

## From the Executive Director

Our three (3) Mobile Burn Buildings (MBBs) have been received and have met the design specifications and testing criteria. The units have gone through all the paces that we expected for Firefighter I & II certification. The agency has secured the logistical support needed to tow the MBBs with the addition of two tractors. In addition, the Agency is working on the equipment component cache that will be carried on the units. All of the Division Chiefs have completed the initial training program on the operation of the Class B fuel fired units.

The New Mobile Aircraft Rescue Firefighter Simulator (MARFFTS) has also arrived in the Commonwealth and is currently undergoing design and testing criteria. The unit will greatly enhance our capability to serve the eight (8) indexed airports. The unit features the Class B fuel fires units, surround sound for a more realistic environment, and a galley that resembles a commercial aircraft. The unit far surpasses the existing unit in its features and capabilities.

Aid to Localities (ATL) for FY 10 is 98.3 percent disbursed with 13 jurisdictions pending. Our FY 11 ATL is 58.1 percent disbursed with 127 jurisdictions pending. I encourage everyone to file your paperwork as early as possible to secure your entitlement.

National registrations for the Pro-Board can be checked at [www.theproboard.org](http://www.theproboard.org) by entering your last name and the last four digits of your SSN. There are now 57 entities represented by the Pro-Board. Virginia leads the nation in national registrations. You may also review your records on our Fire Service Training Records System on our website at [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com). Please browse the website as you will see many changes.

The top three causes of fires in Virginia continue to be unknown, heating, and cooking. The National Fire Data Center in Emmitsburg has expressed concern over the large numbers of fires reported as unknown nationwide. We need to do a better job in cause and origin determination. Together, we can make a difference by invoking a strong proactive fire and life safety education program to lower our fire losses and deaths in the Commonwealth.

2010 current statistical information as of November 4th can be found on page 8 of this newsletter.

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



W.G. Shelton Jr.  
Executive Director



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# VDFP Takes Possession of

By utilizing mobile training simulators VDFP is able to deliver its training services to practically anyone within a student's doorstep, but it also allows us to provide training in a controlled and environmentally friendly atmosphere. The curriculum and include:

- Fire, smoke and special affects (children crying, distress calls, barking dogs) operated by a computer system. The o
- Environmentally clean (operates using LP gas) • Generates non-toxic smoke for search and rescue training exer
- Movable interior walls allows for the restructuring of the trailer to accommodate different training scenarios



# 3 Mobile Live Fire Trainers

in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Not only do mobile training simulators allow us to bring training to our sphere. The training simulators shown in the photos below are designed for use in our Firefighter I & II

computer operated system ensures a safe training environment with emergency shut-down capabilities.

ercises • Compliant with NFPA requirements for Firefighter I & II certification



## Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service Saturday, June 4, 2011 - 12 p.m.

The annual Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at the Richmond International Raceway Complex's Old Dominion Building. Six firefighters who died in the line of duty or have been recognized by the Virginia Line of Duty Act in the last year will be honored for their bravery and dedicated public service.

The fallen firefighters to be honored are Assistant Chief *Carl Persing* of Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter *Timothy Pigg* of Amherst Volunteer Fire Department, Chief *Posey Dillon* of Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter *William "Danny" Altice* of Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter *William Harold "Hal" Clark* of Atlantic Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, and *William Obenchain Jr.* of Roanoke Fire-EMS. In addition to honoring recently fallen firefighters, the memorial service will honor the memory of all Virginia firefighters who have given their lives in the service of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The memorial service will include a keynote address by an honored guest speaker, a Virginia Fire Services Honor Guard procession featuring the Saint Andrew's Legion Pipes and Drums, musical performances, and a fire apparatus display from fire departments across the state. State flags will be presented to the families of the fallen firefighters.

A reception, hosted by the Virginia Professional Firefighters Association, will be held for fallen firefighter family members and guests immediately following the service. Both the service and the reception are open to the public.



For more information on the Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service, contact Mark L. Buff at (804) 249.1965 or visit [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com).

Please make your plans to attend this important event and pay tribute to these heroes. The 2011 service is the 14th annual service to honor Virginia's fallen firefighters.

If your department is interested in sending apparatus to the service, please contact Bill Jones at [bjfirepro@aol.com](mailto:bjfirepro@aol.com).

Individuals or departments interested in Honor Guard participation should contact Ron Quesenberry at [RonQ@james-city.va.us](mailto:RonQ@james-city.va.us).

## Nominations for the Governor's Fire Service Awards are now being accepted!

Everyone is encouraged to submit nominations for the Governor's 2010 Virginia Fire Services Award program. Nominations must be typed or handwritten, in a legible manner, on the attached nomination form. Nomination packages must be postmarked by December 31, 2010. There will be no exceptions and no facsimiles will be accepted.

Nominations can be made for the following awards:

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VIRGINIA'S FIRE SERVICE

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VIRGINIA'S FIRE SERVICE MANAGEMENT

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VIRGINIA'S FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

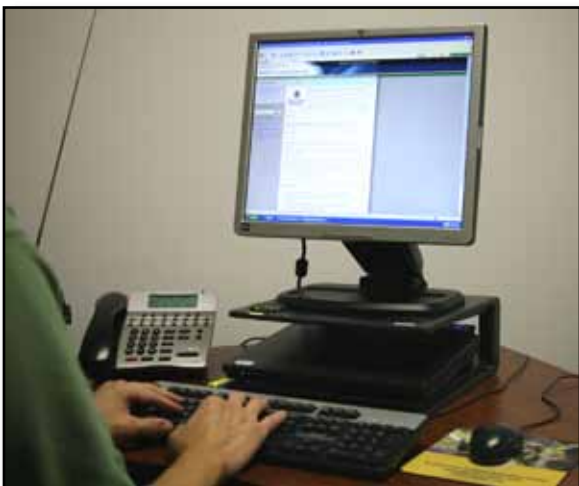
GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VIRGINIA'S FIRE PREVENTION

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VIRGINIA'S FIRE SERVICE SUPPORT - PRIVATE SECTOR

GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE

GOVERNOR'S CIVILIAN LIFE SAVING AWARD

Questions should be directed to Mrs. Brook Pittinger, Director of Administration: [brook.pittinger@vdfp.virginia.gov](mailto:brook.pittinger@vdfp.virginia.gov); 804/ 371-0220 or toll-free 1866-4VAFIRE.



### Needs Assessment Survey

Don't forget that completed responses to the 2010 Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey are due on Monday, November 29, 2010. Contact Dwight E. Crews, Information and Statistics Manager, at 804-249-1989 if you need your survey password.

This is vital information that we provide each year to the General Assembly to ensure they have the most accurate profile possible of the most pressing needs of Virginia's fire services. Our goal is to have 100% of departments in Virginia respond to the survey. Please complete your response today and help us achieve that goal.

## Help Prevent Fires and Emergencies in Your Community This Holiday Season

The holidays are just around the corner, and many people are thinking about spending time with family and friends, preparing holiday meals, shopping for gifts, and decorating their homes and yards. However, the holidays can quickly turn into tragedy if precautions are not taken to avoid fires, burns, injuries, and other emergencies. Your fire department, fire prevention team, or Fire Corps program can help prevent fires and emergencies in your community this holiday season by educating the public of the simple steps they can take to avoid disaster and stay safe.

There are many resources available to help you promote holiday safety in your community. Distribute information and tips sheets at schools, in community centers, to community organizations, at senior centers, on your department's web site and social media pages, to your email lists, through local newspapers and radio and TV outlets, and in any other venue that will reach your community members. It is also a good time to conduct home safety checks for the high risk populations in your community.

Below are a few web sites that offer tips and resources you can use.

### **Fire Corps: Preparedness and Prevention Resources**

Fire Corps offers many preparedness and prevention resources you can use in your community this holiday season and beyond, including fire prevention tip sheets such as [Heating Hazards](#) and [Stay Warm But Stay Safe](#), a [Home Safety Checklist](#), and a First Alert Smoke Alarm Donation Program (for registered Fire Corps Programs).

### **National Fire Protection Association: Project Holiday**

This online toolkit offers your department materials to conduct a comprehensive holiday safety campaign, including a news release template, talking points, NFPA reports, tips sheets, gift and tree tags, and safety videos.

### **U.S. Fire Administration: A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety**

Find tips for Christmas tree safety, holiday lights, holiday decorations, and candle care.

### **ASPCA: Holiday Safety Tips**

Keep the furry members of your family safe this holiday season with these tips from the ASPCA.

### **Home Safety Council: Safety Guide**

Find tips, resources, and step by step instructions for the community on a variety of topics to keep the home safe this holiday season, such as [Winter Safety](#), [Preparing for Holiday Guests](#), [Holiday Electrical Safety](#), [Christmas Tree Safety](#), [Cooking Safety](#), and [How to Use a Fire Extinguisher](#).

### **U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: Holiday Decoration Safety Tips**

This brochure provides important safety tips to remember while decorating for the holidays, including Christmas trees, lights, candles, fireplaces, and more.

## USFA Releases Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings Report

Washington, DC – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report examining the characteristics of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings. The report, *Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings*, was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with fire departments and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe during this holiday.

[Click Here to read the full report: Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings.](#)

The report is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2006 to 2008 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report, an estimated 2,000 Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 5 deaths, 25 injuries, and \$21 million in property loss. The leading cause of all Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings is, by far, cooking. In addition, these fires occur most frequently in the afternoon hours from noon to 4 p.m. Smaller, confined fires account for 71 percent and larger, nonconfined fires account for 29 percent of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings. Finally, smoke alarms were not present in 20 percent of nonconfined Thanksgiving Day fires that occurred in occupied residential buildings.

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## NFPA announces second lowest level of U.S. smoking-material fire deaths in nearly 30 years

### Lower fire death rates signal positive impact of national fire-safe cigarette initiative

A new report released in October by the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) shows that the number of smoking-material related fire deaths in the U.S. dropped below 700 in 2008, representing the second lowest level since 1980. While several factors can be credited for the latest decline, NFPA points to new fire-safe cigarette legislation as an important component of the decrease.

A total of 114,800 smoking-material fires resulted in an estimated 680 deaths, 1,520 injuries and \$737 billion in direct property damage in 2008. (Smoking materials are defined as lighted tobacco products, but do not include matches or lighters.)

Smoking-material fires have been down by 66% from 1980 to 2008. NFPA's [report](#) (PDF, 257 KB) says this long-term trend is due to fewer people smoking, and to standards and regulations that now require mattresses and upholstered furniture be made with materials more resistant to cigarette ignition, among other factors. However, the most recent drop in smoking-material fire fatalities can also be attributed to "fire-safe" cigarette legislation, which mandates that cigarettes be produced with reduced ignition strength, and carry a lower propensity for burning when left unattended. NFPA launched the Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes in 2006 with the goal of getting fire-safe cigarettes in every state across the country. Prior to the formation of the Coalition, two states had passed legislation. As of February, all 50 states had passed similar bills. [The laws are now in effect in 47 states.](#)

According to Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of communications, nearly all home smoking-material fires are unintentional, and are most often caused by some human error in control or disposal.

"Widespread use of safeguards like fire-safe cigarettes, which can minimize or altogether prevent the damage incurred by smoking-material related mishaps, serves as a critical step for further reducing the nation's fire problem," said Carli. "We are thrilled to see the intended consequences of fire-safe cigarette legislation. It is clear that the initiative has already made an impact on public safety and that further progress will be achieved over the next few years."

**2010 current statistical information  
as of November 4th is as follows:**

Calls by Incident type:	Number:	Percentage:
Fires	20,317	4.43
Pressure Ruptures	980	0.21
Rescue	301,514	65.75
Haz. Mat. Condition	20,899	4.56
Service Call	29,711	6.48
Good intent	43,753	9.54
Severe Weather	889	0.19
Special Incident	2,778	0.61
Unknown	2	0.00
False Alarm	37,730	8.23
Total Calls	458,573	100%
Injuries	756 (Civilian & Fire)	
Fire Deaths	43	37 Non- fire deaths
Direct Fire Loss	\$ 181,449,114.00	
Total Dollar Loss	\$ 196,228,005.00	

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November

November 24-26, 2010  
State offices closed for Thanksgiving  
(close at noon on Nov. 24)

### December

December 2-3, 2010  
Virginia Fire Services Board Meeting  
VDFP HQ Office, Glen Allen

December 15, 2010  
Equity and Diversity Conference  
VDFP HQ Office, Glen Allen

December 24, 2010  
State offices closed

December 31, 2010  
State offices closed

**Click here for a list of additional  
upcoming events.**

**FSTRS Course Offerings are just  
1-click away when you visit  
[www.vafire.com](http://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.