



Virginia Fire Chiefs
Association
Company Officers
Section



Virginia Department of
Fire Programs



National Fallen
Firefighters Foundation



Everyone Goes Home
Firefighter Life Safety
Initiatives

PRESS RELEASE

Virginia Fire Service to Conduct First-Ever “Safety Through Leadership” Academy

*Partnership with National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will set
the example for the nation’s fire service*

A coalition of state and national fire service organizations have combined efforts to conduct the first-ever fire service “Safety through Leadership” academy in Virginia. The **Virginia Fire Officer Academy** will draw front-line supervisors from fire departments across the state. The academy, which will be held on the campus of the University of Richmond on June 16-20, is the result of a partnership between the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA), the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP). The academy is funded by a grant from the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program, which is a component of the NFFF.

“Every year in the United States, approximately 100 firefighters die in the line of duty,” said Spotsylvania County Fire Chief Chris Eudailey, president of the VFCA. “We recognize that a critical step in reversing that trend is to focus on leadership training for front-line officers, and that is what this academy is all about.”

More than 120 fire officers from across the state applied for the 40 slots available. Those selected to attend represent all geographic areas of the state, including metropolitan areas, rural areas, and suburban communities. The students come from career, volunteer, and combination fire departments. Students will be accommodated in campus housing and participate in five days of leadership training that will include role-playing scenarios and presentations by leading experts on safety and leadership.

The academy has been identified by the Everyone Goes Home Program as a model for a future national training initiative. “We are participating in the development of the Virginia Fire Officer Academy because this model needs to be implemented across the United States,” said Richard Anderson, program manager for the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program. “We anticipate this program will become the premier officer training program in the United States regarding safety and leadership,” he said.

“Our goal is to give front-line managers the leadership tools they need in order to make a real difference,” said Chief Eudailey. “We want them to go back to their communities and spread what they have learned. We want them to save lives through leadership.”

A formal graduation ceremony will be held on Wednesday morning from 10:00 to noon and will feature a number of prominent state and national fire service officials. Photo opportunities will be available during the ceremony and the press is invited to attend. The location will be the Haynes Commons on the campus of the University of Richmond.

For more information, contact:

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