

COMMONWEALTH

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. - January 2025

Chief



**VFCA
CELEBRATES
95 YEARS
1930 - 2025**

**VIRGINIA
FIRE** 
+ RESCUE
CONFERENCE

**CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 50 YEAR'S
BE A PART OF THE LARGEST FIRE/RESCUE
CONFERENCE IN VIRGINIA**

FEB. 17-22

CONFERENCE SNEAK PEEK



NEW DELIVERY (VA)
FREDERICKSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT
PIERCE ENFORCER 100' TRACTOR DRAWN AERIAL
Sold by Mike Yancey



NEW DELIVERY (VA)
COLONIAL BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
PIERCE ENFORCER PUMPER
Sold by Michael Yancey



NEW DELIVERY (VA)
ABINGDON VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE
PIERCE ENFORCER WALK-IN RESCUE
Sold by Michael Yancey



NEW DELIVERY (VA)
FLUVANNA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
PIERCE ENFORCER PUMPER
Sold by Kevin Sandridge



NEW DELIVERY (VA)
LAKE MONTICELLO VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT
PIERCE ENFORCER 100' ASCENDANT AERIAL TOWER
Sold by Kevin Sandridge



NEW DELIVERY (VA)
ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
PIERCE ENFORCER 100' ASCENDANT AERIAL TOWER
Sold by Randy Schwartz



NEW DELIVERY (VA)
PORTSMOUTH FIRE-RESCUE
PIERCE ENFORCER PUMPER
Sold by Mike Yancey

NEW ORDERS

- CHESTERFIELD FIRE & EMS • PIERCE ENFORCER 107' ASCENDANT AERIAL • Sold by Kevin Sandridge
- CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG • PIERCE SABER PUMPER • Sold by Mike Yancey
- DYKE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY • PIERCE COMMERCIAL PUMPER • Sold by Kevin Sandridge
- FALLING SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT • PIERCE SABER PUMPER • Sold by Bobby St. Clair
- GLADE SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT • BME BRUSH TRUCK • Sold by Bobby St. Clair
- NEW BALTIMORE FIRE & RESCUE COMPANY • PIERCE SABER PUMPER • Sold by John Thompson
- NEWPORT NEWS FIRE DEPARTMENT • (3) PIERCE ENFORCER PUMPERS • Sold by Mike Yancey
- SHARON FIRE DEPARTMENT • PIERCE SABER PUMPER • Sold by Bobby St. Clair
- STAFFORD COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE • PIERCE SABER PUMPER • Sold by John Thompson
- WAYNESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT • PIERCE ENFORCER PUMPER • Sold by Kevin Sandridge
- YORK COUNTY FIRE & LIFE SAFETY • (2) PIERCE ENFORCER PUMPERS • Will Bascom



NEW DELIVERY (VA)
FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE
(2) PIERCE IMPEL PUMPERS
Sold by John Thompson



ALL DELIVERIES



ALL STOCK UNITS



COMMONWEALTH

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. - January 2025

Chief

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VFCA & Its Professional Interest Sections

Vance Cooper, President
(757) 385-8592

Kevin Good, 1st Vice President
(703) 805-4843

Kevin Duck, 2nd Vice President
(703) 805-4843

Allen Baldwin, Immediate Past President
(540) 419-3358

James H. Johnson, Treasurer
(434) 298-6555

Tim McKay, Division 1
(804) 814-7975

Matt Tobia, Division 2
(571) 465-0408

Greg Wormser, Division 3
(434) 401-7309

Todd Lagow, Division 4
(276) 393-2481

Michael Carter, Division 5
(757) 635-9650

Marci Stone, Division 6
(540) 537-5530

Todd Lupton, Division 7
(571) 921-5997

Abbey Johnston, At-Large #1
(757) 635-9650

Nestor Mangubat, At-Large #2
(757) 407-0622

Steven Hall, At-Large #3
(804) 212-8898

Matt Fox, At Large #4
(703) 789-6891

Mandy Waybright, Adm. Professionals
President
(540) 432-7742

Michael Hirsh, Company Officers
(540) 908-9376

George Beodeker, Federal / Military
(571) 595-6966

Jay Davis, Life Safety/CRR
(804) 396-0525

Samantha Green, Women of Fire-EMS
(540) 497-1359

R. Christian (Chris) Eudailey, Executive Director
(540) 809-9397

Dione Facka, Administrative Assistant
(804) 380-2747

Bill Smith, Editor, Commonwealth Chief
(757) 810-1690

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VIRGINIA
FIRE
+ **RESCUE**
CONFERENCE

**TRAINING AND
EDUCATION
PREVIEW**

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***“Leadership,
Education and
Mentoring for
Tomorrow's
Leaders”***



VIRGINIA
FIRE 
+ RESCUE
CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

February 17-22, 2025

Virginia Beach Convention Center

Pre-Conference Sessions begin Feb. 17th and 18st

Sponsored by the
Virginia Fire Chiefs Association

Visit www.vfca.us for info

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Vance Cooper
2024 VFCA President
Virginia Beach Fire Department

We should all be proud of ourselves and organizations this past year. Along with the advocacy, education and leadership of the VFCA, you have spoken loudly to your local, state and federal elected officials about the most important issue facing the fire service, FUNDING. Whether this is for staffing, cancer screening, apparatus, equipment or training these are the common themes we all need in our community. Which one is most important to you right now changes, but these are what we need routinely as we serve and respond to over one million fire and EMS based calls a year.

Over the past three years we teamed up with Virginia Professional Firefighters legislatively, surveyed your local government through HB 2175, conducted a follow-up study funded by the general assembly at VCU's Wilder Center, participated in numerous in-person meetings throughout the entire state with Secretary Cole, Director Brad Creasey, Spencer Willet and heard loud and clear what's on your mind, the need for Funding...

As we move into 2025, remember the pursuit of worthy goals is most important to our success. I encourage you to continue building on the relationships that exist and establish two or three new ones. In addition, find a way to maintain a consistent voice even when there is disagreement.

I truly believe that Virginia's Fire Service is the Heart, Presence, and Discernment of a community. So, as I close out my year as serving this great community and welcome Chief Kevin Good as our new VFCA President in February, please Inspire Others to Act through your Heart, Model the Way with your Presence and Create a Shared Vision with Discernment.

Thank you all for teaching me and keeping excited about What's Next!

Vance Cooper



Change is going to be our constant companion. At a bare minimum, we must learn to live with it.

Far better if we make friends with it!

Ideally, we'll exploit it, seizing the new energy it stirs up and turning that to the organization's advantage. We should invite change—even start causing more of it ourselves – realizing that's what produces the most promising opportunities in today's tumultuous world.

Let's accept the fact that change has a destructive streak. Sure it can rip the heart out of an organization. It can kill the spirit.

But the organization's soul won't die if you do the right things.

Change can be used to charge people up. Change opens up doors to people's hearts and minds that otherwise would stay forever locked up.

This is your chance to create fire.

You can take the energy caused by change and use it to turn up the heat among your people. Any time emotions are this intense, the fuel is there to build a burning level of job commitment.

That commitment is crucial, because the high-velocity change puts heavy demands on the organization. You need employees who invest themselves fully in their work... people who deliver dramatic results.

You can't afford to tolerate a commitment level that remains at room temperature.

*Firing Up Commitment During
Organizational Change
Price Pritchett*

Training and Education Preview

February 17- 22, 2025

Virginia Beach



**REGISTRATION IS OPEN
FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:**

www.vfca.us

2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Monday, February 17, 2025



Mike Daley
Fireground Strategies: Size-Up for Suppression,
Survivability and Stabilization



Nick Peppard
Firehouse Culture: Ideas Over Egos



George Lindbeck, MD
Managing the Patient in Shock



Edward Landgrover
Transformation and Innovation:
Being a Champion for Change in Your Department



Joseph R. Polenzani
Leadership Lessons from "Band of Brothers"



Lee Watson
High Speed, High Energy Trauma 2.0



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Tuesday, February 18, 2025



Scott Russell & Ben Bosley
"When Meters Matter"
Air Monitoring for First Responders



Vickie Taylor & Lisa Demarco Tilley
The Power of Five:
Stress First Aid Leading Actions



Matthew Tobia & Michelle Albert
Inside the Firehouse: Understanding the
Injuries We Inflict on Each Other



Dr. Denis Onieal
Leadership - Lessons from the Line



LeRoy Smith
"The Drift to Failure: Uncovering the Hidden Factors
Negatively Affecting Fire Department Performance."



Michelle Albert
Chill Out: Calming the Trauma Brain



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Wednesday, February 19, 2025



Kerry Henderson and Kyle Matousek
To Infinity and Beyond!

Harnessing the Power of Soft Skills for Success
Both Inside & Outside the Four Walls of the Firehouse



Amber Moore and Kari Magner

Can't We All Just Get Along?
The Comm vs The Field



Bobby Drake & Eddie Buchanan

Creating and Refining a Fire Academy:
The Role of the Training Officer



Nick Peppard

Running Scared:
Risk Management NOT Risk Aversion



Joseph Polenzani

Fire Officer Decision-Making:
From Theory to Practice



Megan Vaughan, MSN, RN

EHAC & STEMI Metrics:
How Pre-Arrival Care Affects Patient Outcomes



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Thursday, February 20, 2025



Kelly Rumsey & Tracey Taylor
The Virginia Trauma System and Trauma Triage



Greg Wormser and Nestor Mangubat
Your Leadership Compass:
Using it to Manage Crises and Navigate Change



Nikki Charles & Sabrina Zambito
Incorporating Facility Dogs to
Enhance Fire Rescue Programs



Phil A Jose
The Art of Reading Smoke: The Next Generation



Scott Medlin
The 10 Code Mindset:
Stay alive and thriving even amidst stress, demands, and
trauma experienced in the career and in life.



Michael Barakey
Six Steps to Becoming a Critical Decision Maker:
Leadership 101



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Friday, February 21, 2025



Michael Carter

Leadership Expectations:
What does your team expect?



Nicholas Higgins

The 5-Tool Firefighter:
Five Key Attributes to a Well-Rounded Firefighter



Wayne Bailey

Leading with Drones in the Fire Service



Jonah Smith

Engine Company Operations and Victims:
A Real Life Hat Dance



Bob Page

Simulation Escape Rooms



Dr. William Brady

Management of Cardiac Arrest



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Saturday, February 22, 2025



Matthew Tobia & Timothy McKay

Unplugged Round II: Perspectives on the Fire Service... Ask Anything - No Holds Barred!



Jonah Smith & Benjamin Martin

Leveraging Your Why:
The Power of Purpose Driven Leadership



Melvin Carter

From Tradition to Transformation



Kevin Manhardt

The Ace in the Hole: The Squad Company



Richard Ray

Small Fire Depts:
Tips for Winning Big on the Fireground



Jenny Bragiel

Leveraging Social Media Workshop for
Retention, Recruitment and Education



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

“The Beach is Burning” VFRC Hands-On-Training Program



Can Confidence

February 17, 2025

This class is designed to build confidence on one of the most often neglected tools found on nearly every fire apparatus the 2 ½ gallon water extinguisher. The “Can” can be an extremely effective lifesaving tool by allowing a well-trained firefighter to quickly apply water between fire and victims. Attendees will learn proper filling and pressurization steps, how to build homemade carrying straps and other useful “Can” modifications. The class will also cover valuable skills on carrying and searching with the “Can,” and confining fire with it. Students will cycle through a “force an interior door off its hinges” prop and use this door to hold back live fire and smoke. Finally, attendees will perform live fire attacks with nothing more than a “Can” and witness the effect of the “Can” on pre-flashover conditions.

Dynamic Fire Behavior

February 17, 2025

Recent empirical research has provided the American fire service with a better understanding of the modern fire environment that we work within. Increased knowledge of fire behavior has improved recognition of unsafe and uncontrolled conditions that in the past have led to fireground injuries and fatalities. The flashover trainer offers firefighters an opportunity to observe those fire behaviors and precursors that lead to dynamic fire events. In a controlled IDLH environment, the student will observe the phases of fire flow path development, rollover, and eventual flashover. Emphasis will be on fire ground operations, ventilation practices, changing smoke conditions and fire attack.

Engine Operations School

February 18-19, 2025

As the first line goes, so goes the fire. This two-day course focuses on the fundamentals of Engine Company Operations as they pertain to selecting, deploying, and advancing attack lines for interior structural firefighting. Crews will practice hose and nozzle management techniques that setup a stretch for success. Crews will be given tactical considerations for finding victims while stretching the attack line. On the second day of training, crews will integrate with the Truck and Command.



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

“The Beach is Burning” VFRC Hands-On-Training Program



EMS Operations School

February 18-19, 2025

This course will focus on burns and inhalation injuries that comprehensively covers various burn types, burn severity assessment, and symptoms of carbon monoxide and cyanide poisoning. It offers practical guidance on using the LIFEPAK 15 Rainbow cable and the Cyanokit, and provides hands-on training in airway management, intubation, pain management, IV administration, and burn care. A lecture on fire ground rehabilitation that focuses on effective techniques for different weather scenarios and involves tabletop drills and hands-on practice. This track will join the others on day two with live fire scenarios for hands-on patient transfers from the fire ground to the ambulance and hospital.

Rural Water Supply: Old Tips and New Tricks

February 20, 2025

Water supply is one of the most critical parts of fire scene operations. What happens when there is not a hydrant? This 8-hour class will generate discussion, ideas, and practices that will make water supply efforts a success! Utilizing cutting edge equipment mixed with tried-and-true practices, you will get direct hands on practice of the art of moving water from one place to another efficiently. This class will be beneficial to the entire range of driver operators from rural and urban departments alike. Topics covered will include basic principles related to drafting, alternative drafting methods, TurboDraft operations, dump and fill tactics and overall troubleshooting when something goes South! This exciting new H.O.T. class is guaranteed to add new tools to your Pump Operating toolbox!

Women of Fire & EMS Tactical Day

February 20, 2025

This dynamic, hands-on training program is designed specifically for women, taught by experienced female instructors who understand the unique challenges faced by women in the fire service. This course empowers participants by offering a supportive environment where they can develop and refine essential firefighting skills. Through intensive practice in areas such as search and rescue, ladder operations, ventilation techniques, and forcible entry, participants will not only hone their technical abilities but also work to overcome the stigmas associated with women in firefighting. By training to be the best and pushing beyond the barriers of mediocrity, attendees will gain confidence, competence, and a stronger sense of camaraderie within the fire service.



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

“The Beach is Burning” VFRC Hands-On-Training Program



Truck Fundamentals School

February 18-19, 2025

The truck company, or companies conducting truck functions, have various options to support the fire attack. These companies can be split into two teams, “The Two Team Concept”, The Outside Team and The Inside Team. Each team has priorities to accomplish and can include Inside team-locate, confine, and transmit fire location, primary search, checking for extension and overhaul. The Outside team options are vent-enter-search (VES), outside vent, gaining access, vertical ventilation, and aerial operations (if arriving on an aerial apparatus). In this 2-day class, participants will be given the opportunity to practice some of the skills needed to be successful in conducting these functions. In the afternoon of the 2nd day attendees will join the Engine Track and Command Track and operate in a complex scenario with live fire.

Company Officer School

February 18-19, 2025

The tone is set by the first arriving officer and most times transferred to a chief officer. In this program, attendees who are or aspire to be company officers will operate during a simulation conducting an on-scene report, situation report, and transfer of command. On the second day of training, crews will integrate with the Truck and Engine tracks in complex scenarios with live fire.

Chief Officer School

February 18-19, 2025

Attendees who are or aspiring to be Chief Officers will hone in on their craft at the strategic level to mitigate a fire. All will be shown two different styles of command along with information on how to build a realistic simulation to achieve not only tactical mastery but achieve higher mental performance on the emergency scene. On the second day of training, crews will integrate with the Truck and Engine tracks in complex scenarios with live fire.



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

“The Beach is Burning” VFRC Hands-On-Training Program



RIT: It goes beyond the drills. Does water win?

February 20-21, 2025

This is not your typical Rapid Intervention program! When a call for help is transmitted either by an individual, a company, or yourself, the game becomes personal. Individual skills deriving from the 1980's, although should never be forgotten, will not be covered in this program. Fast forward to 2023, where science dictates, water wins! We will be using data and statistics from “Project Mayday”, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the Fire Safety Research Institute, NIST, and real-life experiences of our cadre to educate students on the most up-to-date and performance driven techniques for “winning” in these situations. When it comes to our own, second place is not an option, and water is how we gain the tactical advantage. Attendees will execute water mapping as it relates to fire dynamics, where all scenarios will be completed under live fire.

Mayday Command

February 21, 2025

Fireground Maydays are among the most critical and challenging situations a firefighter can face. This intensive one-day Hands-On Training (HOT) class is designed to equip fire service professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively manage and command a Mayday incident. Participants will explore the causes of Maydays, preventative measures, and the application of command and ICS tools to mitigate these high-pressure situations.

Firefighter EMS Treatment

February 21, 2025

This course will cover common emergencies with injured firefighters such as smoke inhalation, burns, sprains and strains, fractures, and heat emergencies. Students will practice hands-on skills in providing treatment and care for the injured firefighter. The focus will be on removal of contaminated firefighter gear during an emergency and stabilization of the C-spine after a traumatic fall. Rapid Gear removal techniques from the firefighter in cardiac arrest. Practical exercises will include trauma assessment and splinting of sprains and fractures. Treatment of heat related emergencies to include IV administration fluid resuscitation. In the afternoon students will integrate into the live burn track/MAYDAY putting it together scenarios to practice skills, with ambulance transports.



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

EMS Training Preview

The VFCA is excited to offer almost 250 courses at the 2025 VFRC. Almost all courses carry EMS CEU credit with many helping to meet Category 1 recertification requirements. Download the conference app for complete course details and register for the conference at www.VFCA.us



BLS Certified | Recertified

NCCR Areas		Prior to October 1, 2023		On or after October 1, 2023	
		Required Hours		Required Hours	
		A EMR	B EMT	A EMR	B EMT
11	Airway, Respiration and Ventilation	1.0	1.5	1.5	4.0
12	Cardiovascular	2.5	6.0	2.0	5.0
13	Trauma	0.5	1.5	1.0	3.0
14	Medical	3.0	6.0	2.5	6.0
15	Operations	1.0	5.0	1.0	2.0
TOTAL NCCR HOURS		8	20	8*	20*
LCCR/ICCR HOURS		8	20	8	20
TOTAL HOURS		16	40	16	40

ALS Certified | Recertified

NCCR Areas		Prior to October 1, 2023			On or after October 1, 2023		
		Required Hours			Required Hours		
		C AEMT	I Intermediate	E Paramedic	C AEMT	I Intermediate	E Paramedic
16	Airway, Respiration and Ventilation	2.5	3.5	3.5	5.0	5.5	6.0
17	Cardiovascular	7.0	7.5	8.5	6.0	6.5	7.0
18	Trauma	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.5	5.0
19	Medical	7.5	7.5	8.5	7.0	7.5	8.0
20	Operations	5.0	6.5	6.5	3.0	4.0	4.0
TOTAL NCCR HOURS		25	28	30	25*	28	30*
LCCR/ICCR HOURS		25	28	30	25	28	30
TOTAL HOURS		50	55	60	50	55	60



VFRC APP DOWNLOAD
(APPLE)



VFRC APP DOWNLOAD
(ANDROID)



VFRC REGISTRATION
VFCA.US



2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Virginia Office of EMS Category 1 Training

Monday, February 17, 2025

- "All Choked Up!" Managing Strangulation in the Pre-Hospital Setting (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18
- Don't Make it Awkward: Providing Culturally Competent Prehospital Care (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- High-Speed, High-Energy Trauma 2.0 (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18
- Hats Off! Helmets & Airway Management (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-11/ALS-16
- ACE-ing Angioedema: Navigating the Challenges for EMS Providers (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Managing the Patient in Shock (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- What Administrators Need to Know - Compliance for Infection Control Programs (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-20
- L960: All Hazards Position Specific Division/Group Supervisor (3-Day 24 Hour Course)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Firehouse Culture: Ideas Over Egos (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Do you have an Operational Playbook? (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20

VFRC APP DOWNLOAD
(APPLE)



VFRC APP DOWNLOAD
(ANDROID)



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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Virginia Office of EMS Category 1 Training

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

- Trauma Happens! A Closer Look at Mechanism of Injury (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18
- Understanding Stroke: Causes, Mimics, Chameleons, and Treatments (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- Managing Respiratory Distress in Infants & Children (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Usual and Unusual Neurological Conditions (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Chill Out: Calming the Trauma Brain (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18
- Code Contagion: Navigating Special Pathogens in EMS and First Responding Community (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Emergency Childbirth (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-20
- MCI For PSAPs (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- The Meter Guys "When Meters Matter" Air Monitoring for First Responders (8 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- The Power of Five: Stress First Aid Leading Actions (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Inside the Firehouse: Understanding the Injuries We Inflict on Each Other (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Management of the Agitated Patient (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- VDFP 1031/1033 Recertification Course Fire Inspector Safety (2 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Foul Ball: Concussion in Sports Injury (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18

VFRC APP DOWNLOAD
(APPLE)



VFRC APP DOWNLOAD
(ANDROID)



VFRC REGISTRATION
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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Virginia Office of EMS Category 1 Training

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

- Guidelines for Prehospital Airway Management (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-11/ALS-16
- We are Gonna Pump You Up! VAD Devices and Artificial Hearts (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- Dive! Dive! Dive! (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18
- Playing With Fire (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Can't We All Just Get Along? The Comm vs The Field (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Dropping the Shield (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Guidelines for Prehospital Pain Management (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Shock Attack (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- L960: All Hazards Position Specific Division/Group Supervisor (3-Day 24 Hour Course)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- VDFP 1033 (LE) Recertification Course Use of Force/Control Tactics Sustainment Training (8 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Rule # 1, Cardio: Surviving Lives Rare Cardiac Diseases (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- Cardiac Chameleons: When the EKG Changes in Your Stroke Patient (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- EHAC & STEMI Metrics: How Pre-Arrival Care Affects Patient Outcomes (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- Running Scared: Risk Management NOT Risk Aversion (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Using Emotional Intelligence to Improve Stress Management (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Blocked and Unfriended by My Own Heart: Heart Blocks in The Young (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17

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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Virginia Office of EMS Category 1 Training

Thursday, February 20, 2025

- Slap the Cap: The Comprehensive Capnography Course (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-11/ALS-16
- The Virginia Trauma System and Trauma Triage (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18
- One Last Breath? The Critical Asthma Patient (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Saving the Super-Utilizers (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- A Second Is a Hell of a Long Time (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Incorporating Facility Dogs to Enhance Fire Rescue Programs (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Shake, Rattle and Roll: EMS Seizure Response (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Stress First Aid for Chaplains (8 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- The 10 Code Mindset (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Unified Command, Communications and Control of an Active Assailant situation with RTF's (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Your Leadership Compass Using it to Manage Crises and Navigate Change (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Composed In the Midst of Chaos (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Pediatric Trauma: Injuries Across the Ages (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18
- $CO = HR \times SV$, the most important formula in EMS (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 2 BLS/Cat. 1 ALS-17

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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Virginia Office of EMS Category 1 Training

Friday, February 21, 2025

- Introduction to Mechanical Ventilation (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-11/ALS-16
- A Rational Approach to Cardiac Arrest Management (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- MCS Education for EMS and First Responders (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- A Comprehensive Look at Recruit Wellness (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- It's Not Your Mayday, or Is It? (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Management of Cardiac Arrest (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-12/ALS-17
- Simulation Escape Rooms (1 Hour) (6 Sessions)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Six Tips to Guide the New Fire Officers (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- RIT: It Goes Beyond the Drills: Does Water Win? Hands-on Training Course (2 Day 16 Hour Course)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Firefighter EMS Treatment Hands-on Training Course (8 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18
- Mayday Command Hands-on Training Course (8 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20
- Crew Resource Management Awareness Course (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS-20

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2025 VIRGINIA FIRE RESCUE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 - FEBRUARY 22, 2025

Virginia Office of EMS Category 1 Training

Saturday, February 22, 2025

- Crisis De-Escalation and Self Defense Tactics (4 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- The Virginia Ventilation Trial (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-11/ALS-16
- Welcome to the Main Event! Medical Planning for Mass Gathering Events (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS 20
- TBI and ICP: The Pressure is on! (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-13/ALS-18
- Sickle Cell Care - An Evidence Based Approach (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Preparing for the Excited Delirium Patient (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-14/ALS-19
- Challenges Transporting Pediatric and Bariatric Patients (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS 20
- EMS and Public Health (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS 20
- Pilot or Paramedic? Crew Resource Management in Fire/EMS (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-15/ALS 20
- Portable Respiratory Monitoring (1.75 Hours)
 - Cat. 1 BLS-11/ALS-16

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KNOWN BY DIFFERENT NAMES, VFCA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF WINTER CONFERENCES

Bill Smith

Change has been the constant

2025 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Virginia Fire Chiefs hosting mid-winter conferences.

Over the years, the conference has not always named the Virginia Fire Rescue Conference. In its founding days it was called the Mid-Winter Fire Chiefs Conference and for many years it continued to be known by that name. In the mid-90's the name was changed to the Mid-Atlantic Expo & Symposium in an effort to attract a broader audience. That name remained until 2014 when the name was again changed to the Virginia Fire Rescue Conference.

The idea of a mid-winter conference was first conceived of in 1975 under the leadership of then, Charlottesville Fire Chief Julian Taliaferro, who also was serving as the association president.

Exciting things were happening. That year one of the true success stories of modern times occurred when Bill Gates and Paul Allen created the company Microsoft. The first of the new hobby computers were starting to appear, including Altair 8800 and the battle for video recorder standards of VHS and Betamax had begun. Gerald Ford was President. This was also the year the Vietnam War finally ended. In 1975 the cost of a gallon of gas was .57 cents, a new car could be purchased for \$4,950, and the average cost of a new home between 1970 and 1975 jumped from \$27,000 to \$40,900. That same year the average yearly income was \$11,799.94 and for the first time the price of oil went over \$13.00 a barrel.

According to Chief Taliaferro, "the summer convention attendance was dropping and we were getting very few volunteers, so we decided to try something different."

That same year Kings Dominion Amusement Park was being built In Hanover County near Doswell, but it had not yet opened to the public. "The thought process was that if a theme park could draw people, maybe it would also draw fire service personnel for a middle of the winter get-together since there was little else going at that time of the year" said Taliaferro.

So in February 1975, the first Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Mid-Winter Conference was held at the brand new Kings Quarters hotel located in Doswell adjacent to Kings Dominion. There were some training sessions, and it was also a great opportunity to meet and interact with other fire service personnel from across Virginia. The Mid-Winter Conference was held in Doswell for two years before moving on to Williamsburg in an effort to increase attendance.

That move was successful and for many years the conference was anchored in Williamsburg. The new location offered better facilities and opportunities for additional training sessions and also equipment displays. Over the years while in

Williamsburg several different facilities were used to provide the needed logistics for a successful conference. Unfortunately, February's weather was not always the best to go outside to view and examine equipment and apparatus. There was often rain and/or snow to be dealt with.

So after dealing with weather issues for a number of years, in 1997 the VFCA leadership made the decision to move the conference to Hampton where it remained for just one year. It was also the first ever non-smoking conference. The next year it was moved to Virginia Beach where it was housed in the old Pavilion so everything could be housed inside and under one roof. Although somewhat controversial at the time, that move proved to be an excellent decision and the conference attendees and exhibitors began to grow in numbers right away. Along with the location change, soon to follow, was another name change. The conference then became known as the VFCA Mid-Atlantic Expo & Symposium.

Then in 2014, the name was once again changed to better reflect what today's model includes. The conference is now named the Virginia Fire Rescue Conference.

Since coming to "the Beach" more than 25 years ago, the conference has grown tremendously with more and more attendees and exhibitors. Today the conference utilizes over 150,000 sq. ft. of exhibit hall space and nearly all of the classroom/meeting room/suite space at the Convention Center as well at a large portion of the Virginia Beach Fire Department Training Center for off-site training. During the six day event there is an opportunity for all of Virginia's fire, rescue and emergency services personnel to attend the many and varied educational sessions, look at and examine the latest apparatus, equipment and technology available, and to network with peers from across Virginia.

Back last year in February at the 2024 conference, we saw the highest attendance in conference history – over 930 pre-registered attendees and another 1,300 purchased day passes. 770 of those on Friday alone! Another big change that year included a sizable expansion of the EMS tract since the EMS Symposium had been cancelled earlier that year.

This year will also mark the 95th Anniversary of the founding of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association. To celebrate that milestone, every fire department and EMS agency in Virginia is being invited to send at least one member to the conference this year

In looking back, those original goals of getting more people involved, both career and volunteer and providing relevant training dreamed of back in 1975, has truly come to be. So sit back now and watch what the next fifty years will bring!!!



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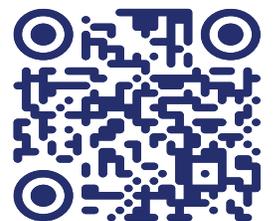
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VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS FOUNDATION HOSTS INAUGURAL SKEET SHOOT

Mandy Wabright

On Friday, October 25, 2024, the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation (VFCF) held its Inaugural Skeet Shoot at the scenic Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays in Mt. Crawford, Virginia. This event brought together fire service professionals, shooting enthusiasts, and sponsors for a day filled with fun, fellowship, and friendly competition.

Participants shot 100 clays at Flying Rabbit's course, targets varied on approach and difficulty. The breathtaking Shenandoah Valley setting provided the perfect backdrop for this unique event, blending camaraderie with a shared purpose.

The day also featured a delicious barbecue lunch, creating an inviting environment for attendees to connect, share experiences, and enjoy the sense of community.

This remarkable event would not have been possible without the incredible generosity of our sponsors, whose support ensures the continued success of the Foundation's mission: fostering professional development, providing scholarships, and supporting fire service leadership throughout Virginia.

Mark your calendars now—plans are already underway for next year's skeet shoot! **Save the Date for May 30, 2025**, when we will return to Flying Rabbit Sporting Clays in Mt. Crawford, Virginia, for another day of fun and fundraising.

The VFCF extends heartfelt thanks to all participants, vendors, and sponsors who contributed to making this event a success. Together, we are shaping the future of fire service leadership and making a lasting impact in our communities.

2024 VFCF Inaugural Skeet Shoot Sponsors:

Chief Sponsors: Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc., Fire & Safety Equipment Company, and Dick Singer

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3000 GALLON TANKER

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Thank you for allowing us to be your source of information for what's
happening in Virginia's Fire Service*

SAVE THE DATE | MAY 15-16, 2025

11th Annual Fire Chief's Summit



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Plans are being finalized for the 11th Annual VFCA Chiefs Summit. The event is specifically designated for the Fire Chief and his second in command.

Registration will be done online and additional information is available by early March on the VFCA website at www.vfca.us



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VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS RICHMOND LOBBY DAY

Hello VFCA Members,

The VFCA in conjunction with the VPPF will be holding a Lobby Day in Richmond on January 22 and 23, 2025. We are expecting individuals to arrive on 1-22-25 between 0800-1000 hours. For those that arrive before 0830 breakfast will be available. The morning session will include welcoming remarks by Presidents Bragg and Cooper as well as some educational information on the respective legislative priorities for the VPPF and VFCA for 2025. In addition, a session on the Legislative Process and Lobbying 101 will be offered to attendees. Lunch will be provided to all attendees before we head to the General Assembly building for committee meetings and/or meetings with legislators and/or their staff. At the end of the day there is a social being held at the Southern Railway Taphouse to have some informal discussions with legislators and or staff to share information on the priorities for the VFCA.

Lobby Days are used by many associations across many industries to show a unified voice and a strong presence when the Legislature is in session. A typical Lobby Day works as follows:

In small groups, VFCA members will be assigned members of the Senate and House of Delegates (or designated staff) to meet between the hours of 2pm-5pm on the 22nd and between 9am - 2pm on the 23rd. We will schedule these meetings ahead of time with legislators from your respective regions. Meetings are typically in 15-minute increments during legislative sessions. You will be provided handout materials and talking points, including the 2025 Combined Fire and EMS Legislative Priorities. These include Sustainable Long-term Funding, Funding for FF Cancer Screening, Enhanced Benefits for 911 Dispatchers and Certain Hazardous Duty Positions within VDFP and VDEM, Relocation of the Virginia Office of EMS to the Secretary of Public Safety and other selected positions including Sprinklers in Townhomes and as time permits maybe hit on other items in the joint legislative booklet. **While all of these are quite important and would have direct benefit to the Fire and EMS service in the Commonwealth, the primary focus for the VFCA will be Sustainable Long-term Funding and Funding for FF Cancer Screening for the 2025 session.**

Breakfast and lunch will be available on 1-22-25 and breakfast on 1-23-25 will be served at the Hilton, just two blocks from the General Assembly Building. That evening there will be a reception at the Southern Railway Taphouse where the Senate and House members, their staff, and members of Governor Youngkin's administration, would be invited to attend. This is another opportunity to interact with these folks and talk about the VFCA priorities for 2025.

The VPPF is the lead on this effort, and they have advised the VFCA they would be thrilled to for us to partner again this year. The VFCA Board of Directors are seeking VFCA members from across Virginia to be in Richmond on January 22 and 23, 2025. The VFCA will be covering the \$75 registration cost for Board of Directors, Legislative Committee members, and VFCA members, up to a total of 50 participants and it is our hope to have diverse attendance from the entire Commonwealth.

Some of you may want to stay overnight on January 22nd and if so, we have identified the two below as potential options:

Hilton Hotel located at 501 E. Broad Street. Here is the link for the Hilton https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?city_hocn=RICRDHH&groupCode=VPPF25&arrivaldate=2025-01-20&departuredate=2025-01-23&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

Marriott located at 500 E. Broad Street. Marriott did not provide a link for registrations – please call the hotel at 804–643-3400 and ask for Penny in group sales.

Both of these facilities are located in close proximity to the Southern Railway Taphouse which is located at 100 S. 14th Street and where the evening reception will be held. All activities for the day and a half are located no more than 5 blocks from each other. If you require overnight lodging, the VFCA is providing these hotels as options nearby, it is your responsibility in accordance with your locality's travel policies to make the arrangements cover these costs. There are other hotels in the downtown area as well.

The Executive Officers have identified Lobby Day as a PRIORITY for the VFCA and as such is asking each and every member of the BOD to plan on attending and engaging to help educate our elected representatives. There are some significant items on the legislative agenda that we need to champion and in order to do this effectively we need to be present and actively engage as many legislators as possible.

Virginia Dept of Fire Programs (VDFP), Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA) and the Virginia Professional Firefighters (VPPF), are actively planning a general assembly PPE showcase that will take place at the General Assembly Building on Thursday, January 23rd, from 8-11 AM to highlight the fire service to the General Assembly and advocate for increased funding and efforts to mitigate and prevent cancer in firefighters. We also believe this will better inform members of the General Assembly of the resources that VDFP provides to the Commonwealth, and you'd be a part of this opportunity too.

In order to make plans and get spaces reserved we are asking for a reply by **December 17th by COB** so appropriate plans can be made. If you have any questions, please let me know and I will be happy to follow up with you. It is our hope that your schedule will permit your attendance and collectively we can start the education process and work together for the mutual benefit of the citizens and visitors of the Commonwealth!

Chris Eudailey
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VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS RETREAT: A SHOWCASE OF LEARNING AND COLLABORATION

Mandy Waybright

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA) Administrative Professionals Retreat, held on September 19th and 20th, 2024, was an exceptional gathering that brought together administrative professionals from across the state to learn, connect, and collaborate. The event was hosted by the Harrisonburg Fire Department. It provided participants with a dynamic lineup of speakers, interactive sessions, and hands-on experiences, leaving attendees inspired and better equipped to serve their fire departments.

Enriching Presentations by Guest Speakers

The retreat featured a stellar array of presentations from individuals who shared their knowledge and insights:

- **Ben Thompson** from Virginia First Responder Support Services led an **Interactive Mental Health Presentation**, encouraging open dialogue about mental health challenges faced by first responders. The session included strategies for fostering resilience and providing support within fire service environments.
- **Erin Stehle**, Community Risk Reduction Education Supervisor for the Harrisonburg Fire Department, delivered an engaging session on **Team Building and Communication**. Through creative activities, Erin encouraged participants to step out of their comfort zones, fostering stronger connections and collaborative problem-solving skills.
- **Ian Bennett**, National Local Assistance State Team (LAST) Coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, presented on **Handling a Line of Duty Death**. His session offered critical guidance on supporting grieving families and departments, emphasizing the importance of preparation and compassion during such tragic events.
- **Paul Helmuth**, Administrative Officer for the Harrisonburg Fire Department, captivated attendees with his presentation, **"These Aren't the Drones You're Looking For."** He highlighted the innovative use of drone technology in fire services, showcasing real-world applications that enhance safety and efficiency.

Hands-On Training and Networking Opportunities

One of the retreat's highlights was the hands-on experience at the Harrisonburg Fire Department Training Grounds. Participants observed and engaged in

demonstrations that showcased firefighting techniques and equipment, providing a deeper appreciation of the operational side of fire services.

In addition to the informative sessions and training, the retreat offered ample opportunities for networking, allowing administrative professionals to share best practices, exchange ideas, and strengthen their support network.

A Memorable Event

The VFCA Administrative Professionals Retreat exemplified the value of professional development and collaboration. By providing participants with practical tools, innovative ideas, and meaningful connections, the event reinforced the critical role administrative professionals play in the success of fire service organizations.

Special thanks to the Harrisonburg Fire Department for hosting this impactful event and to all the presenters and attendees who made it a memorable and enriching experience.



HANDS ON TRAINING



NEW NIOSH CENTER ADDRESSES FIREFIGHTER SAFETY AND HEALTH RISKS

NIOSH has launched a center focused on improving firefighter safety and health through research and coordination with partner organizations.

Robert Yaniz Jr.



The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has announced the launch of its new Center for Firefighter Safety, Health and Well-being.

According to a recent release, this initiative aims to improve the health and safety of firefighters by addressing the specific hazards they face in their line of work. This focus extends to both immediate dangers as well as long-term health risks on the job.

"Firefighters are vital to the safety of our communities, risking their health and safety to protect our own," NIOSH Director John Howard said in a statement. "The [center] allows NIOSH to bring together our research and knowledge in a way to better protect firefighters from both immediate and long-term risks from their jobs."

The center will streamline communication between NIOSH and partner organizations, enabling faster responses to emerging threats in firefighting, coordinate research on critical issues like hazardous exposures such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), evaluate PPE, and focus on the health conditions of wildland firefighters.

Also, the new center will oversee programs like the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer and conduct health hazard evaluations and fatality investigations. These efforts aim to refine and prioritize research to prevent injury and illness among firefighters.

More details are on the **Center for Firefighter Safety, Health and Wellbeing webpage**.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Yaniz Jr. is the Content Editor of Occupational Health & Safety.

ON THE MOVE & ODDS AND ENDS

Former Chief Jack McElfish passes

It is with profound heartache that we pass on to you that our friend and professional mentor since the early 80's, Chief Jack McElfish, passed away on September 16, 2024 from cancer. Jack was diagnosed early this year following a lifelong (50+ years) career as a decorated Firefighter, Fire Officer, and Fire Chief in Maryland, Connecticut, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. At one point he had served as Fire Chief for the City of Richmond.

A friend and mentor to so many of us, among his many other professional accomplishments included being a proud US Air Force Veteran and a lifelong Rotarian.

His personal pride... spend one minute with him and you would instantly know it was his wife, daughter, and his beloved grandson - who knew him as "Chief."

While still living in Georgia, he and his wife were visiting their daughter and grandson in Colorado this past Christmas season when he was diagnosed with advanced-stage cancer. Jack (and his wife) remained in CO for what would be a very difficult battle and related treatments. Thank God he is now at peace, as much as his passing hurts us all.

Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers. A Memorial Service was held on October 14, 2024 in Sandy Springs, GA.

Our condolences go to everyone who knew and loved Jack, especially his family including his daughter Kelly, grandson Jack, and his wife Joyce.

Rest in Peace Chief Jack.

Fire & Rescue Chief Warner Announces Retirement

Powhatan County Fire & Rescue Chief Phil Warner has announced his retirement effective September 30, 2024. Chief Warner has dedicated over thirty years of service to the county, including the past five years at the helm of the department. We are very proud of his accomplishments during this time frame and wish him well as he moves into a well-earned retirement. He will continue to be a familiar face in the community as he returns to his role as a volunteer firefighter at the Fine Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

Effective October 1, 2024, Deputy Chief Taylor Goodman will be appointed as the Interim Fire Rescue Chief. Chief Goodman has served the county since 1992, including his role as the Deputy Chief for the past three years. The County will continue to move forward with ongoing projects such as the Company 1 firehouse expansion, budget development, hiring processes, and new equipment acquisitions with the leadership of Deputy Chief Goodman.

Chief of Salem Fire & EMS announces retirement

John Prillaman has served as Fire and EMS Chief for the last 10 years, as well as serving the Salem community in numerous other roles for over 27 years. On Monday, September 27th he announced his retirement.

Before he worked in Salem, he was a Volunteer Firefighter for 11 years and served as Fire Chief of Back Creek Fire & Rescue.

Prillaman's retirement will be in effect on January 1, 2025. He joined Salem Fire and EMS in 1998 and 2001 was promoted to Senior Firefighter. He received the rank of Lieutenant and Training Officer in 2005 and was named Captain in 2005 and assumed the role of Deputy Chief in 2010.

From 1991-1995 he was a Fire Protection Specialist for the United States Air Force.

He has been a native of the Roanoke County area since he graduated from Cave Springs High School in 1990, and after he returned from the Air Force he began working back in the area.

During his time in the city, he received his bachelor's degree in Fire Administration and graduated with honors at Hampton University. He then furthered his degree with a master's in Public Administration from Virginia Tech.

During his tenure, he was a key asset in the research, design, and construction of the Roanoke Valley Regional Fire Training Tower on Kessler Mill Road. He also helped with installing the 9/11 memorial which is at the front of Fire Station 1 in Downtown Salem.

While chief he changed the department rank structure, upgraded ratio equipment, and the department logo, replaced the front line apparatus, established a PEER support system and chaplain program, upgraded software applications, and lastly implemented a new standardized Incident Command System.

Prillaman went on to say that none of these things would have been possible without a great team.

Dorsey will begin hiring Salem's next Chief as soon as possible.

Loudoun County Chief announces retirement

It is with great personal excitement that I am announcing my retirement from Loudoun County Fire and Rescue effective April 1, 2025. While I am announcing my retirement from Loudoun County, it is my intention to continue as a participating member of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association and complete my 2nd term on the Virginia Fire Services Board, and the Board of Housing and Community Development. It has truly been a pleasure to serve in each of these organizations and I look forward to continuing my service.

After over 41 years of being a Firefighter and EMT, I believe the time is right to enter the next phase in my life, spending more time with family to include my grandchildren, enjoying my hobbies, and spending more time in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

I fully expect to finish my time in a working status and continue working to further this combined system until my last working day. I look forward to staying in my position until a new System Chief is hired here in Loudoun County, thus eliminating the need for an interim System Chief.

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Fire Chief Russell W. Miller, Jr. Retires October 3, 2024

Chief Miller began his volunteer firefighting service in June 1972 with the William Penn Fire Company in Hulmeville, PA where he served as a Firefighter, 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief and Fire Chief. He served as Chairperson for the Skyline Fire District Association which represented five fire departments on all fire and emergency services matters with the Middletown Township local government. He coordinated negotiations of the annual operating contract for the delivery of emergency services and purchase of apparatus and maintained contact with elected representatives of four municipalities where this organization provides fire and emergency services. Chief Miller began his federal firefighting career in January 1981 at the Naval Air Development Center which later became the Naval Air Warfare Center. The Naval Air Warfare Center closed in 1996 as a result of BRAC. He held positions of Firefighter, Firefighter/EMT, Driver/Operator, Lead Firefighter, Fire Inspector and Chief Fire Inspector. He then served as a Fire Protection Specialist with the Naval Safety Center in Norfolk, VA. Responsibilities included Deputy Program Manager for the DOD Fire Incident Reporting System as well as providing Navy and Marine Corps aircraft/structural firefighting safety oversight before he transferred to Fort Belvoir in June 2008 as the Assistant Chief of Training where he was later promoted to Deputy Fire Chief. He has been appointed as the JBM-HH Fire Chief in April 2012; overseeing fire and emergency services delivery at Fort Myer, Henderson Hall, Arlington National Cemetery, Fort McNair and the Pentagon Helipad. At the time of his retirement, Chief Miller is the longest tenured Committee Member on the Northern Virginia Fire Chiefs Committee. Congratulations Fire Chief Miller on 33 Years of Dedicated Federal Service

Richard Steinberg passes

.It is with a heavy heart that we share the news the retired Fire Chief Richard Steinberg passed away October 2. His daughter notified us recently. The family held a private service. Please keep the Steinberg Family in your prayers



Let's put a freeze on holiday fires!

SAVE THE DATE

State Weekend at the National Fire Academy

March 29-30, The National Fire Academy will be hosting the Virginia State Weekend. During this weekend, multiple training sessions will be offered. VDFP is covering the cost of meal tickets, room and board and courses. Only thing you have to pay is for your own personal travel!

March 29-30 in Emmitsburg, Maryland

More details soon!

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1,700 LUMENS

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2025 5K RUN – WALK

SATURDAY MARCH 22

WILLIAMSBURG, VA

7:30 AM

ADDITIONAL INFO: WWW.VFCA.US

COFFEE BREAK BULLETIN



- REMINDER -

Please clear snow away from any fire hydrant near your property. Fire crews waste precious time having to clear snow from an unclear hydrant in an emergency.

otherwise required or approved.

Here are some ways to keep fire hydrants accessible during snowstorms:

- Consider an Adopt-a-Hydrant program. Through public service messages and door-to-door contacts, ask neighbors to shovel out hydrants when they do their walks and to immediately report any faulty hydrants that appear to be damaged or leaking.
- Work with public works or the street department to identify high priority hydrant locations that must be kept clear.
- Consider contracting with a private snow removal service to have hydrants cleared.
- Install hydrant flags or snow markers that identify a hydrant's location beneath several feet of snow.
- Check drafting sites or dry hydrants to confirm the water access is not covered by ice or the dry hydrant is plugged.

Prepare for winter weather fire protection challenge

Before winter weather arrives, your fire department should make plans with agencies and organizations responsible for snow removal and water distribution to ensure personnel have access to fire hydrants, buildings and critical fire protection features, such as fire sprinkler and standpipe connections.

The code

The International Fire Code (IFC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Uniform Fire Codes have requirements to ensure the safety of the public and firefighters.

Unobstructed access to fire hydrants shall be maintained at all times. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants.

International Fire Code, 2018

For best access: Clear space around hydrants. Maintain a 5-foot clear space around the circumference of fire hydrants, except as



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SCAN ME





SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA) and it's Administrative Professionals Section (APS) are seeking donations for the annual silent auction. The auction will be held during the Virginia Fire Chiefs Conference, February 17-22, 2025.

All monies earned from the auction will benefit the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation (VFCF) in fulfilling educational scholarships for fire and ems personnel, and their families. All donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be anything you'd like - baskets with various items, theme baskets, gift cards, gently used items, etc. Donations do not need to be fire/ems service related. If possible, please wrap your donation in clear cellophane.

For more information, or questions, please contact:

Mandy Waybright
President - APS

 (540) 432-7742

 mandy.waybright@harrisonburgva.gov

YOUR LOCAL CONTACT:

NAME: _____

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EMAIL: _____

Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation

P.O. Box 699, Blackstone, VA 23824



Phone: (888) 818-0983
Web Site: www.vfca.us

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you today to share some information about the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation (VFCF). The VFCF was created and recorded with the State Corporation Commission as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in July 2007. The VFCF was born from the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association with the primary goal of providing educational opportunities, including scholarships and grants, to fire and emergency services professionals across the Commonwealth. Over 150 scholarships have been awarded to date to emergency responders or immediate family members. These scholarships have allowed these individuals to further their educational opportunities and better prepare themselves for future opportunities.

In addition, the Foundation is committed to developing the future leaders of the fire service in Virginia. This is being done through the delivery of a week-long resident program delivered at the University of Richmond. The theme of this program is Safety through Leadership and it focuses on improving leadership techniques, personal accountability and fostering the cultural change required to improve firefighter safety. Modules for this program include: the impact on the leader's attitude on safety, employee coaching techniques, conflict resolution, correcting unsafe behaviors, effective communication, and dealing with employee stress. Students participate in real life scenarios using actors and facilitators to guide the learning process. To date over 240 students have graduated from this program and it is our hope to continue to provide two sessions yearly.

I am writing you today to ask for your help. The Foundation has been hosting several fundraising events to help ensure our mission is maintained. The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation is holding a silent auction as part of the 2025 Virginia Fire and Rescue Conference being held in Virginia Beach, February 17 – 22, 2025. Will you consider donating something that can be included for the silent auction? I want to thank you for the opportunity to share this information about our organization. I hope you will agree this is a worthy cause and you will consider donating to help further the VFCF efforts. If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

R. Christian Eudailey
President/CEO
VFCF

VA TASK FORCE 1 & 2 SENT TO FL AND NC TO DEAL WITH THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE HELENE

And they're off...Eighty members of Virginia Task Force 2 were activated at 1200 hours on Tuesday Sept, 24, 2024, as a Type 1 Team, in response to Tropical Storm Helene. The team departed from the Harry E. Diezel Fire Training Center, at 1830 hours, and are expected to arrive in Orlando, Florida, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024, before 1700 hours.

Eight members, part of the Blue Incident Support Team (IST) 8, left earlier Monday where they will rendezvous with FEMA IST in Florida and assist local agencies with requests for assistance as needed. Virginia Task Force 2 Urban and Rescue Team National US&R Response System.

After leaving Siesta Key, Florida, on Monday, September 30, VA-TF2 relocated operations to Mitchell County, NC where they conducted 218 targeted searches, assisted 112 individuals, and evacuated four people. A two-day total of 2,368 structures were assessed; 58 structures sustained major damage or were destroyed. The team is dedicating a significant amount of time and effort dealing with downed power lines, washed out roads, destroyed homes, downed trees, and clearing debris to make the roads accessible in the area.



Just days later, the team was reassigned north and was traveling to the Carolinas to provide additional assistance.

VA-TF1 members continued search and rescue efforts by both air and ground yesterday in areas requested by local emergency operations officials. By integrating with local first responders, our search and rescue efforts are more effective.



Task Force 1

Our 80-person/4-canine team was initially sent to Florida and has arrived at their staging location. The team will await further direction from federal and state emergency management officials as #HurricaneHelene approaches.

Initially deployed to FL, VA-TF1 members conducted primary searches on buildings in Treasure Island, FL, checking for damage and any victims needing assistance.



VA-TF2 Hurricane Helene Response - Mitchell County, NC 10/06/2024

All photos credit: Virginia Task Force 1 and Virginia Task Force 2

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CRR WEEK | CRR WEEK



CRR Week 2025 kicks off on Martin Luther King Day, a National Day of Service, which is **Monday, January 20, 2025**. It runs through Sunday, January 26.

What is CRR Week?

CRR Week is a grass-roots effort by an informal group of fire safety professionals from across the nation. The idea is to help promote the awareness of Community Risk Reduction within the fire service by having a week where everyone can do CRR programs and demonstrate its importance to the fire service.

Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner

February 12-13, 2025 - Marriott Marquis, Washington DC

On **February 12-13, 2025**, the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) will host the **35th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner** in Washington, DC. Once again, the annual tribute to the nation's fire service is expected to draw over 1,500 of your colleagues from the fire and emergency services. By registering, you can attend educational seminars, conduct meetings with your member of Congress, and network with your colleagues. At the conclusion of the two-day event, you will join together in the Marriott Marquis ballroom to hear national political leaders paying tribute to the dedication and commitment of our nation's firefighters and emergency services personnel. CFSI invites you to participate in this important event.

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

The seminars program is something you can only experience in our nation's capital. Featuring federal policymakers and national fire service leaders, the program covers a broad array of national issues – issues being considered by Congress and implemented by federal agencies, as well as issues being addressed collectively by national organizations and distinguished fire service officials. Your registration fee will allow you full access to the seminars program and the Dinner.

Capping off the two-day event, the 35th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner will feature leaders of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and the Administration who will pay their personal tributes to the men and women of the fire and emergency services. The program will also include four award presentations for individual and organizational leadership in advancing the readiness and response capabilities of our nation's fire and emergency services.

Arson Awareness Week

Arson Awareness Week will take place May 5-11 with the theme of Protecting Houses of Worship Against Arson. Use the week to educate your community and your department about how to reduce risks and safeguard local places of worship. The U.S. Fire Administration has resources here. In addition, register for the Arson Awareness Week webinar taking place on May 6 at 2pm ET to learn more about this year's theme and what you can do.

Celebrate National EMS Week



Honoring Our Past, Forging Our Future

May 19-25 marks the 50th anniversary of National EMS Week. It's a time to show our gratitude toward EMTs and paramedics who provide lifesaving care across the nation every day. EMS Week is also a time to educate the public about EMS, and the essential service we provide to communities.

This year's theme is "Honoring Our Past, Forging Our Future." NAEMT partners with the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) on EMS Week to encourage the nationwide recognition of EMS Week and contributions of EMS professionals.

EMS Week celebrates the paramedics, EMTs and other EMS professionals who work diligently to care for their patients and serve their communities in times of crisis," says NAEMT President Susan Bailey. "Honoring Our Past, Forging Our Future' reminds us of the proud history of our profession and contributions of EMS practitioners over the decades. We also must stay focused on the road ahead: evolving, innovating and ensuring that EMS has the support needed to continue to answer the public's call for help when it's most needed."

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GOOD TRAINING IS NEVER TOO FAR AWAY

George J Beodeker, NRP

In May 2015, I volunteered to attend the Fire Inspector III course at Louis F. Garland Fire Academy in Goodfellow Air Force Base (GAFB), Texas. At the time of my selection to Fire Inspector III, I was both a new Fire Inspector and was serving as a LTJG/O-2 in the USCG Reserve in Savannah, Georgia. I had not been back to GAFB since I graduated from the fire academy in early 2004.



My time at GAFB more than 10 years prior as a young fire apprentice set up me for success in the fire service. The 13-week fire apprentice course challenged all students both academically and physically. Graduating from the Fire Academy was one of the proudest moments in my life.

In 2014, I left fire operations after 10 years and joined the fire prevention team at Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield (FS/HAAF). My expectation for the Fire Inspector III course was to become a better qualified fire prevention officer and program manager for the fire prevention office. What the course offered was a network of professional relationships that continue to flourish to this day.

During the first day of class I met fire service leaders who were serving in leadership roles all over the world. These leaders became fast friends and have mentored me over the last 10 years. Many senior fire officers I have met avoid attending Fire Inspector III so they are not tasked with fire prevention duties or assigned to fire prevention. However, the leaders I met in this class seemed ready for the challenge as they realized Fire Inspector III would make them better firefighters and chiefs.

Each member of this class had a humble and hungry attitude towards knowledge. As these fire leaders sat in the classroom over the next two weeks, they shared their successes and failures. Some of these leaders were Fire Chiefs at their fire departments and they provided great insight. For example, a now retired Deputy Fire Chief told me that the Fire Prevention office is the face of the department. This insight allowed me to better embrace the service I provided to the base community. After this course was over, I continued to attend classes with these leaders and seek professional development that they recommended. Their mentorship helped me develop as a new fire officer and junior military officer. Thanks to these leaders pouring into me I pushed myself to get Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) accredited, become an Assistant Fire Chief in Fire Prevention and Senior Fire Marshal with the State Department. I will soon take on the role of Assistant Fire Chief in Training with the Navy. Every new challenge becomes an opportunity to grow as a leader.

During Fire Inspector III, as a relatively new fire inspector I felt inspired around these leaders. I learned to reach out to people outside of my fire department for mentorship and leadership. I immediately saw the value of attending training that was far away from my fire department and where I did not know anyone.

It can feel intimidating to show up to a class 1,000 miles away from home with instructors and students I do not know. However, I have now attended many classes all over the world. Each time I attend a new class I learn something new and meet someone from another fire department. I am still uncomfortable at first but confident that every new experience will teach me something valuable about the service I love.

After approaching 22 years of service, I am still reflecting on the opportunity to develop as a fire service leader and look forward to the next class. Many of the people from my Fire Inspector III class have promoted or retired. The reality is they are still teaching me how to be a better chief officer, mentor, colleague, and friend.

I want to dedicate this article to Jason Linta #JBIRDSTRONG



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Every day, natural gas is safely and efficiently delivered to millions of businesses and homes in the United States through more than **2 million** miles of underground pipeline.

Virginia Natural Gas operates, secures and maintains the pipeline in our service territory. With safety being our highest priority, we adhere to federal, state and local pipeline safety regulations by performing extensive quality control checks, educate the public on natural gas pipeline, leak recognition and damage prevention and work closely with emergency and public officials to develop emergency response plans.

How to recognize a pipeline leak

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

Note: Be aware that "odorant fade," while uncommon, can occur. Odorant fade occurs when a physical or chemical process causes the level of odorant in the gas to be reduced. This can happen in both existing gas pipe and new installations. Be aware that some individuals may not be able to detect the smell of the natural gas odorant because they have a diminished sense of smell, because the scent is being masked by other odors in the area or because the odorant has diminished so that it is not detectable. Some gas lines, due to their unique function, may not have odor at all.

Learn more

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

To learn about our emergency response plan, which recognizes and mitigates threats and also sustains the integrity of the pipelines. Visit virginianaturalgas.com/integritymanagementplan.

Complete your training today!

Earn a one-hour training credit and certificate of course completion while learning about the importance of natural gas pipeline safety.

virginianaturalgas.com/respondertraining
(Use password: virginia)

Help keep everyone safe during a natural gas emergency

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

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

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

How we respond

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

Prevention – the best defense against leaks

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

Understand that natural gas is lighter than air and displaces oxygen. Although natural gas is non-toxic, in extreme cases of oxygen displacement, it may lead to asphyxiation. Natural gas has a risk of ignition near a spark or open flame.

- Know where the pipelines are in your jurisdiction. If you notice any missing or damaged pipeline markers, contact Virginia Natural Gas at **1.877.572.3342** so they can be replaced.
- Virginia law requires all underground utilities be marked before any type of digging or excavation. Be on the lookout for any suspicious activity or unauthorized digging. If the excavator has not notified the state of their intent to dig, they must stop all activity immediately. The excavator is required to present a valid dig ticket number when requested by first responders. Also, no one, including homeowners, should be digging, ditching, drilling, leveling or plowing without having first contacted our state's One-Call number (**811**) to locate underground utilities.
- Remember, pipeline markers, like the sample pictured, indicate only the general area of the pipeline and not the exact location or depth. Pipeline markers may not be present in all areas.
- Information about transmission pipelines operating in your community is available through the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) and online at: npms.phmsa.dot.gov.



 Virginia Natural Gas



Online Survey

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

VFCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 21 Executive Officers Meeting Virtual
1000 Hours
- 22-23 VFCA Lobby Day Richmond

February

- 17-22 Virginia Fire Rescue Conference VA Beach
0800
- 19 VFCA Full Board Meeting VA Beach
1300 hours
- 12-13 2024 National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner & Symposium

March

- 18 Executive Officers Meeting Virtual
1000 Hours
- 22 6th Annual VFCA 5K Run/Walk Williamsburg
0730 Hours

April

- 15 VFCA Full Board Meeting Glen Allen - VDFP
1000 Hours

May

- 3-4 NFFF Memorial Weekend
- 5-11 National Arson Awareness Week
- 15-16 11th Annual Chiefs Summit Glen Allen
0800 Hours
- 19-25 National EMS Week
- 20 Executive Officers Meeting Virtual
1000 Hours
- 30 2nd Annual VFCA Sporting Clay Event Rockingham Co,

June

- 13 15th VFCA Spotsylvania Golf Tournament
1100 Hours
- 22-27 VFOA/VCOA U of R
1500
- 17 VFCA Full Board Meeting VDFP
1000 Hours



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SPECIFICATIONS

FRAME	AL6061	LCD DISPLAY	Color, Smart LCD
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BATTERY	48V 14AH LG Lithium Ion	SPEED	*Up to 30 mph
SHIFTER	Shimano	RANGE	*Up to 50 miles (PA 1-3)
WHEEL	26"	*Varies based on weight, terrain and use of pedal assist	
TIRES	4" Kenda Puncture Resistant		
CHARGER	AC 100-240 V		
FRONT FORK	Front Suspension		
BRAKES	Hydraulic Disc		
LIGHTS	mPower Emergency Lights with Scene Lighting		

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FIREFIGHTER OCCUPATIONAL CANCER IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF LINE-OF-DUTY DEATHS IN THE FIRE SERVICE

Occupational Cancer is Killing Fire Fighters January is Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month when leading fire service organizations educate fire fighters about prevention and survival. Occupational cancer is claiming the lives of more fire fighters than any other cause, including fires and other on-scene incidents. The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) are committed to reversing this trend to save more fire fighters.

During 2024 Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month (iaff.org/cancer-awareness-month), the IAFF and FCSN will partner to deliver targeted education and best practices and resources to reduce the impact of cancer on fire fighters. This year's Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month highlights comprehensive strategies to reduce cancer risk throughout a fire fighter's life. This includes implementing best practices in station design to limit exposures to carcinogens, emphasizing precautions during firefighting like proper equipment use and designated decontamination zones. This month-long campaign will address personal risk factors during off-duty hours, such as nutrition and stress, and also highlight fire fighter success stories to encourage awareness and engagement to end the epidemic of cancer in the fire service.

"More than two-thirds of the names we added to our IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Wall last September died of job-related cancer," says IAFF General President Edward Kelly. "Science confirms that PFAS forever chemicals are driving the alarming rate of cancer in the fire service. We must do everything we can to eliminate this threat, not just for those on the job today, but for generations of fire fighters to follow. Together, the IAFF and the FCSN will do whatever it takes to keep fire fighters healthy and safe."

"It is a well-known fact that the title of firefighter carries with it a significant risk for developing occupational cancer," says FCSN CEO Bryan Frieders. "For the past 18 years, the Firefighter Cancer Support Network has been leading the fight against this diabolical disease by providing immediate support to firefighters during their most dire times. The importance of firefighter cancer awareness and

education cannot be over emphasized. I am proud to be aligned with Ed Kelly and great organizations like the International Association of Fire Fighters who have made the health and well-being of their members a top priority."



Each week of the month focuses on a specific theme. Each theme builds upon the previous week's theme. By the end of the month, firefighters will have the knowledge and resources to understand how firefighters are exposed to carcinogens, what happens when they are exposed, how to prevent exposures, make culture changes in their department and assist those who are diagnosed with cancer.

Week 1: Best Practices to Reduce Cancer at the Fire Station

Week 2: Best Practices to Reduce Cancer on the Fireground

Week 3: Best Practices to Reduce Cancer Off Duty/Personal Life

Week 4: Survivorship and Cancer Prevention in Action

We encourage you to use content from each week to hold weekly a safety stand down in your department. Use the provided tools to engage firefighters in discussions on steps they can take to reduce the risk of occupational cancer.

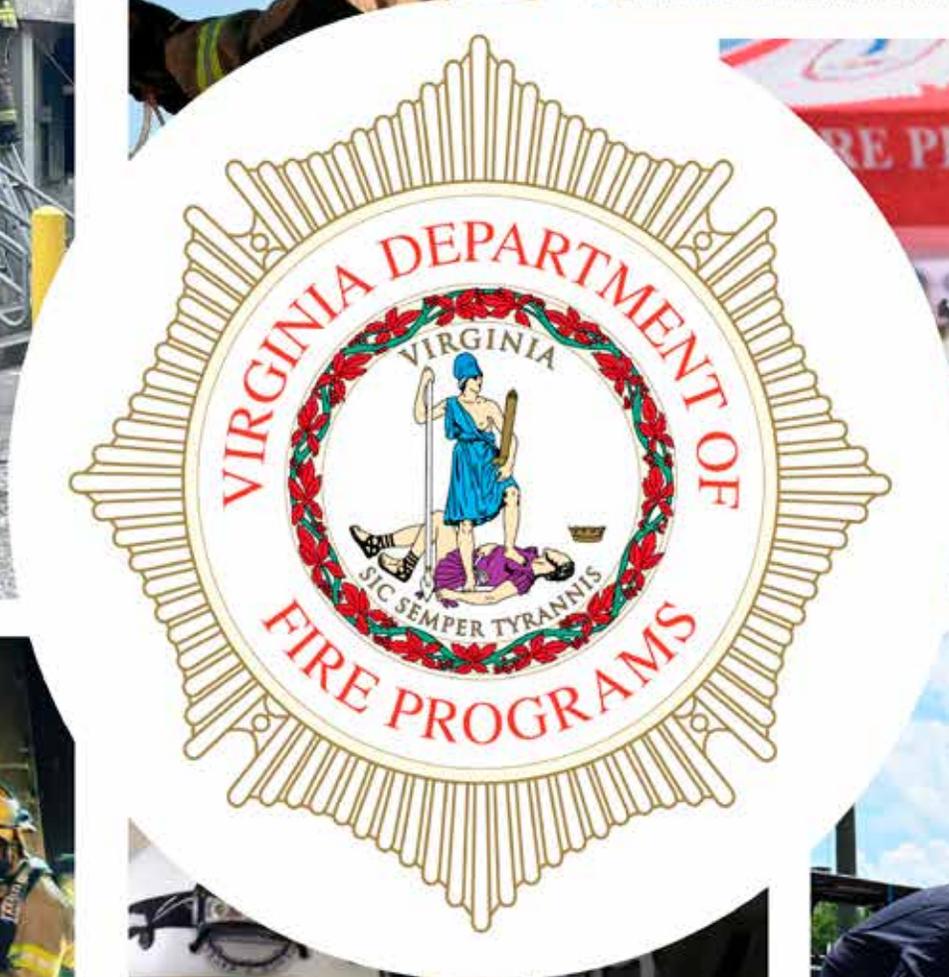
Sourcewell – More Than Just the Big Ticket Items



When fire chiefs think of [Sourcewell](#) contracts, they often think about buying big ticket items like fire apparatus, ambulances, radios, and SCBA. These are higher cost purchases that typically need to be competitively bid to meet an agency's procurement requirements.

But did you know that Sourcewell also offers contracts for everyday things like [office supplies](#) and [furniture](#), [computers](#), and [janitorial supplies](#)? Even if you aren't required to issue an RFP, you can enjoy Sourcewell best value pricing on the goods and services you need every day to run your fire departments.

Sourcewell works for all types of fire departments - career, combination, and volunteer. Even the smallest of volunteer departments is receiving public money – in the form of both tax dollars and community donations. Maintaining the public trust and using those donations appropriately is critical to ongoing community support. Taking advantage of the many Sourcewell contracts available to you ensures that you are using your fire department funds effectively, efficiently, and appropriately, and that you are getting the best value, doing so with a low level of effort on your already overtaxed volunteers.



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VFCF ANNOUNCES BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENTS FOR 2025



The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation will be holding three benefit golf tournaments around the Commonwealth in 2025. 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.

Event	Date	Start Time
15th Annual VFCF /Spotsylvania –Lees Hill Golf Club POC–Chris Eudailey–ceudailey@vfca.us or 540-809-9397	6-13-25	1100 Hours
11th Annual VFCF /Williamsburg –JCC/Kiskiack POC–Ryan Ashe–757-220-0626	10-3-25	0800 Hours
10th Annual VFCF /Salem –Blacksburg Country Club POC–TBD	10-6-25	0800 Hours

Additional information can also be found at www.vfca.us . The VFCF is actively seeking sponsors and door prizes for each of these events. The goal for these events for 2025 is \$50,000.



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Chief

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