

## Final 2014 Kittrell Community Watch Meeting



**Left to right: Vance County Sheriff's Deputy Craig Thorpe, Kittrell Community Watch President Edward Woodlief, and Guest Speaker Capt. Bryant Williams of Vance County Emergency Services. Woodlief holds the plaque presented to Kittrell Community Watch from Henderson-Vance Crime Stoppers.**

The Kittrell Community Watch met on 20 November at the Kittrell Community House for a lesson in home fire safety. Edward Woodlief, President, called the meeting to order and the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Roy, of Plank Chapel, delivered the invocation. Woodlief displayed the Henderson-Vance Crime Stoppers plaque recognizing this Community Watch's contributions in 2014. Deputy Craig Thorpe, Vance County Sheriff's Office, illustrated the importance of situational awareness with an example from a local gas station robbery. Leonard Hight of the Henderson Vance Community Watch Association stated that Henderson and Vance County now have 41 active community watch organizations.

Captain Bryant Williams, of Vance County Emergency Services provided a tutorial on fire safety in the home. He emphasized fire extinguishers and smoke alarms as key fire safety tools. He described the common classes of fires: combustibles (A), liquids (B), and electrical (C). He recommended dry-chemical type extinguishers for the average household. He advised periodic extinguisher maintenance, specifically inverting and shaking dry-chemical extinguishers (to prevent clumping) and checking the gage to ensure the pressure is still in the “green.” Household extinguishers should be replaced every 10 years. Williams recommended mounting extinguishers near exits (for example near kitchen and garage doors). He used the acronym “PASS” to describe proper use of an extinguisher: pull the Pin, Aim at base of fire, Squeeze handle, and Sweep. He emphasized that home extinguishers are only useful during the beginning stages of a fire; if a fire cannot be extinguished in 90 seconds, evacuate and call 911. Williams discussed the importance of smoke detectors, including their placement and periodic battery replacement. The sensors in home smoke detectors are only good for 10 years, after which the detector needs to be replaced. Williams said that Vance County Emergency Services will do un-official home inspections upon request and advise on fire safety measures.

The next Kittrell Community Watch meeting will be 8 January in conjunction with Cobblestone Community Watch. For more Kittrell Community Watch information see;  
<http://kittrellcommunitywatch.dyndns.org/>

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