

VDFP THE LOGBOOK

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From the Executive Director

Happy New Year! It is amazing that the year goes by so fast. The winter has been very mild so far, but I would imagine that we'll see Mother Nature at her finest soon. Are your rigs and personnel ready for the inclement winter weather? It is time to check the tires, wipers, fluid levels, fire pumps, and "on spot" chains to ensure operation. We need to be sure that all of our personal protection equipment (PPE) and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) are ready too.

Our number one fire cause in residential structures remains unattended cooking in the Commonwealth. I solicit your support in promoting fire and life safety education, especially in our residential occupancies. Encourage everyone to use smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. Buy a fire extinguisher for your home and encourage others to do the same.



ATL for FY 11 is 98.7% expensed with six (6) jurisdictions outstanding. ATL for FY 12 is 67.9% expensed. In the past five (5) years, we have been successful, with your assistance, in expensing 100% of the ATL funds. As a reminder, VDFP expenses on a 90/10% formulation; briefly stated a jurisdiction would receive its initial entitlement of 90% and the final 10% at the end of the fiscal year. The earlier the paperwork is submitted, the earlier that the disbursement can be made; VDFP disburses four times per year. I encourage you to file as soon as possible for your ATL entitlement.

If you have not reviewed your Fire Service Training Records System (FSTRS), I encourage you to visit our web site and check your records especially if you need to monitor your Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator in-service hours. You can do the same thing for the National Registrations for the Pro-Board at www.theproboard.org by entering your last name and last four of your SSN. Please be sure to visit the Knowledge Center and take advantage of our blended learning programs, including the Adjunct-In-Service for 2011.

VDFP will undergo its five year re-accreditation from the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro-Board) in 2012. With your assistance, the Curriculum Division has its program package ready for the initial submission and review. In addition, the Agency will be inspected by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) in 2012, which will allow us to be dually accredited.

I have provided you an analysis of our data (page 8 of this newsletter) from 2006-2011 (CY is still preliminary data, however). As you can see, our fire deaths, fire losses, and fires continue to show a decline. This is a remarkable achievement that is credited to good suppression, fire prevention, and investigative techniques.

Let's continue to be safe at home and work and remember, "Everyone Goes Home."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "L. Shelton Jr.".

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2011 Virginia Fire Service



The 2011 Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment has been released. Once again, personnel was cited as the #1 top need by fire departments who responded to the needs assessment survey. Information shown here is taken from the reports Executive Summary. The full report may be downloaded from the VDFP website by clicking on the report cover shown here.

Executive Summary

The information presented in this report is the product of an extensive, continuing effort to provide a current and comprehensive assessment of the challenges facing Virginia's fire and emergency services. It provides an overview of Virginia's fire service by providing current needs assessment survey data annually along with updated information on reported incidents, training, and funding.

Top Needs

To complete the assessment, fire departments were asked to rank their top needs for FY 2012 from #1 to #5 with #1 being the most important need and #5 being the least important need. Overall, **Personnel** was selected as the **#1 Top Need** with Virginia's fire service. (See Table 1.) The overall top needs for Virginia did not vary from last year's survey, displaying that the fire service needs are unchanged.

Table 1. Top Fire Service Needs

Rank	Fire Service Need
#1 Top Need	Personnel
#2 Top Need	Training
#3 Top Need	Equipment
#4 Top Need	Apparatus
#5 Top Need	Facilities

Apparatus

Fire apparatus are becoming increasingly complex and expensive to purchase, maintain, repair, and replace. Fire departments reported owning an average of one (1) aerial apparatus, three (3) ambulances / other patient transport, one (1) command support unit, two (2) command vehicles (SUV), five (5) engines / pumpers, one (1) fire / rescue boat, one (1) heavy technical rescue vehicle, one (1) logistical support apparatus, two (2) tankers, and two (2) wildland brush trucks.

The total reported estimated additional funding needed for FY 2012 with apparatus is \$99 million. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of departments showed that they need an engine / pumper. Twentyeight percent (28%) of respondents expressed the need for a wildland brush truck. In addition, 26 percent (26%) of fire departments reported a need for a command vehicle (SUV).

Service Needs Assessment

Equipment

Fire departments implement many different specialized types of equipment when responding to an incident call. Departments responded that they currently own an average of four (4) 4-gas monitors, five (5) map coordinate GPS devices, five (5) mobile data terminals, 24 personal alert safety systems (PASS), 102 personal protective equipment (PPE), 64 radios, 4 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) w/o integrated PASS, 44 self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) w/integrated PASS and four (4) thermal imaging cameras.

The total reported estimated additional funds needed for FY 2012 with equipment is \$29 million. Fifty-three percent (53%) of departments requested a need for thermal imaging cameras. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was selected as a need with 52 percent (52%) of respondents. Map coordinate system - GPS and 4-gas monitors were each selected as a need with 47 percent (47%) of departments.

Facilities

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of responding departments reported that their fire stations are 20 years of age or older. Fifty-five percent (55%) of fire departments documented that all fire stations have backup power during an emergency. Forty-one percent (41%) of the departments responded that they needed improvements / remodeling to the existing stations. The total reported estimated additional funding needed for FY 2012 with facilities is \$296 million.

Even though Facilities was not ranked as the top overall need in the state, departments in Division 2 - Orange ranked Facilities as their #2 top need and departments in Division 7 - Fairfax ranked Facilities as their #3 top need, suggesting that there is a greater need for facility improvements in the northern area of the state.

Personnel

Personnel was the overall #1 picked top need with fire departments. Maintaining enough staff to respond to calls is an important part of managing a fire department. Sixty-one percent (61%) of departments do not have a personnel recruitment program and 75 percent (75%) have no retention program for their staff. Sixty-two percent (62%) of fire service personnel are volunteer firefighters and 36 percent (36%) are paid career firefighters. Fire departments have on average 18 firefighters on duty and available to respond to a call. The total reported estimated additional funding needed for FY 2012 with personnel is \$88 million. Seventy-two percent (72%) of all departments responded that they need volunteer firefighters and 26 percent (26%) showed a need for paid career firefighters.

Training

Training was selected as the overall #2 top need with fire departments. Having adequately trained personnel greatly affects how well a department can respond to different types of incidents. Overall, fire departments responded that 74 percent (74%) of their personnel are trained in the area of Hazardous Materials (NFPA 472) - Awareness and 69 percent (69%) are trained in Fire Fighter (NFPA 1001) - Level I. Fire departments reported overall that 6,119 firefighters in Virginia, the largest amount, need Fire Apparatus Driver / Operator - Driver / Pump Operator training and 6,024 firefighters need Fire Fighter - Level II.

The total reported estimated additional funding needed for training costs for FY 2012 is \$13 million. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of fire departments requested Fire Fighter - Level I training as their #1 top priority. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of fire departments requested Vehicle - Level I training as their #1 top priority with technical rescue.

Nominate an Outstanding Firefighter for National Awards

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is now accepting nominations for the NVFC Lifetime Achievement Award and the Fire Prevention Award. Recognize an outstanding volunteer firefighter in your department or community by nominating them for one of these prestigious national awards. Nominations are due March 1, 2012.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** honors a volunteer firefighter who has served at least 20 years and has made a major contribution or achieved significant accomplishments in the volunteer fire service at the local, state, and/or national level. The nominee must have demonstrated superior dedication to the volunteer fire service, been active in their state firefighters' association, and have positively impacted the community through the fire service or other volunteer activities. See below if you are interested in sponsoring this award.

The **Fire Prevention Award**, sponsored by First Alert, honors a volunteer firefighter for remarkable efforts made in the area of fire prevention. The award was established in the memory of volunteer firefighter and NVFC board member Marc Mueller, who energetically promoted the causes of volunteer firefighters and supported all efforts to elevate the volunteer fire and emergency services to their highest level. Nominees must have made a major contribution or played a key role in a significant accomplishment in the field of fire prevention, demonstrated innovation in establishing and enacting goals and/or obtaining funding for the protection of the public through fire prevention and life safety programs, and have demonstrated success in the area of fire prevention.

In addition, the application period is open for the **Junior Firefighter of the Year Award** and the **Junior Firefighter Program of the Year Award**, both sponsored by Tyco International. These awards recognize the extraordinary dedication and achievements of a junior firefighter and the outstanding efforts of a local junior firefighter program. The nomination deadline for these two awards is February 15.

Learn more about all of these awards and submit your nominations today at www.nvfc.org/about-us/awards.

New Office Location

The Division 4 Office and Southwestern Regional Fire Marshal's Office has moved!

The new address is:

1165 East Lee Highway
Chilhowie, VA 24319
Tel: 276-646-0266

2012 Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service Scheduled for Saturday, June 2

Mark your calendars for the 15th annual Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2012 **Time:** 1200 hours (noon)

Location: Old Dominion Building, Richmond International Raceway complex

Honoring: This year's service will honor six fallen firefighters.

Full details on the service, as well as information for Honor Guard participation and departments wishing to bring Apparatus to the service, will be posted on the Virginia Department of Fire Programs website soon.

Last year's service was the best attended in the history of this event. On behalf of the families and departments of the firefighters honored and the dedicated individuals who work diligently to conduct the service, we thank you and we encourage you to join us again this year to pay tribute to those we have lost.

U.S. Fire Administration Announces 2011 On-Duty Firefighter Fatalities

EMMITSBURG, MD — The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced recently that there were 81 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2011. This represents an almost seven percent decrease from the 87 fatalities reported for 2010. The 81 fatalities occurred in 33 states, one U.S. territory, and one overseas U.S. military facility. Texas experienced the highest number of fatalities (seven). North Carolina experienced six firefighter deaths and was the only other state with five or more firefighter fatalities.

"In 2004 at the initial Life Safety Summit, a number of fire service leaders did not believe we would complete a calendar year with less than 100 firefighter on-duty deaths," U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell said. "We broke through that perceived barrier in 2009, 2010, and now in 2011! We salute and congratulate our fire service family and pledge to continue working closely with the entire fire service community and its partners to maintain and even accelerate this downward trend in on-duty firefighter deaths."

Heart attacks were responsible for the deaths of 48 firefighters (59%) in 2011, nearly the same proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke (60%) in 2010. Ten on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires, the lowest number of annual firefighter deaths associated with wildland fires since 1996. Fifty-four percent of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties. Only three firefighters were killed in vehicle collisions.

2011 firefighter fatality statistics are provisional and may change as the USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on duty during 2011. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report, expected to be available by July 2012.

USFA and NFPA Join Forces to Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

Emmitsburg, MD. – As we move closer to winter and home fire deaths begin to increase, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) remind everyone that fire safety and prevention are especially important in the coming months. Because home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season, USFA and NFPA are once again jointly sponsoring a special initiative – Put a Freeze on Winter Fires – to help raise public awareness about winter fires.

“These fires are a painful reminder of what we see every year – the temperatures drop and fires increase,” said NFPA President Jim Shannon. According to NFPA statistics, space heaters account for about one third of home heating fires and approximately 80 percent of the home heating fire deaths.

The USFA’s [Winter Residential Building Fires](#) (PDF, 1Mb) report shows that each winter an estimated 108,400 residential building fires occur in the United States, resulting in 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Cooking is the leading cause of winter residential building fires at 36 percent followed by heating at 23 percent. Winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

“The winter season brings the highest number of home fires, more than at any other time of year,” said USFA’s Deputy Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. “Home fires increase in part due to cooking and heating. Winter storms can also interrupt electrical service and cause people to turn to alternative heating sources that contribute to the increased risk of fire during the winter months.”

Winter Fire Safety Tips

The USFA and NFPA recommend following these safety tips to prevent winter home fires:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period, turn off the stove.
- Space heaters need space; keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from each heater.
- Check electrical cords often and replace cracked or damaged electrical or extension cords. Do not try to repair them.
- Never use your oven or stovetop to heat your home. They are not designed for this purpose and can be a fire hazard. In addition, carbon monoxide (CO) gas might kill people and pets.
- Do not put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Avoid using lighted candles. If you must use candles, place them in sturdy candleholders that won’t burn.
- If you smoke, use only fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside.

“Winter fires are preventable,” Gaines emphasized. “Everyone should find out what they need to know to prevent a tragedy and have a safe winter season.”

For more information about the causes of winter fires, winter storm fire safety, holiday fire safety, and tips that will help prevent the incidence of fire in the home, visit the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and the NFPA website at www.nfpa.org/winter.

2012 Virginia NFA In-State Weekend

Date: March 10-11, 2012

Location: J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
1851 Dickinson Road
Goochland, VA 23063

Registration:

Registration Fee: \$30.00

Fee includes lunch both days and the Virginia/NFA Commemorative Gift

Registration fee must accompany the U.S. National Fire Academy short form FEMA Form 119-25-1, which is available through your local Virginia Department of Fire Programs Division Office; or from the VDFP website, at http://www.vafire.com/State_Forms/NFAFireAcademyResidenceApplication.pdf.

Registration will be accepted by mail only, payment must accompany your application; no phone or fax registrations will be taken. Please make checks payable to the Treasurer of Virginia. Deadline for registrations is February 5, 2012.

For more information please contact the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Division 7 Office at 703-259-3232.

Mail applications and payment to:

VDFP Division 7 Office
Suite 4E-100
4975 Alliance Dr
Fairfax Va 22030

Students are responsible for their own lodging.

Known Lodging Options:

Wingate by Wyndham Richmond Short Pump
13991 North Gayton Road
Richmond, VA 23233 US
Phone: 1-804-4211600
Fax: 1-804-4211601
Email: saleswingateshortpump@gmail.com
[Hotel Website](#)

Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa/Short Pump
12042 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia, 23233, USA
1-804-364-3600
[Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump](#)

Incident Summary, Virginia, 2006-2011

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011**
Fires	31,538	34,054	29,393	26,139	28,235	22,780
Rescue and EMS	356,958	381,159	394,891	424,182	430,695	387,862
All Other Calls	182,587	191,026	195,257	194,798	197,186	177,228
Total Number of Incidents	571,083	606,239	619,541	645,119	656,116	587,870
Aid Given	39,534	38,345	36,943	34,331	38,244	34,013
Fire Exposures	501	765	579	487	447	346
Grand Total	611,118	645,349	657,063	679,937	694,807	622,229
Total Fire Dollar Loss	\$253,711,953	\$411,808,565	\$444,800,936	\$278,180,173	\$245,074,521	\$220,150,574
Civilian Fire Injuries	436	455	474	382	471	439
Civilian Fire Deaths	96	82	80	68	68	58
Fire Service Injuries	297	236	335	341	423	507
Fire Service Deaths	0	3	1	1	3	0

* Data is compiled from all incidents reported for 2010 as of the final closeout on 3/11/2011.

** Numbers compiled from incidents reported for 2011 as of 01/09/2012. Data for 2011 is considered preliminary since we are continuously receiving new and updated reports from fire departments.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

Virginia Fire Services Board Meeting
February 23-24, 2012
Virginia Beach Convention Center

Tri-City Regional School
February 18-19, 2012
Southside Virginia Training Center

VFCA Mid Atlantic Expo & Symposium
February 23-26, 2012
Virginia Beach Convention Center

March

Virginia In-State NFA Weekend
March 10-11, 2012
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Goochland, VA

**FSTRS Course Offerings are just
1-click away when you visit
www.vafire.com**

Are you new to the fire service? Is this your first visit to the Virginia Department of Fire Programs website? Are you looking for a quick way to find out about current course offerings? If you answered yes, then you may have already noticed the new link on our home page, "[Click Here for FSTRS Course Listing.](#)"

Now, when you're in a hurry and just need to get the latest training information, with 1-click of the mouse you're there!

Of course, when you have more time to spare we'd love for you to stick around a little longer and get all the latest news.