

# COMMONWEALTH

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. - April 2022

*Chief*



**SALEM'S CHIEF  
JOHN PRILLAMAN  
INSTALLED AS  
PRESIDENT**

**FIRE CHIEF EUGENE "CRICKET" GERALD HONORED WITH THE GLENN A. GAINES LEADERSHIP LEGACY AWARD  
RECIPIENTS OF THE 2021 GOVERNOR'S FIRE SERVICE AWARDS ANNOUNCED  
2022 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS AFTER A YEAR OFF BECAUSE OF COVID**



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# Chief

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## INTRODUCING JAMEY BRADS VDFP'S NEW CHIEF OF TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**John Prillaman**  
2022 VFCA President  
Salem Fire and EMS Department

I am humbled and honored to serve as the President of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA). I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors for over 10 years and I would like to thank Chief Jack Jones for selecting me to the board in 2011. During my tenure on the Board I have had the opportunity to serve under some great Presidents, each making the organization a little better than they found it. I would especially like to thank my predecessor, Chief Keith Johnson for his leadership and mentorship over the last year. It has most definitely helped me be prepared to serve as President this year.

The fire service has been faced with some unprecedented challenges over the last couple of years, including staffing, supply chain issues and most significantly a worldwide pandemic. As always, fire service leaders stepped up to the challenge and led their communities through extraordinary leadership and coordination. Whether it was protecting their personnel as they transported numerous COVID-19 patients, assisting with testing or coordinating mass vaccination clinics, Virginia's fire service was up for the challenge. I have never been prouder of Virginia's fire service and its leaders.

The VFCA is special because of the people who serve. At our annual retreat in Staunton this fall, our Board of Directors met and set our path for our future. I can assure you the 2022 Board of Directors are passionate and ready to roll up their sleeves to continue the great work of our organization.

On the legislative front the VFCA has made great strides in lobbying and influencing legislation to make Virginia's fire service safer and more effective. Special thanks to the great people at Two Capitals Consulting, who have lobbied for us but more importantly, trained us in how to effectively work with our legislators in supporting or opposing legislation that affects Virginia's fire service. I would also like to thank Chief Keith Johnson, who has worked tirelessly over the last couple of years working with our legislators and testifying before several committees supporting legislation that is important to the VFCA.

We continue to provide educational opportunities for everyone in the fire service. The Virginia Fire Rescue Conference continues to be one of the best state conferences in America. Conference staff and the Virginia Beach Fire Department ensure that the exhibit hall is full of great vendors and the sharpest instructors in the nation are teaching in the classrooms. The Virginia Fire Officers

Academy and the Virginia Chief Officers Academy continue to be leaders in providing training to our future and current chief and company officers. These programs have truly changed careers and even lives of the attendees.

The Virginia Chiefs Summit brings together Fire Chiefs from across the Commonwealth for two days of education and fellowship. The Summit gives participants not only an opportunity to learn, but to network with fellow chief officers. The Company Officers Summit allows our company officers to learn from some of Virginia's finest instructors and to network with company officers from across the state. If you have not participated in these events, I highly encourage you to attend.

We are also working on updating the VFCA website. The website workgroup has been hard at work in putting together some ideas on what they would like to see, and we are currently working with a consultant to create a RFP for the new website. We can have the greatest organization in the world, but we must have a good way to get the word out about our great programs and people.

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation (VFCF) Board of Directors continue to raise money for programs such as the Virginia Fire Officer Academy, Virginia Chief Officer Academy and raises money to provide annual scholarships for firefighters and their families. The VFCF raises money through annual golf tournaments and a 5K race. If you would like to support the VFCF please consider participating in one of these events; you can find additional information on the VFCA website.

The 2022 VFCA Board of Directors are dedicated to adding value to our members and will be launching some new programs, such as mentorship and consultation opportunities. I am honored to serve as the President of this great organization and can't wait to see what we can accomplish together in 2022.



## THE VIRGINIA FIRE-RESCUE CONFERENCE IS BACK!

Battalion Chief Michael Carter

Unfortunately, like many other events across the nation, the 2021 VFRC was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequent limitations. However, with over 150 vendors and a record setting number of students and attendees, the 2022 Virginia Fire Rescue Conference (VFRC) was back bigger and better than ever, with a palpable feel of excitement and anticipation in the air. This year's VFRC kicked off in full swing on February 21, 2022 with pre-conference classes at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The pre-courses offered included All Hazards Incident Management and IMT - Incident Commander, Hazardous Materials Planning as well as a number of Hands On Training (H.O.T.) courses held at the Harry E. Diezel Virginia Beach Fire Training Center.

On Wednesday, February 23rd the conference officially opened at 8 am with over fifteen courses offered ranging from Tactics and Command, Critical Decision Making to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Investigator 1033 refresher training. Classes were at capacity with some rooms at standing room only! It did not take long to see that this year's conference was set to be one of the most successful yet! In fact, conference attendees and vendor numbers met and surpassed predicted numbers making 2022 one of the biggest VFRC for both the number of vendors and attendees in history!

Opening Ceremonies were held on Wednesday at 3pm in Grand Ball Room One with over two-hundred and twenty-five people in attendance. City of Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer welcomed the attendees and dignitaries to the VFRC 2022 Opening Ceremonies and Governor Awards. The Secretary for Public Safety, Bob Mosier also took to the podium and shared his and Governor Younkin's support and appreciation for Virginia's fire service and the Commonwealth's public safety personnel, volunteer and career alike.

The ceremony continued with Acting Director of Virginia Department of Fire Programs, Garret Dyer, presenting the Virginia Fire Service Governor's awards. "The recipients have navigated the challenges of the pandemic all the while strategically developing new procedures and trainings to stay well equipped for any emergency" stated Dyer. The presentation continued with District Chief (ret.) and Virginia Fire Rescue Chair Steve Lesinski facilitating the presentation of the Virginia Fire Chief's Association awards. VFCA Executive Chris Eudailey presented over \$32,000 in scholarship awards, all of which were donated from the Virginia Fire Chief's Foundation. The culmination of the ceremony paid homage to all the recent fallen firefighters in the Commonwealth.

The week continued with a myriad of educational opportunities. Classes in leadership, strategy and tactics and situational awareness were just some of the themes available to attendees. Additionally, there were a plethora of H.O.T. classes offered ranging from search tactics, can confidence to incident command simulations. These courses were facilitated by several highly experienced instructors coupled with a great collaborative support team of Fairfax County and Virginia Beach firefighters and instructors.

The exhibit hall opened on Thursday, February 24th with a line to the door of the convention center of people who wanted to see the next generation of fire apparatus and the latest and greatest fire equipment, technology and fire/public safety gear in the

country. This year's show allowed for three different days to walk the halls and collaborate with vendors inside the hall as well as on the first floor of the convention center.

The closing general session, held on Saturday at 3 pm, highlighted the response and subsequent mitigation of the tragic Surfside Florida building collapse. This was a local, regional, state and federal response. FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Team, Virginia Task Force 2 responded with a type 1 task force of over 80 personnel from the Hampton Roads region. FEMA Incident Support Team Division Supervisor Jon Rigolo, VATF-2 Task Force Leader Jim Ingledue and VATF-2 Rescue Team Manager Woody Landgrover presented to over 100 people on this response and some of the lessons learned.

The 2022 Virginia Fire Rescue Conference was a tremendous success. We want to thank the vendors, sponsors, support staff, the conference committee team members, and all the attendees for making this a conference to remember. Please consider joining us next year and save the dates for the 2023 VFRC, February 20-25, 2023!



Unless otherwise noted, all "Highlights" photos are by Ray Smith, Darnell Evans and the VBFD

# GOOD HONORED WITH THE 2021 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

On Wednesday, February 23rd at the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Awards and Recognition Ceremony, outgoing VFCA President, Keith Johnson, named Chief Kevin N. Good of the Ft. Belvoir Fire and Rescue Department, as the recipient of the 2021 VFCA President's Award. Chief Good was selected based on his incredible level of commitment and work ethic in getting the membership growing and looking for ways to bring on members Johnson said. If that wasn't enough, Chief Good has been instrumental in organizing our VFCA 5K runs/walks, most notably in Williamsburg. It is not what Chief Good does formally on these boards and committees, it is the life and excitement that he puts into everything he does. His enthusiasm, his ever-lasting smile, and his passion for helping others succeed is what makes Chief Good stand out above others.

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association W.C. "Bill" Smith President's Award has been awarded by the VFCA President since 2009. This award is chosen by the president for an individual who has provided some type of influence and support to the president during his term in office.

Chief Good was selected as Fire & Emergency Services Chief for the U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Belvoir on February 27, 2021.

He has been with the Fort Belvoir Fire & Emergency Services Division since 2001. He began as a volunteer firefighter in Stafford County, VA rising through the ranks to serve in a variety of roles with that combination system, including as volunteer Station Chief and a volunteer county Battalion Chief. His Fort Belvoir experience began as a GS-4 Firefighter, he has served in every grade where ultimately reaching his current position as GS-13 Fire Chief. Joining the ranks as a Firefighter/EMT-B progressing to a Company Officer, Fire Protection Specialist in the Fire Marshal's Office, Assistant Chief of the Emergency Services Branch, and previously served as the Division's Deputy Fire Chief that ultimately prepared him with a diverse background and level of experience.

Chief Good has served since June 2021 at the Acting-Director of Emergency Services, where he currently leads Law Enforcement, Physical Security, Fire & Emergency Services, and Emergency Communications Center.

During his tenure at Fort Belvoir, Chief Good has expanded services, helped establish professional affiliations to the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, and the Women in Fire network. He has established numerous community outreach programs, been a part of construction of several fire stations, worked to bring a new live fire training facility in 2020, fully modernized the Community Risk Reduction Branch and helped lead the Division to become the 8th Army FES Division to reach the status of National Accreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence-Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

Chief Good is a graduate of the Northern Virginia Fire & Rescue Leadership Development Institute's Inaugural Command Officer Management Program. As a Company and Chief Officer for a combination of 20 years, he continues to cultivate efforts that increase Fire & Emergency Services organizational performance throughout the Department of the Army and the Commonwealth of Virginia. He serves as a Virginia Fire Chief's Association At-Large Board member and previously led the Federal/Military Section. He serves on a number of local and regional committees.

He enjoys running and spending time outdoors with his two sons, Gavin and Ryland.

## CONGRATULATION'S Chief Good!



President Keith Johnson had the honor of selecting and presenting Chief Kevin N. Good the annual W.C "Bill" Smith President's Award. Shown L to R is Chief Johnson, Good, Secretary of Public Safety Bob Mosier and Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer.

## Virginia EFO graduate honored during conference



L to R: Chief Johnson, D/C Johnston, Secretary Robert Mosier and Virginia Beach Mayor Bobby Dyer Photos: VBFD

One Virginia Fire Officer was honored during the Awards Ceremony on February 23, 2022 at the Virginia Fire Rescue Conference in Virginia Beach for completing her Executive Fire Officer Program (EFO) during 2021.

Abbey G. Johnston, Deputy Chief of Operations for the Bedford County Fire & Rescue Department was invited to the podium where she was presented with an American flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in her honor.

The Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program is the flagship program of the National Fire Academy (NFA).

CONGRATULATION's Chief Johnston!

## CHIEFS ASSOCIATION HONORS HENRICO COUNTY DIVISION OF FIRE CHIEF EUGENE "CRICKET" GERALD WITH THE GLENN A. GAINES LEADERSHIP LEGACY AWARD



Shown L to R: Chief Gerald and Chief Alec Oughton Photo: Ray Smith

After being nominated by members of the Henrico County Division of Fire, Assistant Chief Eugene "Cricket" Gerald was selected for this year's prestigious VFCA Chief Glenn A. Gaines Leadership Award. The chief's nomination is shown below:

### 1. Accomplishments (in mentoring & professional development)

Chief Eugene "Cricket" Gerald has served the central Virginia community as a dedicated fire service member for more than four decades. He started his fire service journey in the rural community of Beaverdam in western Hanover County. His unparalleled dedication, ability to connect with others, and technical competence allowed him to rise to the rank of volunteer fire chief in his community. While serving as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown, he started a decorated career with the Henrico County Division of Fire in 1976. He humbly and graciously rose through the ranks with Henrico

Fire and currently serves as an Assistant Fire Chief. He recently celebrated his 45th anniversary as a member of the Henrico County Division of Fire.

### 2. Initiative (including helping others beyond their own agency through mentoring and professional development, including advocacy)

While Chief Gerald has served as the epitome of leadership with Henrico Fire for more than 45 years, his scope of influence extends well beyond the borders of Henrico County. His leadership legacy will forever be felt in Hanover County where he lives and previously served as a volunteer firefighter, and district fire chief, for many decades. He also served as a part-time battalion chief in New Kent County for many years. Even after serving more than four decades in the fire service, Chief Gerald can still be seen regularly conducting hands-on training with members of all ages and ranks. In fact, just recently, he donned his turnout gear and provided valuable operational readiness training to some of Henrico Fire's newest members. Chief Gerald constantly advocates for mentoring and professional development in the fire service and in the community.

### 3. Technical Competence (including serving as an instructor)

Chief Gerald possesses, and continues to develop, an incredibly high level of technical competence in every facet of the fire service. Throughout his career, both paid and volunteer, he always takes the time to share the knowledge and experience he has obtained with everybody he encounters. He does so in a formal manner as an instructor, and even more so as a mentor in an informal manner. His upbringing in a rural community, coupled with his advanced knowledge of the modern fire service allows him to deliver messages in a unique manner. Many of his lessons involve analogies to animals and pets, which further allows others to connect and relate to him on a real-world level.

### 4. Demonstrated Leadership and Mentoring Ability

While rising through the competitive ranks of a metropolitan agency like Henrico Fire, Chief Gerald always understood that the most valuable asset he possessed was his ability to positively influence, lead, and mentor those around him. He always makes himself available to counsel, coach, and listen to anybody who has a need. He continues that legacy as Henrico Fire's most tenured member by positively impacting all members of the agency at all ranks. He even provides wisdom and steady counsel to senior executives in Henrico Fire and across the region and state.

### 5. Additional Information

Simply stated Chief "Cricket" Gerald is the type of leader and mentor most fire service members are only fortunate enough to meet once in their career. His dedication, mentorship, and desire to serve others has spanned multiple generations. He possesses a level of humility and genuineness that is seldom encountered. As a testament to his legacy, just ask any fire service member that has served the central Virginia community in the last fifty years if they know "Cricket." That person will likely smile, pause, and tell you how Chief "Cricket" Gerald has genuinely impacted them as a firefighter, community member, and most importantly, as a person. Chief Gerald's legacy in Henrico and the surrounding communities is much like Chief Gaines' legacy in the Fairfax County community. Like Chief Gaines, Chief Gerald is a devoted husband, a loving father, and a doting grandfather. Chief Gerald is the ideal candidate to receive the Glenn A. Gaines Leadership Legacy Award.

Congratulations Chief Gerald!



## VIRGINIA TASK FORCE 2 CHAMPLAIN TOWERS COLLAPSE RESPONSE

Vance Cooper

VA-TF 2 is one of twenty-eight Federal Urban Search & Rescue Teams capable of responding to devastating collapses and much more. This team is sponsored and led by Virginia Beach Fire Department; however, they have 12 participating agencies to include fire departments from Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Hampton, Newport News, York County, Williamsburg, Janes City County, Henrico, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic as well as Emergency Physicians of Tidewater. In addition to these participating agencies there are many technical experts from K-9 search and structural engineering professions that make up this highly skilled and capable team.

On June 24, 2021 Champlain Towers South a 12 story condominium in Surfside FL, partially collapsed suddenly resulting in mass casualties. All around the world people watched as responders in Florida rushed to save lives. Thirty-five people were rescued from the non-collapsed portion of the building by the local responding fire and EMS departments. In the days to come, other response agencies arrived to assist with this tragic scene. On June 30, 2021, VA-TF2 was activated to deploy a NIMS Type 1 Urban Search & Rescue Team to Miami-Dade County, to the Town of Surfside, FL, and assist with the search and rescue efforts. For the next 11 days and nights, working rotating 24-hour shifts, the men and women of VA-TF2 worked tirelessly side-by-side with other teams from around the country and the Nation of Israel to bring some closure to the families who lost loved ones that day.

During the 2022 Virginia Fire & Rescue Conference, Battalion Chief Rob Darling, Captains Jon Rigolo, Jim Ingledue and Edward Landgrover gave a two hour presentation that gave attendees an inside look at the lessons learned from a team standpoint as well as command-and-control strategy and tactics. In addition, they highlighted a newfound friendship between Search & Rescue teams from different parts of the world. Their presentation did a great job of reinforcing the need for never ending team preparation through funding, training and an active membership willing and able to give their all.

Thank you to all of our first responders, and I look forward to hearing a story about lessons you have learned next year.



The site of the Champlain Towers South partial collapse in Surfside, Florida. Credit: NIST



Working the pile.

Credit: Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images



Credit: 13 News Now

# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS | HOT CLASSES

Hot classes, hot classes, hot classes! The Virginia Fire & Rescue Conference (VFRC) is the place for Firefighters, Officers, and Chiefs to take their training to the next level. Over the years, the VFRC has partnered with the Virginia Beach Fire Training Center to bring the best and most up-to-date hot classes in the state. A variety of instructors traveled to the VFRC to offer their expertise on exciting topics relevant to today's firefighters.

Watching the Virginia Beach Fire Training Center transition into a facility dedicated to hot classes with firefighters and instructors from around the United States was very rewarding. The excitement on the faces of those attending, to the multitude of props, equipment, engines, and ladders made it a week that was unforgettable. The sounds of the engines pumping thousands of gallons of water, ladders hitting the second-floor window for VEIS, irons forcing doors, and extrication tools ripping into vehicles were ringing in our ears throughout the week...we love it! It was the noises of volunteer & career Firefighters taking their knowledge, skills, and ability to the next level.

Before the pandemic, the Virginia Beach Fire Training Staff approached the VFRC about increasing the number of hot classes. VFRC was excited about the idea of the Training Staff hosting several classes. Everyone agreed that this was a no-brainer, especially since the staff was already in place and could easily add classes at no additional cost. Unfortunately, cancellations prohibited the conference and the hot classes for the last 2 years. This last summer, when asked if the Training Staff was willing to run the same training, the answer was an emphatic yes.

New friendships happen almost daily in the fire service. Whether it's training, meetings, conferences, and/or seminars, connections are always being made and it's truly one of the best parts of the job. The Virginia Beach Fire Training Staff made some new friends over the last year in the northern part of the State. The Fairfax County and Virginia Beach Fire Training Staffs started a new movement by joining forces this year at the VFRC. That's right, Fairfax County and Virginia Beach! This was an awesome two-for-one punch offered in several hot classes. Instructors from both departments, in one place, sharing a wealth of knowledge and experiences was extraordinary. The VFRC also had instructors from many other departments and the learning shared was fantastic. The team concept of joining instructors is a powerful direction for future hot classes at the VFRC.

This year's hot classes ranged from vehicle extrication, water thievery (with Chesapeake, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Hollywood Volunteer apparatus!), primary searches & forcible entry, Mayday, fire behavior with flashover, defensive tactics, investigation/surveillance, and command simulations. Also, Pierce ran a week-long mechanics' class offering several certifications. All classes were successful with positive feedback from the students. In particular, the Virginia Beach Fire Department is very proud of its Command Training Center (CTC) and winner of the Governor's award in 2016. This year, students had the opportunity to see how simulations are created, how to run the system, manage command boards, and even became the Incident Commander of residential and commercial structure fires. This was all done under the direction of the Virginia Beach Command Simulation Team.

If you missed the hot classes, don't worry because next year we are going to blow your minds with the level of training at the

VFRC. Fairfax County and Virginia Beach Instructors, an inseparable group now, are already planning to team up, for next year's conference. But why stop with Fairfax County and Virginia Beach? Be on the lookout for next year's openings for instructors. We envision a training center full of students and instructors from all over the State learning from each other and enjoying new friendships in the fire service.



# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS | LEARNING AND FUN



Opening Ceremony



Hands on Training (HOT) training classes



Thank you to everyone who supported the 50/50 Raffle everyday of the VFRC2022



Lynchburg Deputy City Manager Reid Wodicka and VFCA Board Member / Fire Chief Greg Wormser "Bridging the Divide Between the Chief Officer and Elected Officials"



At the Celebration Dinner



"The Team" making it all happen!!!

Photos: VBFD

## **LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE RECOGNIZED WITH THE VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION/VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS FOUNDATION "BEST PRACTICES IN FIRE SERVICE HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARD" LOUDOUN COUNTY COMBINED FIRE AND RESCUE SYSTEM RECOGNIZED AS RECIPIENT OF THE VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION/VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS FOUNDATION "BEST PRACTICES IN FIRE SERVICE HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARD"**

Fire Chief Stephen P. Kopczynski, Chairman  
Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Health and Safety Committee

On Wednesday, February 23, 2022, during the opening ceremony of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association's Virginia Fire-Rescue Conference, the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System was recognized as the recipient of the Virginia Fire Chiefs "Best Practices in Fire Services Health and Safety Award."

This award program seeks to recognize departments that demonstrate best practices in providing for the health, safety and wellness of their members. It is managed by the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Health and Safety Committee, and is monetarily supported by the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation. Departments selected as recipients of the award receive a \$500 contribution from the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association /Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation.

As in the past, this year's award winner demonstrated a strong organizational commitment to the health, safety, wellness and welfare of its members.

The Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System was chosen as the award recipient. The department operates with 26 fire and/or rescue companies and has approximately 1,200 volunteer members as well as 696 career full time equivalent

employees. The department's annual operating budget is over \$114,000,000. The County is approximately 522 square miles with a population over 420,000 people.

Through dedicated funding that was approved by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, the department developed a comprehensive behavioral health program for

its members which included a coordinator trained for dealing with the unique issues of a diverse career/volunteer fire and rescue system. As a result, of this funding and the expansion of previously implemented department health, wellness and fitness programs; many benefits have been realized. These benefits include a robust peer support program, stress/trauma support group, chaplaincy program and a 24 hour behavioral health hot line (among others). These initiatives have been so beneficial to the department members and because of the success, the services have often been sought by fire and rescue organizations beyond Loudoun County's borders. As the nomination appropriately noted: "As the fire-rescue industry continues to study and understand the mental health issues surrounding this profession, the behavioral health components needed to support our first responders will continue to expand."

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association congratulates the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System and encourages all departments (volunteer, combination and career) to submit nominations next year for the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association "Best Practices in Fire Service Health and Safety Award." Please look for nomination information in future issues of Commonwealth Chief, as well as on the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association website.

## **2022 BOD Service Award**

During the 2020 conference awards ceremony, a new BOD Service Award was announced along with the first ever recipients.

The award was established and presented to those Board members that had served the association and been on the BOD for more than three years.

This year (2022) the award is being presented to Chief David Hutcheson from Virginia Beach Fire Department. His service on the BOD dates from February 2014 until February 2022. Congratulations Chief as you leave the Board and thanks for your many years of service and hard work for the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association!

## A MOST SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OUR 2022 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

We are pleased to be able to recognize these Companies that have gone above and beyond this year and that have continued to support the VFCA!

PLEASE HELP US EXTEND OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE SPONSORS. THEIR SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THE VFCA TO DELIVER THE OUTSTANDING AND AFFORDABLE CONFERENCE YOU EXPERIENCED!

## THANK YOU!

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## Center for Public Safety Excellence Credentialing

CPC Credentialing is a professional designation model that recognizes career excellence and offers strategies for continuous personal improvement.

The Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) offers five distinct designations covering the various levels and specialties of fire officers. They include: Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Chief EMS Officer (CEMSO), Chief Training Officer (CTO), Fire Marshal (FM) and Fire Officer (FO).

CPC provides an application process that officers use to develop their portfolio, training and support while developing their portfolio, and access to experienced peer reviewers. While it can be a bit of work to develop your portfolio; we promise it's worth it.

This year designations and renewals include:

### **CFO's**

Nicole Pickrell, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue  
Kenneth Pravetz, Virginia Beach Fire Department  
Wesley Rogers, Newport News Fire Department  
Jonathan Henschel, Winchester Fire and Rescue Department  
William MacKay, Goochland County Fire-Rescue and Emer. Services  
Charles Ryan, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department  
Thomas Arnold, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department  
John Butler, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department  
David Guynn, Roanoke Fire-EMS Department

### **CFO Renewals**

James Owens, Prince George County Fire and EMS Department  
John O'Neal, City of Fairfax Fire Department  
Steven Dishman, Halifax County Emergency Services  
Perry Weller, City of Staunton Fire & Rescue  
Michael Barakey, Suffolk Fire & Rescue  
James Cullinan, Spotsylvania County Fire, Rescue & EMS  
Matthew Dewhirst, Roanoke Fire-EMS Department  
David Eagle, City of Williamsburg Fire Department  
Frank Koninski, Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue  
John LaPorte, JBLE - Langley Fire & Emergency Services  
Jason Monk, Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue  
Derek Baker, Virginia Department of Fire Programs  
M. Greg Schacht, Augusta County Fire-Rescue  
Darren Stevens, Fauquier County Department of Fire and Rescue  
Kevin Stiles, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue  
Steven Cover, City of Virginia Beach  
Robert Lee, Newport News Fire Department

### **CEMSO**

William Garrett, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department  
Jonathan Henschel, Winchester Fire and Rescue Department

### **CEMSO Renewal**

Jason Monk, Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue  
Bruce Nedelka, Virginia Beach Department of EMS  
J. David Barrick,

### **CTO**

Jason Kinlaw, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services

### **CTO Renewal**

Shawn Dunstan, City of Fairfax Fire Department

### **FM**

Maurice Wilson, Hampton Division of Fire & Rescue

### **FO**

Justin Finan, Henrico County Division of Fire  
Dana Woods, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services  
David Winter, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

### **FO Renewal**

James Sneddon, Langley AFB Fire and Emergency Services  
Joseph Voloski, Quantico Fire & Emergency Services  
Jeremy Bayse, JBLE - Langley Fire & Emergency Services  
Richard Merrell, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department  
John Pearre, City of Manassas Park Fire & Rescue  
Joseph Powers, Henrico County Division of Fire  
Christopher Shaver, Augusta County Fire-Rescue

## Chiefs Foundation Awards Scholarships

This year, as a part of its Scholarship Program, the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation presented 26, Robert E. White Memorial Scholarships to Virginia students who have been accepted into a post-high school educational institution or other program. Additionally a scholarship in the amount of \$800.00 was presented to attend the 2022 VFRC. The awards were presented during the Virginia Fire Rescue Conference held in Virginia Beach in February. Awards for 2021 totaled more than \$32,000.

This year scholarship awards ranged from \$800.00 to \$1,500.00 each depending on the degree being pursued.

Selection of the award recipients was based on being an active Virginia fire, EMS or emergency management provider, demonstrated need, desire, initiative and potential benefits of the educational opportunity.

The scholarship program was first established a number of years ago in memory of Mr. Robert E. White, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia who donated his money towards the betterment of the Fire Service throughout the state.

The objective of the program is to assist individuals desiring to further their education through a variety of opportunities such as college classes, National Fire Academy classes, Virginia Fire Chief Association events such as the Virginia Fire Rescue Conference, the Virginia Fire Officer Academy, certificate programs, and other fire & EMS programs or conferences. Individual scholarship awards are made up to \$1,500 and can be utilized for any direct expenses such as registration, tuition, books, meals, lodging and/or transportation.

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation began awarding scholarships in 2003. Since that time, 337 scholarships have been awarded totaling more than \$267,000.00.

Applications and eligibility information may be obtained by visiting the VFCA website at [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us), or by calling or writing the Association or Foundation. You may reach us by phone at (888) 818-0983.



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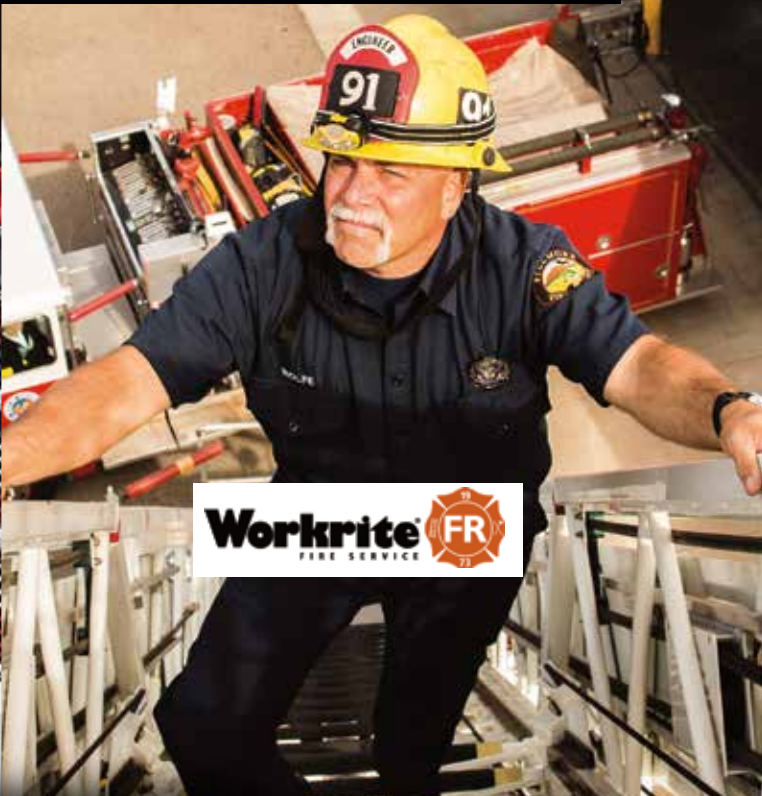


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# BEING A MENTOR

## DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Zach Hottel

In the volunteer fire service, effective mentoring is a must. Our departments are filled with people of all ranks and backgrounds who need guidance from others. They are also filled with people stepping up and providing that guidance. We call them mentors.

Over the past several years a lot of work has been done examining the effectiveness of mentoring. There have been countless articles about types of mentoring, programs that work, and our failures.

One of the key takeaways from all this work is that the mentor is the key to any successful program. It may seem obvious, but we have to have the right person in the right place if we are going to mentor anyone. They are the ones connecting a new firefighter with the department or providing good advice to that senior member in need of help. Failure often comes when a mentor doesn't measure up to that responsibility.

### What It Takes to Be a Mentor?

If you are considering stepping into this critical role, you need to ask yourself if you have what it takes. Here are seven things you should have before stepping up:

**1. Long term dedication:** Being a mentor is a lifelong commitment. While there may be a timeline for an "official" mentor program, your connection with the person you are mentoring may go on well beyond that. Many times it continues even when the mentee or mentor moves on to another department, another career, or even retirees.

**2. Time:** You cannot schedule time to be a mentor or calculate how much of your time it will consume. A good mentor needs to be available to the mentee whenever they are needed. Sometimes that's between 9 and 5 during the week. Sometimes that's at 1:00AM on a Saturday. Doing it right means being there whenever you are needed.

**3. Empathy:** This is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. A mentor has to understand the fear that comes with walking into a fire station for the very first time, the happiness that comes with a new promotion, or the angst associated with a tragic loss. Your relationship with your mentee will involve all of these feelings, and more.

**4. Communication skills:** One of your primary purposes as a mentor is to communicate with your mentee. Mentoring a new firefighter might mean communicating expectations. With a senior firefighter it might mean helping them work their department email. Being able to effectively communicate with a person, and communicating using mediums they know how to utilize, is incredibly important.

**5. Knowledge:** In the fire service this means knowing how to pull that hose line. It also means knowing what your department bylaws say. A mentee is going to ask you a lot of questions and if you don't know the answers, you need to know where to find them. If not, they are going to get them somewhere else and the answer may be the wrong one.

**6. Openness:** We can't all do things the same way, learn the same way, or be at the same place at the same time. If you are going to be a mentor, you need to understand this. Be flexible with your mentee. Understand they are not the same person you are. Open yourself to change. Be prepared to meet their needs. Openness will get you far. A hard line may not.

**7. Toughness:** This isn't raising a ladder with two broken arms, its mental toughness. Why do you need that? Because being a mentor isn't easy. You are going to get things wrong. You are going to get burned and could possibly lose people. Nothing you do is going to change that. So you have to be tough and keep going, because you know that your efforts make a difference.

The volunteer fire service is about people. We have to welcome people into our midst, take their hands, and help them along the way during their journey with our organizations. Being a mentor is your personal commitment to that ideal, and to our future.

Zach Hottel has volunteered with the Woodstock Fire Department for the past 16 years. He currently serves as their Training Captain and leads their Recruitment and Retention Committee. Outside the fire service his "real job" is as the Archivist for the Shenandoah County Library system and lives in Woodstock with his wife Ayla and dog Chief.

## Arson Awareness Week

Each year for Arson Awareness Week, the U.S. Fire Administration gathers and shares information to raise awareness of arson or youth fire setting to provide the fire service and community residents with strategies to combat these problems in their community.

Arson Awareness Week will be recognized May 17, 2022. The theme is **Arson in Homeless Communities: Engagement – Education – Outreach.**

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 STERLING VOL FIRE DEPT • (2) PIERCE VELOCITY PUMPER • Sold by John Thompson  
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Virginia Natural Gas operates, secures and maintains the pipeline in our service territory. With safety being our highest priority, we adhere to federal, state and local pipeline safety regulations by performing extensive quality control checks, educate the public on natural gas pipeline, leak recognition and damage prevention and work closely with emergency and public officials to develop emergency response plans.

## How to recognize a pipeline leak

- **LOOK** for blowing dirt, discolored vegetation or continued bubbling of standing water.
- **LISTEN** for a hissing or roaring noise near a natural gas appliance or line.
- **SMELL** for the distinctive, rotten-egg odor associated with natural gas. Natural gas is colorless and odorless, so we add a chemical odorant called mercaptan for easy detection of a suspected natural gas leak. This odorant has a distinctive "rotten egg" type odor. You should act any time you detect even a small amount of this odor in the air. Be aware that "odorant fade," while uncommon, can occur. Odorant fade occurs when a physical or chemical process causes the level of odorant in the gas to be reduced. This can happen in both existing gas pipe and new installations.

*Note: Be aware that some individuals may not be able to detect the odorant because they have a diminished sense of smell, olfactory fatigue or because the odor is being masked by other odors in the area. Certain conditions may cause the odorant to diminish so that it is not detectable. Some gas lines, due to their unique function, may not have odor at all.*



## Online Survey

Please take a moment to complete a survey about natural gas safety and you by scanning the QR code or visiting [surveymonkey.com/r/FV2MQPB](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FV2MQPB) to help us make sure we are keeping our communities safe.

## Learn more

For more information about natural gas and emergency response procedures and training, contact us at **800.552.7473**.

To learn about our emergency response plan, which recognizes and mitigates threats and also sustains the integrity of the pipelines. Visit [virginiannaturalgas.com/integritymanagementplan](https://virginiannaturalgas.com/integritymanagementplan).

## Complete your training today!

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(Use password: virginia)

## Help keep everyone safe during a natural gas emergency

Even though natural gas pipeline incidents are uncommon, it is still important to be prepared by knowing the signs of a potential problem.

You should take the following action any time you detect any of the signs of a pipeline leak:

- **DO NOT** try to identify the source to stop the leak yourself.
- **AVOID** using any sources of ignition, such as cell phones, cigarettes, matches, flashlights, electronic devices, motorized vehicles, light switches or landlines, as natural gas can ignite from a spark or open flame, possibly causing a fire or explosion. Natural gas is non-toxic, lighter than air and displaces oxygen. In severe cases, if not used properly, natural gas can also lead to asphyxiation.
- **CALL** Virginia Natural Gas immediately at our 24-hour emergency response line **800.552.7473** with the location and type of emergency.
- **SECURE** the area by establishing a safety zone around the incident and control access. You may need to reroute traffic and evacuate area homes and businesses.

## How we respond

Once we are notified of the emergency, we will immediately dispatch trained personnel to the site, keeping you informed of our progress. We will take all necessary actions to correct the problem. We will work together to ensure our community is safe.

## Prevention – the best defense against leaks

Emergency officials and first responders do their part daily to prevent natural gas leaks by keeping the following safety tips in mind:

- Understand that natural gas is lighter than air and displaces oxygen. Although natural gas is non-toxic, in extreme cases of oxygen displacement, it may lead to asphyxiation. Natural gas has a risk of ignition near a spark or open flame.
- Know where the pipelines are in your jurisdiction. If you notice any missing or damaged pipeline markers, contact Virginia Natural Gas at **1.866.229.3578** so they can be replaced.
- Virginia law requires all underground utilities be marked before any type of digging or excavation. Be on the lookout for any suspicious activity or unauthorized digging. If the excavator has not notified the state of their intent to dig, they must stop all activity immediately. The excavator is required to present a valid dig ticket number when requested by first responders. Also, no one, including homeowners, should be digging, ditching, drilling, leveling or plowing without having first contacted our state's One-Call number (**811**) to locate underground utilities.
- Remember, pipeline markers, like the sample pictured, indicate only the general area of the pipeline and not the exact location or depth. Pipeline markers may not be present in all areas.
- Information about transmission pipelines operating in your community is available through the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) and online at: [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](https://npms.phmsa.dot.gov).



# ON THE MOVE & ODDS AND ENDS

## South Boston deputy fire chief to retire

Dwight Spangler, deputy chief of the South Boston Fire Department, is retiring after 35 years with the organization. His career with the fire department began in 1984 as a volunteer, and he began working as a career firefighter in 1995. Of his 35 years of service, 10 were as a volunteer and 25 years as a paid employee. Spangler, 54, has held numerous titles over his tenure including president, secretary, board of directors chairman, lieutenant of the volunteer group, captain and most recently the deputy fire chief. Throughout his tenure, Spangler rose through ranks from engineer to lieutenant to captain and finally deputy chief. Along with his numerous titles, he was awarded multiple awards including Fireman of the Year in 1995, the President's Award in 1999, the L.P. Smith Administrative Officer award in 2002, the Hank Spell award in 2013, the Lifesaver award in 2018 and the Fire Safety Commendation Medal this year.

## VFCA hires new Administrative Assistant

In January, interviews were held for the Administrative Assistant position. The interview panel (Keith Johnson, John Prillaman, Alec Oughton and Chris Eudailey) conducted interviews on a Friday morning. We had two highly qualified applicants apply for the position. As a result of the interviews, resume, background and overall experience, the panel has chosen Lori Skytta as the next VFCA Adm. Assistant. Lori has accepted the position.

Thank you Tiffany for a job well done...you will be missed!

## VFCA hires new Professional Development Chair

The VFCA Interview Team finished interviews in mid-January for the applicants that applied for the Professional Development Chair Position. As a result of reviewing the resumes, interviews and past experience, Eugene Durham has been selected to assume the role of PD Chair. It is our intent to bring Eugene on to shadow Ian Bennett over the next 7-8 weeks to help provide a smooth and seamless transition. Eugene has been involved with the VFRC since 2017 and has first-hand knowledge on the Conference and related details. Eugene has been quite involved in the VFOA and VCOA and most recently was a key staff member to oversee and manage the October VFOA and VCOA session at Smith Mountain Lake.

## Chief Willis "Bill" Burton passes

It is with great sadness that the Association announces the passing of retired Fire Administrator Willis "Bill" Burton. Chief Burton passed away peacefully of natural causes on Sunday, January 9 at the age of 91. Arrangements are pending.

Chief Burton began his firefighting career as a volunteer at Herndon VFD. He was hired by Fairfax County on July 1, 1953 as the first Chief Fire Marshal for the newly established Office of the Fire Marshal. He served in that capacity until his appointment as Fire Administrator in 1963. During his tenure, his major accomplishments included the purchasing of the first County owned fire apparatus, a 1963 Maxim ladder truck, building the Fire Training Center (now the Academy), graduating the first formal recruit class (1967), and formulating a bond

referendum to build and renovate 7 fire stations, pay off the loan on Co. 25 and adding two classrooms to the Academy. He left in 1971 with the appointment of George Alexander.

## Petersburg appoints first woman as fire-rescue chief

Richmond Fire Department Battalion Chief Tina Watkins has been appointed as the new chief of the Petersburg-Fire Rescue Department – becoming the first woman and first African American woman to do so.

According to the City of Petersburg, Watkins was chosen out of 13 candidates.

She will be leaving the Richmond Fire Department with 33 years of service under her belt. She was the second woman and second African American woman to work her way up the ranks in the department.

Watkins served as the Richmond Fire Department's battalion chief for 11 years, supervising five stations and six fire companies.

She earned a master's degree in leadership with an emphasis in emergency management and executive fire leadership and a bachelor of science degree in public safety and business administration.

## Spotsylvania County Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management

It is with deep sorrow and a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Battalion Chief Gary C. Campbell, following a valiant battle with a sudden illness.

Gary was truly a friend to everyone he met, and was a loved and respected long-time member of our department. He had the heart of a firefighter, dedicated to serving the community he loved, and viewed those he worked alongside as family. He was passionate about his job, striving to make sure he and those he worked with were able to perform to the highest expectations, while also demonstrating a deep compassion for the personal side of each individual and their families. The only thing he loved more than the department was his family. He was very proud of each of his children, and always worked hard to make sure they were taken care of.

"Today is a tragic day in the history of the department, and is a tremendous hit to all of us emotionally. But Gary would want us to keep moving forward, serving the community he loved so dearly. We will continue to honor his memory by carrying on his passion and dedication to helping others, striving to embody the same work ethic he showed every day in all he did." –Chief Jay Cullinan

## Alexandria Fire Department nominates deputy chiefs

Alexandria, Virginia's fire department named its deputy chiefs of administration and operations Wednesday. Chief Corey Smedley appointed Francis Doyle Jr. as deputy fire chief of administration; Paul Ruwe was appointed deputy fire chief of operations. Doyle's appointment is effective February 14; Ruwe's, February 28. "The Alexandria Fire Department is currently working toward accreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence," Smedley said in a statement. "Doyle's and Ruwe's extensive backgrounds and knowledge in various aspects of fire and emergency services will support our organization's journey as we continue to improve our workforce and the services we provide to the community."



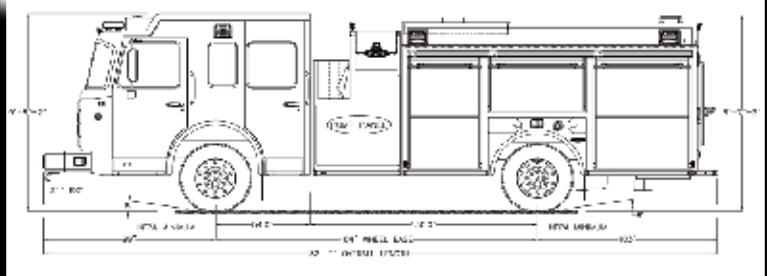
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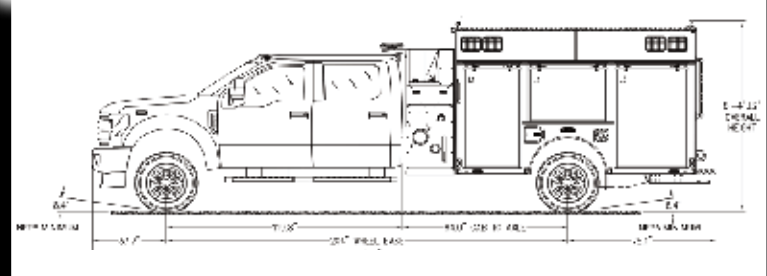
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# Stock Unit

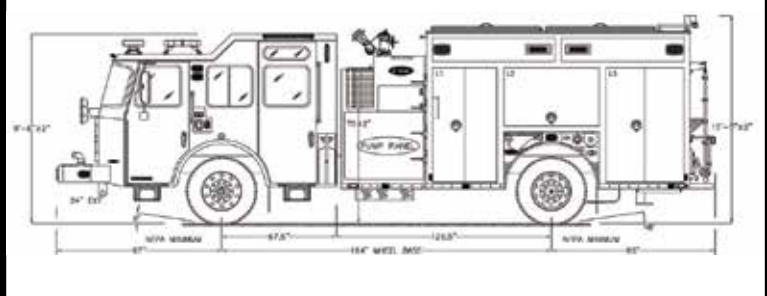


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# VDFP <sup>By the</sup> Numbers

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# Introducing **Jamey Brads** VDFP's New Chief of Training and Operations



Jamey Brads is the Branch Chief for Training and Operations within the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. He oversees the seven training divisions, which coordinate fire training throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, plus the specialized training functions and quality assurance and curriculum development.

Jamey joined VDFP in 2016 as the Division Chief of Heavy Technical Rescue. He has 30-years of fire service experience in both volunteer and career positions in the Roanoke Valley.

He is a member of FEMA Virginia Task Force 2-Urban Search and Rescue, serves on three NFPA committees as well as the International Association of Fire Chiefs Urban Search & Rescue committee. Jamey currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors of the State Urban Search & Rescue Alliance.

Jamey is pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Disaster Management.



## Cornerstone OnDemand Password

In an effort to keep your information as secure as possible, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs has adopted new, more stringent rules regarding system passwords in Cornerstone On Demand. **Beginning April 4, any password older than 90 days will expire** and you will be prompted to create a new password following this criteria:

- **Must be at least 12 characters** in length
- Must use **both upper and lower case letters**
- Must contain **at least 1 number**
- Must contain **at least 1 special character**
- You may not reuse the **last 24 passwords**
- Your password **will continue to expire every 90 days**



If you have questions or need assistance in Cornerstone OnDemand, please contact your Division Office.



# Course Evaluations are Going Paperless!

- Log into **Cornerstone OnDemand** ([www.vafire.csod.com](http://www.vafire.csod.com))
- Click the **Learning Tab** from the top menu and select **View Your Transcript**
- Scroll down to the course you are evaluating and select the **evaluate option** on the dropdown menu triangle on the right



- Complete the evaluation** and select **Submit**

**Note: Complete your evaluations soon after the conclusion of the course. Once the course is closed, the evaluation will no longer be accessible.**

## SAVE THE DATE!

- 25th Annual Fallen Fire and EMS Memorial Service
- Richmond International Raceway
  - Main Exhibition Hall
  - Saturday, June 4, 2022 – Noon



## Grants Deadlines Approaching

Applications for the Live Fire Training Structure Grant program and the Conference and Education Assistance Grant program are due on or before July 1. Applications are open July 1-Sept. 1 for the Regional Fire Service Training Facilities Grant program.

## Board Updates: 5-Year Training Plan Approved

At its February meeting, the Virginia Fire Services Board approved the Five Year Strategic Training Plan for calendar year 2022. The Fire Education & Training Committee, with input from Virginia's fire service stakeholders and VDFP staff, develops the Five Year Strategic Training Plan. The plan is updated annually through continued stakeholder feedback and inclusion of emerging strategic issues in the fire service community.

# CHIEF GREG CADE RECOGNIZED AT THE 32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DINNER: SELECTED AS 2022 RECIPIENT OF THE MASON LANKFORD FIRE SERVICE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) and Motorola Solutions are proud to announce that Chief Greg Cade is the recipient of the 2022 CFSI/Motorola Solutions Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award. The award presentation will take place on April 7th at the 32nd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner.

Chief Cade joined the fire service in 1968 as a member of the Prince George's County Fire and Rescue Department. He rose through the ranks during his 54-year career and served in various leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels. Among his leadership positions at the department level, Cade served for six years as Chief of Hampton Division of Fire/Rescue Department, followed by nine years as chief of the City of Virginia Beach Fire Department.

Chief Cade's demonstration of leadership in his various positions and his commitment to the health and safety of firefighters and emergency personnel caught the attention of the George W. Bush Administration. In 2007, he was nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate as United States Fire Administrator.

Before his retirement in 2021, Cade worked for the National Fire Protection Association, serving as its Director of Government Affairs and a regional director. During this time, he also served as Chair of the CFSI National Advisory Committee, providing leadership to the 38-member committee on a broad range of national fire issues.

"As fire chief of Prince George's County Fire and Rescue Department early in Greg's career, I realized he had the right attributes and skills to become a leader in the fire and emergency services at the department and national levels," said Jim Estep, CFSI Vice President. "The pursuit of firefighter health and safety has always driven Greg, and he has always shown a firm resolve to advocate for issues that benefit our nation's first responders. This award is a well-deserved honor."

## CONGRATULATION's Chief Cade...job well done!

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# 2021 Governor's Fire Service Award Recipients

*Honor • Duty • Respect*

## **Virginia Firefighter of the Year**

Lieutenant Andrew Zysk (Career) – City of Newport News Fire Department  
Russell Stevens (Volunteer) – Town of Bedford Fire Department

## **Virginia Fire Chief of the Year**

R. Scott Garber - (Career) – City of Staunton Fire & Rescue  
Brad Creasy - (Volunteer) – Town of Bedford Fire Department

## **Excellence in Virginia Fire Services**

Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue High Threat Team

## **Excellence in Virginia Community Risk Reduction**

Marlow Jones - Virginia Department of Fire Programs  
Henrico Division of Fire/Fire Marshal's Office

## **Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Training**

Captain Earl Copes - Lynchburg Fire Department

## **Outstanding Fire Department Response**

Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department (Volunteer)  
Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department, et.al (Career)

## **Private Sector Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Support**

United Rentals

## **Civilian Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Support**

Rebecca Brewster – Tazewell County  
Chesapeake Amateur Radio Services (CARS)

**Established in 2002, the Governor's Fire Service Awards honor excellence in Virginia's fire services, and are facilitated by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs in collaboration with the Virginia Fire Services Board.**



Virginia Department of Forestry

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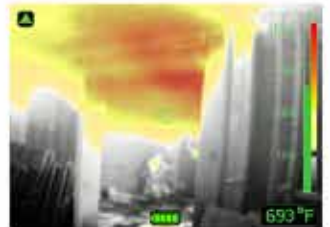
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# FIREFIGHTER CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK PARTNERS WITH VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY'S MASSEY CANCER CENTER

Steve Weissman



The Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) Virginia Chapter has partnered with Virginia Commonwealth University's Massey Cancer Center to conduct a survey of Virginia firefighters to get a better picture of the cancer problem in the Virginia fire service.

In the coming months, an online app will be available to Virginia firefighters regardless of whether they have been diagnosed with cancer or not. The intent is to capture data from all segments of the Virginia fire service that are eighteen years and older including volunteer firefighters, career firefighters, fire marshals and retired/separated members, so we can further identify prevention strategies, mitigation tactics and educational opportunities to reduce incidences of occupational cancer in the Virginia fire service.

We understand firefighters are concerned about privacy and confidentiality. All aspects of this survey including the app, web portal and data will comply with VCU's security and confidentiality protocols. Only summaries of the data (not individual data) will be shared for the purpose of communicating findings of the survey. Reports will be distributed and made available to all Virginia fire service stake holders or in

The mission of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network is to assist firefighters and EMS providers and their immediate families diagnosed with cancer by providing badge-to-badge support, guidance and training. "Our vision is to be the global leader in firefighter cancer support, awareness and training" said Steve Weissman, FCSN Virginia State Director.

This program will be managed by research staff from VCU Massey Cancer Center in Richmond, Virginia which is a designated National Cancer Institute Facility. Success of this program will be dependent upon participation from all segments of the Virginia fire service. For more information, please contact FCSN Virginia State Director Steve Weissman at [sweissman@fcsn.net](mailto:sweissman@fcsn.net)

# THE DOD INCIDENT COMMANDER: LEVERAGING THE EFFICIENCY OF UNIFIED COMMAND TO ENSURE MISSION CONTINUITY

Assistant Chief Cedric Patterson



The stated mission of most fire departments is some standard variation of saving lives, protecting property, preventing fires, and educating the public. This holds true for departments within the Department of Defense (DoD) responsible for the protection of assets and interests aboard military installations. However, unlike our municipal counterparts; our mission is executed in the context of the greater strategic mission of the installation. Fires at retail stores, fire alarm activations at movie theatres, and motor vehicle accidents are indeed complex scenarios for an Incident Commander (IC) to manage. Yet, these incidents typically pose no threat to the municipality's ability to carry out the functions of government. For this reason, Incident Commanders for the most part are focused on the mitigation of the immediate incident. DoD Incident Commanders must operate within the reality that even the simplest of incidents could spurn consequences that impact the entire mission. This article will focus on the importance of information flow to ensure continuity of the Installation's strategic mission during minor to complex incidents.

## DEFINING THE MISSION

While the mission of the installation's emergency responders is vital, these missions are only contingencies put in place to ensure continuity of the strategic mission of the installation. There is some degree of financial interest involved in protecting our sailors, ships, aircraft, and facilities; but to a larger degree, the protection is more about keeping these human and physical assets available. Damage to ships and aircraft, lost time due to injuries or fatalities, or loss of physical structures such as aircraft hangars ultimately delay the deployment of these war-fighting resources. Even seemingly minor incidents such as alarm activations at critical facilities can disrupt mission continuity, especially when they cause prolonged work stoppages. When such a situation occurs, or can potentially occur; installation commanders require real-time information to make real-time decisions on resource re-allocation and information distribution to execute the strategic mission.

As the strategic missions of several installations may be interdependent, these incidents cannot bring the mission of your installation to a halt. It is further unacceptable for IC's to operate with a mindset of the incident at hand being the only focus, with the intent to make details of that incident available only after the conclusion of tactical mitigations. It is at this stage, some new or inexperienced IC's might fail to see the larger picture; only focusing on the fire department tactical priorities of the incident, and even growing annoyed at requests for information. This narrow focus prevents them from up-channeling the information required to ensure continuity of the installation's mission.

### **ESTABLISHING AN ON-SCENE BATTLE RHYTHM TO FEED THE BEAST**

As defined by the Department of Defense, a battle rhythm is a deliberate daily cycle of command, staff, and unit activities intended to synchronize current and future operations. In other words, it is the military name for the maintenance of an ordered routine. In the ICS world, an on-scene battle rhythm will look a lot like the execution of the Planning P taught in our ICS 300 courses. This cycle will and should include periodic, if not frequent, situation reports to the EOC or installation leadership. This flow of information will begin with a strong and definitive initial scene size-up and radio report. This should include units on scene, a situation found, additional resources required, establishment and location of Incident Command Post (ICP), and tactics to be deployed. The report should confirm or clarify information received in the dispatch notes. It should paint a picture vivid enough for anyone not on scene to have a fairly clear operating picture of the situation.

This quick transmission of initial information is referred to by more experienced DoD Incident Commanders as "feeding the beast", and serves two purposes. First, it gives decision-makers vital information that must be received, processed, disseminated, and acted upon. These actions may include gate closures, transferring operations from affected to unaffected buildings, assessing the impact of flight schedule delays, mass notifications, or the need for potential press releases. An added benefit to an arriving Incident Commander of any experience level is time. While the information transmitted is processed, the IC will now have a few minutes to determine strategic priorities, set up a command structure, establish a working ICP, and brief incoming mission partners such as the Command Duty Officer (CDO) or Navy Security Forces (NSF). Once the information has been processed, it will be time to "feed the beast" again.

This next round of information will be important in establishing your ongoing, on-scene battle rhythm. It should include strategic priorities of the incident, what resources are still required, the extent and scope of the incident, collateral effects of the incident such as building evacuations, road closures, or injured personnel. This second situation report should further clarify any information previously transmitted that is either erroneous or has changed. This situation report will also provide one key piece of information – when the next report is to be expected. For incidents that are emerging or still in the early stages, this may be 5 to 10 minutes.

For incidents that have progressed to later stages, this could be hours later. This timing should be included in the list of Incident objectives that will form the Incident Action Plan. This may be a short checklist of objectives for shorter incidents, or a formal document for larger/ongoing incidents. Again, the requirements for decision-makers to receive, process, evaluate, and disseminate this information buys the Incident Commander time to reevaluate strategy, assess the effectiveness of tactics being deployed, and consider future requirements.

### **THE BENEFITS OF A UNIFIED COMMAND STRUCTURE**

Smaller incidents can be handled by the Fire Department alone, such as a car fire or a single patient traumatic injury. For more complex incidents that have an overlap in functional responsibilities; a Unified Command in collaboration with CDO and NSF should

be implemented. This will establish a single set of objectives and requirements to avoid duplication of effort and conflicting information upon which installation commanders rely on the make decisions. Some again fail at this stage by only seeing the incident in terms of the fire department mission and objectives. DoD incidents by nature have far more complex and often overlapping incidental effects caused by the incident itself. Because it is the most familiar, newer IC's may tend to only consider fire department tactics.

This mindset again takes the focus of the Incident Commander away from that of the effects of the overall incident. It also prevents the flow of information, as the IC becomes so involved in the work being conducted on the ground that they are unable to "feed the beast". Incident Commanders who find themselves in this position are either over-tasked, or the incident is outside the range of their level of training and experience. In either instance, the responsibility for tactics should be delegated to a junior officer, or Command transferred to a senior or more knowledgeable officer. On an incident of such complexity, it is outside the scope of the function of the Incident Commander to direct firefighting tactics.

Like the delegation of fire department tactics should occur, so should the delegation of police and/or public works tactics. A complex incident such as gas line rupture resulting in a fire and forcing an evacuation may call for Fire, Public Works, and Security Branches within the Command structure; all should report to a designated Operations Section Chief. In the event of casualties, there may also be an EMS Branch. The strategic objectives should be developed at the Incident Command Post, and this single set of objectives along with a single situation report should be up-channeled to the EOC or installation leadership.

DoD Fire Departments exist not only to protect lives and property aboard military installations, but also as contingency mitigation to ensure the continuity of the Installation's overall strategic mission. Incident Commanders need to evaluate the incidents they respond to within the context of the overall mission. Early establishment of a Unified Command with relevant responsible mission partners will help to identify a single set of objectives and strategies to mitigate the impact of the entire incident, not just those related to fire. This Unified Command should also establish a structured flow of information that will allow decision-makers to adapt in real-time, ensuring that mission objectives continue to be met.

#### **About the Author:**

Cedric Patterson is an Assistant Fire Chief with Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, responsible for the oversight of Operations, Fire Prevention, and Fire Department Training for five Installations in southeastern Virginia. Chief Patterson holds a triple designation from CPSE (CFO, CTO, and FM), and is also credentialed by the Department of Defense Firefighter Certification System at the Incident Commander level.

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# 32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SYMPOSIUM AND DINNER SUSTAINING STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

On April 6-7, 2022, the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) hosted the 32nd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner in Washington, DC. Once again, the annual tribute to the nation's fire service was expected to draw over 1,500 colleagues from the fire and emergency services. It's an opportunity to attend educational seminars, conduct meetings with your member of Congress, and network with your colleagues. At the conclusion of the two-day event, many joined together in the Washington Hilton ballroom to hear national political leaders paying tribute to the dedication and commitment of our nation's firefighters and emergency services personnel.

"The theme of the 2022 program was **Sustaining Strength and Resilience in Challenging Times**," said CFSI Executive Director Bill Webb. "Since the pandemic was declared in the spring of 2020, we have all been faced with extraordinary challenges. But the fire service is known for approaching challenges as opportunities to continue delivering the services on which the public depends, while also developing innovative solutions to enhance its mission. The same can be said of the Congressional Fire Services Institute and other national fire service organizations. We must continue to sustain our strength and resilience on Capitol Hill to serve our first responders during these challenging times."

The National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner is an event like no other in the fire and emergency services. It was an opportunity to develop a better understanding about the federal government's role in addressing the challenges and concerns of our firefighters, emergency services personnel and the fire service industry. Opportunities abounded to interact with members of Congress and federal agency officials to discuss both national issues and local concerns. The knowledge acquired provided an increased understanding of federal programs and legislation, while emboldening you to take a stronger interest in advocating for fire and emergency services on Capitol Hill.

The seminars program was something you can only experience in our nation's capital. Featuring federal policy makers and national fire service leaders, the program covers a broad array of national issues – issues being considered by Congress and implemented by federal agencies, as well as issues being addressed collectively by national organizations and distinguished fire service officials.

Culminating the two-day event, the 32nd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner featured leaders of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the Administration who paid their personal tributes to the men and women of the fire and emergency services. The program also included four award presentations for individual and organizational leadership in advancing the readiness and response capabilities of our nation's fire and emergency services.

As in the past, you sent representatives to the function to help them gain a better understanding of how we can help to obtain support for the Virginia Fire Service.

# NEW YORK BANS FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Five states have now passed legislation to regulate flame retardant chemicals to protect child and firefighter health.

Passed in January 2022, New York's new Family and Firefighter Protection Act regulates the use of flame retardant chemicals. New York joins 4 other states (Delaware, Georgia, Iowa and West Virginia) in passing this type of regulation according to Safer States, a network of diverse environmental health coalitions and organizations. New York's legislation regulates specific chemicals in upholstered furniture, mattresses and electronic enclosures.

## Why legislate?

These chemicals are meant to prevent the start of a fire or slow its growth. However, according to the National Institute of Environmental Health Services, many of the chemicals are linked to serious health effects from cancer and reproductive issues to developmental disabilities. Some flame retardants bioaccumulate in humans, causing long-term chronic health problems.

## Who is affected?

Children and firefighters are particularly at risk from the effects of the chemicals contained in flame retardants. Exposure to these compounds is associated with adverse effects on fetal and child development. When flame retardants within common household items and building materials burn, they produce toxic chemicals that firefighters are regularly exposed to in the line of duty, contributing to higher cancer rates among firefighters than those in the general population.

## What's being done on the federal level?

At the federal level, amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act in 2016 required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue updated regulations for potentially harmful chemicals, including several flame retardant substances. Once the risk evaluations are completed and regulations are updated, the EPA could completely ban the chemicals, mandate personal protective equipment or ban certain uses of the chemicals.

The EPA released a draft revised risk evaluation in December 2021 for the cyclic aliphatic bromide cluster (HBCD), a subclass of flame retardants primarily used in building materials including insulation, solder paste and recycled plastics. The risk evaluation determined that this cluster of chemicals carries "unreasonable risk of injury to health and the environment under the conditions of use."

## What else is being done on the state level?

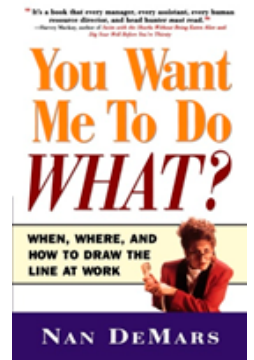
According to Safer States, a total of 16 states have adopted policies for risk evaluation and future action.

## What does this mean for firefighters?

Legislation at the state and federal levels restricting the use of specific flame retardant chemicals could greatly reduce firefighters' exposure to them, which will ultimately be a step forward for firefighters' health.

# BOOK REVIEW

## YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT? WHEN WHERE AND HOW TO DRAW THE LINE AT WORK PAPERBACK



"This book will transform your business. Every manager, every assistant, every secretary, every human-resource director and headhunter MUST read it". -- Harvey MacKay, author of Swim with the Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive

Today's administrative assistants and other office professionals have more responsibility than ever -- and with it comes a whole new host of ethical dilemmas.

In the first book of its kind to address office support staff rather than management, business ethics expert Nan DeMars documents 100 provocative examples of complex office situations -- and offers thoughtful, practical solutions to each scenario. From how one should react to an office romance to what an assistant should do if asked to cover up a superior's error or lie on an expense report, this invaluable guide provides realistic advice that will help office professionals feel empowered while improving the ethical climate of their office -- and keep their jobs while they do it.

"Ethics are for everyone, not just a few. Nan's commonsense guidelines in this groundbreaking book will make the work-place a source of national pride and national regeneration". -- Gloria Steinem

The book is an invaluable guide to the ever-increasing number of ethical minefields routinely faced by administrative assistants and support staff. You Want Me To Do What? addresses the many dilemmas confronting office workers today, from reacting to an office romance to being ordered to falsify documents, from dealing with sexual harassment to when, and if, you should tell "a little white lie." Using examples of more than 100 provocative, real-life situations, DeMars offers thoughtful solutions to complex problems and shows how others have successfully handled similar issues, encouraging and empowering office professionals to make a difference in improving and maintaining the ethical environment of the workplace.

## NEW FIRST RESPONDER TOOL FOR REPORTING STRUCK-BY INCIDENTS



The Emergency Responder Safety Institute has launched an online tool for first responders to self-report when they or their equipment are struck by vehicles at roadway incidents. Analysis of this incident data will help to prevent future struck-by incidents.

The report takes approximately 3-4 minutes to complete. All fields are optional.

## NEW REPORTS PROFILE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FIRES



2 new reports describe the characteristics of 1- and 2-family and multifamily residential building fires reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System for 2017-2019. Cooking was the leading cause of fires in 1- and 2-family (37%) and multifamily (74%) residential building fires.

To read the reports go to: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/reports/index.html>

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS SECTION NEWS

Melissa Heiderman

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Melissa Heiderman and I'm the new President of the VFCA Administrative Professionals Section. I have been with the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department since 2009, and work directly with the Fire Chief. Our Vice President is Mandy Waybright of Harrisonburg Fire Department, and our Secretary is Dana Campbell of the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department.

We were fortunate in 2022 to have nine of our section members at the Conference in February to assist with fundraising. A silent auction was held Wednesday through Friday, with 38 items being donated by jurisdictions, vendors, and friends. Approximately \$4,000 was raised in the auction alone; this is a huge jump from 2020 when just over \$1,100 was raised. Funds will go directly to the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation to aid with scholarships.

Next, each day of the expo, a 50/50 raffle was held. Conference attendees, vendors, and guests rallied behind this fundraising opportunity and over the course of three days we paid out over \$4,000 (\$1,000 on Thursday, \$2,000 on Friday, and \$1,000 on Saturday). And, since it was a 50/50 raffle, the same amount of almost \$4,000 went to the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation. We can't thank everyone enough; all those who helped at the conference, and all those who dug deep into their pockets to raise money. Last but in no way least, we must thank the VFCA Board Members who feverishly assisted with selling raffle tickets. They walked many times around the expo floor talking to everyone they saw for the chance at raising money for a worthy cause. This was also a great opportunity for our Fire Chiefs and Administrative Professionals to get to know each other.

The new Section board just took office, but we are eager for a great year. Among the many things we hope to accomplish this year is continued expansion of the group throughout all of the Commonwealth. We are working to set our next meeting; if any jurisdiction would like to host a meeting, please reach out to me. The annual Section retreat is scheduled for September 22-23, 2022 in the City of Manassas. We are working to find speakers for the retreat, and more information will be forthcoming.

As with the Presidents before me, and those who will come after me, let me ask – do you have Administrative Professionals in your organization (career, volunteer, or combination)? If yes, are they currently participating in the VFCA Administrative Professionals Section? If not, why? Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend, whether a member or not. This may be a good way to introduce administrative staff to our group.

I would ask that you please share our section information with your administrative staff and encourage them to participate. We meet quarterly and have a two day retreat annually; then, we assist at the annual Virginia Fire Chiefs Conference. Funds raised at the conference go to the VFCF for educational opportunities, in the form of scholarships and grants, to fire and emergency services professionals across the Commonwealth. If you or your staff any questions about the group, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

# VFCA Administrative Professionals Section is Looking for New Members



## Why Belong?

- There is the opportunity for networking with your peers at your quarterly meetings and the annual conference
- There are training and educational opportunities at your meetings
- Quarterly magazine Commonwealth Chief... new and updated information
- Website
- VFC Foundation Scholarship Program, several APS members have benefited
- You have become more rounded, better educated and more valuable to your organization
- Find new ways to contribute

# NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) WEEK “EMS STRONG: BEYOND THE CALL.”



National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week is May 19-25, and this year's theme is, "EMS Strong: Beyond the Call." The American College of Emergency Physicians has provided a planning guide to help make this year's EMS Week special for your agency and the community. In this guide, you will find ways to recognize the dedicated service provided by your personnel team, examples of activities and events to host throughout the week and inspiring articles that uplift and celebrate the strength of those in EMS. Learn more about EMS Week in Virginia at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-week-2019/>

## EMS Week History

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) was instrumental in establishing EMS Week when President Gerald Ford declared November 3 – 10, 1974 as the first "National Emergency Medical Services Week." This annual observance continued for four more years and was then reinstated by ACEP in 1982. Around this time the observance of EMS Week was moved to September. In 1992 EMS Week was again moved to be the 3rd week in May. The move was made to separate EMS Week from Fire Prevention week in October. The rationale for the move was the majority of fire and EMS services felt having the two events back to back hurt the effectiveness of each program so EMS Week was moved to May.

ACEP began collecting and distributing ideas and information for EMS Week in the early 1980's. Professionally printed and prepared EMS Week Planning kits were developed starting in the late 1980's. Today 25,000 EMS Week Planning Guides are distributed free of charge to EMS services, fire departments, rescue squads, volunteer groups, and emergency departments across the country. The 48 page guide contains ideas for local EMS Week activities and highlights EMS Week programs held by EMS services during the previous year.

2022 will be the 48th year of this celebration. How do you plan to get your agency involved in National EMS Week?

## Theme Days

This special week offers the best opportunity to showcase the vital role that your agency has in the community. To add to the excitement of the week, each day has been appointed a theme that represents the many sides of EMS. The five daily themes for the week include:

- Monday – EMS Education Day
- Tuesday – Safety Tuesday
- Wednesday – EMS for Children Day
- Thursday – Save-A-Life Day (CPR & Stop the Bleed)
- Friday – EMS Recognition Day

# VFCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## April

19	VFCA Full Board Meeting 1000 Hours	VDFP
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## May

12-13	8th Annual Chiefs Summit 0800 Hours	Courtyard - Glen Allen
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17	Executive Officers Meeting 1000 Hours	Virtual
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## June

5-10	Virginia Fire Officer Academy  0800 Hours	William & Mary
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5-10	Virginia Chief Officer Academy  0800 Hours	William & Mary
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17	VFCF/VFCA Golf Tournament 1100 Hours	Spotsylvania
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21	VFCA Full Board Meeting 1000 Hours	VDFP
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## July

19	Executive Officers Meeting 1000 Hours	Virtual
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## August

16	VFCA Full Board Meeting 1000 Hours	VDFP
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## September

16	VFCF/VFCA Golf Tournament 1100 Hours	Williamsburg
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20	Executive Officers Meeting 1000 Hours	Virtual
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22-23	Administrative Professionals Retreat 0800 Hours	Manassas
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## October

3	VFCF/VFCA Golf Tournament 1100 Hours	Blacksburg
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12-14	VFCA Board Meeting & Annual Retreat 1000 Hours	Harrisonburg
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# 136 FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2021

Bill Smith

## Both the U.S. Fire Administration and the NFPA track annual on-duty firefighter deaths

In 2021, 136 firefighters died while on duty, yet another deadly year.

Firefighting is a dangerous profession, and a growing body of research and data show the contributions that job-related exposures have in chronic illnesses, such as cancer and heart disease, and in behavioral health issues that may end in suicide. These deaths and injuries are in addition to the incident-specific deaths and injuries that occur while on-duty. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently undertook two large studies focused on firefighter cancer and concluded that firefighters face a 9 percent increase in cancer diagnoses, and a 14 percent increase in cancer-related deaths, compared to the general population in the U.S. NIOSH has also reported on the risk to firefighters of cardiovascular conditions. Firefighter suicides are tracked by the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance and have risen in recent years.

The U. S. Fire Administration tracks and collects information on the causes of on-duty firefighter fatalities that occur in the United States. They conduct an annual analysis to identify specific problems so that they may direct efforts toward finding solutions that will reduce firefighter fatalities in the future. This information is also used to measure the effectiveness of programs directed toward firefighter health and safety.

NFPA's own work in this area focuses on the deaths and injuries of firefighters that are due to specific events while on-duty. In their latest report "Firefighter Fatalities in the US in 2020" issued in October 2021, author's Rita F. Fahy and Jay T. Petrillo point out that nearly one-third of all deaths result from incidents responding to and from alarms.



In recent years, a lot of effort and resources has been directed towards reducing this deadly statistic. Unfortunately that number has hovered right at 30% for more than a decade. We must do even more to reduce that number. **What will you and your department do to make that happen?**

To read the NFPA report, go to: <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/Emergency-Responders/Firefighter-fatalities-in-the-United-States>

# 2021 UPDATE TO YELLOW RIBBON REPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS IS NOW AVAILABLE

Solutions and recommendations to help firefighters and responders.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs' Volunteer and Combination Officers Section has released the 2021 Yellow Ribbon Report Update: Best Practices in Behavioral Wellness for Emergency Responders. To read the report, go to: <https://www.iafc.org/about-iafc/sections/vcos/vcos-resource-detail/vcos-yellow-ribbon-report-update>

The new document supplements the original (released in 2017) and is focused on educating all ranks of the fire and emergency services about risk factors that can lead to declining mental wellness, such as:

- Complex post-traumatic stress disorder (C-PTSD).
- Compassion fatigue.
- Acute stress disorder.
- Gaslighting.
- Toxic work environments.
- Learned helplessness.

According to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, more firefighters die from suicide each year than in the line of duty, and many suicides are likely unreported. This resource offers solutions and recommendations that can directly help firefighters and responders, including 7 approaches/tools referred to as lifesaving "antidotes" to measure and reduce stressors:

- Resilience.
- Emotional intelligence.
- Positive intelligence.
- Relationship strengthening.
- Post-traumatic growth.
- Tools to measure and reduce stressors.
- Emotional tactical worksheet.

Each antidote in the report is supported by additional resources.

Also included in the report is a new set of 11 best practices to help normalize the mental health impacts of fire and emergency service vocations that department leaders can use to encourage a culture supporting mental wellness, establish impactful behavioral health programs and more. The "how-to" approach of the best practices is supplemented by implementation tips and a summary of survey results on what agencies have been doing to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their personnel's behavioral wellness.

All fire departments and other responder agencies are encouraged to share this report with departmental leadership, including peer support team, chaplain and employee assistance program.

# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual

Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation  
Golf Tournament  
June 17, 2022



## Lees Hill Golf Club

10200 Old Dominion Parkway Fredericksburg, VA 22408

All proceeds benefit the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation which provides educational opportunities to fire and emergency services professionals.

### Sponsorship and Support Opportunities

<b>Diamond Title Sponsor - \$2,500</b> Includes full registration for 4 Players Corporate banner placement on site and at awards ceremony, Signage at designated hole Title Sponsor acknowledgment in tournament program!	<b>Silver Title Sponsor - \$2,000</b> Includes full registration for 4 Players Corporate banner placement on site and at awards ceremony, Signage at designated hole Title Sponsor acknowledgment in tournament program!	<b>Bronze Title Sponsor - \$1,500</b> Includes full registration for 4 Players Corporate banner placement on site and at awards ceremony, Signage at designated hole Title Sponsor acknowledgment in tournament program!
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gold Sponsor - \$1,000 Golf</b> Includes full registration for 4 Players Opportunity to provide company promotional items Signage at designated hole Gold Sponsor acknowledgment in tournament program	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cart Sponsor - \$500</b> Company Signage placed in each golf cart Opportunity to provide company promotional items Sponsor acknowledgment in tournament program	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Beverage Cart Sponsor - \$250</b> 3 company sponsor signs placed onto beverage cart Opportunity to provide company promotional items Sponsor acknowledgment in tournament program	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Putting Green Sponsor - \$300</b> Opportunity to provide company promotional items Signage on putting green during event Sponsor acknowledgment in tournament program	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Driving Range Sponsor - \$300</b> Opportunity to provide company promotional items Signage on driving range during event Sponsor acknowledgment in tournament program	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hole Sponsor - \$125</b> Custom signage placed on hole Sponsor acknowledgment in tournament program	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Golf Only \$ 80.00 Per Player</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Donation Only \$</b>	

### Make check payable to: VFCF

Select your support or sponsorship from above:

Total Amount Enclosed: \$

### Tournament Information

<b>Registration &amp; Range Open at: 11:00am</b>	<b>Shotgun Start at: 12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Format: Captains Choice</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place Team \$500 Cash Prize</b>	<b>Many Raffle and Door Prizes</b>	<b>Mulligans 3 for \$10</b>
	<b>Putting Contest 10.00 per participant</b>	

### Sponsor and Player Information:

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Sponsor Name & Address	Player 2: Email:
Phone:	Player 3: Email:
Email Address	Player 4: Email:

*The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation is a 501© 3 Organization – TIN 26-0694551*

Please send this form with your check for your sponsorship and/or players fees to:

Chris Eudailey  
10249 Kimlynn Trail, Chesterfield, VA 23838  
(540) 809-9397 or [dewdrinkers@verizon.net](mailto:dewdrinkers@verizon.net)



# VFCF ANNOUNCES BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENTS FOR 2022



The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation will be holding three benefit golf tournaments around the Commonwealth in 2022. The proceeds from these events will be used to help support the continuance of the Virginia Fire Officers Academy and the Virginia Chief Officers Academy. In addition, scholarships are also supported for first responders and or their immediate family members.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Start Time</b>
<b>12th Annual VFCF /Spotsylvania –Lees Hill Golf Club</b> POC—Chris Eudailey—ceudailey@vfca.us or 540-809-9397	6-17-22	1200 Hours
<b>8th Annual VFCF /Williamsburg –Golden Horseshoe</b> POC—Beth Eberhardt—eberhardt@williamsburg.gov or 757-220-6220	9-16-22	1230 Hours
<b>7th Annual VFCF /Salem –Blacksburg Country Club</b> POC—John Prillaman—jprillaman@salemva.gov or 540-375-3080	10-3-22	1200 Hours

Additional information can also be found at [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us). The VFCF is actively seeking sponsors and door prizes for each of these events. The goal for these three events for 2021 is \$50,000.

# The 2022 Regional EMS Awards



## Recognize Excellence in Emergency Medical Services

### EMS Award Categories

- Excellence in EMS
- Innovative Excellence in EMS
- Nurse with Outstanding Contribution to EMS
- Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS
- Outstanding EMS Agency
- Outstanding Contribution to EMS for Children
- Outstanding EMS Prehospital Educator
- Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety
- Outstanding EMS Leadership
- Outstanding Contribution to EMS Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Outstanding EMS Prehospital Provider
- Outstanding EMS Telecommunicator
- Outstanding Contribution to EMS by a High School Senior (\$1,000 Scholarship Award)

## Submit Your Nominations Today!

Find out more about the Regional EMS Awards program by contacting your Regional EMS Council or visit:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/governors-ems-awards-program/nominations-regional-awards-programs/>







# NEWS

## BLACKBOARD COMING TO VIRGINIA'S EMS SYSTEM



Chad Blosser, Virginia Office of EMS, Education Program Manager

The Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) is pleased to announce that it has adopted Blackboard as a statewide Learning Management System (LMS) for certified EMS providers and students. Blackboard is a leading provider of learning management software, communication tools and student success solutions to 150 million users in more than 80 countries. Blackboard, together with Genius Student Information Systems, brings a new level of interactive training to Virginia's EMS system.

Blackboard is a course management system which will allow the Virginia Office of EMS, its partners and certified EMS educators to provide content to EMS providers across the Commonwealth from a central location, permit two-way communication with students, and provide electronic reporting of continuing education completions to OEMS for processing.

For distance learning courses, the selection of Blackboard as a learning management system for EMS in Virginia is fairly straightforward: Blackboard is hands down a leader among leaders in online and distance learning, having been in the online learning business since its creation in 1997.

Blackboard has multiple features that will allow educators to conduct courses at a distance. Educators can use Blackboard to provide course materials to students; to communicate with those students; to hold synchronous (chat) and asynchronous (threaded bulletin-board-like) discussions; to assess student learning via quizzes, exams, graded assignments, etc.; to post student grades during and at the end of the course, and so on.

The OEMS Division of Accreditation, Certification & Education (ACE) is currently rolling Blackboard out to EMS Education Coordinators so that content can be created for Virginia EMS providers to access. As content is created and made available to the public, Virginia EMS providers will find Blackboard to be a one-stop shop for CAT 1 and CAT 2 continuing education.

The ACE Division will continue this rollout throughout 2022. For more information and to stay on top of new developments with Blackboard, visit the main Blackboard webpage on the OEMS website at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/blackboard-help-center/>

## THE 2022 REGIONAL EMS AWARDS

Tristen Graves, Virginia Office of EMS, Public Relations Assistant

It is time to recognize, celebrate and honor our EMS personnel from across the Commonwealth. Nominations are now open for the 2022 Regional EMS Awards. These prestigious awards highlight the remarkable work and dedication in EMS related fields such as, telecommunications, emergency preparedness and response, pre-hospital education and EMS health and safety. Consider nominating an individual or organization that works to exceptionally enhance the Virginia EMS System and provides a high level of pre-hospital patient care.

Anyone can submit a nomination and your Regional EMS Council is able to assist with your questions. Regional EMS Award winners have the chance to receive a Governor's EMS Award, the highest recognition presented at the state level.

Do not hesitate, submit your nomination today and recognize the outstanding level of excellence in Emergency Medical Services. For more information on the Regional EMS Awards program, please contact your Regional EMS Council by visiting [www.vaems.org](http://www.vaems.org).

## UPDATE ON THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Written by Two Capitols Consulting, VFCA's full service Government Relations firm

The 2022 Virginia General Assembly session kicked off on January 12 with a change in leadership in the executive branch. Governor Glenn Youngkin, Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, and Attorney General Jason Miyares assumed office on January 15. To build out his senior staff, Governor Youngkin appointed Fauquier County Sheriff Robert "Bob" Mosier as Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

In the House of Delegates, the Republican party regained majority control of the chamber and Delegate C. Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah) was elected to serve as the 57th Speaker of the House of Delegates. There are eighteen freshman delegates for the 2022 session. The composition of the Senate remained unchanged and Senator Louise Lucas continued to serve as President Pro Tempore and Senator Dick Saslaw as Majority Leader.

During even-numbered years, the legislative session typically lasts for 60 days, also known as a "long session", and the House and Senate also develop a new two-year budget for the upcoming biennium. At the halfway point of session, otherwise known as Crossover, the House of Delegates has passed 598 of the 1,364 pieces of legislation that has been introduced to the body— roughly forty-four percent (44%). The Senate, however, passed 486 of the 775 pieces of legislation introduced – about sixty-three percent (63%).

There were several pieces of legislation introduced that Two Capitols Consulting lobbied on behalf of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association this session. Included in those bills were HB131, HB854, and SB585, which would add 911 dispatchers to the list of local employees eligible to receive enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty service. HB131, introduced by Delegate Mike Cherry (R-Colonial Heights), and HB854, introduced by Delegate David Reid (D-Loudoun) were referred to the House Committee on Appropriations and assigned to the Appropriations Compensation and Retirement Subcommittee. Despite the strong support from the first responder community, the subcommittee recommended laying the bill on the table while the issue is studied over the interim. SB585, introduced by Senator Bryce Reeves (R-Spotsylvania), met a similar fate in the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations where it was continued to the 2023 session pending a study. The team at Two Capitols will continue to advocate for this important measure during the off-session and throughout the upcoming study.

SB400, introduced by Senator Emmett Hanger (R-Augusta), would authorize the Board of Housing and Community Development to promulgate regulations related to agritourism event buildings that are

open to the public and hold up to 300 people. At the time of the submission of this article, the bill was still working its way through the legislative process.

The team at Two Capitols has also been monitoring HB1042 and SB562, which were included as items to support in the combined Fire and EMS legislative booklet. These bills were put forth by the VPF and would increase the lookback for cancer presumption to a maximum of ten years.

Finally, the team at Two Capitols arranged an introductory meeting with the new members of the Secretariat of Public Safety and Homeland Security for VFCA's Executive Committee officers. Chiefs Johnson, Prillaman, Baldwin, and Eudailey met with Deputy Secretary Maggie Cleary, Deputy Secretary Brian Swann, and Assistant Secretary Sonny Daniels to educate them on the mission and goals of the VFCA. Additionally, the Two Capitols team facilitated Secretary Bob Mosier's attendance at the annual VFCA conference, where he presented the Governor's awards and swore in the new VFCA officers on Wednesday, February 23.



Sheriff Robert "Bob" Mosier, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security for Governor Youngkin.



Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Past President Chief Keith Johnson speaking with Delegate David Reid, sponsor of HB854, before the committee hearing.



Virginia Fire Chiefs Association President Chief Keith Johnson testified in support of HB131 in a House subcommittee.

## THIRD ANNUAL NEW CHIEF'S RECEPTION HELD



The Virginia Fire Chief's Association Board of Directors was proud to host the 3rd Annual "1st Year Fire Chiefs in Virginia" reception.

On Thursday evening during the Virginia Fire Rescue Conference, a reception for new Fire Chiefs/ Interim Chiefs that have assumed their role during CY20 and CY21 was held at Rockafeller's Restaurant in Virginia Beach. In 20/21, twelve new chiefs were appointed/elected.

The event is a great opportunity for new chiefs to meet and network with other chiefs within the VFCA and have the opportunity to begin to build on their already established peer group.

We are thankful to Joe Pack and his Atlantic Emergency Solutions staff for their support of this phenomenal event full of collaboration for our newest Executive Leaders in Virginia's Fire Service.



# 2022 MODULAR VERSION OF THE VIRGINIA FIRE OFFICER ACADEMY HELD AT SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE

Captain Brad Creasy, Roanoke Fire-EMS

The 2022-1 Modular Virginia Fire Officer Academy was held at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake over the course of two weekends, January 28-30 and February 5-6. This venue, which was also the site of the 2021 Virginia Fire Officer Academy, allowed students to experience the same “feel” of the residential academy by providing overnight accommodations, onsite meals, and the opportunity to network each evening. Twenty-five students checked in on the evening of January 28th and just like day one of the residential curriculum, broke into their assigned engine companies and began team building exercises soon after. Academy staff worked hard to make sure modular students got the full academy experience thus daily schedules and the IAP were posted each day, par checks were taken at every break, engine company leaders changed every day, and the 41st student went everywhere the students went. The highlight for both students and staff occurred on Sunday January 30th when Charlottesville Fire Department Fire Chief Hezedean Smith made a surprise visit to promote FF Michael Link to the rank of Captain. After four very long days and zero complaints, all twenty-five students graduated from the 2022-1 modular program. Modular Academy Staff: Captain Rhett Fleitz, Roanoke Fire-EMS (Deputy IC); Captain Chad Helms, Roanoke County Fire & Rescue (Curriculum/Logistics); Captain Brad Creasy, Roanoke Fire-EMS (Planning/Operations).

Graduates included: Tyler Campbel, Louisa County Department of Fire & EMS; Jared Clendenin, Roanoke County Fire & Rescue; Timothy M. Estes, Jr., Abingdon Fire Department; John B. Foster, Stafford Volunteer Fire Department; Kevin Nevetral, Hopewell Fire & Rescue; Alex J. Renfro, Abingdon Fire Department; Thomas C. Tanner, Fort Pickett Fire & Rescue; Timothy M. Estes, Sr., Abingdon Fire Department; Chris Ferguson, Goochland County Fire & Rescue; Michael E. Link, Charlottesville Fire Department; Mark R. McCormick, Abingdon Fire Department; Kourtnie Orth, Troutville Fire Department; Michael A. Releford, Roanoke Fire-EMS; Thomas Schacter Bedford Fire Department; Matthew Beard, Bedford Fire Department; Michael Carr, Chesapeake Fire Department; Gary Fisher, Botetourt County Fire-EMS; Ethan Porch, Troutville Fire Department; Kathryn Wilkerson, Bedford County Dept. of Fire & Rescue; Thomas Boettner, Roanoke Fire-EMS; Joseph Bona, Botetourt County Fire-EMS; Drew V. Garito, Roanoke Fire-EMS; Satchel Kornfeld, Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Dept.; Curtis F. Marshall, Bedford Fire Department; Ray L. Osborne, Jr., Abingdon Fire Department.

The 2022 Residential VFOA will be held at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg June 5-11, 2022.



Virginia Fire Officer Academy Class 22-1 Graduation W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center



Virginia Fire Officer Academy Class 22-1 Staff left to right, Capt Rhett Fleitz, Capt Chad Helms and Capt Brad Creasy



Correction: In the last edition of Commonwealth Chief, the wrong photo was used for the October 2021 VCOA Class graduates. The correct photo is shown above. Sorry for the error.



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# NEW STUDY OF DRIVER PERCEPTION OF EMERGENCY WARNING LIGHTS AND RETROREFLECTIVE MARKINGS COMMISSIONED BY THE EMERGENCY RESPONDER SAFETY INSTITUTE YIELDS SURPRISING FINDINGS

## Are Higher Intensity and Greater Reflectivity Better?

A new research study from Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI), "Effects of Emergency Vehicle Lighting Characteristics on Driver Perception and Behavior: Study Report," investigated the impact of lighting color, intensity, modulation, and flash rate on driver behavior while approaching and passing a traffic incident scene at night. The impact of retroreflective chevron markings in combination with emergency lighting configurations, as well as the measurement of "moth-to-flame" effects of emergency lighting on drivers was also investigated. The research was conducted by Dr. John D. Bullogh (formerly with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and currently with the Light and Health Research Center in the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai) and Dr. Scott Parr of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in partnership with ERSI.

### The full Study Report:

[file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Temp/EffectsEmergencyVehicleLightingCharacteristics.pdf] is available for download. It's important reading for emergency responders, leaders, standards development organizations, and policy makers. The experiment design and findings are summarized here.

Under different emergency lighting setups volunteer civilians drove a closed course traffic incident scene at night consisting of a simulated fire apparatus in center-block position with a cone taper. Two SAE-compliant, commercially available blue, white, yellow, and red lights were mounted vertically on two tripods spaced apart at a distance approximating the left and right edge of the rear of a fire truck. A silhouette cutout of a firefighter wearing a high visibility safety vest was positioned adjacent to the lights. For some of the tests, researchers placed a panel of retroreflective red/yellow chevrons constructed with ASTM Type V sheeting materials directly behind each flashing light tripod. The researchers tested 14 combinations of lamp color, lamp intensity, pattern, flash rate, and presence of reflective markings next to the lights. Researchers measured vehicle distance to the lights and the distance at which drivers could distinguish the silhouette of a firefighter. They also administered a survey after the driver completed the course. Twenty drivers completed the testing.

The findings will surprise many emergency response professionals.

None of the variables tested had a significant effect on ratings of overall visibility of the road scene. But some individual factors and combined factors yielded findings of interest warranting further research.

### Intensity

Study participants consistently judged higher intensity lights as more glaring but only marginally more visible than lights of lower intensity. Lower intensity lights remained highly visible. Using lower intensities at night will reduce discomfort glare without reducing the lights' visibility. This finding indicates that stationary vehicles in nighttime blocking mode should be sufficiently visible with lower intensity lights.

### Color

Drivers' rated visibility of lights appeared to be related to the perceived saturation of their color. Blue and red lights have the greatest perceived saturation and were judged to be brighter than white and yellow lights of the same intensity. Blue and white lights were rated as most glaring. Yellow and red lights were least glaring. This data suggests that red lights for stationary blocking operations may offer the best combination of better visibility with less glare.

### "Moth to Flame"

None of the variables tested caused drivers to move their vehicles either toward or away from the lights. Therefore, the data in this test did not support or disprove the "moth to flame" effect.

### High Visibility Markings

When fluorescent and reflective markings were present, drivers did not see the firefighter silhouette until they were closer to it. This was the most unexpected finding of the study. Of the four setups tested, high intensity lights with no markings produced the longest detection distance, meaning drivers could see the firefighter silhouette from the furthest away. High intensity lights combined with high visibility markings yielded the shortest detection distance. Reflective markings may increase the amount of scattered light entering the eyes of a driver, thereby making the responder less visible. This study raises the possibility that combining high intensity lights with high visibility markings may make it more difficult for drivers to see responders on foot at night, even when the responders wear high visibility vests. Further research is planned to determine if lower grade retroreflective markings will help improve the conspicuity of emergency personnel operating near emergency vehicles and traffic.

More research is needed to further describe and understand these findings as well as new questions they raise. To stay informed on research into emergency lighting, visit the Emergency Vehicles page on ResponderSafety.com. This page also includes links to additional resources on emergency lighting and emergency vehicles.

This study was produced under a contract between the U.S. Fire Administration and the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association's Emergency Responder Safety Institute, which subcontracted with the Lighting Research Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to perform the research. Additional funding was provided by the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Office of Undergraduate Research and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program within the U.S. Department of Transportation.

# Free EMS Continuing Education for Virginia EMS Providers Coming Spring 2022

Available in partnership with VectorSolutions

The Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) is pleased to announce that Virginia EMS providers will have free exclusive access to VectorSolutions Training, featuring robust courses delivered through an award-winning training management system.

We have invested significant money and resources into developing this partnership which will allow Virginia EMS providers to choose from 100 different continuing education courses in Vector's catalog in order to meet their requirements for recertification of their Virginia and National Registry certifications.

Stay tuned to the OEMS website and social media later this spring in order to unlock the power of this partnership, which will save you valuable time and money when recertifying your EMS certifications.

## Engaging Online Training from VectorSolutions

The VectorSolutions learning management system provides online training with proven results. These courses will be available for free to all Virginia EMS providers and students later this spring. The online catalog of courses includes:

- Airway, Oxygenation and Ventilation
- Medical
- Trauma
- Cardiovascular
- Operations



# Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation

P.O. Box 699, Blackstone, VA 23824

Phone: (888) 818-0983

Web Site: [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us)



## Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation Announces Annual Fund Raising Campaign

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide educational opportunities, including scholarships, to Fire and Emergency Services providers – both Volunteer and Career; develop Public Relations programs to promote and raise public awareness of Virginia's Fire and Emergency Services; to assist other related organizations in the development and implementation of Public Education Programs; and provide grants to other Fire and Emergency Service Organizations. Fund development is through donations, corporate giving, and fund raising events, such as golf tournaments.

Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation is pleased to announce its upcoming campaign to raise funds to sustain our Mission. There are sponsorship levels to meet every budget. As we work to spread the word and maximize participation the Foundation can realize the benefits and the Virginia Fire and EMS Service and its providers will be the benefactors. Please consider the appropriate level of support that you can commit to over the next five years or perhaps a one-time donation best suits your situation. Please indicate on the tear off section below if you will be making a one-time donation or if you are interested in partnering with the VFCF over the next five years.

Level of Support	Number of Opportunities
\$100 - Firefighter	1000
\$250 - Company Officer	50
\$500 - Battalion Chief	500
\$750 - Deputy Chief	250
\$1000 - Fire Chief	100

Once you decide on the appropriate level please complete the form below to reflect that information. You can submit your donation along with the bottom part of this form and send to VFCF, P. O. Box 699, Blackstone, VA 23824. Please do not forget to reflect if this is a single donation or a five year pledge. Because of dedicated and committed individuals such as yourself, the VFCF will remain fiscally sound and will be able to sustain these key programs to assist the fire departments and providers across the Commonwealth. The VFCF is a 501 c 3 recognized organization and as such your donation is tax deductible. VFCF does accept payment through major credit cards on the website – [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us).

Thank you for your pledge of support! Your donation will make a difference!!

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# VFCA Member Advantage



## Mission Statement

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, (VFCA) serves the communities of Virginia through its fire service leaders and advances the Fire & Rescue Service through leadership, education and advocacy.

### Member Benefits

Your membership in the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association makes you a member of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation, the companion non-profit educational organization that offers educational seminars, the Virginia Fire Officer Academy, the scholarship program and other such worthy programs. It's a full palette of programs and services from which you can choose those of particular interest to you, the VFCA member.

#### 1. Career Development Virginia Fire Rescue Conference (VFRC)

The premier fire and emergency services conference offering a mix of association business, networking and over 40 educational sessions during the event. The VFRC is a cost and time efficient way to sharpen your skills, expand your knowledge base and broaden your fire service network.

**Virginia Fire Officer Academy**  
This award winning four-and-a-half-day program assists fire and emergency services professionals to move from a tactical view to a comprehensive strategic view of fire and emergency services, operations, personnel safety, and administration. Participants will enhance their professional development through a unique four and one-half day hands-on, interactive learning experience designed to provide a better understanding of the relationship between leadership, ownership and safety.

### Educational Seminars

From broad-based tactical and fire ground training to more focused programs such as "Horse Sense" that hones and prepares officers to lead and manage their organizations on a day-to-day basis.

#### 2. Information & Idea Exchange

**Commonwealth Chief Magazine**  
Touted as one of the country's best fire and emergency services organization member publications, Commonwealth Chief magazine puts the latest thinking and current issues – as well as all you need to know about your association – in your hands on a quarterly basis.

**Exhibitor Trade Show**  
The exhibitor show, held in conjunction with the Annual Conference, presents a unique opportunity for chiefs, company officer's, firefighters and others to spend quality time with the vendors who provide the very latest in technology, products and services utilized by today's modern fire service.

**VFCA Website at [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us)**  
Your source for the latest wide-ranging information about the association and its activities at your fingertips – 24/7. Register on-line or download a conference registration application, peruse the latest and back issues of Commonwealth Chief magazine, or obtain LODD information. VFCA's website is changing continually to provide you with the information you need when you need it!

### Networking Opportunities

Opportunities occur throughout the year to learn informally from your peers. At VFCA events or on the Website, you can connect with the fire chiefs and other fire service personnel from around the state who share your concerns, but from a slightly different perspective.

#### 3. Political Action

**Legislative Summit**  
VFCA leadership plays a leading role in the Annual Legislative Summit where major fire/EMS organizations from across the Commonwealth come together to decide what legislative issues are important and relative in today's ever changing environment.

#### Advocacy

Members and leaders take the fire service story directly to state and federal elected representatives to work for laws and regulations that enhance your ability to provide safe communities. VFCA appointments to many state boards and advisory bodies ensure fire and emergency services input on actions that affect us all.

#### 4. Personal/Family

**Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance.** Each VFCA member is provided with AD&D insurance benefits in the event an unexpected tragedy should strike.

### Membership Categories

Annual Membership fees  
(Check the appropriate category)

- |                          |   |          |
|--------------------------|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Active  |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Career Chief Officer  | \$75.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Volunteer Chief Officer   | \$40.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FF & Co. Officer  | \$40.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Affiliate   | \$40.00  |
|                          | Individuals in professions allied to the fire service (such as Sections, Public Education; Emergency Services; Technical Rescue or other areas that not covered under Active) |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Corporate   | \$100.00 |
|                          | Representatives of companies with an interest in fire prevention, fire suppression, insurance, or other fire-service-related products   |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life or Honorary  | \$20.00  |
|                          | Individuals who have been selected to receive Life or Honorary Membership in the Association by a vote of the Executive Board.  |          |

(Life or Honorary members receive complimentary membership. To receive mailings, the member fee is \$20/yr.)

- Department Membership  
See VFCA.us website for details

## Membership Application

Join today by filling out the membership application and paying online at [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us) or  
Mail this application and payment (check payable to VFCA): VFCA • P.O. Box 699 • Blackstone, VA • 23824

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Dept/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ EDID# \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Chief Officer:  Yes  No Retired:  Yes  No  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pay by Credit card:  Visa  Master Card  AMEX  Discover  
Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: (3digit # on back) \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Address if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the following:

Register me as one of the following Sections:  Admin. Professionals  Federal/Military  Company Officer  Life Safety-CCR

DFP Division:  1  2  3  4  5  6  7 Type of Department:  Volunteer  Career  Combination

# FESCO



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2022 COMMANDER CHASSIS  
CUMMINS L9 ENGINE  
ALLISON 3000 EVS TRANSMISSION  
HAAS ALERT SYSTEM  
ROSENBAUER N55 1500 MIDSHIP PTO PUMP  
TANK: POLY 750 GALLON  
(2) 1.75" X 200' CROSSLAYS  
HOSEBED: 1000' LDH / 80'-3" / 400'-5.75"  
SINGLE ARM HYDRAULIC LADDER RACK



75' MM QUINT /COMMANDER CHASSIS

2022 COMMANDER RAISED CAB CHASSIS  
COBRA AERIAL MID MOUNT QUINT  
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360° CAMERA SYSTEM  
MULTIPLEX ELECTRICAL SYSTEM  
HAAS ALERT SYSTEM  
DARLEY PUMP / 2000 GPM



MODEL 623F AMBULANCE



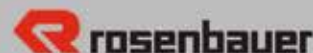
KING WILLIAM COUNTY FIRE & EMS  
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# COMMONWEALTH

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. - April 2022

*Chief*

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