



Rescue training in a swift water tank

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

A NEW COMPLEX WILL PROVIDE STATE-OF-THE-ART RESCUE TRAINING FOR FLOODS, FIRES AND OTHER HAZARDS

Fayetteville Technical Community College is building a facility that will revolutionize opportunities for emergency personnel to train for swift-water and flood-water rescues.

FTCC's **Swift Water Rescue Training Center** will be a state-of-the-art indoor facility at the College's new **Regional Fire & Rescue Training Center**.

The 8,400-square-foot Swift Water Rescue Training Center will house an 88,000-gallon tank with eight pumps that can blast water up to 7 knots per hour to simulate realistic flood situations. The center will be able to operate daily and offer a wide variety of rescue scenarios, including submerged vehicles and enclosed areas, different weather situations, water temperatures, current flow, obstacles, night rescues and other challenges.

FTCC moved to create the Swift Water Rescue Training Center because of the need to provide specialized swift-water and flood-water rescue training to emergency personnel in a world that is increasingly flood-prone. It can be difficult and dangerous to arrange such training on a regular basis in natural, outdoor settings. Meanwhile, certified swift water rescue personnel

are required to undergo regular retraining to maintain their credentials. There are more than 40 certified swift water rescue teams in North Carolina.

"This facility will serve a critical training need for emergency personnel in Cumberland County, eastern North Carolina and beyond," said FTCC President Dr. J. Larry Keen. "Dangerous flood and swift-water situations can happen almost anywhere," Keen said. "It is vitally important that emergency responders have specialized training in these instances. With this new facility, FTCC will be able to provide that training."

FTCC's Swift Water Rescue Training Center will be the only indoor facility of its kind on the East Coast of the United States. The center's tank and technology are being provided by Fathom Tanks of Georgetown, Texas, which operates its own indoor swift-water facility. The FTCC facility is expected to open in late 2022.

The facility is part of a Regional Fire & Rescue Training Center now under construction by FTCC. The regional training center, located on Tom Starling Road in Cumberland County, will provide much expanded and state-of-the-art fire and rescue

training programs for fire and emergency personnel from Cumberland County and beyond. The first phase of the regional center includes a 24,000-square-foot building with classrooms, apparatus bays, simulation labs and offices; a technical rescue complex with a 4-story training tower; and a 3-story "burn building" where live burning exercises can be conducted. It is expected to be completed by the end of August. FTCC's Corporate and Continuing Education division plans to begin offering classes at the new Regional Fire and Rescue Training Center this fall.

The second phase of the project includes the Swift Water Rescue Training Center, as well as an Aircraft Burn Simulator and two additional burn buildings. Other specialized training opportunities will include Technical Rescuer certification, vehicle extrication, trench rescuer, confined space rescuer, farm rescuer, and communications tower rescuer.

FTCC is the only college in North Carolina to offer sophisticated, high-level training which includes multiple burn buildings, an aircraft trainer, rappelling tower with high zip line capability, and trench collapse training. The full project is expected to be completed by June 2023.

The Regional Fire and Rescue Training Center and Swift Water Rescue Training Center are expected to boost the local economy, as individuals from well beyond Cumberland County seek out the specialized training and visit local hotels, restaurants and businesses.

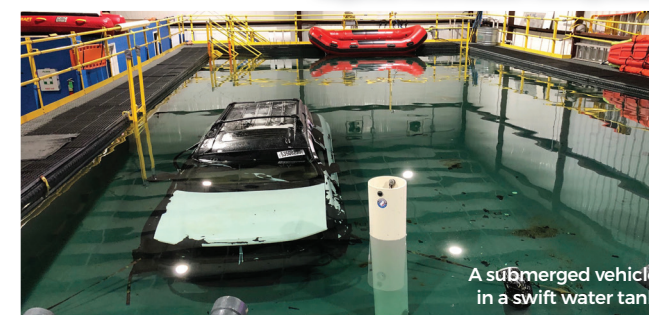
"This Center will provide hands-on specialized training in a wide variety of emergency situations," Keen said. "Firefighters and first responders will be able to do their jobs more effectively and safely, and their training will pay dividends to the people they are able to help."

Keen said the Fire & Rescue Training Center and the Swift Water Rescue Training Center are the result of hard work by many, including Cumberland County's legislative delegation, the County's Board of Commissioners, the Cumberland County Fire Chiefs Association, the North Carolina Community College System and the College's Board of Trustees.

He said FTCC is honored to be able to serve firefighters and other emergency personnel. "FTCC is thrilled to be able to provide training in this state-of-the-art Center for the courageous men and women who step up through their professional calling to serve the emergency needs of citizens throughout



Rendering of FTCC's new Regional Fire & Rescue Training Center



A submerged vehicle in a swift water tank

our communities, states, and our nation," Keen said. "This Center represents the culmination of the strong value and deep appreciation shared by many in our community and across our state who recognize why the work of our emergency service workers is critical."

For over sixty years, Fayetteville Technical Community College has been a pillar of Fayetteville and Cumberland County, providing members of the community opportunities to pursue a high-quality education offered conveniently and affordably. The mission of FTCC is to serve its community as a learning-centered institution to build a globally competitive workforce that supports economic development. FTCC offers over 286 academic programs of study leading to the award of associate degree, certificate, or diploma. FTCC's Corporate and Continuing Education division provides a broad range of classes including courses in high school equivalency, personal interest, and career and job training. The Small Business Center, which operates under the umbrella of Corporate and Continuing Education, provides training to meet the needs of new or existing businesses and industries. As members of a North Carolina community college, FTCC's faculty, staff, and leadership are honored to provide training to meet the needs of employers and the community and help individuals pursue a better quality of life through the pathway of education.

Interested in learning more about FTCC and the new training center? Visit faytechcc.edu



FTCC

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