

# COMMONWEALTH

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. - October 2020

# Chief

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# COMMONWEALTH

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. - October 2020

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## AMMONIUM NITRATE WHAT FIREFIGHTERS MUST KNOW

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**David Hutcheson**  
2020 VFCA President  
Virginia Beach Fire Department

I thought as I began to pull this article together it would be prudent to talk about where we are with our goals the Board had set for this year as well where I see us concerning COVID-19 and the current hurricane season.

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Board met in Staunton for our annual retreat this past October to discuss our collective goals for 2020. The areas we set to concentrate on include:

- Inclusion and Diversity
- Legislative issues
- Health and Wellness
- Professional Development

I'm happy to report our Board has added two minority chief level officers and one female chief level officer to the team in alignment with our stated goal of improving inclusion and diversity. Their credentials speak for themselves; the color of their skin and gender merely add to the richness of the diversity in the Commonwealths Fire Service. When we can return to normal activities again, the Board is committed to attending the Virginia Fire Equity and Diversity Conference.

As I have reported before, the Board has put forth a considerable amount of time and effort on legislative issues. This has been aided immensely with the guidance of Two Capitols Consulting. As you are aware, we won a major victory with cancer presumption as well as PTSD legislation. Due to COVID, it has been difficult to see meaningful results, but you have my word we will continue to monitor and ensure the new legislation is followed. An area we have identified that needs more attention from every member in the fire service is more grass roots work in having conversations with officials in our own backyards. If you know any senator, delegate, council person or staffer, please let us know. I have personally seen where one conversation swung a key vote our way.

In our discussions on Health and Wellness we placed mental health as a top priority. Deputy Chief Kevin Good from USAG Fort Belvoir Fire & Emergency Services has been working diligently to build a database across the Commonwealth of Peer Support personnel. We have made strides in building the database, but we need your help in completing this endeavor. Please, whether you are a rural or a metro department, have someone from your department fill out our Smartsheet at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7b8e9ec89b3b4d50bddc5c5c4b708c6d>. In addition, we hope to add a fitness and wellness track at the Fire and Rescue Conference this year to include daily morning PT options such as HIIT, inaugural stair climb, and morning group runs on the board walk.

Gaining accreditation status for Virginia's non-DFP professional development programs such as VFOA, VCOA and NOVA LDI, etc. is one of our professional development goals this year. We have not made much progress yet with this initiative, but we will reengage, and I will provide an update in my next article.

Lastly, I wanted to touch on where we are in regards to COVID-19 and this year's hurricane season. Concerning COVID, I'm sure like the rest of you we are all weary with our new normal. We have assisted thousands of our fellow citizens and family members with this dreadful virus. When I wrote my article in April, we had had 44,000 cases and 1,375 deaths in our great state. Now our number of cases, as of my writing this article (9/1/2020), is 120,594 with 2,580 confirmed fatalities. Hopefully, in the near future or at least by the first of the year, a viable vaccine will become available so we can return to our normal daily routines.

At this point in the hurricane season, a majority of the state has been spared, with one notable exception. An EF2 tornado spurred by Tropical Storm Isaias struck Lancaster County, Va., "The Northern Neck" damaging and destroying multiple homes and businesses. The HRIMT and VDEM assisted with debris management, volunteer resources and recovery collection. Hopefully, the next ninety days will be quiet for us, but if not, I have no doubt The Commonwealth's fire fighters will pull together to take care of its' citizens as well as each other.



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*~ Thomas Merton*



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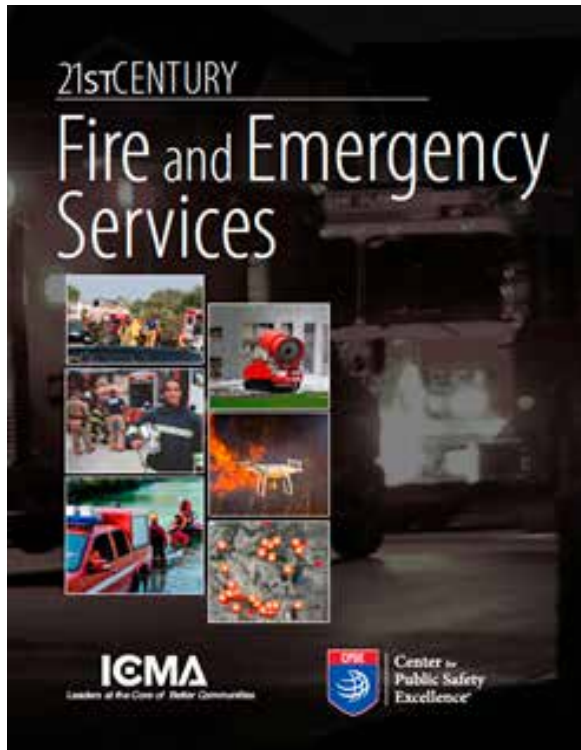
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## 21ST CENTURY FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES WHITE PAPER RELEASED

You may want to take time to read through this report produced by the Int'l City & County Managers and the Center for Public Safety Excellence. There's a good chance your city manager or county administrator will be reading this, so we wanted to make sure you were familiar with it.

You may or may not like what you read-but it's important to understand what's being discussed at that level. This white paper explores the 21st Century Fire and Emergency Services. Created in partnership with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the white paper identifies eight critical issues with associated initiatives and strategies to address these issues.

The report looks at a re-identification of the fire and emergency services; culture of the profession; the robust use of data; health and wellness threats; opportunities for partnerships; sustainability challenges; technology advancements and adoption; and inclusiveness of the fire and emergency services.

A technical working group of CPSE (veteran fire service representatives) and ICMA representatives collaborated over two years to develop this work. Considering the societal, technological, economic, environmental, and political forces at play in local government, the subject matter experts illustrated how the shift of the federal government away from responding to everyday needs has caused fire departments to become the "health and safety net for communities."

Webinars providing an overview of the white paper and other distribution methods are planned throughout 2020. The 21st Century Fire & Emergency Services White Paper is available for download at [www.cpse.org/projects/21st-century](http://www.cpse.org/projects/21st-century).

HERE IS THE DOCUMENT FROM ICMA/CPSE: <https://cpse.org/projects/21st-century/>




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# MEET THE CHIEF

*Getting to know Danny Evans, Jr. In this issue we will meet one of the many fire chiefs who will be spotlighted in the coming issues of Commonwealth Chief this year. Here we take a look at Danny Evans, Fire Chief, Bluefield, VA Fire Department.*

**CC: Describe your tenure in the fire service**

**DE:** 23 Years

**CC: Please describe your career journey**

**DE:** I started with the FD at the age of 16 and took as many classes and certifications as I could. I was elected as Lt in 2015, and promoted to Chief in 2019.

**CC: Please describe your Form of Government**

**DE:** Local Town owned department.

**CC: Describe the sources of Funding for Your Organization**

**DE:** Funded totally by Town of Bluefield and Federal & State grants.

**CC: What population does your department serve?**

**DE:** 10,000 including the Town of Bluefield and the surrounding county we service.

**CC: How many square miles do you cover**

**DE:** 58 square miles, including the Town of Bluefield and surrounding county that we serve.

**CC: Describe the department composition**

**DE:** Volunteer with paid on call status and officers paid small salary.

**CC: Tell us about your equipment**

**DE:** One 100' Sky Arm platform, three Class A pumpers, one mini Pumper, one 2100 gallon Tanker, one 3000 GPM Tanker/Pumper, one Medium Rescue truck, two Support units, one Chief vehicle, and one Zodiac boat.

**CC: Describe your call summary**

**DE:** 464 answered emergency calls in 2019.

**CC: What is the most challenging issue or issues facing your department today?**

**DE:** Manpower and budget.

**CC: How would you describe your management style?**

**DE:** Direct and open.

**CC: Does your department have a formal, long-range strategic plan?**

**DE:** Yes, to continue to train for new scenarios and provide modern equipment.

**CC: How have current economic times impacted your department?**

**DE:** Tightened budget constraints.

**CC: Are you doing things differently today because of the economy?**

**DE:** Not really the economy as much as the current health pandemic.

**CC: What challenges do you see facing the fire service today?**

**DE:** Decreased interest in the fire service leading to poor manpower and tighter budgets due to the economy.

**CC: What do you look for in a new recruit?**

**DE:** Ability to perform their duties on the fire scene physically and an eagerness to learn and train.

**CC: How do you view training?**

**DE:** Strongly needed and invaluable.

**CC: Do you have a close working relationship with neighboring departments?**

**DE:** Yes, with mutual aid agreements in place.

**CC: What's in the future for the fire service as you see it?**

**DE:** New tactics and training and equipment will be needed to combat increasing new types of vehicles and construction due to new electrical systems.

**CC: How has being a member of the VFCA helped you become a better chief/leader?**

**DE:** Reading about the intuitive articles and ideas of other departments has helped me to see things from another prospective and integrate these into our protocols and training.

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# AMMONIUM NITRATE WHAT FIREFIGHTERS MUST KNOW

Robert Avsec

## FOLLOW THESE 10 STEPS WHEN CONFRONTED WITH AN AMMONIUM NITRATE FIRE

Ammonium nitrate (AN) became infamous when convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh used it in the Oklahoma City bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995.

Ammonium nitrate is back in our collective consciousness with the horrific Beirut, Lebanon, blast, and its reminders of the explosion at a West, Texas, fertilizer plant that claimed at least 15 lives, caused 200 injuries and destroyed more than 50 homes. The Beirut disaster is only the latest in an inglorious history between humans and ammonium nitrate.

More than a dozen other explosions involving the chemical have occurred over the past century. The deadliest was on April 16, 1947, when a series of explosions rocked the huge waterfront petrochemical complex at Texas City, just southeast of Houston.

Smoke rises from the scene of an explosion that hit the seaport of Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

The disaster began with an explosion on a French freighter filled with more than 2,000 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer. The blast and ensuing fires left at least 576 people dead and 5,000 injured.

Other disasters triggered by ammonium nitrate explosions include:

- Roseburg, Ore. (1959): 14 killed
- Kansas City, Mo. (1988): Six firefighters killed in a construction site explosion
- Belgium (1942): 189 killed
- France (1947) 29 killed
- Toulouse, France (2001): 31 killed and more than 2,000 injured following an explosion at a hangar containing 300 tons of ammonium nitrate at a chemical and fertilizer plant
- Romania (2004): 18 killed
- North Korea (2004): 162 killed
- Mexico (2007): 37 killed

### What is ammonium nitrate?

Ammonium nitrate is a chemical compound whose chemical formula is  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  (CAS#: 6484-52-2). At room temperature and standard pressure, it is a white crystalline solid.

Ammonium nitrate is found as a natural mineral in the driest regions of the Atacama Desert in Chile, often as a crust on the ground or in conjunction with other nitrate, chlorate and halide minerals. Today almost 100% of the chemical used is synthetically produced.

## MSDS excerpts: AN

### Section 5, Fire and Explosion Data

- Flammability of the Product: May be combustible at high temperature.
- Auto-Ignition Temperature: 300°C (572°F)
- Flash Points: Higher than 93.3°C (200°F).
- Flammable Limits: Not available.
- Products of Combustion: Not available.
- Fire Hazards in Presence of Various Substances: Slightly flammable to flammable in presence of heat, of combustible materials, of organic materials. Non-flammable in presence of shocks.
- Explosion Hazards in Presence of Various Substances: Slightly explosive in presence of heat, of combustible materials, of organic materials, of metals.
- Risks of explosion of the product in presence of mechanical impact: Not available.
- Risks of explosion of the product in presence of static discharge: Not available.
- Fire Fighting Media and Instructions: Oxidizing material. Do not use water jet. Use flooding quantities of water. Avoid contact with organic materials.
- Special Remarks on Fire Hazards: Caution: Strong Oxidizer. Contact with material may cause a fire. Contact with combustible or organic materials may cause fire.
- Special Remarks on Explosion Hazards: It is an oxidizing agent and can self-ignite/detonate when in contact with powdered metals and some organic materials such as Urea and Acetic Acid.
- Section 14, Transportation DOT Classification: CLASS 5.1: Oxidizing material.
- Identification: Ammonium Nitrate UNNA: 1942 PG: III Special Provisions for Transport: Marine Pollutant.

The good: Ammonium nitrate is commonly used in agriculture as a high-nitrogen fertilizer because it is more stable and does not lose nitrogen to the atmosphere compared with its cousin urea.

The bad: It has also been used as an oxidizing agent in explosives, including improvised explosive devices. It is the main component of ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate/Fuel Oil), a popular explosive, which accounts for 80% of the explosives used in North America.

### RESPONDING WHEN AMMONIUM NITRATE IS PRESENT

The U.S. Department of Transportation classifies ammonium nitrate as an oxidizer, a Class 1.5 Insensitive Explosive, that can be an explosive by itself under certain conditions. While this is hard to initiate under normal conditions, response personnel must exercise extreme caution when responding to incidents where ammonium nitrate is present.

Ammonium nitrate may explode, especially when subjected to confinement or high heat, but it does not readily detonate.

A critical behavior of fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate — a strong oxidizer in concentrations above 33.5% — is that it can explode if it becomes contaminated with organic materials such as wood, paper or cardboard.

If ammonium nitrate explodes, it does so as a deflagration, a rapid auto combustion that does so at a subsonic speed of less than 1,250 feet per second.

### A HIGH EXPLOSIVE

Under the right conditions, ammonium nitrate may act like a high explosive changing from a solid to a gas almost instantaneously. When such a reaction occurs, an explosion results from heat or shock, it produces a detonating wave that travels at supersonic speeds.

The sudden creation of gases and the extremely rapid extension produces a devastating effect that can level structures and cause massive fire extension.

The 1947 Texas City disaster began with a fire onboard the S.S. Grandcamp, (cargo subjected to confinement and high heat) which extended to the ship's cargo of more than 2,000 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer unleashing a deflagration.

The resultant detonation wave from the Grandcamp set fire to an adjacent vessel, the S.S. High Flyer, docked more than 600 feet away. That fire subsequently extended to the High Flyer's cargo of 900 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer causing a second explosion that exacerbated the devastation.

### KEY TACTICAL BEHAVIORS

The four-digit UN identification number is 1942 with an organic coating, and 2067 as the fertilizer grade. There are several other mixtures of ammonium nitrate that have four-digit numbers; they can be found in the Hazardous Materials Tables and in the [DOT's North American Emergency Response Guide Book](#), aka the "orange book." First responders arriving at an incident where ammonium nitrate is present should:

1. Conduct a good size-up. Gather the intel that answers the three questions: What has happened? What is happening? What will happen?
2. Call for help. Locate facility managers on site, or get them called as soon as possible.
3. Don't let the facility managers go anywhere — they need to get plugged into your incident action plan and organizational structure from the outset. Nobody knows more about the incident than the home team.
4. Locate the precise location of the ammonium nitrate, which becomes the hot zone. Treat this incident as a hazmat response with a fire component from the onset and you'll likely get it right.

5. Evacuate an appropriate area using the DOT NAERG tables.
6. Isolate the area and deny entry. Employ your law enforcement and available facility security to create an effective hard perimeter – using their terminology usually goes a long way with our law enforcement brothers and sisters in gaining their cooperation.
7. Initiate tactical operations to ensure that exposures are protected from fire. If the exposures are the fire problem, ensure that water being used for fire suppression cannot get into the hot zone.
8. Confine the problem to the ammonium nitrate and to the hot zone. Ensure that no organic materials are or can be in contact with the ammonium nitrate.
9. Contain run-off water used in fire suppression or exposure activities. Ammonium nitrate is a marine pollutant.

10. If the fire is in the hot zone or impinging on any closed containers that contain ammonium nitrate or fuel oil, immediately begin removing all personnel from the hot zone. Aggressively expand the hard perimeter beyond the facility, ensure complete evacuation of civilians within the expanded hard perimeter, and make preparations for a deflagration to minimize exposure to responders and civilians.

That last bulleted item may sound harsh – and certainly runs counter to our daily mode of operations – but in the words of George Santayana, philosopher, essayist, poet and novelist: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

This article, originally published in 2013, has been updated.



**About the author**

*Battalion Chief Robert Avsec (ret.) served with the Chesterfield (Virginia) Fire & EMS Department for 26 years. He was an instructor for fire, EMS and hazardous materials courses at the local, state and federal levels, which included more than 10 years with the National Fire Academy. Chief Avsec earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati and his master's degree in executive fire service leadership from Grand Canyon University. He is a 2001 graduate of the National Fire Academy's EFO Program. Beyond his writing for FireRescue1.com and FireChief.com, Avsec authors the blog Talking "Shop" 4 Fire & EMS. Connect with Avsec on LinkedIn or via email.*

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# COMPLACENCY ARE YOU GUILTY?

Kyle Dean, Firefighter

There is a danger that accompanies us every time we climb aboard an apparatus and drive out of the firehouse door: complacency. Why do we allow ourselves to become complacent in a job that could kill us on the very next call? This question is always fascinating to think about because we are all guilty to some degree of this in our jobs. Why do we let our skills dissolve? Why do we fail to check out our equipment properly? Why do we watch someone else fail to check their equipment and not say a word or pretend it never happened?

What about firefighters who witness other firefighters being complacent? What about the obligation to ourselves and our families? Don't they/we have an obligation to say something?

Does it kill just as many firefighters as disorientation, burns, structural collapse, hazardous materials or terrorist incidents? Complacency does kill firefighters, just read NIOSH reports from line of duty deaths! People don't do 360-laps and die or kill other firefighters because they don't know about that basement or don't see fire conditions on sides of the structure you can't see from the front.

It is easy to fall into a pattern of repeatedly running the same 'routine' calls. All of us have been there, when the third or fourth call to a building that day, it is sometimes difficult to have desire to don your personal protective equipment.

Think about the last call you ran. What behaviors did it reinforce? Was it yet another false alarm, telling you once again that the coat, helmet, SCBA or SCBA waist straps are overkill? Was it an EMS assist where the medic unit showed up the same time as you, and you managed to stand back or get the cot so your own shortcomings with patient care and assessment remain undiscovered? At any given time, it is possible to let your guard down, to allow yourself to take the easy way out. Unfortunately, we work in a service that can be remarkably unforgiving or deadly.

Do a little self-examination. The first step toward controlling complacency is to be honest about where your skill level is compared to where it should be. Self-examination helps uncover our weaknesses and our strengths.

- If you haven't trained in a while, go back to the basics. Company training should always start at the weakest point, which may be frustrating for some, but it's extremely important to bring everyone back to the same level before moving on. There's no shame in admitting that you've been out of the game for a while and need a refresher.
- Keep training fresh and interesting by changing locations, drills and scenarios. One way to do this is to have each member put on a drill.
- Training with a crew on something they aren't comfortable with can help decrease complacency. Most of us are comfortable teaching the things we know well. If you want to challenge yourself, take the time to teach a class based on one of your weaknesses.

- Don't train till you get it right. Train until you can't get it wrong.
- Every time you run the 'routine' false calls, come back to the station with new information on that particular building that you didn't know or notice before.

In closing, EXPECT VICTIMS AND EXPECT FIRE EVERYTIME. Don't forget the nature of our business. We're in a dangerous job. Our biggest concern of the day shouldn't be "What are we having for dinner?" or "What are we watching on TV tonight?" Our biggest concern should be "Did I do something today to make me a better firefighter, company or chief officer?" "Did I make the department better today?"



About the author: **Kyle Dean** is a Firefighter with Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services since 2019. He started his firefighting career in 2014. Kyle is a 3rd generation firefighter following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father. Kyle is also a volunteer firefighter in Bumpass Volunteer Fire Department-Company 3 in Louisa, Virginia.

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# VDFP IMPLEMENTS CANCER REDUCTION EFFORTS FOR VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTERS BY PROHIBITING USE OF ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING PMDI DURING LIVE FIRE TRAININGS

**Industry research shows that burning oriented strand board (OSB) containing PMDI (poly-methylene diphenyl diisocyanate) during firefighter training presents increased exposure to cancer-causing carcinogens.**

On July 22, 2020, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) today announced updates to its Live Fire Training Policy that includes the prohibition of the use of oriented strand board (OSB) containing PMDI (poly-methylene diphenyl diisocyanate), and performing decontamination at the end of live fire training with medical evaluation procedures following live fire training events. This policy change covers training burns that are conducted in VDFP training programs, facilities that host VDFP funded schools, and when flashover simulators are utilized.

Current research indicates that exposures to carcinogens, and other hazardous byproducts, such as PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) and benzene can occur with the use of these OSB wood products containing PMDI, which release significant levels of toxic byproducts when burned.

Cancer reduction among firefighters and EMS personnel remains a top priority for Governor Northam. As the state agency that provides training programs and resources for firefighters in the Commonwealth, VDFP is charged with prioritizing this effort in alignment with industry standards and best practices. The new policy meets the current version of NFPA 1403 (2018), Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions.

"We are adopting aggressive cancer prevention efforts during such critical training. After each live fire training, a complete wash down of PPE, SCBA, and other tools used in the fire occurs. Also, personal cleanup is done and then a medical evaluation is completed," said **VDFP Executive Director Michael Reilly**. "We understand that this prohibition of engineered wood containing PMDI, as well as the extensive rehab procedures may be met with some opposition. However, based on industry research and our mandate to reduce carcinogen exposures and cancer related deaths among Virginia's Fire Service, it is the right thing to do."

The Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) has been a proponent of this cancer-reducing measure and supports VDFP's new policy, "The Fire Service explores several methods to reduce risks and harm to our men and women in the field," said **VFSB Chair Walt Bailey**, "It is much more meaningful to create policies and involve local and state officials. Then, the widespread action follows."

Prominent fire services organizations, Virginia Professional Fire Fighters and the Virginia Firefighters Association, also support the decision to prohibit the use of wood products containing PMDI during live fire trainings and will assist with implementing the new practices at the local level.

"The Virginia Professional Fire Fighters reinforces the policy update and applauds Fire

Programs for taking such action to protect Virginia's Fire Service," said **Virginia Professional Fire Fighters (VPFF) President Robert Bragg**. "We are united and serious about reducing carcinogen exposure to our firefighters. It is imperative that we continue to adopt preventative solutions."

"The Virginia State Firefighters Association serves a large population of volunteer firefighters throughout the Commonwealth. By joining together to share research and resources, this decision covers a lot of ground," said **VFSA President Ken Brown**.

## VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD INCREASES VDFP AID TO LOCALITIES FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING, PPE

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs has approved a 7 percent increase in the Virginia Fire Programs Fund that will put an additional \$2 million to the Virginia Aid to Localities funding program.

The appropriation bumps up the total aid to \$32 million for statewide distribution.

ATL funding comes from the Virginia Fire Programs Fund, which is derived from 1 percent of fire-related insurance coverage collected in Virginia, in the previous calendar year.

Approximately 75 percent of the total fund goes directly to counties, cities, and incorporated towns within the Commonwealth. 25 percent goes to VDFP's operational budget, not including VDFP's State Fire Marshal's Office which operates from the General Fund.

In 2019, the VFSB pushed to increase Aid to Localities minimums for towns and cities in Virginia, to support training initiatives, construction of fire training centers, firefighting equipment, and protective gear. The Board's request was made in response to increasing budget trends in Virginia's Fire Service. During fiscal year 2021, minimum ATL funding levels will jump from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and \$20,000 to \$30,000 for towns and cities, respectively.

"We couldn't have timed a request for an increase better than now. While we didn't foresee the behemoth of COVID-19 and its impacts, the Board is certainly pleased that our timing aligned when Virginia's fire departments are experiencing the greatest deficits," said VFSB Chair Walt Bailey. "March through the late summer is usually spent by volunteer departments fund raising. COVID-19 has stifled many volunteers in their fund raising efforts. The Board hopes the increase funding minimums will soften the setbacks a little."

VDFP administers the ATL program in conjunction with the Board.

"We value our commitment to providing localities with funding to support training to cultivate fire departments and the men and women who serve in these departments," said VDFP Executive Director Michael Reilly.



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

## SPECIAL SESSION I UPDATE

On Tuesday, August 18, 2020 the Virginia General Assembly convened in Richmond for a special legislative session to address the budget as well as criminal and social justice reform. Due to precautions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the House of Delegates began at the VCU Siegel Center, with 100 desks properly socially distanced, but quickly moved to a virtual only session. The state Senate adopted a sort of hybrid model, meeting and voting virtually in some committees, but having regular floor sessions held at the Science Museum of Virginia. The in-person gatherings have been restricted to legislators and essential personnel only as well as the press with legislative business being live streamed for the public.



Delegate Marcus Simon urges his colleagues to vote YES during a virtual zoom hearing of House Bill 5055.

The General Assembly considered new revenue forecasts in order to develop a tighter budget than the one passed in early March. Ultimately, the Governor and the General Assembly's two money committees have to work together in the Special Session to put in place a revised balanced budget. We are hopeful that upon publication of this article, Virginia will have a new budget in place (likely by mid-September).

Simultaneously, the General Assembly considered criminal and social justice reforms. The team at Two Capitols monitored the legislation closely, especially bills dealing with assault on law enforcement and emergency personnel. We worked with Senator Surovell to heavily amend his bill (SB 5032 Assault and battery; penalty) to be more favorable than when it was introduced. VFCA's First Vice President, Chief Keith Johnson, was able to testify on the bill during the committee meeting. There were also several bills to make COVID-19 a presumption in Worker's Compensation, which moved through the House and Senate. Two Capitols monitored these bills for impact to the VFCA.

As the Special session continues and as we prepare for the regular legislative session in January, please feel free to contact us regarding any of the legislative initiatives.

Devon Cabot ([devon@2capconsulting.com](mailto:devon@2capconsulting.com))

CJ Stolle ([cj@2capconsulting.com](mailto:cj@2capconsulting.com)).

*\*\*At the time of submission of this article, the 2020 Special Session was in full swing. Several items described above were still in the legislative process and had not been fully resolved.*





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# FALL WILDFIRE SEASON OFFICIALLY BEGINS



Much of Virginia is currently in moderate drought conditions and it has been some time since the area has seen a substantial amount of rainfall. Tuesday is the official start of the fall wildfire season, which runs from Oct. 15 to Nov. 30. The Virginia Departments of Forestry, Emergency Management, and Fire Programs have been preparing for what could be one of the most severe fire seasons the Commonwealth has seen in several years due to the dry conditions. "Due to extended periods of below-average rainfall, dry weather conditions, and record-high temperatures across our Commonwealth, most of Virginia faces an increased risk of wildfires this fall," said Governor Ralph Northam in announcing the beginning of the fire season.

The Virginia Departments of Forestry, Emergency Management, and Fire Programs have been preparing for what could be one of the most severe fire seasons the Commonwealth has seen in several years due to the dry conditions.

"Due to extended periods of below-average rainfall, dry weather conditions, and record-high temperatures across our Commonwealth, most of Virginia faces an increased risk of wildfires this fall," said Governor Ralph Northam in announcing the beginning of the fire season. "We all have a responsibility to do our part to prevent wildfires, and now is the time for Virginians to learn about how they can reduce wildfire risks and ensure the safety of their homes, families and communities."

According to a release, VDOF is stressing the importance of taking extreme caution with anything that could cause a wildfire.



# CDC SHORTENS COVID-19 ISOLATION GUIDELINES AS EXPERTS CONTINUE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VIRUS

Noelle Bellow  
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (KRON)

As health experts gather more data and continue to learn about COVID-19, certain protocols and regulations are changing.

According to the CDC and local health experts, it's now okay to go back to work just 10 days after testing positive for the virus.

That's not the only change – Requiring a negative test result to return to work is no longer encouraged.

Noelle Bellow: "It's almost as if testing means everything, but after a certain point, means nothing."

Dr. Maldonado: "Testing is one tool among many and it's a very good tool, but it needs to be interpreted properly."

Six months into the COVID-19 fight here in the US and health experts are revising previous recommendations to help stop the spread.

In an article published Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states those who have tested positive can be around others 10 days after the positive test date, as long as you have no fever and your symptoms have improved.

"We started with 14 days because we didn't understand much about the virus," Dr. Maldonado said.

Stanford infectious disease expert Dr. Yvonne Maldonado says health experts were right to be cautious in the beginning but now...

"If you look at the data around the country and world, that's been consistent, that people don't infect other people 10 days after they've gotten sick," Dr. Maldonado said.

"I'm retired, but if I were working, I wouldn't feel comfortable with that personally," a Solano woman said.

Solano County announced Wednesday they were adopting the new recommendation which health officials are calling the 10 and 20 rule.

10 days for normal patients but 20 days for those who are immune compromised. Dr. Maldonado says she understands if people are confused.

"It's a subtle difference and when you study these things it makes sense and as you move forward and you learn more info you try to adjust," Dr. Maldonado said.

When asked why testing is no longer recommended before being let back to work, Dr. Maldonado says it's just not clinically relevant once you're symptom-free.

"It's a very sensitive test, it could be overly sensitive. Meaning it might pick up genes that may not represent actively replicating virus," Dr. Maldonado said.

The one thing that hasn't changed, the recommendation to wear a mask, and stay socially distant when you can.

# VFCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## October

7-9	VFCA Annual Retreat 0800 Hours	Staunton
8	VFCA Full Board Meeting	Staunton
9	5th Annual VFCA Salem Golf Tournament Hanging Rock Golf Club 1200 Hours	Salem
15-16	Adm. Professional Retreat	Roanoke
30	6th Annual VFCF Williamsburg Golf Tournament Golden Horseshoe 1230 Hours	Williamsburg

## November

14-15	Company Officers Summit 0800 Hours	Sandston
17	VFCA Executive Board Meeting 1000 Hours	VDFP

## December

15	VFCA Full Board Meeting 1000 Hours	VDFP
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## MAKING A LIST WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association is currently working to develop a master list of Fire Chiefs across the Commonwealth. We are looking to gather this information by city and county at a minimum - if possible to include towns as well.

We are asking for assistance from the chiefs of the localities all across Virginia to help us secure this information. The plan is to obtain the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Primary phone number and
- Email address

This date would only be utilized to share information with the Chiefs when and as needed.

The information should be sent to Chris Eudailey, Executive Director of the VFCA at: [ceudailey@vfca.us](mailto:ceudailey@vfca.us)

In advance, thank you for your help in compiling this important list.

# 2020 NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND POSTPONED



A Message from Troy Markel, Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Board of Directors

This is an extraordinary year with great loss and a myriad of challenges. The global pandemic has upended lives and countless plans. We are all adapting, including the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Our volunteers, staff and Board of Directors evaluated many options to continue the tradition of gathering in front of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial this October to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. But with the uncertainties and challenges of planning this important event, while the coronavirus is still spreading in our country, our priority is ensuring the health and safety of the families of the fallen and all who attend the National Memorial.

While we are disappointed to postpone the 2020 Memorial Weekend events, it is important to know that the nation's fallen firefighters will not be forgotten. On October 4, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will broadcast a National Tribute to honor America's fallen firefighters. Most importantly, our Fire Hero Families will be invited to attend a ceremony in 2021, where we will once again gather in Emmitsburg as a grateful nation honors and remembers the sacrifices of America's fallen firefighters.

<https://www.firehero.org/2020/06/30/2020-memorial-weekend/>

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# IS IT REALLY LUCK?

Jay Cullinan

I've been thinking a lot about Recruit Academy 21's motto for the past week or so. It has struck a nerve, in a good way, and shares a message that many need to hear. Similar to the Navy Seal statement that the only easy day was yesterday, success requires hard work, not luck.

I've had many people tell me how lucky I am to serve as a Fire Chief. While I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to lead such a great group of men and women focused on helping others, luck has nothing to do with it.

When others were enjoying weekend trips with family and friends, I was attending various fire schools. When others were getting a good night's sleep between shifts, I was attending Paramedic school. When others were enjoying weekend get togethers, I was running extra duty crews to serve a community and develop my skills. When others were enjoying countless football games, I was studying, writing papers, and taking tests to obtain various degrees. When others were enjoying cookouts, I was researching ways to improve our system. When others were enjoying the latest TV series, I was reading to learn more about our profession and how we can do better for those who rely upon us. When others were taking vacations, I was attending the National Fire Academy or other nation-wide educational opportunities that allowed me to expand my perspective and develop a network of peers across the world. When others were counting on seniority to move them through the chain of command, I was pushing myself out of my comfort zone in order to learn, develop, and achieve more.

I am not alone. Many others have, are, or will keep pushing themselves to be better, and to earn that next step.

What are you doing today to achieve your dreams tomorrow? Luck has nothing to do with it. It takes hard work, dedication, and an internal drive to succeed.

If you think luck will carry you, you're in for a huge disappointment. Take the extra effort, push yourself beyond your comfort zone, and if you still believe in luck, make sure it's because you make your own luck. Luck achieved only through hard work, not happenstance.



# "YOU CAN'T DISCIPLINE ME. I'M A VOLUNTEER!" PART 1

Spencer Cheatham

Ask most any leader in the fire service what they enjoy least, and many will say "dealing with personnel issues." No one ever thought, "I can't wait to be chief so I can manage conflicts in the station, try to keep morale up, and deal with disciplinary problems."

Dealing with discipline is even more difficult when the person in question is volunteering their time. Why is that? Many of us have dealt with disciplinary issues before. Perhaps we are parents and have experience handling children, or maybe you have experience with employees. Why is it that when it comes to doing so for volunteers, we feel it is more difficult? To answer that, we need to understand that employees differ in a significant way.

It is clear that the difference is with money, but that is not the whole story. The wages an employee makes are not just tied to buying the latest Chevy "High Country" or a new Robalo boat. In today's world, money buys the bottom two rungs of Maslow's hierarchy of needs: physiological and safety needs. Physiologically, a paycheck provides food, shelter, and clothing. From a safety standpoint, it furnishes the security of property, resources, and health. When their job is threatened, their safety and security are under attack.

There is no comparable consequence for volunteers. They can leave at the drop of a hat and they won't have to worry whether their kids are going to be able to eat next week or if the mortgage will be paid the following month. They volunteer to satisfy other needs such as a sense of belonging, to increase their self-esteem, and to feel as if they are being the best they can be.

Good leaders understand that the best means of steering their members on the right course is to find out what motivates them. To do that, you really need to understand your people. Remember that leadership is about influence, and the closer the relationship, the greater the influence. Knowing your people means that you understand what motivates them and it is not the same for everyone.

Some people volunteer because they like to have the t-shirt and fire department license plate (esteem). Maybe 90 days without the license plate and not sporting department attire will make them think twice about not wearing a mask at a car fire. Others like being able to go to weekend classes with their buddies (belonging). No more of those for four months if you can't pull the minimum duty shifts. Do you want to be a part of the new engine committee (self-actualization)? Unfortunately, your choice to swear at your lieutenant in front of the crew and a group of citizens means we are going to have to go with someone else.

You know what is important to your members. Don't use that knowledge to hurt them, but as an incentive to put them back on the right path to being a great firefighter.

*Spencer Cheatham is a past fire chief and past president of the West Point Volunteer Fire Department. He served as an interim chief and battalion chief in a career capacity with New Kent Fire-Rescue and currently works as a program manager for the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He still enjoys pulling duty as a firefighter/EMT with West Point, the community he has served for the past 25 years.*



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# Glenn A. Gaines

## Leadership Legacy Award

**In 2015, the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association established the Glenn A. Gaines Leadership Legacy Award. This award is designed to recognize an individual on an annual basis who exemplifies the ability, character and dedication to excellence and displays leadership attributes portrayed by Fire Chief Glenn A. Gaines.**

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Any current career or volunteer firefighter up to and including a chief officer within the Commonwealth of Virginia is eligible to compete for this award.

**Nomination Criteria:** Nominate individuals for their significant achievements or contributions to the fire service in the following areas:

- Accomplishments (in mentoring and professional development)
- Initiative (including helping others beyond their own agency through mentoring and professional development, including advocacy)
- Technical Competence (including serving as an instructor)
- Demonstrated leadership and mentoring ability
- The inclusive dates for the Glenn A. Gaines Leadership Legacy Award are January 1st through December 15th of each calendar year.

**Selection Process:** Nominate individuals for their significant achievements or contributions to the fire service in the following areas:

- The VFCA President and Board of Directors will serve as the selection committee and will make their decision by January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The VFCA President will review and tally the results and announce the winner during the annual Virginia Fire Rescue Conference that is held each February in Virginia Beach, VA. The individual selected should be in attendance at the conference.

### **HOW TO APPLY:**

**Visit [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us) for application information. Uploaded documents should not exceed 750 words. Nomination packages that do not meet requirements will be rejected.**

**The application period is September 1st — December 1st each year.**





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# Robert E. White Memorial Scholarship

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation offers annual scholarships for continuing education. The scholarship program was established in 2002 in memory of Mr. Robert E. White, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The objective of the scholarship program is to assist individuals desiring to further their academic education through a variety of opportunities such as college classes, National Fire Academy classes, Virginia Fire Chiefs Association events (such as the Virginia Fire & Rescue Conference), certificate programs and other fire and EMS classes or conferences. Individual scholarship awards may range from \$250 to \$2,500 and can be utilized for any direct expenses such as registration, tuition, books, meals, lodging or transportation.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Active fire/EMS service personnel in Virginia (Volunteer or Career).
- Spouses or dependents of active fire/EMS service personnel in Virginia (Volunteer or Career).
- VFCA Membership (individual and/or Chief) is required for consideration.
- Must be pursuing a degree that will benefit Public Safety field.
- Provide proof of enrollment with scholarship application.
- Non-profit organizations (such as fire departments, etc...) are eligible to apply.
- Programs/Degrees eligible for consideration include the following: VFRC, VFOA, VA Fire Chiefs Academy, Associate, Bachelor and Master Degree Programs.

## Selection Criteria

- Complete scholarship application and submit by annual deadline. **(December 1st)**
- Written Statement – Please attach your statement to application and it should include your background, educational goals, why you believe this educational opportunity will be useful to you and why you are applying for financial assistance. **Failure to complete this portion of the process and fully address the items listed will result in your application being disqualified.** For organizational applications, please include a description of the organization, how the educational program will benefit the organization and why financial assistance is necessary. These statements will serve as a criterion for the selection and should be typewritten using 12 point aerial font, double spaced and no more than three pages in length. **Failure to complete this portion of the process and fully address the items listed will result in your application being disqualified.**

## Application Information

- Applications will be accepted between September 1 and December 1 annually.
- Successful applicants will be notified by January 1 of awards.
- Scholarship awardees will be invited to Annual VFR Conference to be recognized and presented their scholarship. **Attendance is not mandatory.**
- Awards may vary in amounts up to \$2500.

## **HOW TO APPLY:**

Visit [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us) for application information.

**The application period is September 1st — December 1st each year. Successful applicants will be notified by January 1st. Verification of attendance will be required.**



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## VFCA BOARD SELECTION TOUCHSTONES

Once again it's time to think about board seats and several committee positions that will come up for election and/or appointment in 2021. With that in mind, the board is announcing a call for candidates. Any VFCA member in good standing (i.e., one who is current on dues) is eligible to apply for a committee or board-level position or nominate a fellow VFCA member to serve the organization in this capacity. If possible, board members should have previous committee level work prior to being nominated for a Board position. The term of service is one year, following the installation in February 2021.

Current board members may declare their candidacy as well, and each will go through the same review process as other candidates.

To help ensure that the most qualified candidates attain these positions, the executive officer's and board has developed the following list of criteria to guide the nominating committee in selecting the board slate. Those VFCA members wishing to serve on the board or a committee should review the following traits before declaring their candidacy.

### Attributes & Characteristics

- Understands, and is committed to, the VFCA and its organizational strategies
- Has experience with other organizations
- Has demonstrated an ability in and commitment to teamwork
- Has demonstrated a willingness to make tough decisions
- Can focus on projects and tasks
- Possesses a broad understanding of current membership needs, the industries with whom we interact, and the customers we serve
- Has effective interpersonal and communications skills
- Demonstrates leadership skills
- Can commit to full participation on the board in terms of preparation, board meetings, and committee assignments
- Has a flexible schedule that allows for annual commitment of approximately 10-15 days for meetings and travel, plus research, e-mail communication, phone calls, and writing articles for Commonwealth Chief magazine, their division or other work as necessary
- Has the consistent e-mail and web access needed to support communication, board/committee work, and research
- Has the ability to bring one new sponsor to the VFCA annually

### Knowledge & Understanding

- Demonstrates a knowledge of the goals and objectives of the organization
- Has specific experience necessary to the success of the organization at the time of the nomination
- Understands organizational structure and planning methods
- Knows the contemporary options for governing organizations
- Understands the contemporary issues facing VFCA

### Diversity

- Brings diversity to the organization as it relates to such things as geography, experience in the VFCA, types of members, and the fire/rescue service environment
- Contributes fresh perspectives and new ideas
- Signals to current and potential members a commitment to openness and inclusiveness
- Attracts potential members who might be from traditionally underrepresented groups

The nominating committee (appointed by President David Hutcheson) will review all candidate nominations, narrow the field, and interview finalists. The nominating committee members will have diverse backgrounds and come from all across Virginia. They will possess a wealth of experience as it relates to this task.

The committee will select a slate of individuals that will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the December 2020 meeting. At that point, Board members will have an opportunity to participate in the election process by accepting or rejecting the slate. An option will also exist to withhold acceptance of one or more candidates on the slate.

Successful candidates will take their positions on the board following the Installation of Officer's Ceremony on February 24, 2021.

**All interested parties should contact the VFCA Executive Director, Chris Eudailey no later than November 1, 2020. You may reach him by phone at (540) 809-9397 or [executivedirector@vfca.us](mailto:executivedirector@vfca.us)**

# EMS OFFICIALS MARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1ST PARAMEDIC ACT

## The Wedworth-Townsend Act, which legally recognized and protected paramedics, was signed in California on July 15, 1970

Laura French

EMS agencies and officials are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the nation's first paramedic act, signed in California on July 15, 1970.

The Wedworth-Townsend Act, signed by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan 50 years ago on Wednesday, legally recognized the practice of paramedicine and protected paramedics administering intensive pre-hospital care in the state, the California Ambulance Association and National EMS Museum recounted in a news release marking the anniversary.

Los Angeles Doctors Walter Graf and J. Michael Criley were the first to train paramedics in the state to deliver pre-hospital care to heart attack patients without direct physician intervention, treating and transporting them in mobile coronary care units and increasing survival rates. Criley and Graf partnered with Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn to address the risks of performing intensive care across jurisdictions and operational boundaries, leading to the drafting of the paramedic act.

National EMS Museum



Fifty years ago Gov. Ronald Reagan signed the first paramedic act into law at the state level in the United States. The Wedworth-Townsend Paramedic Act set in motion a new era for Emergency Medical Services across the country.

The act was the first of its kind in the United States and spurred other states to pass their own legislation officiating the field of paramedicine, ushering in a new era in emergency medical services.

"Today we celebrate the hard work and foresight necessary to write and pass the Wedworth-Townsend Act. We are inspired by the tireless efforts of our colleagues in the field who carry on the traditions of innovation, education, and sacrifice for the good of our patients," said National EMS Museum Director Kristy Van

Hoven, in a statement. "We thank them for keeping Californians safe and inspiring colleagues across the country."

In recognition of the anniversary, the California Ambulance Association is dedicating an entire edition of its magazine "The Siren" to commemorate the signing of the act.

EMS agencies and organizations also marked the anniversary on social media.

The California Emergency Medical Services Authority, which was established under the Wedworth-Townsend Act, wrote on Facebook that it was "proud to recognize California's illustrious EMS history."

*This article first appeared in EMS 1*

## EMS IN VIRGINIA

1928 – The first independent volunteer rescue squad in the country, Roanoke Lifesaving and First Aid Crew, was established in Roanoke, Va.

During this period, many communities across the U.S. were unable to adequately staff ambulances with qualified medical personnel and hospitals began to abandon their emergency services. It was for this reason that funeral homes, commercial services and volunteer rescue units began to offer community ambulance service.

Many of the rescue personnel, while well intentioned, were untrained, poorly equipped, unorganized and unsophisticated. The systems were unregulated. There were no minimal training standards for ambulance personnel and few training programs existed even for basic first aid.

In 1968, State involvement in emergency medical services (EMS) began with the passage of the Virginia Ambulance Law, which called for the development and enforcement of standards for all ambulance services, whether volunteer, commercial or municipal. The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services was established within the Department of Health.

In 1969, the first Rules and Regulations Governing Ambulance Services were promulgated.

Later, in 1971, the National Standard Curriculum for Emergency Medical Technicians was implemented in Virginia.

That same year the first ever EMT-B program taught in Virginia was conducted in the Basement Conference Room at the old Hampton General Hospital in Hampton. Dr's. Forrest McCoig and Keith Wolford of the hospital's Emergency Department served as the coordinators/sponsors. There were approximately 300 students that came from 35 different agencies and as far away as the Middle and Upper Peninsula's to obtain the new training.

The new American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) text "Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured," "Orange Book", was the text utilized. This was the modern EMS system's first well-designed and authoritative textbook for EMS personnel.

Just two years later in 1973, the first advanced life support personnel graduated as Cardiac Technicians in Virginia Beach.

Over the years since then, the Virginia EMS system has grown and changed many times over and continues to make the necessary changes to keep up with today's needs across the Commonwealth's many communities.



# WATCHING YOUR SIX DETECTING SURVEILLANCE

Sam Burnette,  
Virginia Office of EMS, Emergency Services Coordinator

It is likely most military personnel, veterans, or first responders in paramilitary style organizations have heard the phrase, "Watch your six!" It is a military phrase originally attributed to aviators and is in reference to the numbers on a watch with 12 o'clock being in front of you, 9 o'clock to your left, 3 o'clock to your right, and 6 o'clock to the aft. The rear of a fighter plane is its most vulnerable spot due to the pilot's limited ability to see behind their aircraft, and due to the fact that the aircraft is always moving forward so the pilot has to stay focused on what is in front of them. Thus the phrase, "Watch your six". It is a reminder for pilots to keep an eye on what is behind them<sup>1</sup>. The phrase has since transitioned to other high-risk operations and generally means to "watch your back." So what if a terrorist is attempting to identify a fire/EMS agency's weak area, or their "6 o'clock", as they plot an attack against the agency or the community?

Virginia firefighters and EMS providers are out and about in the community every day. In addition to responding to calls for service, they are attending training, conducting pre-plans or inspections, participating in community events, or simply getting groceries for the shift. All these encounters allow first responders to not only interact and build relationships with the citizens they serve, but also get a sense of what is normal or routine in their community. Understanding what is relatively normal in their community is an important tool for recognizing when someone might either be watching or plotting against the agency or community. These people, or their actions, will appear suspicious as they are not routine or normal. Thus the term "suspicious activity".

Just as fires and medical emergencies do not always follow "the playbook", neither do suspicious activities. No two suspicious incidents are the same and there is no checklist of "if this, then that". There are, however, tools you can use to help you decide whether an activity is suspicious or not.

First, what is suspicious activity? The most common definition from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is "an observed behavior reasonably indicative of pre-operational planning related to terrorism or other criminal activity [related to terrorism]."<sup>2</sup> DHS refers to 16 observable behaviors that could be considered suspicious.<sup>3</sup> One of the most commonly observed behaviors is surveillance. If someone is surveilling a fire or EMS station or their operations, how can it be judged if it is suspicious or not?

One possible method is the TEDD principle for surveillance detection. TEDD stands for Time – Environment – Demeanor – Distance. While it is primarily used to detect surveillance of individuals, it can be applied to recognize the surveillance of facilities or operations.

With regards to time, it is not only important to consider the time of day a potential surveillance behavior is observed, but also how many times the behavior is observed. Seeing a person observe a fire station during shift change may be suspicious, but seeing the same person, or different people, repeatedly observing the fire station at shift change would increase the suspiciousness of this behavior.

The next factor to consider is environment. Is the environment in which the surveillance being conducted considered a secure area or providing any expectation of privacy? Someone looking into the station bay while the doors are open is less suspicious than someone looking into the dispatch area through a window. Another aspect of the environment factor is, well, the environment. Is the person conducting the surveillance acting appropriately for the surrounding area and for the weather conditions? Perhaps they are standing by themselves in one location for a long period of time on an otherwise busy walkway or sidewalk. Maybe they are sitting at a bus stop near the fire station but either never get on a bus or are waiting for an unreasonable amount of time before doing so. Are there extreme temperatures outside or precipitation, and does it seem "strange" for a person to be in this type of weather without making any effort to find shelter or protection from the elements?

Demeanor is likely the most important factor. How does the person conducting the surveillance act if they are spotted? How do they interact with other people? Do they appear nervous or uncomfortable? If a law enforcement officer drives by, how do they react? Unfortunately, most people do not maintain a heightened sense of what is going on around them or what is referred to as situational awareness. It is likely, however, a person conducting surveillance for planning a terrorist attack will have a high degree of situational awareness and will be paying attention to who may be paying attention to them.

Finally, there is the distance factor. Distance as a factor is more challenging to evaluate when it comes to surveillance of a fixed facility. A person truly conducting surveillance may be limited by physical barriers or other interference. They may have to compromise their preferred choice of location, which would help avoid detection for a position that increases their ability to gain valuable intelligence. In an effort to keep distance between themselves and the surveillance target, a person may have to use binoculars, or similar device, in order to surveil their target. While this may provide the "distance from their target" they are seeking in order to avoid detection, the fact that they are using a vision enhancing device may draw unwanted attention to their activities.

As witnessed in recent events throughout the country, fire and EMS providers may no longer be spared from acts of violence, whether they are planned or unplanned. Adding to the dangers they face daily; first responders must now accept that they may be a target of violence from the same people they risk their lives to serve. Unfortunately, there are no guaranteed ways to avoid any and all planned attacks but, by maintaining situational awareness by "watching their six", understanding what suspicious activity is, and developing working relationships with the community and law enforcement, they may be able to help detect surveillance activities being used to plan an attack against them or their community. If suspicious activity is suspected, the fire/EMS agency should contact their law enforcement immediately. Fire/EMS agencies must always remember to "Watch their and each other's six!".

1 <https://lorrab.wordpress.com/2015/06/23/the-military-derivation-of-i-got-your-six/>

2 <https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy-pia-dhswide-sar-ise-appendix.pdf>

3 [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/16\\_0208\\_NSI\\_SAR-Indicators-Behaviors-Tools-Analysts-Investigators.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/16_0208_NSI_SAR-Indicators-Behaviors-Tools-Analysts-Investigators.pdf)

# COULD YOUR DEPARTMENT BENEFIT FROM A STATEWIDE AWARD AND \$500? NOMINATIONS FOR BEST PRACTICES IN FIRE SERVICE HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARDS

Health, safety and wellness within fire departments are top priorities throughout the Commonwealth and across the nation. In Virginia, most departments have developed extensive policies, practices and/or procedures to address this important issue and to ensure the health, safety and wellness of their members. We all know that before we can care for the public, we must ensure that our personnel are trained, equipped, conditioned and capable of effectively performing the functions for which the public expects from us. This means having fit personnel who know how to operate safely and who practice safety, health and wellness 24/7. It means departments having those necessary guidelines, policies, procedures and/or practices in place so that our members know what is expected and it means ensuring that these expectations are followed from an individual perspective, from a crew/team/company/unit/station/shift perspective and from an overall departmental perspective. There are many excellent examples/models of health and safety practices that have been implemented by departments of all kinds (volunteer, combination and career) in the Commonwealth. Why not have your department nominated and recognized as an award-winning agency that is committed to the health, safety and wellness of the overall department and, in particular, its members.

Each year, the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association – Health and Safety Committee coordinates a “Best Practices in Health and Safety” awards program through the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation. This program seeks to recognize programs from volunteer, combination and career fire departments in the Commonwealth of Virginia annually during the VFCA Virginia Fire Rescue Conference in February. Three awards are given, one in each category (volunteer department, combination department and career department). Winning departments receive a \$500 contribution from the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation. Wouldn't it be nice for your department to receive \$500 to support its operations in some way? Probably more importantly, this would be a fantastic message to send to your members that their organization has been recognized for programs that show your commitment to health, safety and wellness.

Nominations are currently being accepted in each of the three categories (volunteer, combination and career) between now and December 1. This year the VFCA/VFCF is utilizing an on-line submittal process which is available on the VFCA web site at [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us) and by selecting the tab titled “VFCF Health and Safety Awards Submission.” It is desired that nominations be submitted on-line, however for those unable to do so a form has been included with this publication. All nominations/submittals (electronic and printed/mailed) must be received on or before December 1, 2020. Programs/practices etc. implemented within the current and two prior years (2020, 2019 and 2018) will be considered.

Recognition for the latest awards will occur at the 2021 VFCA Virginia Fire Rescue Conference in February at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

## VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS FOUNDATION BEST PRACTICES IN FIRE SERVICE HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association and the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation is pleased to announce the annual “Virginia Fire Chiefs Best Practices in Fire Service Health and Safety Awards.” The VFCA and the VFCF are committed to fostering health and safety within the various fire departments throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. This award program was created to further recognize the health and safety efforts of Virginia fire departments. The awards are intended to acknowledge creative, comprehensive and/or significant accomplishments and programs that provide for the health, safety and welfare of our fire service members. Each year the VFCA/VFCF will honor formally established fire departments within the Commonwealth of Virginia, in each of the following three categories: volunteer fire department, career fire department and combination fire department. The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation Best Practices in Fire Service Health and Safety Awards recipients will be announced and honored at the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association's--Virginia Fire Rescue Conference in February 2021. Award winning departments will be presented with an award and the VFCF will make a \$500 contribution to each winning department. Information about this program is available on the VFCA website at [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us)

### NOMINATION INFORMATION

Nominations (electronic or by mail) for the upcoming “Virginia Fire Chiefs Best Practices in Fire Service Health and Safety Award” program must be received on or before December 1, 2020:

On-line electronic submittal of nominations is preferred and the appropriate information can be found on the VFCA web site at [www.vfca.us](http://www.vfca.us) and by selecting the tab titled “VFCF Health and Safety Award Submissions.”

For those departments unable to submit an on-line nomination the attached form can be used and mailed to:

Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 699  
Blackstone, Virginia 23824

Questions may be referred to Chris Eudailey, VFCA Executive Director, at (540) 809-9397 or email [executivedirector@vfca.us](mailto:executivedirector@vfca.us)

### CRITERIA

Any fire department within the Commonwealth of Virginia that has established creative, comprehensive and/or significant accomplishments/programs that provide for the health, safety and welfare of their members. Program must be in place/operational at time of nomination and must have been implemented within the last three years.

## ELIGIBILITY

Must be a formally established fire department within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

One award will be presented in each of the following categories:

- Volunteer Fire Department
- Career Fire Department
- Combination Fire Department

## SELECTION PROCESS

Once all packages are received, an award Selection Committee will review the nomination packages and forward their recommendation to the VFCA President and Executive Director.

## AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation Best Practices in Fire Service Health and Safety Awards recipients will be announced and honored at the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association's--Virginia Fire Rescue Conference in February 2021. Recipients will receive the award and a \$500 contribution to the department.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following five items must be addressed in a number-by-number format:

- 1) Brief Abstract of Accomplishment/Program: Brief executive summary the accomplishment/program.
- 2) Brief Description of Fire Department Nominated: Provide a brief overview of the nominated fire department.
- 3) Description of Accomplishment/Program: Describe the accomplishment/program being nominated, including its objectives and clientele being served.
- 4) The Results/Success of the Program: Provide a description of the results and success of the accomplishment/program in meetings its objectives (provide examples and measurements where possible).
- 5) Worthiness of Award: Provide brief justification for why this accomplishment/program should receive this award.



# VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS FOUNDATION BEST PRACTICES IN FIRE SERVICE HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARDS APPLICATION/NOMINATION FORM



Name of Fire Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Chief \_\_\_\_\_

Check One Volunteer  Career  Combination

Nomination Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Accomplishment/Program Information

Accomplishment/Program Title:

Implementation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting documentation must be attached to this application/nomination form.

**COPY FORM AS NEEDED**

# ON THE MOVE & ODDS AND ENDS

## **Emily Pelliccia named Interim Charlottesville Fire Chief**

Charlottesville City Manager Tarron Richardson has named Emily Pelliccia as Interim Charlottesville Fire Chief effective immediately. Chief Andrew Baxter resigned from his position on Thursday, June 11, 2020. "I thank Chief Baxter for his dedicated service to our community," said Richardson. "On behalf of the City, we wish Chief Baxter well in his future endeavors. The City will immediately start a national recruitment effort for our next Chief and I am grateful that Emily Pelliccia will serve in this interim capacity." Pelliccia, a Charlottesville native and long-time resident of Belmont, joined the Charlottesville Fire Department in August 1994. During her career of over 25+ years she has served in almost every capacity within the department and has been Deputy Chief since August 2014. Pelliccia has a Bachelor's degree in Emergency Management and is currently in a master's program in Homeland Security at the Naval Postgraduate School.

## **Portsmouth Fire Chief announces retirement**

Portsmouth Fire Chief James Hoffer plans to wrap up a 41-year career with the Fire Department on July 1. According to a release from the city, he's a two-time recipient of the Firefighter of the Year award for his city, and he has twice received the Gold Medal of Valor. As a chief, Hoffer fought to recognize the risks of cancer among firefighters, pushed for new heart monitors and CPR techniques for first responders, acquired ballistic vests for his workers and helped modernize Department response vehicles, among other initiatives. Now, he's off to calmer adventures. "Being able to disconnect from my current duties as fire chief, I plan to enjoy time with my family, my wife Holly and our dog Daisy Mae," Hoffer wrote.

## **Portsmouth City Manager names Nestor P. Mangubat as the New Portsmouth Fire Chief**

It gives me great pleasure to announce Chief Nestor P. Mangubat, as the City of Portsmouth new Fire Chief overseeing the Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services effective Friday, July 10, 2020.

Chief Mangubat joined the Portsmouth Family in March of 2018 as Deputy Fire Chief and has served our city as Acting Fire Chief since April of 2020. He previously held the rank of Fire Battalion Chief for the city of Chesapeake, Virginia; he served that city for over 21 years. Chief Mangubat's professional career encompasses graduating from the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He is on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association. For nine years, in the city of Chesapeake, he served as the Executive Officer to the Fire Chief. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership & Management from Regent University, Norfolk, Virginia as well as a Master's Degree in Business Management & Leadership from Liberty University. Chief Mangubat

volunteers in the community and participates in leadership activities.

Through his extensive leadership and fire service background, Chief Mangubat will continue to ensure the highest quality of public safety in protecting the lives and property of all citizens, businesses, and visitors, as the new Fire Chief.

Please join us in congratulating Chief Nestor P. Mangubat!

## **Harrisonburg's new fire chief sworn-in**

On Friday, August 7th, after being on the job for more than a month, Chief Matthew Tobia of the Harrisonburg Fire Department was officially sworn-in to his role. Chief Tobia took the position on June 28 and was previously a Deputy Chief with the department over the past year. The official ceremony took place in city council chambers where the clerk of court, Chaz Haywood, had Tobia take an oath. Chief Tobia replaces Chief Ian Bennet who stepped down from the role back in April to take a position with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Before coming to Harrisonburg, Tobia served as the Assistant Chief of Support Services and Volunteer Administration for Loudoun County Fire and Rescue, and before that, served with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department in Maryland from 1992 to 2014.

Matt and Jeanne Tobia are residents of Harrisonburg. They have two children – Hanna, a senior at Virginia Tech, and "Doc", a graduate of Blue Ridge Community College's welding program who works in the industry locally.

## **King William names new chief**

Effective August 1, 2020, Stacy Reaves who has been serving as the County's part-time Battalion Chief of Administration will assume the role of Chief of Fire and Emergency Services. Chief Laura Nunnally has been serving in the capacity of Interim Chief for the past several months and will be moving into the Assistant Chief of Fire and Emergency Services position.

Chief Reaves is currently employed as a Lieutenant with the Hanover Fire and EMS Department. He has served the Hanover community for the past 14 years in the following roles; Operations Lieutenant, Administrative Lieutenant and Firefighter/Paramedic. Prior to joining Hanover Fire EMS he worked as a Trauma Tech at the VCU Medical Center. Chief Reaves and Assistant Chief Nunnally, with their extensive Fire and EMS experience as well as experience locally will be a great asset to the community and the program as we move the service levels for fire and emergency services forward.

## **Warren County fire chief announces retirement**

After 25 years on the job, Warren County Fire and Rescue Chief Richard Mabie will retire Dec. 31, according to a county news release. The retirement will close a career that included 50-plus years of public service, as Mabie also served 25 years with the Richmond City Fire Department and 13 years as the Hanover Courthouse Volunteer Fire Company's chief. Mabie states in the release that he takes "great pride" in fire and rescue's accomplishments during his tenure, noting that "we are now very respected by other public safety agencies throughout the Shenandoah Valley.

## **Governor Northam Appoints Curtis Brown to Lead Virginia Department of Emergency Management**

In early June, Governor Ralph Northam named Curtis Brown as State Coordinator of Emergency Management at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). Mr. Brown has served as Chief Deputy State Coordinator for more than four years and takes the helm of VDEM as the agency continues to coordinate the Commonwealth's COVID-19 response. He is the first African American to serve as State Coordinator of Emergency Management.

"Curtis has done a tremendous job as Chief Deputy, and I am proud to appoint him to this new role," said Governor Northam.

Prior to his role as Chief Deputy at VDEM, Brown served as Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security in Governor McAuliffe's administration, Regional Emergency Management Administrator for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and professional staff on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security. He also is co-founder of the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management (I-DIEM) a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing diversity in the field of emergency management and promoting the application of equitable practices to improve disaster outcomes for vulnerable communities.

"I am grateful to Governor Northam for this appointment," said Curtis Brown. "The work of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management is now more critical than ever, and I am proud to lead the agency and work with a dedicated team of professionals through these challenging times."

Brown has played a critical role in Virginia's response to COVID-19, including with the Commonwealth's Equity Leadership Task Force. As part of that work, he has helped to ensure adequate resources, outreach, and support for Virginia's vulnerable and high-risk communities.

Brown received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Radford University, a Master of Public Administration from Virginia Tech, and a Master of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a graduate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Emergency Management Executive Academy and the Executive Leaders Program through the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security. He is a Certified Emergency Manager through the International Association of Emergency Managers.

He succeeds Dr. Jeff Stern, who served six years as State Coordinator of Emergency Management at VDEM and recently joined FEMA as Superintendent of the Emergency Management Institute

#### **Manassas Hires William Garrett As New Fire Chief**

The city of Manassas hired William A. Garrett to serve as its new chief of Fire and Rescue services, the city said. Garrett comes to the city from Winchester where he served as fire chief and before that from Fairfax County where he served as deputy fire chief. Garrett has experience managing a combined fire and rescue system, like the Manassas' system, with both paid staff and volunteer staff. Garrett will replace Rob Clemons who announced in February that he was retiring as fire chief in July. Clemons had been in the role since 2016 when he was sworn in following the retirement of longtime fire chief Brett Bowman. "I am

confident that William has the passion and commitment to continue building our excellent Fire & Rescue Department," Manassas City Manager W. Patrick Pate said in a statement.

#### **Majchrzak named new chief of Frederick County Fire and Rescue Department**

Assistant Chief Steve Majchrzak will succeed Chief Dennis Linaburg as the head of the Frederick County Fire and Rescue Department, according to a county news release sent late Friday afternoon. Linaburg announced in July that he planned to retire on Jan. 1. Majchrzak joined the department in 2019. Previously, he was the executive director of the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy, where he directed the work of more than 100 full and part-time instructors and staff who provide 1,100 classes to over 15,000 firefighters and code officials annually. "Naming Steve as Fire Chief is a solid succession plan for our Fire and Rescue Department," Board of Supervisors Chairman Charles DeHaven states in the news release. "He came in strong and has continued to build relationships and strategies for the future. We are fortunate to have him."

#### **Obituary: Michael Gordon Brown, Retired Virginia Beach Fire Chief**

Michael Gordon Brown (July 10, 1957-July 27, 2020) was preceded in death by his parents Margaret Ann and J. Gordon Brown. Mike graduated from Blacksburg High school (1975) where he played football and was a stage manager. He became a dispatcher with the Blacksburg Police Department before he went to the fire training school in Virginia Beach. He had a wonderful long career as a firefighter and became a Battalion One fire chief in Virginia Beach. Mike was an author, worldwide training specialist, and instructor in rope and confined space rescue. He was the alpha team leader for FEMA in charge of search and rescue at the Oklahoma City bombing, overnight lead on search and rescue at the World Trade Center September 11, 2001 and rescue worker at Hurricane Katrina. Instead of flowers the family asks that you please consider contributing to a fire training academy scholarship fund that is being established in Michael's name.

If you are one of the countless people that Mike touched during his life please say a prayer for his wife Lisa, children Katie and Garrett, and his grandchildren. If you would like to make a monetary donation in his honor a scholarship fund has been established in his name. Checks can be made in care of: Fraternal Order of Virginia Beach Fire Chiefs, P.O. Box 56151, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-1151 In the FOR line please write: Michael G. Brown Scholarship Fund.

## HAVING TROUBLE PROCURING YOUR FIRE AND EMS NEEDS?

VISIT [ncsheriffs.org/procurement](https://ncsheriffs.org/procurement)



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**Contact Anna Martin for assistance: (919) 459-1072 or [amartin@ncsheriffs.net](mailto:amartin@ncsheriffs.net)**



**2021 VFCA  
Administrative  
Professionals Retreat**

**April 29-30, 2021**

(new date - 2020 was postponed)

**Holiday Inn Valley View Mall**

**3315 Ordway Dr. NW**

**Roanoke, VA 24017**

You are the person that everyone runs to for help with their problem. You are the fixer of all problems that arise in the office. You have to know when and where to obtain needed supplies. You have to be quick to react to any situation at any time. You have to be able to schedule and have outstanding coordination skills. **YOU'RE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT !!!!** You are a **VERY** important part of the organization, and we want you to come be fueled up!!!

Come for great speakers, hands on training and networking with others like yourself.

**Hope to see you there!!!!!!!**

**Postponed Events**

**Sound the Alarm Summit**



**Now scheduled for Spring '21**

**Company Officer's Summit**



**No new date at this time**

# 2020 MEMORIAL SERVICE TO BE HELD

The 2020 Annual VFCA Memorial Service for those we have lost during 2020 will be held once again during the 2021 Virginia Fire Rescue Conference held in Virginia Beach on February 24, 2021. If your department has lost a member during 2020, you are asked to pass that information on to the Chair of the VFCA Health and Safety Committee, Stephen P. Kopczynski utilizing the form shown below.

## MEMORIAL INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of Death (If available) \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Stephen P. Kopczynski, Fire Chief (Chairman, VFCA Health and Safety Committee) York County Fire and Life Safety Department  
P. O. Box 532, Yorktown, Virginia 23690 FAX: 757-890-3609 • E-Mail: flsafety@yorkcounty.gov



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# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2020



NFPA has announced "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen" as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, 2020! Learn more about #FirePreventionWeek on the NFPA website, where you'll find resources for fire departments and the public. Here's a link: <https://bit.ly/2XXM9yl>

## About Fire Prevention Week

Since 1922, the NFPA has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

## Recipe for safety

Before you serve a meal, it's essential to serve up fire safety in the kitchen. There's nothing like spending time in the kitchen cooking a delicious meal for family and friends or an appetizing treat for yourself. But do you know the important steps to take long before anyone takes the first bite?

## Importance of fire prevention

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week™ to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.



In 2019, Caroline County Fire Rescue was awarded a FEMA grant to replace the entire county's fleet of 125 outdated Scott SCBA. After conducting a thorough evaluation of SCBA's they purchased **145 new MSA G1 SCBA's and 12 RIT kits** from TheFireStore. Seven members of the sales and service team worked alongside the fire department's logistics group for 7 hours to put these units into service.

Whether you're a department of 5 or 500, TheFireStore is prepared to meet and exceed your expectations in every way.



## CAROLINE COUNTY Fire Rescue Caroline County, Virginia

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appreciate your loyal business.*

**Mike Carson** | [MCarson@WPSGinc.com](mailto:MCarson@WPSGinc.com)

CONTACT YOUR SALESPERSON  
[TheFireStore.com/Salesperson](https://TheFireStore.com/Salesperson)







# VFCF ANNOUNCES BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENTS FOR 2020



The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation will be holding three benefit golf tournaments around the Commonwealth in 2020. 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>6th Annual VFCF /Williamsburg –Golden Horseshoe</b> POC—Barbara Ketchum— <a href="mailto:bketchum@williamsburg.gov">bketchum@williamsburg.gov</a> or 757-220-6222	10-30-20	1230 Hours
<b>5th Annual VFCF /Salem –Hanging Rock Golf Club</b> POC—John Prillaman— <a href="mailto:jprillaman@salemva.gov">jprillaman@salemva.gov</a> or 540-375-3080	10-9-20	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 2020 is \$50,000.



# PLAY *or* SPONSOR *to share support!*

SIGN  
UP  
TODAY!

**NEW  
DATE!**



## ABOUT OUR *Foundation*

Funds raised will benefit Virginia's Fire and Emergency Services Professionals through scholarships and educational opportunities

# *6th Annual* **GOLF** *Tournament*

*Friday*  
**October 30, 2020**

Golden Horseshoe Golf Club - Green Course  
Williamsburg, VA  
P 757-220-6220

BKetchum@williamsburgva.gov  
[vfca.us/2020\\_VFCA\\_Golf\\_Tournaments.com](http://vfca.us/2020_VFCA_Golf_Tournaments.com)

# Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation 5th Annual Golf Tournament Registration Form

Friday, October 9th, 2020



## Hanging Rock Golf Club 1500 Red Lane, Salem, VA 24153

Help The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation support our Fire & EMS personnel & their families!

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation provides educational opportunities, including scholarships, to fire and emergency service professionals and their families as well as developing public relations & public education programs. This is accomplished through personal & corporate donations as well as fundraising events, such as our Golf Tournament.

Registration & Range Open at: 11:00am Shotgun Start at: 12:00 Noon Format: Captains Choice

Lunch served from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Dinner will be served after the tournament

Door prizes & Swag Bags

Ball Drop Balls available for \$10 Each in advance and on tournament day

### Register your team today!

Public Safety Professionals: \$60.00 per player/\$240 Team  
All others: \$70.00 per player/\$280 Team

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor / Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form with your check and players to:

John Prillaman  
Salem Fire & EMS  
216 South Broad Street  
Salem, VA 24153  
(540)-375-3080  
jprillaman@salemva.gov

OR

Jamie Dillard  
SERVPRO of Roanoke  
1301 Southside Dr.  
Salem, VA 24153  
(540)-389-5818  
JDillard@servprormp.com



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# HIGHLIGHTS - THANKS!

## A MOST SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OUR 2020 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

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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#### **CONFERENCE PARTNER**

Virginia Department of Fire Programs



# 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!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_ Payment enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Term of Support \_\_\_\_\_ One Year \_\_\_\_\_ Five Year

# 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 Mid-Atlantic Expo & Symposium (MAE&S)

The premier fire and emergency services conference offering a mix of association business, networking and over 40 educational sessions during the event. The MAE&S 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.)

## 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

If you have questions concerning this application and/or membership status, contact VFCA Member Services at (888) 818-0983 or email [memberservices@vfca.us](mailto:memberservices@vfca.us)

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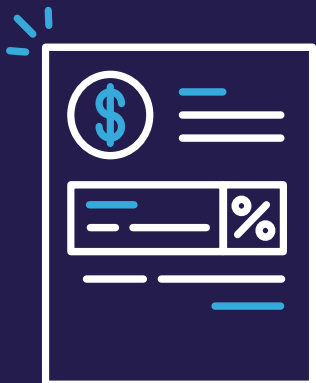
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*Chief*

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