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Santa visits the City of Fanning Springs



With his magical Santa pose, Santa does not even need to land a punch before rope magically appears around The Grinch and there is no need for actual fisticuffs. With Santa winning, good triumphs as it should and the morning is ready to start.

**Story and Photos
By Jeff M. Hardison
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FANNING SPRINGS -
- While Fanning Springs Fire Chief Ron McQueen went to Hardees to gather some breakfast items for his troops, Santa Claus, The

Grinch, elves -- Chella Decker and Brett Boyce-- and Deputy Chief Elania Spain were on the forefront of preparing for a day of delivering joy and more.

For the second consecutive year, the Fanning Springs Fire Rescue Department took Santa Claus for a ride through the city to deliver candy and small toys to about 300 children. There were many behind-the-scenes, unnamed volunteers who assured the success of this event too.



The Grinch is tied and mounted to the front of the fire engine.

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Chella Decker (elf in the foreground) and Brett Boyce (another elf) accompany Santa Claus on the custom sleigh built by Dana Sheffield.



The rescue truck serves in place of eight tiny reindeer, and the view of the sleigh shows its perfect fit, ladder and all, as the transport vehicle for Santa Claus in Fanning Springs.

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Fanning Springs Deputy Fire Chief Elania Spain holds some of the candy and toys that are to be given to girls and boys in Fanning Springs on Saturday (Dec. 19). This heralds the second consecutive year of the Santa visit via a fire truck.

Santa Claus had a brief battle with The Grinch who tried to steal Christmas from the children of Fanning Springs. Santa won, and The Grinch was mounted on the front of the fire engine.

The Fanning Springs Fire Rescue Team, complete with certain characters, delivered candy, toy cars and Juggle Bubbles. The custom-fabricated sleigh is the work of Dana Sheffield of Fanning Springs.

As for the FSFR team being ready to respond to emergency calls for help, Deputy Chief Spain made a clear statement.

"We are always prepared," she said. "Our elves, Santa and even

The Grinch will all jump very quickly into bunker gear and respond to any call for service."

Chief McQueen, the ever-thoughtful and considerate leader, slowed the pace of the team by a few minutes Saturday morning so that the children would not be drawn out into the cold until the sun was up for a bit more. In the meantime, he went to retrieve tasty breakfast treats for his colleagues.