VFCA
WORKING TO
PUT THE PIECES
TOGETHER
This is Max.
The new Ascendant® 100’ Heavy Duty Aerial Tower

Max manueverability.  
Max drivability.  
Max operability.  
Max serviceability.

**KEY FEATURES**
- Low overall travel height: 10’ 8”
- Superior scrub area coverage
- Smart compartmentation
- Six stabilizers
- Integrated ground pads
- Available dual monitor fire suppression

The Ascendant 100’ Aerial Tower is available on a variety of custom chassis and body styles to meet your department’s needs. Its integrated ground pads eliminate time spent throwing ground pads, so setup is streamlined and faster than any other aerial on the market. Configured as shown with a rear axle rating of only 48,000 lb, it outperforms with a 1,000 lb tip load capacity, up to –20° below grade operation, and a 50° scrub area. All of this is accomplished at a mere 20’ setback from the building.

**Specifications**
- **Custom Chassis Choices**: Arrow XT™, Velocity™
- **Vertical Reach**: 100’
- **Horizontal Reach**: 93’
- **Operating Range**: -20° to 77°
- **Basket**: 143 sq ft
- **Payload Capacity**: 1,000 lb dry / 500 lb wet
- **Wind & Ice Ratings**: Up to 35 mph winds & 1/4” of Ice
- **Flow Capacity**: 2,000 gpm
- **Stabilizers**: 1 set of H-style & 4 downriggers
- **Stabilizer Spread**: 18’
- **Rear Axle**: Tandem
- **Tank**: Up to 300 gallons
- **Pump Range**: Waterous, Hale, Darley Midship
- **Hosebed Capacity**: 800’ of 5” hose
- **Ladder Compartment**: Minimum of 170’
- **Structural Ladder Warranty**: 20 yr

Learn more about the new Pierce Ascendant 100’ Aerial Tower

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“Progressive Training for the All Hazards Fire Service”

2019 VIRGINIA FIRE + RESCUE CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE
February 20-24, 2019
Virginia Beach Convention Center

Sponsored by the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
Visit www.vfca.us for info
From Lip Synchs to Politics
Challenges Abound!

At the conclusion of the City of Richmond’s “Lip Synch Challenge” video, Fire Chief Melvin Carter called me out by name with the challenge to produce a similar video. Gee, thanks Melvin! I thought we were friends! So, sure enough, a couple weeks later my locality (Henrico) produced our own lip synch video, complete with 300 kids who were part of the Police Athletic League summer program, along with partners from all Henrico County public safety agencies.

I will admit I was anxious about being video-taped dancing and singing along to a pop song that I had never even heard. And if you were unfortunate enough to see my part, you’ll be glad to hear that I plan to keep my day job. But the challenge that had been thrown down was accepted, the result was positive for our community and organization, and in the end I am glad we did it.

I think this is a fitting metaphor to describe many of the challenges we are facing in our departments and in our state. On a daily basis we are being challenged to step into situations that we never even imagined when we took the oath of becoming a firefighter. Often these make us feel uncomfortable. From active shooter preparations, to implementation of new technologies, to state-level political engagement, we are surrounded with issues that require our attention, whether or not we feel comfortable doing so.

The VFCA’s participation in the Fire Prevention Code review process at the State level is a good example. Only the true insiders to Virginia’s code development process can come even close to understanding how the machine works. Many of us, who are responsible for enforcing the Fire Prevention Code, have been surprised at how complex and confusing the process of amending and adopting these codes has become.

But the fire service in Virginia is fortunate because we have been represented in these discussions by friends who have been willing to give their own time and energy to protect and strengthen the codes; these individuals have included Chief Keith Brower (Loudoun County), and Chief Keith Johnson (Loudoun County). The VFCA’s Legislative Committee, headed up by Chief Dave Hutcheson (Virginia Beach) and our government relations firm (Two Capitols) have also been heavily involved in these efforts. The Virginia Fire Prevention Association has been an important ally as well. Finally, we are truly fortunate to have the active engagement of the Department of Fire Programs Director Mike Reilly and Deputy Director Brook Pittenger fighting for us as well. This has been a long process, but we have made real progress in the effort and we will have a better Fire Prevention Code as a result.

Earlier in August, the VFCA made a presentation to the Northern Virginia Fire Chiefs Association during a meeting held at the headquarters of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. This meeting helped to identify issues that are unique to the fire service in Northern Virginia, as well as issues that we all share in common. These kinds of relationships must be nourished and strengthened because they are critical to maximizing the ability of the VFCA to meet the needs of all of Virginia’s fire services.

So when the final version of our lip synch was published, I nervously watched. How badly did I dance and embarrass myself? Turns out, I really can’t dance. But that’s not the point. It was a team effort and the result was very good. I participated, along with hundreds of others. And that is how we achieve success. Together.
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Check Out These STIHL Industry-First Technologies:

**TSA 230** | **$449.95**  
World’s First Lithium-Ion Powered Cut-Off Machine  
- Lightweight, easy to handle, gets the job done fast

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World’s First Cut-Off Machine Equipped with a Sensor-Activated Wheel Brake  
- Wheel Brake designed to reduce the risk of injury from kickback when top of wheel has been exposed

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Industry’s First Electronically Controlled Fuel-Injection System for Handheld Outdoor Power Equipment  
- Provides optimum torque throughout RPM range and incredible acceleration

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With support from the Virginia Fire Chief’s Association and the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation, the 2018 Virginia Fire Officers Academy was a resounding success. Held on campus at the University of Richmond, the two sessions graduated on June 8 and June 15 respectively, with a total of 78 students participating. This brings the total of VFOA graduates across the Commonwealth of Virginia to 717. The Company Officers Section of the VFCA works diligently throughout the year to put on this program and their hard work was evident in the quality of the delivery. The command and general staffs for this year’s program, with Carl Chandler leading the way as the incident commander, spent two weeks at the University of Richmond to ensure that this year’s courses met the expectations of the students.

Carl Chandler  Acting BC  Chesterfield  Incident Commander
Blane Johnson  Lieutenant  Winchester  Deputy Incident Commander
Brian Hoover  Captain  Portsmouth  Deputy Incident Commander
Lindsey Blasius  FF/Medic  Manassas  Public Information
Rich Trent  Acting BC  Virginia Beach  Information Technology
JR Hall  Lieutenant  City of Richmond  Safety
Bill Donati  Lieutenant  York County  Operations Section Chief
Danny Owens  Firefighter  City of Richmond  Curriculum Section Chief
Tim Farrar  Firefighter  Henrico  Planning Section Chief
Michael Hirsch  Lieutenant  King George  Logistics Section Chief
Jonathan Hughes  Firefighter  Fairfax County  Finance Section Chief
Eugene Durham  Captain  Chesterfield  Assistant VFCA Liaison

Many other members of the staff gained valuable experience as they served in supporting roles during this year’s academy. Some will likely be moving into staff positions in the coming years and that experience will ensure that they are successful.

More than 150 applications were received from all across the Commonwealth for these two programs that have only 80 spots available. The selection process was difficult for the selection committee with such a great pool of candidates to choose from. Career, volunteer, and combination departments were all represented from all different types of communities. All candidates who were not selected this year are encouraged to continue to apply for this great program.

The VFOA continues to strive to attain “Safety through Leadership” by selecting instructors who can deliver that message to the students in their respective areas of expertise. This year we were lucky to have Captain Joe Brown (Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue), Battalion Chief Ret. Warren Cersley (Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services), Greg Huber (Signature Team Building), Art Jackson (Eagles Nest Performance Management), District Chief Randy Keim (St. Petersburg, FL and Fully Involved Consulting), Battalion Chief Ret. Murrey Loflin (Virginia Beach Fire Dept. and National Institute of Safety and Health), Deputy Chief Tim McKay (Chesterfield County Fire and EMS), Captain Robby Owens (Henrico County Division of Fire), Battalion Chief Mike Phaltzgraff (Anne Arundel Co., MD), Vickie Taylor (National Fallen Firefighters Foundation), and Matt Tobia (Assistant Chief, Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue) who served as presenters.

One day of the academy consists of role playing exercises where the students are placed in mock scenarios and are presented with difficult personnel issues. Experienced facilitators are used to assess their performance and to offer advice to the students. This year we were fortunate to have Batt. Chief (ret) Joe Bailey (Fairfax City), Captain Todd Spruill (City of Richmond), Lt. Blane Johnson (Winchester), Deputy Chief Todd Lupton (Manassas), Deputy Chief Steve Morris (City of Harrisonburg), Batt. Chief (ret) Bob Woods (Henrico), Division Chief Matt Embrey (Spotsylvania), Batt. Chief Adam Jones (Manassas Park), Deputy Chief Tim McKay (Chesterfield), and Captain Eugene Durham (Chesterfield) who served as facilitators. The sacrifice of their time will certainly help to improve the abilities of the officers and aspiring officers who attended this year’s sessions.

The academy would not be possible without our sponsors and supporters. As one can imagine, a prestigious venue such as the University of Richmond comes at a cost. The Virginia Fire Chief’s Association, Virginia Fire Chief’s Foundation, the Wawa Foundation, Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, and The Virginia Department of Fire Programs all made sure that this fine program continues to mold and mentor the Commonwealth’s current and future fire service leaders.

Each year and to show their appreciation, students take up donations amongst themselves to support a charitable cause. This year, between the two sessions, more than $1500 was collected to provide scholarships to future students of the VFOA who may not otherwise have the financial means to attend. Additionally, the VFOA staff donated more than $2000 out of their own pockets to support the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation with two golf tournament sponsorships. The foundation is a direct supporter of the VFOA and this was a way for the staff to pay it forward to future academies.

Planning for the 2019 VFOA is in full swing with Lt. Blane Johnson (Winchester Fire & Rescue) at the helm as the incident commander. Be on the lookout for the application period to open. Information will be posted at www.vfca.org and on social media as it becomes available. See you in Richmond!
Class 18-1 Graduates

Alex Helems, Roanoke Fire and EMS; Kenneth Naccarato, Albemarle County Fire and EMS; Christopher Pitts, Spotsylvania Department of Fire, Rescue, & Emergency Management; Justin Rhyne, Augusta County Fire and Rescue; Will Sanford Jr., Fredericksburg Fire Department; Joshua Fentress, Virginia Beach Fire Department; Kevin Harrison Jr., City of Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services; Christopher Myer, City of Fairfax Fire Department; Anthony Spencer, Portsmouth Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services; Marcus Ballenger, Winchester Fire & Rescue; Jason Curtis, Danville Fire Department; Steven Gray Jr., Newport News Fire Department; Amber McKiddy, Loudoun County-Combined Fire and Rescue System; Bryce Williams, City of Williamsburg Fire Department; Robert Councill, Prince George Fire, EMS, & Emergency Management; Scott Foster Jr., Virginia Beach Fire Department; Lawrence Phipps Jr., Hanover Fire-EMS; William Rice Jr., City of Richmond Fire & Emergency Services; Matthew Smith, Fauquier County Department of Fire and Emergency Management; Christopher Carter, Charlottesville Fire Department; Jesse Clark, Shenandoah County Department of Fire & Rescue; Stephen Hoke, Colonial Heights Fire & EMS; Carlos Munoz III, Newport News Fire Department; Keen Trinh, Henrico County Division of Fire; John Gannon, Chesterfield County Fire and EMS; Joseph Jock Jr., Warren County Fire and Rescue Services; Ronny Martin, Henrico County Division of Fire; Gene Thompson Jr., Harrisonburg Fire Department; Curtis Ward, Hampton Division of Fire & Rescue; Gerald Baines, Chesterfield County Fire & EMS; Rodney Gentry Jr., Salem Fire-EMS; Samantha Green, Fort Belvoir Fire & Emergency Services; Tracy Hobbs, Bristol Va. Fire Department; James Jones, Hopewell Fire & Rescue; W. Travis Jenkins, New Kent Fire-Rescue; Natalie Marshall, City of Poquoson Fire-Rescue; Sean Navin, York County Department of Fire and Life Safety; Jeffrey Wallace, Powhatan County Fire and Rescue Department; Rebecca Wilson, City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department.

On the ropes!
Class 18-2 Graduates

Christopher Brown, City of Staunton Fire and Rescue; Reuben Cowles III, Albemarle County Fire & Rescue; Lisa Ooten, Spotsylvania Department of Fire & Emergency Management; James Rivers, Roanoke Fire-EMS; Wesley Sheler, Fredericksburg Fire Department; Douglas Martin, Richmond International Airport Fire Department; Scott Pennington, King George Fire, Rescue, & Emergency Services; William Raftery, Virginia Beach Fire Department; Allen Sydnor, Richmond Department of Fire & Emergency Services; Curtis Wilson, Chesapeake Fire Department; Ciera Fenske, Roanoke Fire-EMS; Ashley Roberts, Newport News Fire Department; Jason Scott, City of Manassas Fire & Rescue; Jeffrey Wolfe, Loudon County-Combined Fire-Rescue System; Michele Greep, Henrico County Division of Fire; Clinton Lewis, Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services; Brandon McAlexander, Martinsville Fire & EMS; Samuel Miller, Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue, & Emergency Management; Timothy Dodd, Colonial Heights Fire & EMS; Eric Maschal, Lynchburg Fire Department; Brandon Oliver, Warren County Fire Rescue; Charles Robinson IV, Henrico County Division of Fire; Larry Bennington, Harrisonburg Fire Department, Jarrett Elam, Hampton Division of Fire & Rescue; Ryan Foster, Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Department; Bradley Morefield, Chesterfield County Fire & EMS; Sokthear Van, City of Alexandria Fire Department; Ty Burch, Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services; Hunter Coleman, Chesterfield County Fire & EMS; Jeremy Hartman, Salem Fire-EMS; Summer Ruhling, Shenandoah County Fire and Rescue; Mark Sikora, County of Orange Fire & EMS; John Cundiff, Hanover Fire-EMS; Brian Heinsman, James City County Fire Department; Kentry Snow, Manassas Park Fire & Rescue Department; Jeremy Tate, Chancellor Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department; Donnie West, New Kent Fire-Rescue.

Learning to trust!

2018 Virginia Fire Officer Academy Staff
2018 VIRGINIA CHIEF OFFICER ACADEMY COMPLETED

By: Jack Crandall, Professional Development Committee Chair

On June 15, 2018, with the support of the Virginia Fire Chief’s Association and the Virginia Fire Chief’s Foundation, the Virginia Chief Officers Academy (VCOA) graduated with 30 members completing the rigorous program. The graduates are from a wide variety of organizations from across the Commonwealth, who serve in career, volunteer, and combination organizations. They have all shown that they are dedicated to lifelong learning and are committed to taking the skills learned back to their own organizations and will continue to grow into proven leaders. The program is rigorous, with long days beginning with a PT program administered by Battalion Chief Robert Washington (Williamsburg Fire). It was then off to the classroom where the students were enlightened by some of the Commonwealth’s finest fire officers and Chief’s on very important topics affecting chief officers.

Many thanks go out to the dedicated instructors who carved out time to make a difference in the fire service leaders who were in attendance. Commissioner Adam Thiel (Philadelphia Fire), Batt. Chief Robert Washington (Williamsburg Fire), Fire Chief Pat Dent (Williamsburg Fire), Deputy Chief Todd Lupton (City of Manassas Fire), Fire Chief Andrew Baxter (Charlottesville Fire), Batt. Chief Justin Green (Loudoun County Fire), Chief Tony McDowell (Henrico Fire), County Manager John Vithoulkas (Henrico County), Personnel Coordinator Andrew Snead (Henrico Fire), Batt. Chief (ret) Rex Strickland (Fairfax County Fire), Batt. Chief John Galganski (James City Co. Fire), Bill Leighty (Decide Smart), Deputy Chief Larry Snyder (Williamsburg Fire), Fire Chief Jethro Piland (Hanover Fire), Batt. Chief Amy Valdez (Va. Beach Fire), Deputy Chief Rick Edinger (Chesterfieldfield Fire), Director Mike Reilly (VDFP), Fire Chief Loy Senter (Chesterfield Fire), Fire Chief Melvin Carter (Richmond Fire), Batt. Chief Todd Gorham (Fairfax County Fire).

The University of Richmond, once again, was very accommodating in the use of their facilities during the week that the VCOA was there. Many thanks to their staff for all the assistance during the week. The VCOA staff worked hard throughout the year to put together this program that has continued to evolve each year and will continue to get better as we move forward. The staff of this year’s program included Bill Donati (York County Fire), Bruce Wright (Fort Belvoir Fire), Barney Bolter (Henrico Fire), Taylor Goodman (Powhatan County Fire), Jack McGovern (Fredericksburg Fire), Jason Koren (Prince George Fire), Justin Green (Loudoun County Fire), Robert Washington (Williamsburg Fire), and Todd Spruill (Richmond Fire).

Be sure to be on the lookout for the application period for the 2019 Virginia Chief Officer Academy which will be held at the University of Richmond from June 9-14, 2019.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2019 Graduates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Bennington</td>
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<td>Joseph Brown</td>
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<td>Christopher Carroll</td>
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<td>Tracy Coe</td>
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<td>Ralph Crabill</td>
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<td>Timothy Duffer</td>
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<td>Rodney Epps</td>
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<td>John Kaczor</td>
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<td>Charles Knowles, Jr.</td>
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<td>Philip Liggins</td>
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<td>Salvatore Luciano</td>
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<td>Jamey Mantz</td>
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<td>Timothy Nunez</td>
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<td>Brian Phillips</td>
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<td>James Rhodes</td>
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<td>Daniel Schreiner</td>
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<td>Terrell Smith</td>
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<td>Earl Taylor</td>
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<td>Ronnie Thomas</td>
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VFCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October
5  Administrative Professionals Retreat
   Virginia Beach Fire Training Center
   927 S. Birdneck Road  Virginia Beach
   0830 Hours
12 3rd Annual VFCA Salem Golf Tournament
    Hanging Rock Golf Club  Salem
    1200 Hours
24 VFCA Executive Board Meeting
    Staunton
    1800 Hours
25-26 VFCA Full Board Meeting and Annual Retreat
    Staunton
    0800 Hours

November
15-16 Company Officers Summit
    Sandston
    0800 Hours
20 VFCA Executive Board Meeting
    Henrico
    1000 Hours

December
18 VFCA Full Board Meeting
    Henrico
    1000 Hours

January 2019
15 VFCA Executive Board Meeting
    Henrico
    1000 Hours

February
20-24 Virginia Fire Rescue Conference
    Virginia Beach
21 VFCA Full Board Meeting
    Virginia Beach
    1300 Hours

March
19 VFCA Executive Board Meeting
    Henrico
    1000 Hours
AMKUS’ new ION 2.0 tools are both lightweight and compact in size; perfect for tight space operations. Yet they pack a powerful punch with DEWALT’s FLEXVOLT® battery. The affordable and long-life batteries can be used on many other hand tools found on the apparatus.

Upgrade to ION 2.0 and share the power!

* Batteries available almost everywhere for under $100
The 8th Annual VFCF Benefit Golf Tournament was held on June 29, 2018 at Lees Hill Golf Club in Spotsylvania. Planning for this event started in early 2018 and the planning group had established two goals for the event at the initial meeting – to have at least 25 golf teams on the course and to raise $20,000. I am happy to report both goals were achieved! There were 31 registered teams for the event and 116 golfers were on the golf course that afternoon! This was our best event ever since the inception of this tournament in 2011!

The success of this event would not have been realized without the generous sponsors and golfers. This year there were 36 sponsors that ensured the overall success of the tournament. The top sponsors this year consisted of the following: Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Harris Corporation, Breg Environmental, Colonial Pipeline, Dick Singer and Loudoun Career Firefighters Association. Other sponsors included: Hometown Firefighter Services, Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center, Whelen Engineering Represented by Fleet Reps, IAFF Local 3886-Spotsylvania, The Family Jewels, IAFF Local #995 – Richmond, King George Fire Rescue and Emergency Services and Ron Mastin.

This year lunch was provided for the golfers through a donation from FESCO Emergency Equipment and Coca-Cola Bottling donated beverages for the event. Atlantic Builders provided a sponsorship to purchase golf balls that were provided to each golfer and Fuji Film Wako Chemicals USA Corp provided a donation. VFIS donated numerous items as door prizes that included a dozen or more jackets, golf balls, putters, golf tees among other items. After the golfers finished their round of golf they enjoyed a delicious dinner that was provided by Mission BBQ. I want to give a special shout out to Mission BBQ Catering General Manager Maria Briggs for their generous donation – dinner for the attendees!!! The food and fellowship was great.

The event concluded with the awarding of trophies – First place team consisted of Gery Morrison, Danny Morrison, Dave Hall and Scott Halisky from Fairfax County IAFF Local 2068. This year the event provided a $500 cash prize and the First Place Team generously donated the money back to the VFCF!!! The second place team represented Richmond Fire Department and it included William Rice, David Loving, Rodney Coles and Chad Waddy. Third place team was from Chesterfield Fire and EMS and players included Carl Adams, David Tesh, David Johnson and Nick Austin.

On behalf of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation we wish to thank all the Sponsors, golfers and numerous businesses that donated items for door prizes. Without your assistance and participation this event would not have been a success. The date for the 9th Annual VFCF Spotsylvania event is June 21, 2019 – hope you will consider joining us – we are hoping for a full field of 36 teams! If you missed the Spotsylvania event you still have two opportunities to play in another VFCF Golf Tournament in 2018. The 4th Annual VFCF Williamsburg Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 21st at the Golden Horseshoe and the 3rd Annual VFCF Salem Tournament is being held on October 12. Additional information on these events can be found on the VFCA website – www.vfca.us

A Huge Shout Out And Thank You To All Of Our Sponsor’s!
VIRGINIA BEACH FIRE DEDICATES THEIR FIRE TRAINING CENTER TO FORMER FIRE CHIEF HARRY DIEZEL

Tuesday night, June 5, the Virginia Beach City Council passed a resolution to rename the Virginia Beach Fire Training Center “The Harry E. Diezel Virginia Beach Fire Training Center.”

Both the Mayor of Virginia Beach and the Police Chief described Harry Diezel as a legend.

On Wednesday, June 6, The Virginia Beach Fire Department dedicated the Virginia Beach Fire Training Center on Birdneck Road in honor of former VBFD Fire Chief Harry E Diezel. The ceremony was open to the public.

Harry Diezel spent virtually his entire life serving both his community and his country. He first entered the fire service in 1958 as a volunteer member of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Service and in 1966 he became a career firefighter with that county. His volunteer service was punctuated with the completion of military duty and included assignments to the 82nd Airborne and 1st Calvary Divisions.

Chief Diezel assumed the position of Fire Chief in Virginia Beach on May 1, 1974 replacing the Department’s first Chief, E.B. Bayne after his retirement in June of that same year. When Chief Diezel took the helm of the Virginia Beach Fire Department there were just 120 career firefighters and today that number has grown to almost 500. Much has changed since 1974, but Chief Diezel’s leadership did much to shape this department into what it is today. The improvements he worked for not only benefited the fire department, the citizens benefited from his leadership as well.

Just a few short months after he was sworn in as Fire Chief, he challenged State Building codes to improve fire prevention measures in high rise and multi-dwelling structures along the oceanfront. He did this despite the controversy it created at that time saying, “I will be a dedicated public servant, but I won’t be a public doormat for anyone.”

Chief Diezel laid the ground work for neighboring cities in Southside Hampton Roads to respond to fires across city lines. This effort led to what has today evolved into Automatic Aid that allows dispatchers to reach across city lines so that the closest fire company responds to an emergency.

Chief Diezel allowed the development and then the funding of the Urban Search and Rescue Team outside the normal budget process which led to the development of the FEMA team, Virginia Task Force 2. Members of that team as well as other FEMA teams from across the country train here, at this facility that will now bear his name.

The Fire Training Center itself is part of Chief Diezel’s legacy. He secured the initial funding needed to build the Fire Training Center in 1975 after successfully getting this project into the Capital Improvement Plan in 1975.

The next two years allowed for the design and bidding process to get underway. Construction of the Fire Training Center began in 1978 and in 1979 the 10,000 square foot facility was complete with administration offices, a 120-seat auditorium, training classrooms in addition to a full service library and burn building. In February of that same year, the facility opened and 24 VBFD recruit firefighters were the first to be trained in the state of the art regional fire training center.

He initiated a voluntary physical fitness program for Virginia Beach Fire Fighters that is the basis for the department’s current emphasis on health and fitness for both veteran firefighters and recruits.

He was proactive in seeking to recruit more women into the fire department.

Chief Diezel retired in September of 1997, but his commitment to public service did not end there. In 2002 he was unanimously appointed to City Council to represent the Kempsville District of Virginia Beach.

He served on city council for ten years. He also served on the City Manager’s Management Leadership Team where he functioned as an ombudsman for all public safety divisions within the city.

Renaming the Virginia Beach Fire Training Center to “The Harry E. Diezel Virginia Beach Fire Training Center” will inspire future generations of both Fire Chiefs and Firefighters to be innovative in their approach to the job and always put public service before themselves.

Diezel has been a longtime VFCA member and supporter.

A Dedication Ceremony for the renaming of the Fire Training Center to the “Harry E. Diezel Virginia Beach Fire Training Center” was held in June. Deputy Chiefs James Ramsey and Richard Cooper are shown installing the plaque in the lobby of the “Harry E. Diezel Virginia Beach Fire Training Center” at the ceremony.
RESET THE CLOCK:
Replace Liability With Credibility

DATE AND TIME
Friday, November 2, 2018
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM EDT

LOCATION
Damrell Executive Conference Center
4795 Meadow Wood Lane
Chantilly, VA 20151

The International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association proudly partner to bring this valuable learning opportunity to the Northern Virginia region.

Please join us for this one-day workshop presented by:

Michael J. Mirarchi, J.D., Mirarchi Management Group

Leaders gain skills and increased confidence in handling employee relations situations that, while difficult and uncomfortable, must be addressed carefully to prevent legal problems.

Objectives:
In this highly interactive and entertaining program specifically designed for leaders in fire service, an extensive array of employee relations scenarios are covered. Situation-specific advice is provided:

- Effective employee relations practices that minimize department and personal liability.
- Scripted responses to use in sensitive employee relations situations.
- How to avoid hearing “You should have anticipated this” after an avoidable legal claim.

Registration: $249 for IAFC/VFCA members; $299 for non-members

What’s Included?
Light continental breakfast, lunch and snacks are included in the registration fee.

Lodging recommendations and preferred rates available on the website.

Register today: IAFC.org/ResetTheClock
PHILLIPS HEAD SCREWDRIVERS, LEATHERMAN TOOLS, ALWAYS & NEVER
Jay Cullinan, Fire Chief
Spotsylvania Fire, Rescue & Emergency Management

I was having a discussion the other day with a friend, when we got on the topic of how to approach difficult discussions. He had attended a training program where a technique to discuss difficult topics had been presented. While he thought a lot of the technique and realized it's benefit in certain situations, he said he wasn't sure that it was worth using since it might not always work.

That got me thinking about how we approach a lot of topics in the fire service, and life in general. We often look for the one-size-fits-all approach to whatever problem we're confronted with. We seek out concepts that we can ALWAYS rely on, or identify things that will NEVER work to completely rule them out. Just look at the debates over NEVER applying water from the exterior of a structure fire, or ALWAYS performing vertical ventilation.

Over the years, through many of my own mistaken attempts to prove the rule wrong, I have learned that the words ALWAYS and NEVER have very little use in the fire service (or in life!). As John Norman, one of my favorite fire service leaders, frequently says when asked a question about tactics during his presentations...“it depends”. The correct decision depends upon the circumstances of the situation.

So what does this have to do with screwdrivers and Leatherman tools? Well, a Phillips head screwdriver is very useful when trying to tighten or loosen one of those little screws with the familiar crossed pattern on their head, or it can be used to punch a hole through something. In a pinch, it might be used to pry something, or to bang a small nail into sheetrock, but it is certainly not as effective as a pry bar or a hammer in those cases. It’s all but worthless when trying to manipulate a flat head screw or tighten a hex nut. On the other hand, the Leatherman tool has a wide variety of uses, and does a pretty decent job of performing some of the basic jobs of the variety of tools it contains. However, the extent to which I would use it to perform more significant work, like replacing a head gasket, would be pretty limited. At that point the better choice would be a socket wrench set, because the job exceeds the capabilities of our multi-faceted Leatherman.

So, does this mean we should NEVER use the Phillips head screwdriver or ALWAYS Leatherman tool? Does it mean we throw them out of our toolbox, or decide to get rid of all of our other tools to proudly display our trusty Phillips head screwdriver? Of course not!

We realize the value of these tools in certain circumstances and situations. This same concept applies to our leadership strategies and tactics. No person is the same as another, and each person responds to different approaches depending upon what they are experiencing at that given time. So, while one approach to having a discussion might not work with a certain individual in that specific situation, it doesn’t mean that it will never be a good approach to someone else, or in a different situation. Some people need to hear a story to develop an introspective look at what they may be doing wrong, using imagery and exhaustive discussion on philosophy to learn their lesson, while another may respond better to a simple direct statement of “you screwed up” and “here’s what you can do to fix it next time”.

So, instead of focusing on what tools you want to disregard, be a tool hog. Collect those ideas, concepts, and experiences, placing them in your 18-wheeler sized toolbox. You never know when you may be confronted with that problem that requires the obscure, once in a lifetime use tool to fix, and no other tool will do.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS RETREAT TO BE HELD

The VFCA Administrative Professionals Retreat will be held on Friday, October 5th with registration beginning at 8:30am. There will be morning and afternoon sessions and the quarterly meeting will be during lunch. The conference will be held at the Harry E. Diezel Virginia Beach Fire Training Center located at 927 S. Birdneck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

For info about the retreat, including the schedule, go to: https://vfcaus.starchapter.com/images/downloads/Administrative_Professionals_Section/2018_vfca_admin_conference_flyer.pdf

For the registration link go to: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-vfca-administrative-professionals-retreat-tickets-48579523663
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The Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) has an essential role in the standardization of firefighting basics in Belize – a Central American country more than 3,000 miles from Virginia. In July, Fire Programs donated a trailer full of IFSTA and FEMA textbooks and manuals to Hanover Fire and EMS for delivery to Belize to help with the establishment of a fire services program. With more than 170 firefighters in Belize for approximately 380,000 residents, the country doesn’t have a governing body to address firefighting rules of the road like the VDFP.

The connection came about from a chance meeting between VDFP Executive Director Michael Reilly and Deputy Director Brook Pittinger, Fire Chief Ted Smith from Belize who was visiting New York City, Hanover Fire and EMS Chief Jethro Piland, and colleague, firefighter/paramedic and founder of the Virginia Emergency Services Assistance Program (VESAP) for Belize, Archibald “Mac” McFarlane. The personal and professional relationship between Fire Chief Smith and McFarlane prompted the question, how can we help firefighters in Belize? The two reached out to the VDFP for assistance.

“It was a no brainer. Chief Piland and Hanover Fire and EMS sought our help and we answered the call. We’re proud of our approach to training firefighters and are honored that Virginia’s curriculum is a model for Belize,” said Reilly.

A month following the meeting, a trailer full of VDFP resources was delivered to Hanover Fire and EMS, with Belize as the destination.

The VDFP houses thousands of fire services textbooks that cannot be offloaded to the general population. However, the material in many of the textbooks is still timely and appropriate to learn firefighting basics.
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2018 COMPANY OFFICERS’ SUMMIT

Date:
Nov 15th & 16th

Times:
Day 1 Starting at 0700 & Day 2 Ending at 1400

Location:
Homewood Suites by Hilton
5996 Audubon Drive
Sandston, VA 23150

Registration Cost:
$35 ($25 for VFCA Members)

Room Cost:
$97 +/- a night (tax not included)

For additional questions contact us as cosummit@vfoa.us

NOVEMBER 15TH
CAPTAIN JOHN BURREUSS
OSHA AND THE COMPANY OFFICER

LT. PHILIP LIGGINS
BOSS BABY: BEING PROMOTED AT AN EARLY AGE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
CHIEF DENNIS RUBIN
1300-1700
ITS ALWAYS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

NOVEMBER 16TH
DIVISION CHIEF (RET.)
CHASE SARGENT
WHY LEADERSHIP FAILS

LT. JR HALL
NOT SO SUBTLE REMINDER OF WHY YOU ARE HERE

ASSISTANT CHIEF
LARRY SCHULTZ
21ST CENTURY COMMAND

REGISTER AT:
2018 COMPANY OFFICERS SUMMIT TO BE HELD
Todd Spruill
President, Company Officer Section

The 4th Annual Company Officers Summit is fast approaching. The staff this year has put together a great lineup for this two day summit including a variety of topics for any current or aspiring company officer. This summit has been used to continue a great networking environment for graduates of the Virginia Fire Officer Academy and Virginia Chief Officer Academy providing content not found in either of these prestigious programs.

The Company Officers Summit agenda is selected by making sure each topic falls in line with our mission and values.

Mission - The VFCA Company Officer’s Section facilitates mentorship and succession planning for future fire service leaders through education, leadership, and advocacy.

Values - IDEALS- Integrity, Decisiveness, Education, Advocacy, Leadership, & Safety

The summit will be located at the Homewood Suites by Hilton located in Sandston near the Richmond International Airport. The cost for VFCA members is $25 ($35 for Non-members). The price includes lunch and an evening social with an opportunity to talk with some of the presenters and have a discussion on hot topics in the fire service today.

The lineup for the summit is as follow:

- **Thursday, November 15th**
  - Captain John Burruss: OSHA and the Company Officer
  - Lieutenant Philip Liggins: Boss Baby: Being Promoted at an Early Age
  - Chief Dennis Rubin: It’s Always about Leadership

- **Friday, November 16th**
  - Division Chief (Retired) Chase Sargent: Why Leadership Fails
  - Lieutenant JR Hall: A Not so Subtle Reminder Why You are Here
  - Assistant Chief Larry Schultz: 21st Century Command


FIRE SPRINKLER TAX INCENTIVES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Fire service officials: Here’s some news that you can share with local small business owners to encourage them to install fire sprinklers.

Recent federal tax reform legislation — the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act — includes incentives that make it more affordable for small business owners to install fire sprinklers. Fire sprinkler systems are the only tool that can reduce the spread of fire, heat and smoke in a building and contain the fire until the fire department arrives. This provides valuable time for employees and customers to escape a fire.

Small businesses can now deduct the expense of installing a fire sprinkler system on their federal taxes. Under Section 179 of the tax code, fire sprinkler installation can be expensed up to $1 million for each year of the expense. This incentive makes it possible for restaurants, retail outlets, night clubs and other small businesses to install, retrofit or upgrade their current fire suppression systems. Also, small businesses can deduct the interest from any loan they receive for this type of renovation.

I would like to take a moment on behalf of the fire service of our nation to personally thank the Congressional Fire Service Institute, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and National Fire Sprinkler Association for their hard work and dedication in getting major provisions of the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act approved. There can be no doubt that with these new incentives, lives will be saved and the destruction from fires will be reduced.

— Keith Bryant, U.S. Fire Administrator

Sprinkler incentive legislation was first filed after the Station Nightclub fire in Rhode Island that claimed 100 lives in 2003. A fire sprinkler system could have reduced the heat, flames and smoke from the fire, giving people more time to escape.

To learn more about the available incentives provided in the tax code, and to download outreach materials that you can share with local small businesses, visit the National Fire Sprinkler Association’s website.
I REMEMBER

By: Battalion Chief Ret. Warren Cersley

I remember a time when I worked as a Firefighter in what was considered to be a rough neighborhood. Several blocks from our fire house was an automatic dumpster. The dumpster caught fire automatically every few days.

One evening we were extinguishing the dumpster fire and a small group of children were singing and dancing to some snappy song about “Fire” as we worked. They made us laugh. It was always refreshing for me to see these young children who were growing up in a tough environment and yet were still able to be just children and to find their neighborhood fire crew as safe and approachable.

I never ran the children away because I remember one of them saying “Fire Man Good Man – Police Man Bad Man.” Although I knew that this child’s analogy of the Police was a confused and incomplete story, I tried to stay focused on the area that I could impact, maintaining our “Good Man” status in the eyes of the children. It’s important to have influence in your lane and to do what you can to make life a little better there.

Why is it that children ask to receive fire trucks from Santa? Is it just the siren noises they can imitate while playing in the dirt or is it something more? Why do children dress up in their plastic fire suits and visit our fire houses or stop, point and wave at us when we pass by? What causes parents and school teachers to bring their children to visit the neighborhood fire houses across our great land, just as their parents and teachers brought them, and why do the Firefighters get so much joy from showing the children around and teaching them?

I wonder how many children who sang about “Fire” around the burning dumpster or who dressed up for us or smiled and waved at us became one of us. I wonder if their youthful joy and excitement at just seeing us in the neighborhood became a career goal for them. Did their soft laugh when we taught them STOP DROP and ROLL, or when we oiled up their bike chain, lead them into the fire service or was it at least a reason for them to bring their children to visit us in the neighborhood when we and they were no longer children. What other profession can wonder with such great wonderment?

How well do we treat our young people who come into the fire service from their neighborhood and do we teach them the little things that will make them appear so large to the children? Do we take the time to explain to them how to start out good and to get better and to bring sunshine to others when it looks like rain?

The Fire Service, firefighting and leadership are all a series of little things, it’s all fairly simple. If we start out well in every fire fight and in every leadership situation the situation usually gets better and if we lead and fight fire poorly, early on, the situation will surely get worse. So goes the life of a child who looks up to us with reverence and so goes the career of a Rookie.

A former Fire Chief once asked me if I wanted any of the Rookies who were about to graduate from our recruit school. He gave me an odd look when I told him that I wanted all of them, but he knew that I was serious. It has been a career joy for me to be around young people and to watch them succeed.

I have welcomed many Rookies into the district over my time in the neighborhood. I gave each one two things, tough love and tough love. I embraced their success and I wanted them to be able to do my job better than I had. Leaders don’t covet and hide knowledge under the hand tools, wedges, sprinkler stops and gloves deep in their coat pockets; they find a way to show it, to share it, to let it out, to give it away, to seed it and to watch it grow.

Two Rookies came to me years apart wearing my Firefighter badge number, #362. I had painted the number on my boots, on the underside of my helmet that protected my hard head and on my suspenders that kept my pants up. The badge number had no real significance to anyone other than me and yet when I saw these Rookies wearing it I told them about their badge number and what was expected of them and that they were not to dishonor my badge. They were told about the children, about the importance of fixing bicycles, why children chase fire trucks and how to carry on the “Good Man” traditions.

Both these Rookies did very well in their careers because they were good people and because they started out well in the neighborhood. They also both started out with Lt. Joe Elrod who never ran them away, who coached them, who pushed them, who taught them and who loved them as he had done with so many, including me, when I was a just a new kid in the neighborhood with shiny new gear and a will to belong to something so proud, so meaningful and so respected.

Is there time in your “Good Man” day to oil a chain or fix a tire for a new kid who wants to ride?

What’s deep in your pockets that you really should share?

Can you STOP for a rookie, DROP and show them the dance and the song, and teach them early on how we ROLL?

What is the significance and importance of your badge?

Do we ignite our Rookies every few days with traditions or do we wrongly assume it happens automatically?

Starting out in a tough environment does not mean that you have to finish there.

Give all you have.

The children are watching.

Thanks for reading, liking and sharing with a Rookie.

Have a great day – it’s a GREAT day for it.

This article is being reprinted with permission. It was originally posted to a Facebook Group titled: In These Boots.
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 2018. 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 2019.

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 Tony McDowell) 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 2018 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 23, 2019.

All interested parties should contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Scott Garber no later than November 1, 2018. You may reach him by phone at (540) 332-3885 or garberrs@ci.staunton.va.us
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 by January 31st of each year.
- 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 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.
HOME FIRE FATALITIES (2018)
ON THE RISE

As of May 29, 39 people have been killed in fires in Virginia. That is a 40 percent increase from the 28 who died in fires during the same period last year.

According to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, smoking materials caused most of the fires. Other causes include portable heaters left too close to combustible materials, candles and electrical issues.

Mostly older adults have died, many of whom had mobility issues. The median age of the victims is 70.

State fire marshal Brian McGraw says that risky smoking behaviors such as improper disposal, sleeping in bed or smoking while on home oxygen have caused fatalities. His department has started collecting more information from local marshals to learn more about what causes deaths.

One trend the department has noticed is fires caused by throwing smoking materials into mulch or other combustible materials instead of an ashtray. On May 2, Fairfax County responded to separate fires at a bank, a senior living facility and a town home complex from that exact cause within the span of a few hours.

"Somebody flicks their cigarette into the flower bed, it sits there and smolders, gets the combustible ground cover on fire, it burns up to the side of the combustible exterior of the building, runs up the side of the building, gets into the attic and then causes a drop-down fire," McGraw said.

When a fire does start, it endangers senior citizens and those with mobility issues in particular. They may not be able to evacuate by themselves or take longer than others need.

Speed has become more important because of changes in building and furniture materials too. Lightweight and synthetic materials that are increasingly common burn faster and hotter. This can cause a room to flash over, when high heat causes all the combustible contents of a room to spontaneously ignite, in a much shorter period of time.

"In older construction, with conventional furnishings, it could take 12, 15, 20 minutes to reach that point of flashover, whereas with modern synthetic furnishings, we’re seeing that point of flashover in five minutes," McGraw said.

One issue McGraw points out is that many homes in Virginia do not have residential fire sprinklers. If an older adult lives in a nursing home or other residential facility, existing fire codes require sprinklers and easy evacuation routes. But, unlike Maryland and Washington, D.C., Virginia does not require sprinklers in new home construction.

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs participated in Home Fire Sprinkler Day on May 19 to raise awareness of sprinklers. According to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, one of the organizers of the day of action, sprinklers cost on average $1.35 per square foot when installed during construction.

"Some people are paying more for carpet upgrades in their new home than what they would pay for a life-saving fire sprinkler system," McGraw said.

There are other steps that the Virginia Department of Fire Programs recommends. Working smoke detectors should be on every level, in every room where someone sleep and outside any sleeping rooms. Households should have detailed fire escape plans that accommodate those with mobility issues.

McGraw also suggests that those with mobility issues contact their local fire department. Most departments can make a note of where people with mobility issues live in their dispatch system. Departments may also offer smoke detector installation for free.

What are you doing in your community to reduce fire deaths?
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, VFSA, 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 Arial 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 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.
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 VFCF/VFCA is utilizing an on-line submittal process which is available on the VFCA web site at www.vfca.us and by selecting the tab titled "VFCF Health and Safety Award 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/mail) must be received on or before December 1, 2018. Programs/practices etc. implemented within the current and two prior years (2018, 2017 and 2016) will be considered.

Recognition for the latest awards will occur at the 2019 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 2018. 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

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, 2018:

On-line electronic submittal of nominations is preferred and the appropriate information can be found on the VFCA web site at 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

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 2019. 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 meeting its objectives (provide examples and measurements where possible).
5) Worthiness of Award: Provide brief justification for why this accomplishment/program should receive this award.
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ODDS AND ENDS & ON THE MOVE

Chief Dan Eggleston Installed as IAFC President

Chief Dan Eggleston, Albemarle County Department of Fire Rescue, was installed Thursday, August 9 as president and chairman of the board of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

Chief Eggleston will lead the association’s 18-member board of directors. He will serve as the association’s primary spokesman on national and international issues, testify on behalf of the organization at Congressional hearings and serve as the association’s representative dignitary. His term officially began Saturday, August 11.

During his inaugural address at Fire-Rescue International in Dallas, Chief Eggleston said he was grateful to the members of the IAFC for putting their faith in him and electing him to this acclaimed role.

"It is my hope that this position will allow me to have a positive influence on our profession at an even higher level," Eggleston said. "I pledge my dedication to upholding and elevating the impeccable standards of the IAFC."

Also installed were:

- Chief Gary Ludwig, Champaign (Illinois) Fire Department, as first vice president
- Chief Otto Drozd, Orange County (Florida) Fire Rescue Department, as second vice president

2017-2018 President, Chief Tom Jenkins, Rogers (Arkansas) Fire Department, will continue to serve on the IAFC executive committee as immediate past president.

Virginia Department Hires New Fire Chief Amid Turmoil

Fairfax County’s next fire chief will be a veteran firefighter who has led Howard County’s fire department for the past four years and served two combat tours as a Marine, the Board of Supervisors has announced. John S. Butler is set to take over the 1,400-strong department in September, replacing Richard Bowers, who retired in April. Butler began his career with the Howard fire department in 1993 as a paramedic, moving up the ranks until he was appointed chief in 2014. "We had a number of strong candidates, however, Chief Butler demonstrated the leadership, vision and communications skills that will move our "excellent Fire and Rescue Department forward," said County Executive Bryan Hill. "His proven experience and successful leadership at the helm of a large department will continue to strengthen our culture and contribute to a positive future for the department."

Rubin Resigns From Petersburg And Moves To Pennsylvania Where He’ll Establish Career Department

In mid-August the Petersburg City Manager announced that Chief Dennis Rubin was leaving the department and that he would not be replaced. Since then, a lot of people have been asking where Dennis Rubin was going next after the announcement Monday he was leaving Petersburg, Virginia’s fire department on August 24. Here’s the official answer: Upper Merion Township is pleased to announce the hiring of the first Chief of Fire and EMS for the Department of Public Safety. Dennis Rubin, who has served his entire professional career in fire services, accepted the position and will begin his employment on September 4.

Rubin is a member of the VFCA and served as President from 1994-1995.

Mastin Tapped As Interim Augusta County Fire Chief

Ronald Mastin, a 40-year fire and rescue veteran, has been named the interim fire and rescue chief for Augusta County. Mastin’s appointment was announced on Wednesday by Augusta County Administrator Tim Fitzgerald. He will succeed Carson Holloway, who announced his retirement earlier this year. While Mastin will take the reins, it will be strictly on an interim basis for now. Augusta County has started the search for a new, permanent fire and rescue chief. Mastin served in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department from 1973 until 2001. He was fire chief of Henrico County from 2001 to 2007, and returned to Fairfax County as fire chief in 2007. In Fairfax, Mastin managed a $160 million annual budget, 37 fire stations and directed a staff of 1,900. That staff included uniformed, civilian and volunteer personnel.

Mastin is a long time VFCA member and currently serves at the Chairman of the Board of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Foundation.
VFCF ANNOUNCES BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENTS FOR 2018

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation will be holding three benefit golf tournaments around the Commonwealth in 2018. 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.

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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 three events for 2018 is $50,000.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Support</th>
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<tr>
<td>$100 - Firefighter</td>
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<td>$250 - Company Officer</td>
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<td>$750 - Deputy Chief</td>
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<td>$1000 - Fire Chief</td>
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</table>

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. 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.

Thank you for your pledge of support! Your donation will make a difference!!
Accredited Online Fire Degrees

Columbia Southern University offers completely online degrees for firefighters interested in taking the next step in their career. Taught by some of the industry’s most distinguished fire professionals, CSU’s coursework covers relevant topics including fire prevention, administration, behaviors, emergency services, management, risk reduction and more.

Take Advantage of your 10% tuition discount through the Fire Chiefs Association Learning Partnership

Always Forward

ColumbiaSouthern.edu/Fire » 877.347.6050

Orange Beach, Ala. | Gainful employment information available at ColumbiaSouthern.edu/Disclosure.
SAVE THE DATE

VFCA COMPANY OFFICER SUMMIT
November 15-16, 2018
Richmond area
For additional information go to: www.vfca.us

2019 VIRGINIA FIRE OFFICER ACADEMY
Week 1: June 2-7
Week 2: June 9-14
For additional information go to: www.vfca.us

FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE

AT MIDDLE PENINSULA, SOME OF OUR VERY OWN ARE OUT THERE VOLUNTEERING JUST LIKE YOU. TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNER CARRIERS LIKE SELECTIVE INSURANCE, WE KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO PROTECT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND DEVELOP SPECIALIZED COVERAGES TO DO JUST THAT. LET US BECOME A VITAL PART OF YOUR FIRE EQUIPMENT.
SUFFOLK PICKS FIRE CHIEF

Suffolk City Manager Patrick Roberts announced in early September the appointment of Michael J. Barakey as Fire Chief effective October 1, 2018.

Barakey, age 44, has been in the fire service since 1993. He currently serves as a District Chief with the Virginia Beach Fire Department and has provided leadership over Special Operations, Personnel and Development, Communications and Information Technology, Finance and Budget, Resource Management, Research and Analysis, Accreditation and Training.

He has operated at and commanded many major incidents locally and throughout the country and world. Barakey is a Task Force Leader for VA-TF2, one of 28 National Urban Search and Rescue Teams, with numerous deployments to include the Salt Lake City Olympics (2002), Hurricane Katrina (2005), Haiti Earthquake (2010) and most recently Hurricane Maria and Irma in Puerto Rico (2017). He is a Hazmat Specialist, a Fire Instructor III, a Nationally Registered Paramedic and a Neonatal/Pediatric Critical Care Paramedic for the Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia.

Barakey holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program (2009); is a peer assessor for the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and is designated as Chief Fire Officer (CFO) by the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He regularly contributes to Fire Engineering Magazine, and will publish his first book in 2018 titled Critical Decision Making, Point-to-Point Leadership in Fire and Emergency Services (by PennWell Publishing).

City Manager Roberts is pleased to have Barakey in the position of Fire Chief, stating, ‘Mike has an impressive and well-rounded history in the fire service and will be an excellent leader for the men and women of Suffolk Fire & Rescue. I have full confidence that under his leadership we will remain one of the finest Departments in the country.’

Barakey is married and has two children.

EMS TRAINING FUNDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

By: Warren Short, Division of Educational Development Training Manager

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of EMS (OEMS) is revamping the EMS Training Funds (EMSTF) Scholarship Program. The new program is portal-based and scheduled to launch late this summer. There will be two pathways for funding, a scholarship component for individuals and a grant component for EMS agencies. The following is a synopsis of the planned program. Until the program design is complete, these are subject to change.

An individual can apply for a scholarship. An EMS agency can apply for a grant based upon a request from members affiliated with their agency. Only one award per individual is permitted. The program automatically determines eligibility criteria.

Award amounts are based upon the following criteria:

A. Base amount funding is a percentage of the cost derived from the number of credit hours assigned by the Virginia EMS Community College System (VCCS) for each level multiplied by the cost of a VCCS credit hour.

B. Additional funding added to the base amount will utilize eGift’s stressors:
   a. Health Professional Shortage Area
   b. Medically Underserved Area/Population
   c. Fiscal Stress Index
   d. Return to Localities fund balances

C. The awards are for initial EMS certification programs and will only be awarded to an individual once per level per five years.

D. The awardee is expected to receive EMS certification at the level of the course within two years of the course end date and must function as an EMS provider with a licensed EMS agency in Va.

E. The contract signed by the awardee reflects the understanding that VDH has the ability to retrieve awards for failure to meet the requirements of the contract.

For additional information about the EMSTF Scholarship Program, please email Warren Short at Warren.Short@vdh.virginia.gov or call at 804-888-9120.
Virginia Office of EMS Welcomes Back a Familiar Face

The Virginia Department of Health Office of EMS’ (OEMS) Division of Educational Development is happy to announce that Chad Blosser has returned to fill the position he held previously as the Training and Development Coordinator. Chad never left the EMS field and worked closely with the OEMS, as he was serving as the Central Shenandoah EMS Council Director. Chad was instrumental in the development of the EMS Portal, which moved the Division of Educational Development toward a more digital environment that utilized the web, improved electronic Continuing Education (CE) submission and managed the former EMS Training Funds program. He has already started updating information and will be instrumental in the release of the new EMS Training Funds (EMSTF) Scholarship Program, which is scheduled for a late summer release.

Virginia EMS Symposium Registration Open Through Oct. 5

Registration for the 39th Annual Virginia EMS Symposium, November 7 - 11, 2018, is open through Oct. 5, 2018. One of the largest EMS training events in the nation and the largest EMS training event in in the commonwealth, the Virginia EMS Symposium features more than 380 programs and 13 course tracks across five days of learning. This training event provides an excellent “Education for Life” taught by some of Virginia’s finest educators and well-recognized national speakers that offer the latest in EMS trends and treatment. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces as well as new EMS participants that will help lead the way in the ever-expanding prehospital environment. Attendees will receive a level of education, insight and progress offered through this event that will rejuvenate seasoned providers and excite the next generation of EMS providers, administrators, physicians, nurses and educators. The Virginia EMS Symposium, held in Norfolk, Va. offers something for everyone. Learn more and register today at: http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-symposium/.

The 2019 Virginia EMS Symposium Call for Presentations is Now Open

The 2019 Virginia EMS Symposium Call for Presentations is now open. We are seeking proposals that involve all aspects of the EMS field to include but not limited to medical interventions, administrative activities, leadership enhancement, personnel safety and health, and emergency preparedness and response. Submit your presentations electronically by visiting: https://vhems.vdh.virginia.gov/emsapps/ui?p=102:LOGIN DESKTOP:.... This will be the 40th anniversary of the Virginia EMS Symposium and we hope to make it memorable with exciting events to be announced! We want you to be a part of one of the largest, most diverse and greatest opportunity-filled EMS training events in the nation. Be part of what helps make Virginia a leader in EMS. Submit your presentations today! If you have any questions, contact the Virginia Office of EMS at 800-523-6019 (Va. only) or 804-888-9100 and ask for either Warren Short or Debbie Akers. The Virginia EMS Symposium Program Committee looks forward to reviewing your proposals.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

This year’s FPW campaign, “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere,” works to educate about three basic but essential steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire – and how to escape safely in the event of one:

“LOOK” for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

“LISTEN” for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should meet.

“LEARN” two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

Also, Sparky the Fire Dog® has a new friend, Simon, who is helping teach this year’s FPW messages – he’s a smart, resourceful character who will join Sparky in spreading fire-safety messages to adults and children alike.
2019 MEMORIAL SERVICE TO BE HELD

The 2019 Annual VFCA Memorial Service for those we have lost during 2018 will be held once again during the 2019 Virginia Fire Rescue Conference held in Virginia Beach on February 23, 2019. If your department has lost a member during 2018, 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: ________________________________ Telephone Number: ______________________________

Submitted By: ____________________________________________________________

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: ftsafety@yorkcounty.gov

Passing of Shawnee Fire Chief Charles Kerns

Chief Charles (Bake) Edward Kerns, 76, of Pall Mall, TN, formerly of Winchester, VA, was called home on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 after a battle with cancer that he fought aggressively.

The Chief was born on March 31, 1942, in Winchester, the son of Russell Irving and Alma (Perry) Kerns. He was married to Georgia Anna (Coffelt) Kerns, the Love of his Life, for 53 years until her passing on February 27, 2017.

Chief Kerns received his life’s calling to the fire and rescue service at the age of 13 with the Shawnee Volunteer Fire Department in Winchester, VA. He held many responsibilities within the company, excelling to the rank of Fire Chief. He was extremely proud of the station’s many achievements. In 1974, he was employed by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, serving the McLean and Chantilly VA. areas from 1974-1978, He also worked for Fairfax City from 1979 till retirement in 1997 as a Station Captain at Station 3. His achievements include the Silver Medal public safety valor award and a Lifetime Membership to Fairfax City Volunteer Fire and Rescue. He continued his faithful stewardship to the calling as a member of the Winchester Rescue Squad, which later became the Millwood Fire and Rescue Department in Winchester, VA.

Additionally, he served our country in the Military for 29 years. He was in the Stonewall Brigade, 116th Infantry Division of the Army National Guard as a Medical Specialist. He also served with the Martinsburg Air National Guard as an Assistant Fire Chief of Operations retiring at the rank of Master Sergeant.

Following his “Retirement”, Charlie moved his family to Pall Mall, TN. He volunteered with the Fentress County Fire Department and Government for 20 years. He served as a Fire Instructor at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Academy, and was a lead instructor for the State of Tennessee and the surrounding counties of Fentress. He served at the rank of Captain of Pall Mall Volunteer Fire Department. He led efforts to provide over 2 million dollars’ worth of fire equipment, apparatus, and training for Fentress and surrounding counties. Chief Kern was recognized by a House Resolution for these actions by the State of Tennessee House of Representatives and Governor. Charlie, who was forever humble, would always reply, “I did not do this; The Lord let us do this”.

Charlie will be dearly missed. His unshakable leadership and unselfishness to help, protect, and provide for others will forever remain with us. He is survived by his sons, Russell ‘Tater’ Kerns, and Brandon Kerns; his daughters, Kristle Kerns and Pamela Baker; sisters, Alma “Sis” Gaunt, and Maxine ‘Mackie’ Kerns; eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins; as well as, his “Brothers” Charles Brown,

Memorials may be made to the Firefighter Cancer Support Network at www.FSN.net
REMOVING THE STIGMA AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

By: Lynn Cherry-Miller

The Ruderman Foundation, a private philanthropic organization that works for the rights of people with disabilities, studied depression and post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues that commonly affect first responders. The results are startling. The study found that the number of firefighters, EMTs, and law enforcement officers who took their own lives in 2017 outnumbered all line-of-duty deaths during the same period. One hundred three firefighters and 140 police officers committed suicide, while 93 firefighter and 129 officer deaths could be attributed to line-of-duty incidents. And, these stats include everything from being fatally shot, stabbed, drownings or dying in a motor vehicle crash while on the job. Forty-six officers were fatally shot during 2017; however, more than triple that number committed suicide.

Suicide is a result of mental illness, including depression and PTSD, which stems from constant exposure to death and destruction. The fact that suicide among first responders is probably underreported, shows that stigma still exists around mental health and illnesses, and perhaps even more so because the profession emphasizes bravery and toughness; but heroes are people too.

Repeated exposure to trauma can lead to several forms of mental illness so it comes as no surprise that according to the Ruderman White Paper on Mental Health and Suicide of First Responders, PTSD and depression rates among firefighters and police officers are as much as 5 times higher than the rates within the civilian population. The impact is similar among police officers even though they respond to different types of calls.

In my 23+ years with Hampton Fire & Rescue, we have lost 4 personnel to suicide. Even if you experience PTSD, depression or some other form of mental illness, that doesn’t mean it has to be a life sentence; it’s possible to recover from emotional trauma, so get the help you need.

In recent years, the conversation has expanded and as a result, during the Fall of 2017, Department of Fire Programs delivered a train-the-trainer program for reducing mental health stigma amongst Virginia’s fire services through its seven division offices. VDFP utilized the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s Stress First Aid (SFA) through their State Advocate. The training was an 8 hour session which consisted of flexible tools used to care for stress reactions in firefighters and rescue personnel. SFA was specifically designed to support firefighters and rescue personnel. The goal of SFA is to restore health and readiness after a stress reaction. And more recently, Governor Ralph Northam signed a bill that makes it a requirement for localities to offer mental health training and awareness to new and current personnel on an annual basis.

In most localities there is an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that is a valuable resource/tool allowing you to talk through issues with a trained professional.

Suicide is preventable. If you or someone you know is in suicidal crisis, call 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) at 1-800-273-8255. If you’re dealing with depression, why not take the Suicide Self-Assessment provided by the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, www.ffbha.org/resources/suicide-questionnaire/ to assess your potential risk and help to remove the stigma associated with mental health and illnesses.

Read the full Ruderman White Paper
https://issuu.com/rudermanfoundation/docs/first_responder_white_paper_final_ac270d550f8bfb

Fire Service Behavioral Health Management Guide available

A variety of departments provided their expertise to develop the guide to help others create a successful behavioral health program. It emphasizes the key roles department leadership, firefighters, peer support and clinical support play to maintain these efforts.

To download go to:
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 (MAES)
The premier fire and emergency services conference offering a mix of association business, networking and over 40 educational sessions during the event. The MAES 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 honed 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
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 appoints 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 Application
Join today by filling out the membership application and paying online at 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

Membership Categories
Annual Membership fees
(Check the appropriate category)

☐ Active
Career Chief Officer $75.00
☐ Volunteer Chief Officer $40.00
☐ FF & Co. Officer $40.00
☐ Affiliate
Individuals in professions allied to the fire service (such as Sections, Federal/Military, Company Officer, Life Safety-CCR, or other areas not covered under Active)
☐ Corporate
$100.00
Representatives of companies with an interest in fire prevention, fire suppression, insurance, or other fire-service-related products
☐ 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.)

If you have questions concerning this application and/or membership status, contact VFCA Member Services at (888) 818-0983 or email memberservices@vfca.us
VFCF Announces Benefit Golf Tournaments for 2019

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation will be holding three benefit golf tournaments around the Commonwealth in 2019. 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.

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<td>POC—John Prillaman—<a href="mailto:jprillaman@salemva.gov">jprillaman@salemva.gov</a> or 540-375-3080</td>
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115 years of innovating coverage and collaborating with partners and 90 years of serving our nation’s emergency responders with customized insurance solutions.

Emergency Services
A&H | Group Life | Critical Illness | 24-Hour AD&D | P&C

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