaussy.

“We send our best to their families and to them. We ask for everyone's prayers and thoughts that this turns out as best as it can."

Officials said the two divers rushed to the hospital are awake and trying to communicate.

The search for the 29-year-old is suspended as they search for that missing diver.

A Charlotte Fire Department vehicle was involved in a crash in Iredell County while responding to Lake Norman for the dive emergency.

Two other divers were communicating. Search for missing 29-year old has been suspended for now. Asking for prayers.

"29-year-old swimmer disappears Sunday"

For much of Monday, loved ones could only watch as firefighters from Charlotte and Sherrills Ford used sonar equipment to search the bottom of the lake at depths between 50 and 80 feet.

Family members said they thought the 29-year-old, who they describe as a good swimmer, was joking when he began having trouble in the water.

Making matters worse was the strong wind pushing the boat away from him as he struggled to stay afloat.
Charlotte Fire Dept. sent crew out in the water to help with the search.
Channel 9 was told that four people were on the boat on the Mooresville side of the lake when three of them jumped off to swim. The boat drifted away and one man never resurfaced.

"An accident can happen to anybody. Especially in the conditions we had yesterday with the wind blowing. You know it is moving the boat away. You got to remember it is deep water," Sgt. Ron Robertson with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission said.

Family members told Channel 9 that the missing man's pregnant wife was on board when he jumped in the water, and that the couple also has a 2-year-old.

Despite having sonar equipment, crews said the search has been difficult. The water is murky and more than 60 feet deep.

Divers combed the area near Charter Place for hours Sunday evening and as the search grew, crews had to rope off one of the driveways.

Crews currently searching water more than 50 feet deep; officials say murkiness making it hard for crews to see

At one point, they even shut down the road.
Emergency crews from Lake Norman Fire Department as well as Catawba County divers from Sherills Ford responded to the scene Sunday, and additional divers were called in to assist in the search.

Authorities said the other three boaters were OK.

**Officials: Firefighter, two divers experienced emergency underwater**


June 7th 2016  By WBTV Web Staff

HERRILLS FORD, NC (WBTV) – Officials spoke publicly Tuesday on 28-year-old Captain Bradley Long, the firefighter who died during a search for a missing swimmer on Lake Norman Monday.

Long and two other firefighters went into the water to search for a 29-year-old man who jumped off a boat Sunday and didn't make it out of the water.

Officials said Long and the firefighters experienced an "emergency" in 35 to 75 feet of water, close to where the swimmer went missing. Two divers came out of the water, Long did not, officials said.

"A rescue effort was implemented and when they reached him he had already succumb to his injuries," Catawba County Emergency Management said. The two other firefighters went to Regional Medical Center with minor injuries.

The press conference started at 9 a.m. at Terrell Baptist Church in Sherrills Ford. Long's family accompanied the officials, who said Long died doing what he loved.

The family released the following statement Tuesday:

"Our family would like to thank everyone from ALL of the fire and emergency services in Sherrills Ford and Catawba County, all regional agencies who have helped, and friends, family and
community members for their support during this difficult and tragic time. We ask for prayers and peace as we take time to grieve and heal today and in the days to come. He passed doing what he loved to do and was passionate about.”

**RELATED:** [Firefighter dies during search for man on Lake Norman](#)

Long worked at the Newton Fire Department and was a volunteer with Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue, where he had been a member for 12 years. He was working with Sherrills Ford during the search. Rescue crews had been searching the lake since Sunday afternoon for the missing 29-year-old swimmer. Officials said he jumped off a boat with two other people. The boat wasn't anchored and started to float away. The three tried to swim and catch up with the boat, but the man wasn't able to make it back to the boat.

**RELATED:** [Body of man missing on Lake Norman recovered](#)

After suspending the search around 9:30 Sunday evening due to darkness, crews started searching again 8:30 Monday morning.

The names of the divers injured have not been released, but officials said they are also from Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue. Officials said they were responsive when they were taken to the hospital.

The search for the missing man was suspended once Long went missing in the water. Officials confirmed the body of the missing man was recovered along with Long's.

The Newton Fire Department released the following statement Tuesday:

*The city of Newton and the Newton Fire Department offer their deepest condolences to the family of Capt. Bradley Long, who died during a search for a missing swimmer on Lake Norman on Monday, June 6. Long joined the Newton Fire Department as a part-time firefighter in June 2007. He became a full-time fire engineer in May 2011 and was promoted to fire captain in August 2015. Long began his firefighting career as a junior firefighter at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue when he was 14 years old, and he continued to volunteer there. Long was a highly-trained and dedicated member of the Newton Fire Department. He was named Fireman of the Year by the Newton Elks Lodge this year.*

Newton Fire Chief Kevin Yoder said they are mourning the loss of Bradley. “He has been a valuable part of our department, and his impact will be remembered for many years to come by the Newton Fire Department family,” Yoder said.

Family of the missing man said they are thinking about Long's family as well as their own, stating "the family considers that man a hero."
The Iredell County Sheriff's Office is investigating Long's death. Officials say the investigation will be "both lengthy and thorough in nature."

**My son loved what he did,**" father of firefighter who died in dive rescue  
JUN 07 2016

**IREDELL CO., NC (WJZY) -** A news conference was held Tuesday morning for 28-year-old firefighter, Captain Bradley Long, who died trying to recover a body during a dive rescue on Lake Norman.

He was a volunteer firefighter for Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue and worked full-time as a fire captain for the City of Newton.

Karyn Yaussy with Catawba Co. Emergency Services made the following statement:

"Captain Long died in the line of duty while working the scene of a drowning at Lake Norman. Captain Long and two other firefighters were conducting an underwater rescue operation in attempt to locate a drowning victim when they experienced an emergency underwater. Two of the divers were able to return to the surface, but Captain Long did not. A rescue effort was implemented. Captain Long's body was brought to the surface and he was pronounced dead at the scene. The two firefighters that resurfaced were taken to Lake Norman Regional Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. This investigation is going to be lengthy and very detailed."

One of the injured firefighters was released from the hospital Monday night and is now recovering at home. The other firefighter will be released from the hospital Tuesday afternoon.

Authorities said the water at Lake Norman is 35 to 75-feet deep and Captain Long's body was found very close to the original person missing.

Captain Long came from a firefighter family. His father, Jerry, was a firefighter for 25 years. Long grew up accompanying his dad to fire departments, trainings and exercises.

"First of all, I want to say thank you for your respect, please give us time to grieve. My son loved what he did. He was passionate about what he loved. I want to say thank you to our brothers at Sherrills Ford Fire Dept. They're family with us. Thank you to all the state and federal agencies that have comes to help bring Bradley home," Jerry said.

Long began his firefighting career as a junior firefighter at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue when he was 14-years-old. He became a part-time firefighter for
Newton Fire Dept. in June 2007 and full time fire engineer in May 2011. He was promoted to fire captain in August 2015.

“We are morning the loss of Bradley,” Newton Fire Chief Kevin Yoder said. “He has been a valuable part of our department, and his impact will be remembered for many years to come by the Newton Fire Department family.”

He exemplified compassion and caring for all of those that encountered him, according to Yaussy and Dion Burleson PIO for Denver Fire Dept.

NC Wildlife is conducting the investigation of the original 29-year-old swimmer, Isaiah Cruz, who drowned and Iredell County Sheriff's Office is investigating Captain Long.

**NC firefighter's diving death investigated**
https://www.frerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/97717018-NC-firefighters-diving-death-investigated/
Jun 7, 2016 By Mark Washburn and Cleve R. Wootson Jr. - The Charlotte Observer

The diving gear used by Capt. Bradley Long will be a central focus of the investigation

MOORESVILLE, N.C. — Authorities said Tuesday an investigation has been launched into the death of a Sherrills Ford-Terrell rescue diver, including a focus on the scuba gear he was using.

Capt. Bradley Long, 28, died Monday during a recovery operation for the body of a swimmer who disappeared Sunday on Lake Norman.

**RELATED ARTICLE**
**LODD: NC firefighter dies during dive recovery**

Two other divers with Long were hospitalized at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center in Mooresville. One was released, and the second was held overnight for observation. The injured divers surfaced on their own, officials said.

Karyn Yaussy, Catawba County emergency management coordinator, said she expected the investigation into Long’s death to be a lengthy one. The investigation by the Iredell County Sheriff’s Office will include checking the gear the three divers were using, Yaussy said at a news conference Tuesday at Terrell Baptist Church.

The divers were recovering the swimmer’s body at a depth of 35 to 75 feet, Yaussy said. The swimmer’s name has not been released, said Rick Davis, the Sherrills Ford-Terrell fire chief.

Long was a full-time firefighter for the city of Newton. He also volunteered 12 years with Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue, where he started as a junior firefighter at age 14.
Long joined the Newton Fire Department as a part-time firefighter in 2007, became a full-time fire engineer in 2011 and was promoted to fire captain last year. He was named Fireman of the Year by the Newton Elks Lodge this year.

“My son loved what he did,” his father, Jerry Long, said at the news conference. “He loved helping people.”

Bradley Long’s family issued a statement thanking everyone for their support “during this difficult and tragic time. We ask for prayers and peace as we take time to grieve and heal today and in the days to come. He passed doing what he loved to do and was passionate about.”

Gov. Pat McCrory expressed his “sympathy and condolences” to Long’s family.
Dion Burleson, spokesman for the Denver, N.C., Fire Department, said the death has sent shock waves through the tight-knit community of firefighters and rescue personnel. “A lot of hurt is being felt,” he said.

“We are mourning the loss of Bradley,” Newton Fire Chief Kevin Yoder said. “He has been a valuable part of our department, and his impact will be remembered for many years to come by the Newton Fire Department.”

[Sherrills Ford Fire and Rescue diver dies during search for missing swimmer on Lake Norman]

Rescue diver deaths are relatively rare, according to Mike Berry, the founder of Underwater Criminal Investigators, in Richmond, Va. He said that two to three rescue divers die per year, citing a statistic in a study done by Dive Rescue International.

“The number fluctuates. Some years it is more, some years less, some years none,” he said. “You’re usually not diving in the best conditions.”

Berry said causes of fatalities in rescue diving include entanglement, debris, trash, fishing lines and contaminated water. “Another big danger is running out of air,” he said.

“Murky water is normal. What you do as a dive team is train for that environment,” he said. “With public safety diving you train for that, it’s not like recreational diving. They get the call and they respond.

“The rescue divers themselves are very dedicated to providing a service to the public. It is very dangerous,” he said.

The Charlotte Fire Department’s dive team was called in to help in the search, off a private boat landing on Waterview Lane on the Catawba side of Lake Norman. Around 7 p.m., firefighters from several departments converged on the scene. One emergency official could be seen holding an American flag.

Dozens of firefighters from neighboring departments gathered around 8 p.m. to escort Long’s body to a waiting vehicle. Some could be seen hugging and shaking hands with Sherrills Ford firefighters before the body was driven away.

Officials said the swimmer whose disappearance sparked the initial 911 call jumped off a boat in the water near Mooresville on Sunday.

Family members of the missing swimmer told WBTV that the 29-year-old was a strong swimmer and that he has a 2-year-old daughter and another child on the way. His pregnant wife was on the boat with him Sunday afternoon, according to WBTV.
A Charlotte Fire Department vehicle was involved in a crash in Iredell County on Monday while responding to the Lake Norman search, officials said. No injuries were reported.

Arrangements for Long’s funeral are incomplete.

“This is a very sad day for the city of Newton as we face the tragedy of losing a dedicated firefighter,” Newton Mayor Anne Stedman said. “Bradley Long was loved by his fellow firefighters, and his loss is a reminder that these men and women put their lives on the line every day.”

Copyright 2016 The Charlotte Observer McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Community mourns loss of Newton firefighter Bradley Long
Jun 8, 2016 by: Dave Faherty

Capt. Bradley Long’s uniform is on display at the Newton Fire Department station, one of many departments he dedicated his time and service to.

Long was killed in the line of duty Monday in a diving accident on Lake Norman. He was one of three divers searching for a missing swimmer when the emergency happened. The other two divers were pulled from the water, but Long did not make it.

Channel 9 reporter Dave Faherty talked to firefighters and city leaders about his effect on the community.

Faherty saw people stopping by to offer their support to firefighters on Tuesday.

Long’s fellow firefighters have placed his fire gear and helmet on the dash of the fire truck that he responded to fire and emergency calls.

"(He’s) one of those folks who everybody wanted to work with. He was one of those individuals who you always saw a smile on his face. (He) was always willing to do what he could do to help his coworkers and members of the community as well,” said Newton Fire Department Chief Kevin Yoder.

It was members of his own department who agreed earlier this spring that Long should be the one recognized by the local Elks club as firefighter of the year.
Two members of the Elks club shared a photo of Long with Channel 9 after he received the award in April. The Elks club was having a meeting when they learned the news of what happened on Lake Norman.

"A lot of us who were here that day were in that meeting and the meeting just kind of came to a stop. It is devastating for Newton. I don't know if we have ever lost a firefighter," said Elks member Janelle Callahan.

"I do remember he was just joking and laughing and seemed like he was the life of the party," said Elks member Karen Hoard.

Many of the people in the Newton area are in disbelief over what happened at Lake Norman Monday afternoon. Many people knew Long well, including the town's mayor, who believes the community will come together to support his family. "We're still in shock. You never expect it to happen. You know it can but you never expect it to happen so we're very saddened by this news," said Newton Mayor Anne P. Stedman.

This is the second time in a month that firefighters have had to mourn the loss of one of their own.

Pineville volunteer firefighter Richard Sheltra died April 30 after responding to a fire caused by a lightning strike at Edwin Watts Golf store.

Retired Pineville fire truck to help Sherrills Ford after similar tragedy

He died from smoke inhalation.

Just last week, the community celebrated what would have been his 21st birthday by bringing local firefighters cookies in his honor.

A processional will escort Long's body from Wake Forest-Baptist Medical Center to Bennett Funeral Home in Conover. Marked emergency vehicles will participate Wednesday.

‘He was an angel and God wanted him for a reason’

Faherty has done several stories where he has seen Long up close, helping people in a number of ways.

Earlier this year when a major waterline in Newton broke, Channel 9 was there as Long, along with other firefighters delivered water to the elderly.

Ruby Blake said Long was the one who knocked on her front door. She remembers him well.

“Kind. Beautiful personality and a people person. He’s the kind of person that will be missed and I wish there were more Bradley Long’s in the world,” Blake said.
Two months later, firefighters said Long was one of several firefighters who responded to a three-alarm fire on Northwest Boulevard.

Just last week, Long helped Mario Crespo whose kitchen was heavily damaged by a fire. Crespo is at a loss for words after learning the firefighters who helped him died while trying to help a family on Lake Norman.

"To hear that he died? Oh, my God," Crespo said.

Joyce Barr was also helped by Long during the water outage.

“He was nice, real nice,” Barr said.

Her neighbors said he also responded to medical calls in the area.

“He was an angel and God wanted him for a reason,” said neighbor Katie Roberts. A mother sent Channel 9 a photo of Long spending time with her son during a visit to the fire department.

His chief said Long touched many lives.

"Just a great firefighter. He was loved by all the members of the department. We're all certainly grieving the loss of Bradley," Yoder said.

Channel 9 learned from town officials that Long started his firefighting career as a junior firefighter at Sherrills Ford at the age of just 14.

After 2 firefighter deaths, questions remain
June 08, 2016  Cleve R. Wootson Jr

Two Charlotte-area firefighters have died in the line of duty in a little over a month. As the community mourns their deaths, investigators are probing what led to the fatalities.

The answers they get will be meaningful to the tens of thousands of volunteer firefighters across the state – and the people they protect.

Richard Sheltra, a volunteer with the Pineville Fire Department who was applying to work at the Charlotte Fire Department, died April 30 of apparent smoke inhalation while battling a blaze caused by a lightning strike at the Edwin Watts golf store in Pineville.

Bradley Long, a volunteer with Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue who was also a professional firefighter with the city of Newton, died after he and two other rescue divers had trouble beneath Lake Norman while trying to recover a swimmer’s body on Monday.
Some lingering questions:

**Q. Was there a problem with the firefighters’ air supplies?**

A. Having air to breathe – and realizing when that air is running out – is probably the most pivotal thing for firefighters, working in dangerous environments. Fire officials said Sheltra’s death resulted from “inhalation (of) products of combustion,” after he got lost inside the golf store, but it’s unclear whether his equipment failed or he ran out of air and pulled his mask off.

Long and two other Sherrills Ford-Terrell divers all experienced difficulty while diving, hinting at a common problem in their trouble beneath Lake Norman. TV cameras showed one of the surviving divers being wheeled to an ambulance wearing an oxygen mask.

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue uses a 2007 Scott Air Trailer to fill its tanks, but the fire department hasn’t released any details about what went wrong in Long’s dive.

**Q. Is there a gap in training between volunteer fire departments and professional ones?**

A. Both Sheltra and Long were working for volunteer fire companies when they died, although Long was a captain with the city of Newton and Sheltra was applying to work for Charlotte’s fire department.

Of the 28 on-duty firefighters in North Carolina who died from 2010-14, 20 were volunteers, according to an analysis by the Observer.

Training is especially important for rescue divers in Lake Norman. Experts told us parts of the lake are so murky it can be difficult for divers to see their hands in front of their faces.

**Q. Could this affect how departments render mutual aid?**

A. When it was time to remove Long’s body from the water, firefighters from nearly a dozen agencies formed a line, saluting, hugging each other and paying homage to their fallen comrade.

Many would have responded to calls alongside Long, as public safety agencies – especially those in small cities and towns – sign mutual aid agreements allowing them to respond to emergencies in other jurisdictions.

But the towns and counties around Lake Norman have argued over who should police the lake and respond to emergencies. Long’s death may change how some agencies choose to respond.
Firefighters who survived Lake Norman diving accident return to duty

HTTP://MYFOX8.COM/2016/06/16/FIREFIGHTERS-WHO-SURVIVED-LAKE-NORMAN-DIVING-ACCIDENT-RETURN-TO-DUTY/

JUNE 16, 2016 BY WEB STAFF,

LAKE NORMAN, N.C. — The two survivors of a deadly accident on Lake Norman are in good condition, according to Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire Rescue.

Chief Rick Davis of Sherrills Ford – Terrell Fire and Rescue said Ben Godfrey and Derek Sigmon, firefighters and certified public safety divers with Sherrills Ford, have returned to active duty after last week’s diving emergency that took the life of fellow firefighter Capt. Bradley Long, WSOC reports. Godfrey and Sigmon continue to grieve the loss of their friend and coworker.

The fire department said it is thankful for the community’s prayers and thoughts as the entire fire family is working through this loss and asks the media and public to continue to give everyone involved distance and allow them privacy.

The incident on June 6 is still under investigation by local, state and federal agencies.

Talking with the family of fallen firefighter Bradley Long


July 20th 2016, July 21st 2016 By WBTV Web Staff

SHERRILLS FORD, NC (WBTV) – "If you call a first responder, they're going to come for you. Doesn't matter who you are. They're going to come for you."

Those are the sentiments of Amy Shearer, the older sister of firefighter Bradley Long.
Bradley died June 6th, 2016 when he and another firefighter rescue diver went into Lake Norman to recover a missing man.

What happened that day is still under investigation. His family doesn’t want to talk specifics until the investigation is closed. But they do want you to take a moment to meet their son and brother and understand the critical role first responders play in our lives. They sat down exclusively with Anchor Molly Grantham.

“He was living his dream to be a firefighter,” Amy said. “He was doing what he wanted to do with his life.”

Bradley never knew anything except public service. The Long family has given their lives to giving back.

Father Jerry Long was a firefighter for 25 years and rescue diver for 12. Bradley's older brother Chad was military, then a police officer and is now a Lincoln County Sheriff’s deputy.

Sister Amy works in the medical field and mom Signora is a mail carrier. So it really meant something to Amy when she pointed out how men and women in this field -- police, fire, medic, dispatchers -- work tough jobs for little pay and often get zero thanks.

“Bradley gave his life to serve others,” she said. “He died doing what he loved.” Brother Chad agreed.

“Bradley was daddy’s clone,” he said. “They were like the same person. He followed in his footsteps.”

Jerry says that’s what makes it so hard now.

“The last six weeks have been difficult because I think, you know, I brought Bradley to this. I brought Bradley to what killed him.”

What gets Jerry through is the support he says his family feels from “The Red Line”... how firefighters refer to their brotherhood.

"There hasn’t been a day where one of the firemen hasn’t called or texted me to say, ‘Jerry, do you need anything?’” he said. “People don’t realize that firefighters
do much more than fight fires. They dive. Do car wrecks. Medical calls. High angle rescues. So much stuff people don’t realize.”

“Some of the best stories I’ve heard were in the receiving line,” Chad said. “I don’t know how many people said, ‘You don’t know me. I don’t know you. But your brother saved my life.’”

The Sherrills Ford Fire Department is selling t-shirts to benefit the Captain Bradley Long Memorial Fund. **To see them or learn more information, go here**

**Officials: Fallen firefighter Bradley Long drowned during June search**
July 29th 2016, By WBTV Web Staff

SHERRILLS FORD, NC (WBTV) - Officials in Iredell County have confirmed that fallen firefighter Bradley Long drowned while searching for a missing swimmer in Lake Norman.

Long's exact cause of death has been under investigation since his death on June 6. Major Andy Poteat of the Iredell County Sheriff's Office said test results showed Long "ran out of air under water."

Poteat said investigators have found no problem's with Long's equipment and no signs of foul play. He said the death was a "tragic accident."

**RELATED: Bradley Long's family talks about his life and legacy**

Several other agencies are still investigating Long’s death, including OSHA. His dive equipment was sent to experts.

Major Poteat said he believes it was standard gear and would show how much air was left, but that Long ran out before resurfacing. He would not speculate on why Long ran out of air.

Long and two other firefighters went into the water to search for a 29-year-old man who jumped off a boat and didn't make it out of the water.

**RELATED: Firefighter, two divers experienced emergency underwater**

Officials said early on that Long and the firefighters experienced an "emergency" in 35 to 75 feet of water, close to where the swimmer went missing. Two divers came out of the water, Long did not, officials said.
"A rescue effort was implemented and when they reached him he had already succumb to his injuries," Catawba County Emergency Management said in June.

The two other firefighters went to Regional Medical Center with minor injuries.

Long worked at the Newton Fire Department and was a volunteer with Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue, where he had been a member for 12 years. He was working with Sherrills Ford during the search.

Long descended to the bottom, back to a depth of about 82 feet, Poteat said.

When the third diver reached the bottom, he was in the process of maneuvering Long to get him to the surface when he experienced issues with his mask, Campbell said.

**Investigators: Empty air tank led to diver's death in Lake Norman**


Jul 29, 2016  By Donna Swicegood

**Bradley Long, 28, died during rescue operation June 6; OSHA probe continues**

Iredell Sheriff Darren Campbell said the death of a diver during a rescue operation on Lake Norman last month was a tragic accident.

Campbell said Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue Capt. Bradley Long, 28, drowned during an attempt to recover the body of swimmer Isia Cruz, 29, of Charlotte.

On Friday, Campbell, Criminal Investigations Division Supervisors Maj. Andy Poteat and Errin Jenkins detailed the findings of the sheriff’s office’s seven-week investigation into Long’s death, which occurred near the Hager Creek Access area in Mooresville.

Campbell said a company recommended by the N.C. Chief Medical Examiner’s Office examined the equipment worn by Long, two other divers who went to the hospital after the incident on June 6 and a fourth set of gear that was on the boat being used by Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue.

The experts concluded there were no problems with any of the dive equipment but that Long’s primary air tank was empty. A secondary tank he was wearing, however, did have air, Campbell said.

Poteat said the incident unfolded on the afternoon of June 6 while Long and others from Sherrills Ford-Terrell were taking part in an operation to find the body of Cruz, who disappeared June 5.
Long and a second diver were working at a depth of 82 feet in an area pinpointed by sonar as a possible location of the body, Poteat said. A monitor aboard the boat indicated to the two divers that they needed to surface and Long and the second diver began an ascent, stopping at around 20 to 30 feet below the surface for a “rest stop” to avoid decompression sickness, commonly called the bends.

At that point, Poteat said, Long gave an indication that he was out of air. The second diver tried to help, and at some point, the masks of both divers came off, which caused the second diver to ascend too quickly, he said.

When he reached the surface, a rescue diver on the surface then descended to try to rescue Long, Campbell said.

Jenkins explained the third diver’s mask began taking on water and he was unable to clear it. The pressure on his mask increased the further he dove, Jenkins said. That prompted the third diver to ascend quickly. Both he and the other diver were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Poteat said there was some indication that Long and the other diver attempted to use a regulator to access a secondary, smaller tank, called a pony tank. “It all happened so quickly,” he said, that they were unable to get a grip on the regulators.

Campbell said the investigation also revealed there is no electrical current that may have been involved in the deaths of either Long or Cruz. “There is absolutely no truth to that,” he said.

Poteat said the investigation included interviewing everyone involved as well as looking at the computer data from the dive equipment.

Campbell said the determination of procedure, training and other issues will be addressed by an investigation currently underway by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Poteat said findings from the sheriff’s office investigation were shared with OSHA representatives.

Poteat said the sheriff’s office largely focused on whether there was any criminal activity or malice that contributed to Long’s death.

“There was no foul play. It was a tragic accident of someone trying to recover a family member for some other family,” Campbell said.

**EXCLUSIVE: Investigation reveals how firefighter drowned in Lake Norman**

IREDELL COUNTY, N.C. — Channel 9 anchor Allison Latos spoke exclusively to the Iredell County Sheriff’s Office Friday about its investigation into the drowning of Sherrill’s Ford-Terrell firefighter Bradley Long.

Long died after an underwater emergency while diving for a missing swimmer in Lake Norman on June 6.

Related Headlines

Community remembers fallen Newton firefighter Capt. Bradley Long

2 firefighters who survived Lake Norman diving accident return to duty

Community mourns loss of Newton firefighter Bradley Long

http://twitter.com/AllisonWSOC9/status/759119048407789568/photo/1

29 Jul 2016

#BreakingNews @IredellSheriff tells me findings in deadly diving investigation. How Cpt. Bradley Long died @wsoctv 6 3:10 PM -
Long and another diver spent about 14 minutes searching 82 feet below the surface for a missing swimmer when they and crews above determined it was time to resurface.

**IMAGES: Procession for Capt. Bradley Long**

Long experienced an emergency when the divers were 20 to 30 feet from the surface for a safety check.

“At that point, there was a signal given by Mr. Long that he was out, or low, or fixing to run out of air,” Sheriff Darren Campbell said.

The diving expert who helped in the investigation said the divers should have been able to swim to the surface.

Long’s partner tried to help, but somehow both lost their masks and couldn’t get to their backup tanks, the sheriff said. That’s when the other diver resurfaced.

Another rescue diver jumped in to help Long, but he also had issues.

“There was a leakage in the mask and no way for him to clear it,” the sheriff said. The rescue diver, unable to reach Long, resurfaced, and the volunteer firefighter drowned.

Crews later pulled his body and the missing swimmer from the lake.

Diving experts from Garner, North Carolina examined all of the equipment and found it functioned properly.

Long’s primary oxygen tank empty was empty, the sheriff said.

Foul play was not involved in the accident, Campbell said.

“Hopefully this never happens again, but hopefully the information we learn from this will help someone else,” he said.

The Sheriff’s Office closed its investigation as state and federal officials now look at the divers’ training and if they were equipped to handle the depths.

The two divers who survived, Ben Fodfrey and Derek Sigmon, are back on duty with the Sherrill’s Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue.

Governor Pat McCrory signed a law last week honoring Long that amends the state Firefighters’ and Rescue Squad Workers’ Pension Fund that provides survivorship benefits for members killed in the line of duty.
Medical Examiner: Drowning listed as cause of death for Lake Norman diver
August 18, 2016

A local firefighter who lost his life trying to recover the body of a missing swimmer on Lake Norman died from drowning, according to the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Authorities said Bradley Long, 28, drowned due to an arterial gas embolism while SCUBA diving.

Major findings at autopsy included heavy lungs, fluid in the sphenoid sinus, an enlarged heart, and air within the right pleural space and heart.

Long was a Newton firefighter and was working on a search and rescue mission through Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire-Rescue to retrieve a body of a person who drowned in the lake.

RELATED: Community bids a final farewell to fallen hero Captain Bradley Long

According to witness statements and those on scene, Long and his dive buddy reached the rescue basket at the depth of around 80 feet. An air check with surface personnel with completed 14 minutes into the dive, and divers were told to begin a controlled ascent.

Per dive computer interrogation, Long's ascent was performed with increasing speed from 68 feet and without performing required safety stops.

According to a witness statement, Long got to the 20 foot safety stop and motioned to another diver that he was out of air, removed his mask, removed the mask of his dive buddy and panicked.

The dive buddy surfaced from the water and called for help.

RELATED: Authorities: 2 firefighters doing well after deadly accident on Lake Norman
Per Air Hogs Scuba interrogation of the dive computer, Long was breathing at a rapid rate throughout the dive, causing rapid gas consumption, descended to the maximal depth of 81 feet, and did not return to the surface when he was low on air.

The review of the dive equipment showed the gas cylinder was essentially empty. According to the report, the backup gas sources were unused.

**Embolism killed rescue diver in Lake Norman, autopsy shows**
http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article96494777.html#storylink=cpy
AUGUST 18, 2016 BY MARK WASHBURN

A firefighter who drowned in Lake Norman while trying to retrieve the body of a lost swimmer died from a gas embolism after running out of air and surfacing too rapidly, according to a report released Thursday by the Iredell County medical examiner.

Bradley Long, 28, of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue fire department, died on June 6 after gas bubbles likely blocked an artery during a hurried, emergency ascent, according to the report.

Long was in the water with two other divers from the department for 14 minutes when rescuers monitoring air usage from a boat on the surface signaled them to begin a controlled ascent.

Long, who was 6-foot-1 and 300 pounds and laboring at up to 81 feet deep, was breathing heavily throughout the dive, investigative reports said, causing rapid consumption of the gas in his Scuba tank. He did not ascend when he was low on air, investigators concluded.

When the divers began going up, the report from Iredell medical examiner Franklin Pippin said, Long ascended with increasing speed after passing 68 feet in depth without performing required safety stops.
Common diving protocols require divers to stop for about 3 minutes 15 to 20 feet below the surface to give the body time to release nitrogen build-up. Without the pause, bubbles can form in the blood blocking circulation or leading to decompression sickness.

At 20 feet, a fellow diver said Long motioned that he was out of air and appeared to panic, removing his mask and the mask of the other diver.

His fellow diver surfaced and called for help, but Long drowned before help could reach him.

No equipment problems were found with the dive gear used that day. Long’s tank was found to be essentially empty and no back-up sources of gas were used, investigators found.

Long’s death was investigated by the Iredell Sheriff’s Office. Separate investigations are underway by OSHA and other agencies.

Long, who grew up in a firefighting family, was a captain at the Newton Fire Department, which he joined as a part-time firefighter in 2007. He was named
Fireman of the Year by the Newton Elks Lodge this year.

He also volunteered with Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue, starting 12 years ago.

**Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue fined after Capt. Long died in diving operation**


Sep 20, 2016 By Tom Neas


The citation states SFTFR must pay $5,600 within 15 days or contest the citation. According to the citation, the department was in violation of N.C. general statute 95-129(1), which states employers must provide a workplace “free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or serious physical harm to his employees.”

**The citation lists out eight violations:**

» Failure to monitor the air supply of two divers

» At least one diver attached a body recovery bag and a search rope bag to his rig, creating an entanglement hazard

» Failure by at least one diver to perform an equipment check prior to the dive

» Lack of a redundant air supply by one of the divers

» Failure to train at similar depths and conditions to where the recovery was taking place

» Lack of an annual evaluation of the rescue dive team

» Failure to maintain consistent dive records

» Failure to maintain training documentation, medical evaluations and certifications

Long failed to perform safety stops while surfacing, according to an autopsy report released Aug. 18. The Associated Press reported Aug. 19 that one of the divers said Long motioned he was out of air and panicked, removing both men’s masks.

The men were between 35 and 75 feet from the surface when the incident occurred, Catawba County Emergency Management Coordinator Karyn Yaussy said in June.

A rescue attempt was made to rescue Long after the other two divers surfaced.
The two men were hospitalized with non life-threatening injuries and released the next day.

“My son loved what he did and he loved helping people,” Long’s father, Jerry Long, said during a June 8 press conference. “He passed doing what he loved doing.”

If the department does not contest the citation, they also must complete corrective actions.

The citation gives potential actions, such as implementing additional safety practices and improving training standards.

**Sherrills Ford Fire Department fined $5,600 in firefighter's diving death**


Sep 20, 2016

**MOORESVILLE, N.C.** - The North Carolina Department of Labor has fined Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue in connection with the diving accident that took the life of a firefighter.

Bradley Long died while diving for a missing swimmer in Lake Norman.

[Click to read the Department of Labor's document on fine](http://www.wsoctv.com/news/local/sherrills-ford-fire-department-fined-5600-in-firefighters-diving-death/448049261) (Reproduced Below)

The citation said Long’s air supply wasn't adequately monitored. It also states there was an entanglement hazard with a rope.

At least one diver failed to perform an equipment safety check before the dive and there wasn't a back-up air supply. The fine totaled $5,600.

The department has 15 days to contest the citation.

Channel 9 obtained an autopsy report that said Long drowned because of a buildup of gas in his arteries.

Long and another diver spent 14 minutes searching 82 feet below the surface. They tried to resurface but Long experienced an emergency at 20 to 30 feet below the surface.

Diving experts found the diving equipment had functioned properly.
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire Chief: NCDOL Citation 'Incorrect,' 'Inaccurate'


Sep 22, 2016 By TOM NEAS tneas@hickoryrecord.com

SHERRILLS FORD – The chief of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue department released a statement Wednesday about a N.C. Department of Labor citation issued Tuesday in regards to the June death of Capt. Bradley Long.

“There are things in the OSHA report which are incorrect and conclusions which we believe are inaccurate,” Fire Chief Rick Davis said via the release. “The fire department is looking into options on how to deal with this.”

Davis declined to comment on the citation further, including on the department’s option to contest the citation.

“We ask that everyone continue to respect the family’s and fire department’s privacy as we all continue to grieve and work through the healing process,” Davis said.

SFTFR is a publicly funded governmental agency under the oversight of Catawba County Emergency Services. Emergency Services assistant director Mark Pettit declined to comment about the citation.

“We firmly believe that all our departments work to ensure the safety of their employees,” Pettit said. “We have the upmost confidence in our first responders.”

The fire department has 15 days to either pay or contest the $5,600 fine.

According to the citation, the department was in violation of North Carolina general statute 95-129(1), which states that employers must provide a workplace “free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or serious physical harm to his employees.”
NCDOL spokesperson Neal O’Briant noted that “recognized hazards” are ones that an employer can prevent or mitigate. For firefighters, this means heat-resistant gear, proper safety measures for the team and air tanks when inside a burning building.

As previously reported, the citation lists out the following failures by SFTFR during the June 7 diving operation that took the life of Long:

» Failure to monitor the air supply of two divers
» At least one diver attached a body recovery bag and a search rope bag to his rig, creating an entanglement hazard
» Failure by at least one diver to perform an equipment check prior to the dive
» Lack of a redundant air supply by one of the divers
» Failure to train at similar depths and conditions to where the recovery was taking place
» Lack of an annual evaluation of the rescue dive team
» Failure to maintain consistent dive records
» Failure to maintain training documentation, medical evaluations and certifications

“The value of these regulations is to keep employees safe,” O’Briant said.

O’Briant said if the department decided to contest the citation, the matter would go to administrative court.

If the department does not contest the citation, they will have to complete corrective measures in addition to payment. The citation suggests several means to correct the violations:

» Change training and dive rigs to comply with National Fire Protection Association and Professional Association of Diving Instructors standards
» Train at conditions similar to potential operational ones
» Institute pre-dive equipment checks prior to the actual dive, instead of beginning of day checks
» Equip divers with redundant air supply

Once these measures are taken, the department would have to submit documentation of compliance.

The incident occurred June 7, when the SFTFR dive team conducted an operation to recover the body of a drowned man.

During the dive, Long indicated to another diver he was out of oxygen. The two other divers surfaced, but Long did not.

A rescue attempt was made, but failed to recover Long in time.
Bradley S. Long

Captain Bradley Long and one other diver were searching for a missing 29-year-old man in Lake Norman when they encountered an emergency. A third diver entered the water after a Mayday was called. While the two other divers eventually surfaced, Captain Long never resurfaced and was later recovered and pronounced dead at the scene. Rescue crews had been searching Lake Norman for the missing man a day prior to the emergency involving Captain Long. Officials said the missing man jumped off a boat with two other people. The boat was not anchored and started to float away. The three tried to swim and catch up with the boat, but the missing man was not able to make it back to the boat. While the search for the man was suspended once Captain Long went missing, officials confirmed the body of the missing man was eventually recovered as well. The two other divers were responsive when taken to the hospital for treatment, one of which has been released.

Department Information:

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire and Rescue
4011 Slanting Bridge Road
Sherrills Ford, North Carolina 28673
Chief: Rick E. Davis

Fatality status is provisional and may change as USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify fatality incident information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident date</td>
<td>Jun 6, 2016 16:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of death</td>
<td>Jun 6, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause of death</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature of death:</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity type:</td>
<td>Search and Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency duty:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duty type:</td>
<td>On-Scene Non-Fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed property use:</td>
<td>Outdoor Property</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division
901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28217
Phone: 704-665-4341  FAX: 704-665-4342
Tara Payne/PSDiver

Citation and Notification of Penalty

To:
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 51
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

Inspection Site:
3757 Waterview Lane
Terrell, NC 28682

Inspection Number: 318070943
CSHO ID: X3606
Optional Report No.: 051-16
Inspection Date(s): 6/7/2016 - 7/8/2016
Issuance Date: 9/20/2016

The violation(s) described in this Citation and Notification of Penalty is (are) alleged to have occurred on or about the day(s) the inspection was made unless otherwise indicated within the description given below.

This Citation and Notification of Penalty describes violation(s) of the labor laws of Chapter 95 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The penalty(ies) listed herein is (are) based on these violations. You must correct the violation(s) referred to in this citation by the date(s) listed and pay the penalty proposed, unless within 15 working days (excluding weekends and holidays) from receipt of this Citation and Notification of Penalty, you mail a request for an informal conference or Notice of Contestment to the North Carolina Department of Labor district office at the address shown above.

Posting - The law requires that a copy of this Citation and Notification of Penalty be posted immediately in a prominent place at or near the location of the violation(s) cited herein, or, if it is not practicable because of the nature of the employer's operations, where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. This Citation must remain posted until the violation(s) cited herein has (have) been abated, or for 3 working days (excluding weekends and State holidays), whichever is longer. The penalty dollar amounts need not be posted and may be marked out or covered up prior to posting.

Informal Conference - You may request an informal conference. To request an informal conference, you must return the enclosed form marking the block requesting an informal conference or provide other written notice to the district supervisor within 15 working days of receipt of the citation. Do not mark more than one block on the enclosed form if you want an informal conference. The informal conference must be held no longer than 20 working days from the date you receive the Citation and Notification of Penalty, so your immediate response is necessary if you choose this option.

If you make a timely request for an informal conference to discuss any issues related to this Citation and Notification of Penalty, you preserve your right to contest. The time for contestment does not begin until

Citation and Notification of Penalty  Page 1 of 13  OSHA-2 (Rev 1/14)
after the informal conference is held and you have been notified of the result(s). At that time you have an additional 15 working days during which you may file a notice of contest, should you so desire.

If you decide to request an informal conference, obtain the date, time and location of the informal conference by contacting the District Supervisor, then complete and post the enclosed Notice to Employees near the Citation and Notification of Penalty. Please bring to the conference all supporting documentation of existing conditions and any corrections made thus far. The results of the informal conference will be a revised citation, a notice of no change or an informal settlement agreement. An informal settlement agreement will resolve the matter without litigation or contestment.

**Right to Contest** - You have the right to contest this Citation and Notification of Penalty now or after an informal conference. You may contest all citation items or only individual items. You may also contest proposed penalties and/or abatement dates without contesting the underlying violations.

**15 working days after you receive this Citation and Notification of Penalty (if you do not request an informal conference) or 15 working days after you receive the results of the informal conference, the citation(s) and/or proposed penalty(ies) will become a final order of the North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission and may not be reviewed by any court or agency, unless you file a notice of contestment.**

**Penalty Payment** - Penalties are due within 15 working days of receipt of this notification unless a request for an informal conference or notice of contestment is forwarded. Make your check or money order payable to the North Carolina Department of Labor, OSHA Division and remit to the Budget Division at 1101 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1101. Pay online at www.nclabor.com. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and E-Checks. You may also fax your payments to (919) 715-9094, or mail it to: N.C. Department of Labor, Budget and Management Division, 1101 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1101. You may also make payment by credit card. A form is provided for your convenience. Please indicate the inspection number on the remittance.

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. Section 147-86.23 interest shall be charged at the rate of five percent (5%) per year on a past-due account receivable from the date the account receivable was due until it is paid. In addition, a late payment penalty of ten percent (10%) of the account receivable shall be added to a past-due account receivable. A late-payment penalty may be waived for good cause shown.

The North Carolina Department of Labor does not agree to any restriction or conditions or endorsements you put on any check or money order for less than the full amount due, and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions, conditions, or endorsements do not exist.

**Notification of Corrective Action** - For violations which you do not contest, you should return the OSHA Form 2D (Certification of Abatement) within ten (10) calendar days after the abatement date, to indicate that appropriate corrective action has been taken within the time frame set forth in this citation. You are not required to certify abatement if the inspector observed the abatement during the on-site portion of the inspection or observes within 24 hours after identifying the hazard and notes in the citation that abatement has occurred. The certification that abatement is complete must include, for each cited violation, the date and method of abatement and a statement that affected employees and their representatives have been informed of the abatement.
In addition, for repeat, willful and other serious violations as indicated, additional documents demonstrating that abatement is complete is required. This additional documentation may include, but is not limited to, evidence of the purchase or repair of equipment, photographic or video evidence of abatement or other written records.

If indicated in the citation, you may be required to submit an abatement plan for each cited violation, when time permitted for abatement is more than 90 calendar days. The plan must identify the violation and the steps to be taken to achieve abatement, including a schedule for completing abatement and how employees will be protected from exposure to the violative condition in the interim until abatement is complete. An employer who submits an abatement plan may be required to also submit periodic progress reports for each cited violation. The citation will indicate whether progress plans are due and the date(s) when the progress reports are due.

The employer must include, in each submission required by this notification, company name and address, inspection number, citation and item numbers, a statement that the information submitted is accurate, and a signature of the employer or the employer's authorized representative. The date of the postmark is the date of submission for mailed documents.

**Employee Notification of Corrective Action** - The employer must inform affected employees and their representative(s) about abatement activities, covered by the citations, by posting a copy of each document submitted to the North Carolina Department of Labor, or a summary of the document near the place where the violation occurred, or where it will be readily observable. The employer must inform employees of their right to examine and copy all abatement documents submitted. Posted documents must remain posted for three working days after submission to the Department.

**Employer Discrimination Unlawful** - The law prohibits discrimination by an employer against an employee for filing a complaint or for exercising any rights under this Act. An employee who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may file a complaint no later than 180 days after the discrimination occurred with the NC Department of Labor at the address shown above.

**Notice to Employees** - The law gives an employee or his/her representative the opportunity to object to any abatement date set for a violation if he/she believes the date to be unreasonable. The contest must be in writing and signed. It must be mailed to the North Carolina Department of Labor at the address shown above and postmarked within 20 days of the receipt by the employer of this Citation and Notification of Penalty.

**Notice to Employer** - Enclosed are citations and proposed penalties levied against your facility resulting from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health's compliance inspection of your facility. The penalty for each violation has been reduced depending on your facility's size, good faith and history.
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Complete and return to:
North Carolina Department of Labor
Budget and Management Division
1101 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1101
Telephone: (919) 733-7426
Fax: (919) 733-6197

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
Phone #: ___________________________________________________________
Amount: $_________ (circle one) Mastercard Visa
Name (as it appears on credit card): _______________________________________
Credit Card Number: ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ Exp. Date: _________
Cardholder Signature: ____________________________________________ Date: ______________
Payment for Invoice Nos.: ____________________________________________

Pay online at www.nclabor.com. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and E-Checks. You may also fax your payments to (919) 715-9094, or mail it to: N.C. Department of Labor, Budget and Management Division, 1101 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1101.
North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division

THIS FORM IS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE IN REQUESTING AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE OR FOR CONTESTING PART OR ALL OF THE ENCLOSED CITATION(S). THE FORM OR YOUR REQUEST FOR AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE OR NOTICE TO CONTEST MUST BE POSTMARKED WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE CITATION(S).

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 51
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

Inspection Number 318070943

Please mark only one of the following boxes and return to the address indicated below. Forms returned with more than one box marked will be treated as a request for an informal conference.

___ PENALTY PAYMENT ENCLOSED IN THE AMOUNT OF $_________

Remit to: NC Department of Labor
ATTN: Budget - Collections
1101 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1101

Pay online at www.ncdeltor.com. We accept MasterCard, VISA, E-Checks. You may also fax your payment to (919) 715-9094, or mail it to N.C. Department of Labor, Budget and Management Division, 1101 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1101.

___ REQUEST AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE (YOUR RIGHT TO CONTEST IS RESERVED PENDING THE RESULTS OF THE INFORMAL CONFERENCE)

___ NOTICE OF CONTEST OF CITATION(S) AND/OR PROPOSED PENALTY

Contest of Violation(s) Date(s)/Abatement Date(s) ___________________________________________

Contestment of Penalty Amount(s) _______________________________________________________

Return to: NC Department of Labor
Division of Occupational Safety and Health
Attention: Paul M. Sullivan, CIH
901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28217
Tel: 704-665-4341 Fax: 704-665-4342

Signature: ___________________________ Name (Print): ___________________________

Title: ___________________________ Email Address: ___________________________

Telephone No.: (____) ___________ Fax No.: (____) ___________ Date: ________________

Citation and Notification of Penalty Page 5 of 13 OSHA-2 (Rev 1/14)
North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE

An informal conference has been scheduled with OSHA to discuss the citation(s) issued on 9/20/2016. The conference will be held at the OSHA office located at Division of Occupational Safety and Health, 901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200, Charlotte, NC 28217 on _________ at __________. Employees and/or representatives of employees have a right to attend an informal conference.
North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division
901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28217
Phone: 704-665-4341 FAX: 704-665-4342

Request for Abatement Date Extensions

In the event it becomes necessary to request an extension of the abatement date for any violation listed on the enclosed citation(s), certain information must be submitted, in writing, before this request can be considered. Please send your request to:

North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division
901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28217

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health has the authority to approve or deny any request for abatement extension. However, this approval or denial will not be exercised until the expiration of fifteen (15) working days from the date your employees were notified of the request for an extension. This notification will be accomplished by posting the enclosed "Request for Abatement Date Extension" or by delivering notice to an authorized employee representative. During this fifteen (15) working days period, you are responsible for assuring the safety and health of your employees in the area of the cited hazard.

Attached to this letter is the information you need to include with your request for an extension of any abatement date. Please answer each item completely and forward this office as soon as it becomes apparent that an extension will be necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please call our office at 704-665-4341.

Citation and Notification of Penalty  Page 7 of 13  OSHA-2 (Rev 1/14)
Request for Abatement Date Extension

The employer must indicate in the boxes below which item(s) of the Citation and Notification of Penalty it wishes to extend. First, the employer must identify the citation and item number(s). (For example, "Citation 1, Item 2" or "1-2.") Then the employer must indicate all actions taken, their dates, to achieve compliance during the original abatement period. The employer must also include: the specific additional time necessary, the reasons for the additional time, all available interim steps being taken to safeguard employees, a certification that a copy of this PMA has been posted and served upon the authorized employee representative, and the date the posting and service was completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inspection Number</th>
<th>CSHO ID</th>
<th>Issuance Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>318070943</td>
<td>X3606</td>
<td>9/20/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employer's name and mailing address
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 51
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citation and Item no.</th>
<th>Abatement Date on Citation</th>
<th>Anticipated Completion Date</th>
<th>Reason for requesting an additional abatement period</th>
<th>Interim steps taken to safeguard employees, including dates, during any extended abatement period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The employer completing this form must sign the form.

Name of Employer Representative, Title

Phone

Signature

Date

Citation and Notification of Penalty Page 8 of 13 OSHA-2 (Rev 1/14)
Certificate of Posting

I hereby certify that the Request for Abatement Date Extension form and this Certificate of Posting were posted as required on __________, 20__, and a copy furnished to the authorized employee representative, if appropriate, and will remain posted for a period of 15 days.

If any affected employees, or their representative, feel that this extension should not be granted, they should file an objection to the request in writing to:

North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division
901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC  28217

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health has the authority to approve or deny any request for abatement extension. However, this approval or denial will not be exercised until the expiration of fifteen (15) working days from the date your employees were notified of the request for an extension. This notification will be accomplished by posting the enclosed "Request for Abatement Date Extension" or by delivering notice to an authorized employee representative. During this fifteen (15) working days period, you are responsible for assuring the safety and health of your employees in the area of the cited hazard.

Failure to file such objection within fifteen (15) working days of the date of posting of the petition shall constitute a waiver of any further right to object to the petition.

Company Name ____________________________________________

Authorized Signature ________________________________________

Date _______________________

A copy of this Certificate of Posting must be returned with your request for abatement extension.
North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division

Inspection Number: 318079943
Inspection Date(s): 6/7/2016 - 7/8/2016
Issue Date: 9/20/2016

Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue, Inc.
Inspection Site: 3757 Waterview Lane, Terrell, NC 28682

Citation 01 Item 001 Type of Violation: Serious

NCGS 95-129(1). The employer did not furnish to each of his employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that were causing or were likely to cause death or serious injury or serious physical harm to his employees in that employees were exposed to a low and/or out-of-air emergency while performing dive operations at depths up to 80 feet, resulting in a drowning hazard:

a) in Lake Norman, where, on June 6, 2016, the air supply for two public safety divers was not monitored at intervals adequate to prevent a low or no-air emergency while conducting underwater recovery operations to a depth of 80 feet.

b) in Lake Norman, where, on June 6, 2016, at least one member of the dive team conducted a recovery dive with the body recovery bag and search rope bag attached to his rig setup, creating an entanglement hazard.

c) in Lake Norman, where, on June 6, 2016, at least one diver failed to perform and document an equipment check prior to conducting underwater recovery operations to a depth of 80 feet.

d) in Lake Norman, where, on June 6, 2016, one diver conducted underwater recovery operations to a depth of 80 feet and was not equipped with a self-contained breathing (redundant) air supply capable of providing enough air for egress in the event of a primary air supply failure.

Abatement note: Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable method of abatement for each instance would be:

a) implementing frequent air checks policy based on PADI Public Safety Diver Basic Essentials Student Manual;

b) streamlining dive rig setups to decrease entanglement hazards in accordance with PADI Public Safety Diver Basic Essentials Student Manual;

c) ensuring that divers and dive tenders perform comprehensive, pre-dive equipment inspections prior to every dive operation, not just at the beginning of the day, and that these inspections be documented;

d) ensuring divers are equipped with and carry an independent, redundant air supply such as a pony bottle.

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated: Immediately Upon Receipt
Proposed Penalty: $2,800.00

Citation and Notification of Penalty Page 10 of 13
OSHA-2 (Rev 1/14)
North Carolina Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety and Health Division

Inspection Number: 318070943  
Inspection Date(s): 6/7/2016 - 7/8/2016  
Issuance Date: 9/20/2016

Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue, Inc.  
Inspection Site: 3757 Waterview Lane, Terrell, NC 28682

Citation 01 Item 002  Type of Violation: Serious

NCGS 95-129(1): The employer did not furnish to each of his employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that were causing or were likely to cause death or serious injury or serious physical harm to his employees in that employees were exposed to insufficient dive team training, resulting in a drowning hazard:

a) rescue dive team, where its members did not train at similar depths or conditions as their potential operational rescues and/or recoveries would be performed.

b) rescue dive team, where members of the dive team did not complete a watermanship test/skills test and basic scuba skills evaluation at least annually to determine their level of dive fitness.

c) rescue dive team, where members of the dive team did not consistently maintain dive records.

d) facility, where leadership did not maintain documentation of dive team training, medical evaluations, and certification records.

Abatement Note: Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable method of abatement for each instance would be:

a) ensuring dive team training is conducted under the same depth and conditions as operational capabilities.

b) instituting a mandatory annual watermanship test/skills test, and a mandatory annual basic SCUBA skills evaluation for all department dive team members in accordance with NFPA 1670;

c/4) maintaining dive logs and training records in accordance with NFPA 1670, NFPA 1006, and PADI Public Safety Diver Basic Essentials Student Manual;

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated: 11/4/2016  
Proposed Penalty: $2,800.00
District Supervisor for the Director
North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division
901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28217
Phone: 704-665-4341  FAX: 704-665-4342

INVOICE/
DEBT COLLECTION NOTICE

Company Name: Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue, Inc.
Inspection Site: 3757 Waterview Lane, Terrell, NC 28682
Issuance Date: 9/20/2016

Summary of Penalties for Inspection Number: 318070943
Citation 1, Serious = $5,600.00
TOTAL PENALTIES = $5,600.00

Please remit payment promptly to Attn: Budget - Collections, NC Department of Labor at 1101 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1101, for the total amount of the uncontested penalties summarized above. Make your check or money order payable to: NC Department of Labor, OSHA Division. For payment by credit card, complete the form provided. Please indicate OSHA's Inspection Number (indicated above) on the remittance. Pay online at www.nclabor.com. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and E-Checks. You may also fax your payment to (919) 715-9094, or mail to: N.C. Department of Labor, Budget and Management Division, 1101 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1101.

OSHA does not agree to any restrictions or conditions or endorsements put on any check or money order for less than full amount due, and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions, conditions, or endorsements do not exist.

Citation and Notification of Penalty  Page 13 of 13  OSHA-2 (Rev 1/14)
CONFIRMATION OF ABATEMENT

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Occupational Safety and Health Division
901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28217
704-565-4341

FAILURE TO RESPOND BY THE DUE DATE MAY RESULT IN A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION

DATE FORM DUE: Immediately Upon Receipt

COMPANY: Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue, Inc.

LOCATION: 3757 Waterview Lane, Terrell, NC 28682

FILE NO: 318070943

THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS LISTED BELOW THAT WERE OBSERVED ON THE 6/7/2016 OSHA INSPECTION BY THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WERE CORRECTED ON OR BEFORE

THE FOLLOWING ABATEMENT DATE: Immediately Upon Receipt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM NUMBER</th>
<th>STANDARD OR REGULATION ALLEGEDLY VIOLATED</th>
<th>ACTION TAKEN TO CORRECT VIOLATION (attach additional pages if needed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One 1</td>
<td>NCGS 95-129(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** To be acceptable the Action Taken To Correct Violation must be described in detail. Photos or other evidence of abatement may be attached.

THE UNDERSIGNED ATTEST THAT THE ABOVE ITEMS WERE CORRECTED ON OR BEFORE THE PRESCRIBED ABATEMENT DATE:

SIGNATURE: ____________________________

TITLE: ________________________________

DATE: ________________________________
CONFIRMATION OF ABATEMENT

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Occupational Safety and Health Division
901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28217
704-665-4341

FAILURE TO RESPOND BY THE DUE DATE MAY RESULT IN A FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION

DATE FORM DUE: 11/14/2016

COMPANY: Sherrills Ford-Terrell Fire & Rescue, Inc.

LOCATION: 3757 Waterview Lane, Terrell, NC 28682

FILE NO: 318070943

THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS LISTED BELOW THAT WERE OBSERVED ON THE 6/7/2016 OSHA INSPECTION BY THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WERE CORRECTED ON OR BEFORE 11/14/2016

THE FOLLOWING ABATEMENT DATE: 11/14/2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM NUMBER</th>
<th>STANDARD OR REGULATION ALLEGEDLY VIOLATED</th>
<th>ACTION TAKEN TO CORRECT VIOLATION (attach additional pages if needed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One 2</td>
<td>NCGS 95-129(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** To be acceptable the Action Taken To Correct Violation must be described in detail. Photos or other evidence of abatement may be attached.

THE UNDERSIGNED ATTEST THAT THE ABOVE ITEMS WERE CORRECTED ON OR BEFORE THE PRESCRIBED ABATEMENT DATE:

SIGNATURE: ___________________________ 

TITLE: ____________________________

DATE: ____________________________