

2007 Annual Report



**Changing the Face of Virginia's Fire Service:
Innovation, Teamwork and Dedication**



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- **Public Fire and Life Safety Education**

- **Professional Development**

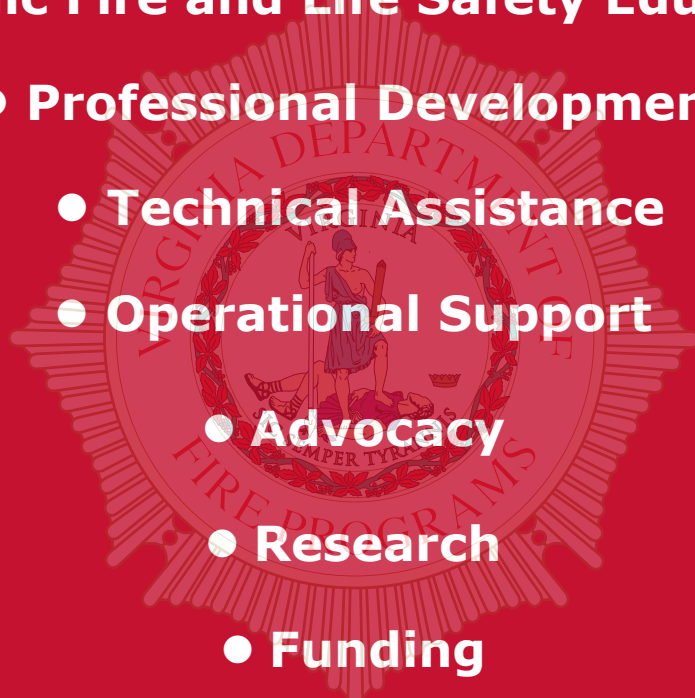
- **Technical Assistance**

- **Operational Support**

- **Advocacy**

- **Research**

- **Funding**





I am pleased to submit the 2007 Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) Annual Report for your review. VDFP serves 786 fire departments in the Commonwealth of Virginia with training and education programs, provides financial assistance to cities, counties and incorporated towns throughout the state through the annual Aid to Localities allocation as outlined in § 38.2-401 of the Code of Virginia, and also

provides grants for Burn Buildings and software and hardware for the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS).

VDFP analyzes fire data from all of the fire departments that report to VFIRS (currently 82% of fire departments statewide). This data is vital to ascertain the true fire problem in the Commonwealth and equips local fire and emergency service departments with the necessary tools to "Fight Fires with Facts." VDFP's website provides access to this invaluable data, which is modified frequently to reflect an up-to-date snapshot of fire-related injuries, fatalities, and economic losses throughout the state. Since "Fighting Fires with Facts" is a critical component of public fire and life safety education, VDFP has hired a part-time person to coordinate the needs of this essential program for the Commonwealth. Furthermore, VDFP has enhanced fire and life safety communications through its Marketing and Communications Division to ensure that the fire and emergency services have the data and resources needed to lower the fire losses in the Commonwealth.

This year has been a successful one. Coordinated team efforts have resulted in the following:

- Enhanced curriculum;
- The development and scheduling of several train-the-trainers;
- Improved website navigation and materials;
- The successful launch of the Virginia Fire Corps Initiative, which will encourage citizens to dedicate their time and talents to Virginia's fire and emergency service organizations, thus building safer and stronger communities;
- The distribution of 99.1% of the \$18.1 million of Aid to Localities (ATL) funding available in FY 07. ATL for FY 08 is 19.5 million and many jurisdictions have already received their funds. Our goal continues to be zero forfeitures in any funding cycle.

In addition to the ATL allocations, the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) has awarded \$210K in mini-grants and \$38K in VFIRS grants in FY 08. The VFSB has been very proactive in funding both of the grants in the last three years.

Along with the aforementioned accomplishments in 2007, VDFP has made a concerted effort to address fire trends by seizing

every opportunity to share statistical data to illustrate Virginia's fire problem, promote potential solutions to lower the losses, and educate the public on innovative ways to prevent fires from occurring. The smoke detector and carbon monoxide programs are excellent examples of these endeavors, which I am proud to report have resulted in several documented lives being saved.

2006 fire losses were over \$253 million and there were 96 reported fatalities. The preliminary figures for 2007 are over \$393 million with 83 fatalities. VDFP needs your cooperation to continue with the fight to reduce these losses as we move through 2008 and beyond; Life safety educators are needed in every jurisdiction to overcome the horrible statistics. Please work with us to lower fire losses and deaths statewide.

Virginia's fire and emergency services are committed to continuous learning. VDFP continues to forge ahead with higher education initiatives with Virginia's Community Colleges. We are excited to report that preliminary work for a 4-year program has commenced. The Agency constantly reviews transcript requests from the American Council on Education (ACE) for students who are enrolling in Fire Science or other related public safety programs. I encourage all of our fire and emergency services personnel who need higher education to explore the website for additional information promotion, education, or general knowledge. To date, 20 VDFP programs are eligible for ACE accreditation.

The backbone of our agency is our training curriculum; the agency strives to keep the over 50 programs updated and current. The 22 accredited programs are constantly reviewed and updated every five (5) years to meet Pro-Board requirements. New programs recently released include Fire Officer III & IV, Fire Instructor I & II, and Heavy and Technical Rescue. All programs undergo a scrutiny by the Curriculum Manager with new administrative guides as a standard for all revised courses. VDFP is working closely with the program developers and our bookstore staff to ensure the textbooks meet the student needs.

Our partnership with the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) for curriculum, trailers, and bookstore staffing has proven to be very successful. Our sister agency, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, works very closely with the agency to ensure that the hazardous material program is well maintained.

I would be remiss if I did not praise the Virginia Fire Services Board and the dedicated staff of VDFP for the long hours devoted to improving the Department of Fire Programs. With your continued support, we look forward to another year of transforming Virginia's Fire Service through innovation, teamwork and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. G. Shelton Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

W. G. Shelton Jr., CEM

Our Mission: To provide funding, training and educational programs to enhance public safety throughout the Commonwealth.

Our Vision: To be nationally recognized as the leader in enhancing the quality of fire and emergency services.

Our Values: Integrity - Innovative - Customer-focused - Quality-oriented - Ethical - Dedicated - Efficient
Respect - Teamwork - Health, wellness, safety & environmental conservation.

In 1981, the Virginia General Assembly combined an Office of Fire Services Training with the Virginia State Fire Services Commission to create the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) and its policy board, the Virginia Fire Services Board. Since the inception of VDFP, the goal has been to fund, train, educate and support Virginia's fire service. Over the years we have experienced strong support from various statewide stakeholder associations, individual fire/emergency response departments, partner agencies, and government officials as we work collectively to improve Virginia's fire suppression/prevention and emergency response efforts.

2008 and the years beyond will bring many opportunities as well as many challenges. Here are a few of the areas where VDFP will be working for you our customers.

- Higher education initiatives
 - Learning Resource Center in two divisions,
 - Knowledge center for on-line training,
 - Four-year college program for first responders
- Public Fire and Life Safety Education program statewide
- Mobile firefighting simulator for Firefighter 1 & 2 program
- Driver improvement programs
- 100% participation in the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS)
- Fully standardized curriculum programs and on-line learning center
- Joint National Incident Management System (NIMS) initiatives statewide
- International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) accreditation so Virginia will be dually accredited
- First Responder Authentication Credential (FRAC)
- State Fire Marshal Office (SFMO) move to VDFP and enhanced service program for stakeholders
- Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT) participation
- New Fire Prevention and Control document for Commonwealth via the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB)
- Annual needs assessment for the Virginia General Assembly
- Enhanced Bookstore operation
- Merger of SFMO and VDFP Offices
- National registry of all certifications
- VDFP/VFSB joint initiatives for training, fire prevention, and education
- Minimum training standards for firefighters acceptable to all stakeholders
- Fire Service Training Record System (FSTRS) enrichments
- SFMO database



The **Virginia Fire Services Board** (VFSB) is created within the Virginia Department of Fire Programs pursuant to § 9-153.1 of the Code of Virginia. The Board is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor. Board members may serve two four-year terms.

The VFSB's 15 members represent the fire service, industry, fire service organizations, fire instructors, local government, general public, insurance, State Fire Marshal, State Forester, and the Board of Housing and Community Development. Virginia Fire Services Board Members serve in an advisory capacity and assist VDFP in their mission to "provide funding, training and educational programs to enhance public safety throughout the Commonwealth." In addition, the Board Members oversee several entitlement and grant programs, as well as the Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service and the Governor's Fire Service Awards.

Below are the VFSB's accomplishments during FY 07:

The VFSB coordinated with VDFP to disburse \$18.1 million in Aid-to-Localities (ATL) to the Commonwealth's 324 localities. Aid to Localities provides Virginia cities, towns and counties with funds to pay for training, construction of training centers, fire fighting equipment and protective clothing. ATL allocations are population-based. Fiscal Year 08 ATL funding is \$19.5 million.

There were five burn buildings (Augusta County, Bristol City, Gloucester County, Loudoun County and Spotsylvania County) dedicated that were VFSB Burn Building grant recipients. The VFSB, on average, disburses \$975,000 annually to the Burn Building grant program (\$430,000 for new construction). Currently, there are

11 new construction projects; 1 repair project; and 1 renovation project being funded by the Burn Building grant program.

In Fiscal Year 07, the Board awarded \$270,482 to the Training Mini-Grants program and \$50,000 to the VFIRS Mini-Grants program. For Fiscal Year 08, the Board's Mini-Grant Programs will award \$210,279 for the Training Mini-Grants program and \$38,000 to the VFIRS Mini-Grants program

The **Be Fire Safe, Virginia!** grant program allowed for 10,080 smoke detectors to be distributed in 2006. In 2007, the Be Fire Safe Virginia! grant program distributed 5,800 carbon monoxide detectors to 40 jurisdictions. The Carbon Monoxide Program was a joint venture between the VFSB, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) and VDFP.



Standing: Kenneth J. Brown, Dennis Mitchell, Thomas H. Moffett, Michael Reilly, Ed Altizer, Kenneth L. Jones, Gary W. Eads; **Seated:** Thomas Fuqua (Chairman), Billy Shelton (VDFP Executive Director); **Not Pictured:** Richard E. Burch Jr., William B. Kyger, Carl Garrison II, Brian Mullins, J. Chris Kollman III, Barbara Hamm.

Current Board Members

Thomas Fuqua, Chairman – Virginia Chapter of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Dennis Mitchell, Vice Chairman – Virginia Fire Prevention Association
Kenneth L. Jones – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
Ed Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal
Kenneth J. Brown – Virginia State Firefighter's Association
Thomas H. Moffett – Virginia Professional Firefighters Association
Richard E. Burch, Jr. – Virginia Fire Services Council
William B. Kyger – Virginia Association of Counties
Gary W. Eads – Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)
Carl Garrison II – Virginia State Forester
Brian Mullins – Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development
J. Chris Kollman III – Virginia Municipal League
Michael Reilly – Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
Barbara Hamm – General Public
Vacant – Insurance Industry

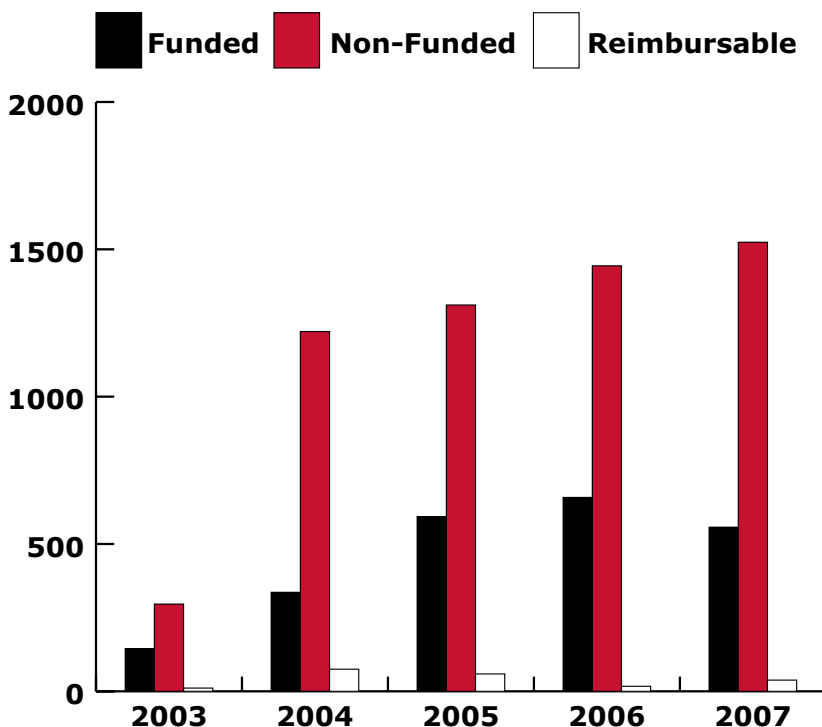
A Look at **Training** Programs

Firefighter training is a vital element in ensuring that departments across the Commonwealth safely and effectively protect lives and property. As the only agency in the Commonwealth accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Qualifications (aka "Pro- Board"), VDFP coordinates fire-rescue training and certification seminars across Virginia.

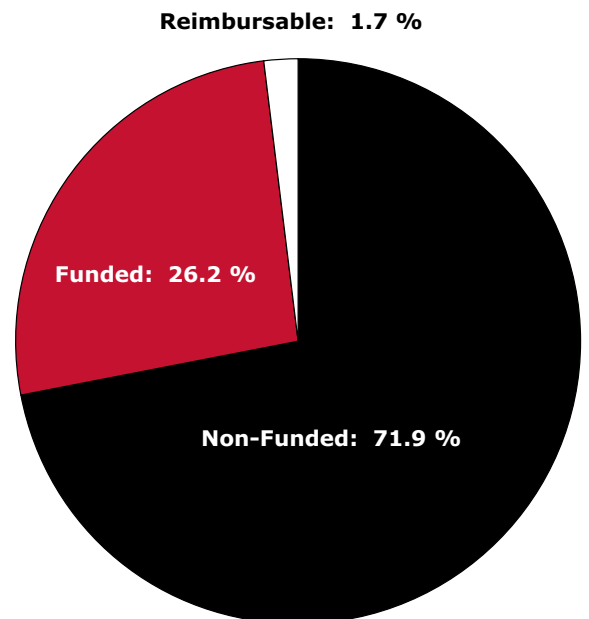
VDFP offers three types of training: funded, non-funded, and reimbursable. Funded schools are directly funded and delivered by VDFP at no cost to departments or students with the exception of textbooks. Instructors for these classes are VDFP wage employees, and VDFP personnel are responsible for the administration and management of the schools. Non-funded schools require students and/or departments to cover all costs of registration, lodging, meals, textbooks, and instructor salaries. VDFP supports these schools through coordination, technical assistance, equipment loan, marketing, certification, and records management. Reimbursable schools are coordinated, delivered, and initially funded by VDFP, which is later reimbursed by the department or locality receiving the training.

VDFP coordinated a total of 2,119 schools in FY07, a decrease of 254 schools from FY06. The FY07 totals included 557 funded schools (26.2%), 1,524 unfunded schools (71.0%) and 38 reimbursable schools (1.7%). In Fiscal Year 07, VDFP had sufficient funding for 26% of all direct training requests statewide. This funding comes from VDFP's annual operating budget, which is completely derived from the special revenue Fire Programs Fund established in the Code of Virginia (COV) § 38.2-401. Because there is not a dedicated funding source for statewide training, schools funded by VDFP must be paid for with money remaining after all mandated disbursements/transfers are made from the Fund in accordance with the COV and the Appropriations Act.

School Types by Fiscal Year



Type of Schools FY 07





Courses by Funding and Division			
Division	Funded	Non-Funded	Reimbursable
Statewide Training	13	4	0
Glen Allen - Division 1 Office	80	272	3
Orange - Division 2 Office	42	206	0
Farmville - Division 3 Office	80	118	0
Marion - Division 4 Office	69	32	1
Hampton - Division 5 Office	60	329	21
Roanoke - Division 6 Office	55	199	1
Northern VA - Division 7 Office	44	234	9
Fire Marshal Academy	49	113	1
ARFF/ HTR/ VFIRS	54	33	2
Totals	557	1524	38

VDFP continued to experience a large demand for National Incident Management System (NIMS) training as a result of Governor Warner's Executive Order 102, which adopted NIMS as the required incident management system. Executive Order 102 also defined VDFP as the executive agent responsible for coordination of NIMS compliant incident management system training activities among state agencies and local governments.

Once again in 2007 VDFP was able to assist Virginia's firefighters by registering 149 courses for 39 individuals with the American Council on Education. This provided many of these students with the credits needed for graduation at either a community college or four-year institution.

In an effort to continue the progress of higher education, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs was tasked with the development of a progressive professional development plan to assist with the development of future fire service leaders throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. While the Virginia Fire Service Occupational Development Consortium recognizes that they have no formal authority, we have identified the need to define a clear path for occupational development within Virginia's Fire Service. Through a collaborative effort of career, combination and volunteer fire service leaders, recommendations pertaining to training and educational aspects of future fire service leaders have been identified.

Lastly, VDFP has built partnerships with the Department of Education to foster the delivery of basic fire and hazardous materials programs throughout the technical trade programs located in Secondary Education Systems throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. In some instances this has provided high school juniors and seniors with the opportunity to not only meet the requirements for graduation from high school, but also provided college credit at the local Community College level through the dual enrollment program. It goes without saying that the agency continues to strive to train and educate emergency providers throughout the Commonwealth and prides itself within its mission of partnering with both private and public entities to ensure that future generations of firefighters are as well prepared as possible.

VDFP allocated **\$18,091,829** from the **FY07 Fire Programs Fund** directly to Virginia localities. The Fire Programs Fund comes from a one percent levy on certain fire related insurance coverages. After committed fixed obligations, 75% of the Fire Program Fund is annually distributed to 324 counties, cities, and incorporated towns within the Commonwealth as part of the Aid to Localities (ATL) program. ATL provides funding to pay for firefighting equipment, personal protective clothing and gear, prevention and training. These funds may not be used to supplant or replace any other appropriations by counties, cities, and towns for fire service operations.

FY 2007 ATL Allocation Summary

Summary	Locality	Population	Allocation	Per Capita
95	Counties	4,287,466	\$10,419,144	\$2.43
190	Towns	442,154	\$1,963,258	\$4.44
39	Cities	2,349,410	\$5,709,426	\$2.43
324	Virginia	7,079,030	\$18,091,829	\$2.56
29%	Counties %	61 %	58 %	
59%	Towns %	6 %	10 %	
12%	Cities %	33 %	32 %	

ATL Allocations Fiscal Year 2000 - 2008

2000	\$8,462,522
2001	\$9,247,021
2002	\$10,277,263
2003	\$10,303,723
2004	\$11,334,129
2005	\$14,604,602
2006	\$16,654,699
2007	\$18,091,829
2008	\$19,539,031



FY 2008 ATL Allocation (82 % disbursed as of February 15)

Summary	Locality	Population	Allocation	Per Capita
95	Counties	4,287,466	\$11,318,012	\$2.64
190	Towns	442,154	\$2,020,981	\$4.57
39	Cities	2,349,410	\$6,200,039	\$2.64
324	Virginia	7,079,030	\$19,539,031	\$2.76

The Virginia Fire Services Board awarded 51 **Training Mini-Grants** in FY07 totaling \$270,482. Grant funds come from the interest earned by the Fire Programs Fund. These grants are for projects and programs which positively impact and/or further fire service training within the Commonwealth.

Accomack, County of	\$3,265
Bedford, County of	\$10,000
Bland, County of	\$8,000
Botetourt, County of	\$5,100
Campbell, County of	\$9,519
Carroll, County of	\$9,980
Charlotte, County of	\$7,585
Dinwiddie, County of	\$4,993
Fairfax, County of	\$10,000
Franklin, County of	\$9,473
Gloucester, County of	\$1,500
Goochland, County of	\$9,456
Henry, County of	\$10,000
Mecklenburg, County of	\$754
Montgomery, County of	\$2,233
Powhatan, County of	\$1,174
Pulaski, County of	\$850
Roanoke, County of	\$8,000
Rockingham, County of	\$2,846
Spotsylvania, County of	\$8,631
Westmoreland, County of	\$10,000
Wythe, County of	\$8,876
Chase City, Town of	\$5,469
Chilhowie, Town of	\$1,003
Edinburg, Town of	\$2,396
Elkton, Town of	\$3,639
Fincastle, Town of	\$3,050
Fries, Town of	\$5,079
Gretna, Town of	\$3,494
Hillsville, Town of	\$5,652
LaCrosse, Town of	\$8,594
Pamplin, Town of	\$5,608
Pulaski, Town of	\$3,158
Saxis, Town of	\$4,014
Shenandoah, Town of	\$1,824
South Hill, Town of	\$891
Troutville, Town of	\$6,000
Victoria, Town of	\$2,200
Bristol, City of	\$3,330
Colonial Heights, City of	\$9,994
Covington, City of	\$2,749
Emporia, City of	\$1,000
Fairfax, City of	\$6,500
Galax, City of	\$1,000
Hampton, City of	\$10,000
Harrisonburg, City of	\$2,302
Lynchburg, City of	\$7,000
Manassas, City of	\$4,070
Martinsville, City of	\$10,000
Portsmouth, City of	\$6,589
Waynesboro, City of	\$1,644

FY 2007 VFIRS Hardware Grant Recipients

Bland, County	\$2,000	Fries, Town	\$1,000
Brunswick, County	\$2,000	Gate City, Town	\$1,000
Caroline, County	\$2,000	Jonesville, Town	\$1,000
Carroll, County	\$1,000	LaCrosse, Town	\$1,000
Dinwiddie, County	\$6,000	Narrows, Town	\$1,000
Halifax, County	\$8,000	Newsoms, Town	\$1,000
Henry, County	\$1,000	Rocky Mount, Town	\$1,000
New Kent, County	\$4,000	Shenandoah, Town	\$1,000
Orange, County	\$4,000	Bristol, City	\$1,000
Patrick, County	\$5,000	Buena Vista, City	\$1,000
Pittsylvania, County	\$3,000	Winchester, City	\$1,000
Powhatan, County	\$1,000		

Twenty-three localities received a total of \$50,000 for the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) **Technology Hardware Grant Program**. The purpose of this grant program is to provide an incentive to jurisdictions participating in VFIRS by lessening the economic burden associated with hardware.

Burn Building Grants provide development grants annually for the construction and repair of burn buildings. The following localities received funding in FY07 through the Burn Building Grant Program: Bedford City (\$430,000), Franklin County (\$430,000), Montgomery County (430,000), Northumberland County (430,000), and Rockbridge County (6,500). Currently, there are 11 active new burn building construction projects and 2 active repair projects.



VDFP has completed and attended the dedication ceremonies for five projects: Augusta County, Bristol City, Gloucester County, Loudoun County, and Spotsylvania County.

The **Virginia Dry Fire Hydrant Grant Program** is funded from the Fire Programs Fund per the Code of Virginia § 38.2-401 and is administered through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. The program provides \$100,000 annually for the installation of dry fire hydrants into natural water supplies such as ponds or lakes, primarily in rural areas.

Get Alarmed, Virginia! is a state program designed to assist in lowering state fire injury, death and loss of property, via the identification and installation of smoke detectors, and the delivery of public fire and life safety education. The Get Alarmed, Virginia! program is funded by a state-secured federal grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The smoke alarm installation and public education program includes smoke alarms, equipment, and project coordination costs for installation and education management. The recipients of the 2007-2008 Get Alarmed, Virginia! grants were Arlington County Fire Department and Dinwiddie Fire and EMS.

The **Be Fire Safe, Virginia Grant Program** continued in 2007 utilizing funding from VDFP and the VFSB to provide carbon monoxide alarms to residents throughout Virginia. Through this project, 5,800 carbon monoxide alarms, along with fire safety educational materials, were distributed to 40 recipient organizations for installation throughout the Commonwealth.

The **Conference and Education Assistance Program** provides needed financial support for conferences and seminars sponsored by Virginia-based non-profit organizations that further the education of fire and emergency services personnel throughout the Commonwealth. Awards total approximately \$60,000 annually (budget permitting). In 2007, VDFP provided funding to the Virginia State Chiefs Association, Virginia Firefighters Association, Virginia Fire and Life Safety Coalition, Virginia Fire Prevention Association, Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, and the Annual Diversity Conference.

Governor's **Fire Services** Awards

The 2006 Governor's Fire Services Awards were presented to nine recipients in seven categories during opening ceremonies at the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association's Expo and Symposium on Saturday, February 24, 2007 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The Governor's Fire Service Awards, designed to acknowledge excellence in Virginia's fire service in both the public and private sector, are carefully reviewed and selected by the Virginia Fire Services Board Executive Committee. All individuals selected by the Committee are forwarded to Governor Timothy M. Kaine through the Secretary of Public Safety for final approval. Governor's Fire Service Awards were presented to the following individuals:

- Award:** Excellence in Virginia's Fire Service
Recipient: Lt. Keith Allen Higgs, Stanley Volunteer Fire Department
- Award:** Excellence in Virginia Fire & Life Safety Education
Recipient: Catharine Meredith, Virginia Beach Fire Department
- Award:** Excellence in Virginia Fire Service Management
Recipient: Chief Charles L. Werner, Ruckersville Volunteer Fire Co.
- Award:** Outstanding Fire Department Response
Recipient: Hanover County Fire-EMS Department
- Award:** Excellence in Virginia's Fire Service Training
Recipient: Larry J. Cochran, Virginia Department of Forestry
The Roanoke Fire-EMS Training Division Staff
- Award:** Excellence in Private Sector Virginia Fire Services Support
Recipient: Virginia Propane Gas Association
Drs. Jeff & Nancy Barker, Barker Chiropractic Clinic
- Award:** Civilian Lifesaving Award
Recipient: Randy Neff, Montpelier, Virginia



Outreach Efforts

VDFP continued its long standing tradition of providing vital fire and life safety educational resources to fire service members and the general public in 2007. Over 25 press releases were disseminated to the media, accomplishing a goal of keeping our stakeholders, as well as the citizens of the Commonwealth informed. The Fire Safety Education section of our website was revised and updated with downloadable safety tip sheets on a wide range of topics. Venues such as the Virginia State Fair, Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Mid-Atlantic Expo & Symposium, Virginia EMS Symposium, Virginia State Firefighter's Association Conference and the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Forum were utilized to interface with the general public and members of the fire and emergency services community. Perhaps most significantly, our *Be Fire Safe, Virginia* programs began to show dividends with reported life saves that could be traced to smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms that were distributed in 2006 and 2007.

Virginia Fire Corps

VDFP launched a major initiative in 2007 to dramatically increase participation in Fire Corps. The first Virginia Fire Corps informational workshop was held at VDFP's Glen Allen office on November 16. Eighteen participants representing departments throughout the Commonwealth received important information on forming and maintaining Fire Corps programs within their jurisdictions.



Fire Corps, the newest of the Citizen Corps partner programs, was launched in December 2004. The program provides non-operational community support through the use of citizen advocates. The ultimate goal of the program is to assist resource/space-constrained fire departments at all levels – volunteer, combination, and career. Simply put, the program seeks to help local fire and emergency service organizations get the help they need, thus enabling them to dedicate more time towards their core mission – responding to and preparing for emergencies. VDFP has set a goal of having 25% of Virginia fire departments actively participating in Fire Corps by the end of 2008.

Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service

For the last ten years the Commonwealth of Virginia has honored its Fallen Firefighters on the first Saturday in June at the Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service. It is a time when members of the public safety community, as well as members of the general public, pause to pay tribute to these heroes who have given their lives protecting the citizens of Virginia and reflect not just on their passing, but also on the time that they were with us. This year's service was held on Saturday, June 2 in Richmond, Virginia. Governor Timothy M. Kaine was on hand once again this year to address the attendees and offer his heartfelt words of condolence.



The 2007 Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial service honored Firefighter John Paul Memory II of Carrollton Volunteer Fire Department and Firefighter Jerry Wayne Hall of the City of Richmond Department of Fire & Emergency Services. The next Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2008.

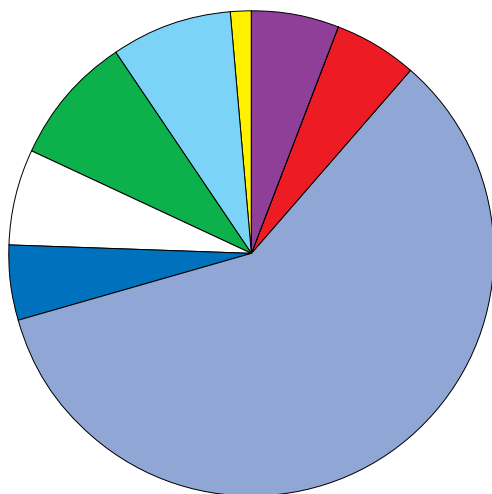
Virginia **Fire Statistics** for 2007 (preliminary)

Fire Dollar Loss Summary	Number
Total Fire Dollar Loss	\$393,715,538
Total Number of Fires	31,786
Average Dollar Loss / Fire	\$12,386

Casualty Summary	Number
Civilian Fire Injuries	437
Civilian Fire Deaths	82
Fire Service Injuries	162
Fire Service Deaths	1

Residential Structure Fire Causes	Number	Percent
Unknown	2,424	30.53%
Cooking	2,209	27.82%
Heating	1,259	15.86%
Open Flame, Ember, Torch	365	4.60%
Incendiary, Suspicious	346	4.36%
Exposure	302	3.80%
Appliances, Air Conditioning	255	3.21%
Other Heat, Flame, Spark	254	3.20%
Smoking	158	1.99%
Natural	156	1.96%
Electrical Distribution	130	1.64%
Other Equipment	47	0.59%
Children Playing	35	0.44%
Total	7,940	100.00%

Type of Calls	Number
Fires	31,786
Rescue and EMS	356,759
Hazardous Condition	30,478
Service	37,666
Good Intent	51,679
False Alarm	50,691
Other	7,981
Total	567,040
Mutual Aid Given	34,666
Exposures	697
Grand Total	602,403



**Type of Calls
Virginia 2007**

NOTE: Incident data is compiled from information reported to the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) for 2007 as of 02/13/2008 and is considered preliminary since incidents are still being reported. For all frequency or incident counts, mutual aid given and exposure incidents were excluded from the numbers. For casualty statistical information, mutual aid given incidents were included for all fire Service and

Top Areas Where Fires Occur in the Home	Percent
Kitchen	39.23%
Chimney	14.72%
Bedroom	6.67%
Laundry Area	2.62%
Attic Crawl Space	2.43%
Living Room	2.33%
Wall Assembly	1.97%
Exterior Balcony, Unenclosed Porch	1.87%
Bathroom	1.62%
Exterior Wall Surface	1.49%
Garage	1.29%
Ceiling and Floor Crawl Space	1.19%
Closet	0.86%
Heating Room, Water Heater Area	0.85%
Substructure Crawl Space	0.83%
Courtyard, Patio, Porch, Terrace	0.69%



Fire Service Training Record System (FSTRS) Summary

Fire Departments	Number	Percent
Primary Fire Department	602	79.74%
Fire Administration or Training Center	37	4.90%
Fire Brigade	75	9.93%
Military, Federal or Airport	41	5.43%
Grand Total	755	100.00%

Primary Fire Department Summary	Status	Number	Percent
Primary Fire Department	Vol	518	86.05%
	Comb	67	11.13%
	Career	17	2.82%
Grand Total		602	100.00%

Students	Number	Percent
Career	13,147	18.82%
Volunteer	26,259	37.59%
Combination	1,802	2.58%
EMS	8,490	12.15%
Brigade	4,886	6.99%
Other	12,152	17.40%
Unknown	3,118	4.46%
Grand Total	69,854	100.00%

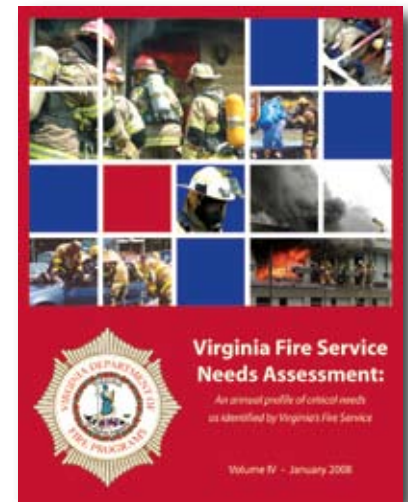
excluded for all civilian data, and, in addition, exposure incidents were included with all casualty numbers. For dollar loss amounts, mutual aid given incidents were excluded and exposure incidents were included with the numbers. All fire department and student data is produced from active listings from the Fire Service Training Record System (FSTRS) database as of 01/28/2008.

Research is a crucial way in which VDFP can assist in addressing issues that face the fire service in Virginia. VDFP is dedicated to the collection, analysis and dissemination of information regarding the needs of the fire service and to aid in the protection of those in the Commonwealth. In 2007, VDFP continued to conduct studies to address these issues and promote safety in Virginia.

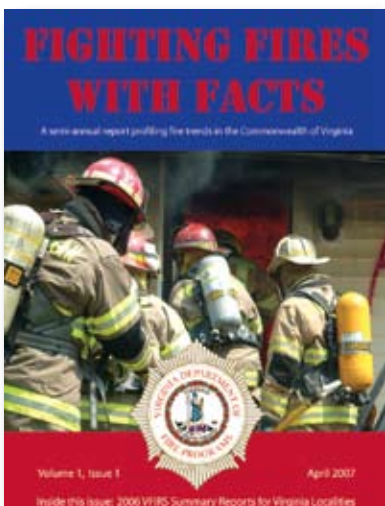
Virginia Fire Service **Needs Assessment** Volume IV

In order to provide Virginia General Assembly members with adequate information to make informed decisions with regard to fire service funding issues, VDFP was directed to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of Virginia's fire service. The first **Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment** was released in January 2004. A supplement was released later that year. The second volume of the Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment was released in January 2006, comprised of data gathered from a follow-up survey conducted in the fall of 2005. Volume III, released in January 2007, focused on the efforts of Virginia's Fire Service to identify voids in technical services, training, and continued needs for state-of-the-art equipment to adequately perform the duties of the Emergency First Responder.

Volume IV continues the effort to identify the most crucial needs of Virginia's Fire Services. This report, released in January 2008, compiled responses from 89% of fire departments in the state, the highest response rate reported in the four years since the Needs Assessment was first conducted. Personnel topped the list of highest needs identified by Virginia's fire service, followed by Training, Equipment, Apparatus, and Facilities.



Fighting **Fires** with Facts



The Virginia Department of Fire Programs released its 2007 **Fighting Fires with Facts** report to more than 565 Virginia fire departments and 134 Virginia city/county administrators in April. The report, boasting 12 informational graphs and charts, provided 2006 fire and emergency response statistics for each locality. The release of the new publication marked the start of a new initiative by VDFP to assist and support local fire departments in the Commonwealth towards addressing fire trends specific to their communities.

"We are truly excited about the new publication," said W. G. Billy Shelton, executive director of VDFP. "The Fighting Fires with Facts report is part of a collaborative effort to provide life saving, community building information to our Virginia localities. We expect the data within the report to assist localities with future fire response and planning efforts."

Note: The publications shown above are available for viewing and/or download at www.vafire.com.

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