



CHERIE K. BERRY  
COMMISSIONER

TIM CHILDERS  
WEST COMPLIANCE BUREAU CHIEF  
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

August 6, 2008

City of Salisbury Fire Department  
Attn: Chief Robert Parnell  
514 East Innes Street  
Salisbury, NC 28144

Re: OSH Inspection #312107592

Dear Chief Parnell:

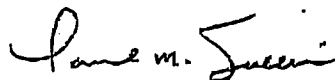
As you are aware, the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Division of the NC Department of Labor initiated a compliance inspection of the City of Salisbury Fire Department on March 7, 2008 following the fire at Salisbury Lumber and Supply Company that resulted in the death of firefighters Victor Isler and Justin Monroe.

While violations of OSH regulations were identified during the inspection (see enclosed OSHA 2 - Citation and Notification of Penalty), the compliance officers found the Salisbury Fire Department to have a well-written and effective safety program. Firefighters are equipped with and utilize proper personal protective equipment, including NFPA-compliant turn-out gear and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) respirators with 45 minute bottles. During the March 7, 2008 fire, an incident command system was implemented as various management functions were delegated to other departmental officers as the magnitude of the incident increased. Additionally, it was clear that firefighter safety was the top priority at the fire, as operations alternated between offensive and defensive based on conditions and frequent personnel accountability reports were taken.

In addition to the violations outlined in the OSHA-2, the OSH Division officially recommends the Salisbury Fire Department investigate and take action on the portable radio issues that hampered communication during the fire. Additionally, it is recommended that all firefighters be re-trained on firefighter survival skills, including, but not limited to, the use of the "Mayday" call by all personnel at the first sign of a life-threatening situation.

The OSH Division appreciates the cooperation by Salisbury Fire Department officers and firefighters during this inspection and again extends our sincere sympathy on the loss of your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul M. Sullivan".

Paul M. Sullivan, CIH  
OSH Compliance District Supervisor