



## PROCLAMATION

Declaring Sept. 8-14, 2025, as Orange Rural Fire Department Week

In Recognition of Continued Excellence, Courage and Sacrifice  
in Serving the Hillsborough and Central Orange County Communities

**WHEREAS**, the Orange Rural Fire Department serves an expansive, 62-square-mile district in Central Orange County, which includes Hillsborough, and runs over 2,000 calls per year from four stations; and

**WHEREAS**, Orange Rural provides an array of highly technical life-saving rescue services in addition to fire suppression, first responder emergency medical care and hazardous materials functions, with these rescue services including trench, confined space, agriculture and machinery, swift and surface water, and structural collapse; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Department goes above and beyond to help all in the community during their greatest times of need and regardless of the situation; and

**WHEREAS**, Orange Rural was quick to send multiple deployments of firefighters and equipment when Hurricane Helene devastated western North Carolina on Sept. 27, 2024, and for decades has regularly provided mutual aid to communities across the state during emergencies, such as forest fires, floods and other disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Department responded Feb. 19 to a 50-car pileup with a fatality and injuries on Interstate 85 during a winter storm, were on scene for over 20 hours with limited assistance from other agencies, and employed creative responses to prevent further loss of life and help those injured or trapped; and

**WHEREAS**, when Tropical Storm Chantal caused unprecedented flash flooding July 6-7, Orange Rural ran 42 calls in 10 hours, performed a dozen water rescues, provided a boat and two staff members to help evacuate 50 people in Carrboro, assisted with clearing streets of downed trees, monitored water levels at Lake Orange, and handled many other critical tasks; and

**WHEREAS**, during all emergencies, weather events, and preparation for severe storms, the Fire Department always reaches out to Town of Hillsborough staff offering assistance, resources, expertise and availability, which are greatly appreciated by all town employees, management, the mayor, and the Board of Commissioners;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mark Bell, mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, do hereby proclaim Sept. 8-14, 2025, as Orange Rural Fire Department Week in Hillsborough to recognize the phenomenal service to our community from Orange Rural's board members, firefighters, support staff, command staff, and Chief Jeff Cabe.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal of the Town of Hillsborough to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 2025.

---

Mark Bell, Mayor  
Town of Hillsborough