



February 27, 2025

All,

I wanted to introduce myself to those who may not know me. My name is William Thompson. Most people call me Billy. I have spent the last 37+ years in the fire service. Starting my career with the Gastonia Fire Department in October of 1987. I worked my way through the ranks as firefighter, engineer, captain, battalion chief, and I retired from the deputy chief's position. I also served as fire chief for Crowders Mountain Fire and Rescue from 2010-2013 and started teaching for Gaston College in 1995.

I am a graduate of Gaston College with an associate's degree in Fire Protection Technology. I also have a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration and a Master of Science in Leadership with an emphasis on Emergency Preparedness and Executive Leadership. I graduated from the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in 2009. I am a fully certified firefighter in North Carolina with numerous specialties. I am NC certified Fire Officer III and Instructor III. I have completed the Management series, and the Incident Command series at the National Fire Academy as well.

We, at the Gaston College Regional Emergency Services Training Center (RESTC), have put together a team of instructors and staff that have over 1500 years of fire service experience and we are here to meet your training needs. Reach out to us with any classes or needs that you or your department may have.

William Thompson, Director RESTC

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