

APPENDIX XI - GLOSSARY

Advanced Life Support (ALS)**	Basic life support and the additional use of invasive procedures or drugs.
Advanced Personnel Location Equipment***	Used by rescue teams to locate trapped, lost, or incapacitated firefighters in low-or zero-visibility environments.
Aerial Apparatus**	Fire fighting vehicle equipped with a hydraulically operated ladder or elevating platform for the purpose of placing personnel and/or water streams in elevated positions.
Airport firefighter*	Protects life property, controls fire hazards, and performs general duties related to airport operations and aircraft safety. Also know as aircraft rescue and firefighting - ARFF.
Apparatus**	Vehicle or group of vehicles of any variety used in the fire service
Arson**	Willful and malicious burning of the property of oneself or another.
Basic Life Support (BLS)**	Maintenance of airway, breathing, and circulation, as well as basic bandaging and splinting, without the use of adjunctive equipment.
Brush company*	Extinguishes wildland fires and protects structures in the urban interface.
Chemical/Biological Sampling Equipment***	Allows fire departments to safely and remotely sample suspected hazardous materials and secure them for transport to a laboratory for complete analysis
Class A Fires*	Involve ordinary combustible materials such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, and many plastics. Water is used to cool or quench the burning material below its ignition temperature. The addition of Class A foams may enhance water's ability to extinguish Class A fires.
Class B Fires*	Involve flammable and combustible liquids and gases such as gasoline, oil, lacquer, paint, mineral spirits, and alcohol. The smothering or blanketing effect of oxygen exclusion is most effective for extinguishment and also helps reduce the production of additional vapors.
Class C Fires*	Involve energized electrical equipment. Household appliances, computers, transformers, and overhead transmission lines are examples of Class C fires. These fires can sometimes be controlled by a non-conducting extinguishing agent such as halon, dry chemical, or carbon dioxide.

Class D Fires*	Involve combustible metals such as aluminum, magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, and potassium, which are particularly hazardous in their powdered form. Proper airborne concentrations of metal dusts can cause powerful explosions, given a suitable ignition source. The extremely high temperature of some burning metals make water and other common extinguishing agents ineffective. No single agent effectively controls fires in all combustible metals.
Command	The function of directing, ordering, and controlling resources by virtue of explicit legal, agency, or delegated authority.
Communications/telecommunications personnel	Take emergency and non-emergency phone calls, process the information, dispatch units, maintain and provide communications link to companies that are in service, and complete incident reports.
Company*	The standard operating unit of a fire department. A group of firefighters assigned to a particular piece of fire apparatus or to a particular station. A company consists of a company officer(s), a driver/operator(s), and one or more firefighters.
Dispatch**	To direct fire companies to respond to an alarm.
Emergency Medical Company*	Provides emergency medical care and support to patients.
Emergency Medical Technician*	Is trained to provide basic life support (BLS) for those whose lives are in danger.
EMS First Responder*	Sustains the patient's life until more competent medical personnel arrive.
Engine Company*	Deploys hose-line for fire attack and exposure protection.
Engine**	Fire department pumper.
Exhaust System**	Ventilation system designed to remove stale air, smoke, vapors, or other airborne contaminants from an area.
Eye Protection*	Protects the wearer's eyes from flying solid particles or liquids.
Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)	The Federal Fiscal Year begins October 1 and ends September 30 of the next calendar year.
Fire and Arson Investigator*	Conducts the investigation of the fire area and makes analytical judgments based on the remains at the fire scene to determine the origin and cause of the fire.
Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator*	Safely drives assigned fire apparatus to and from fire and emergency scenes, operate pumps, aerial devices, or other mechanical equipment as required.
Fire Chief*	Ultimately responsible for all operations

	within the fire department.
Fire Department Officer*	Supervise a fire company in the station and at the fire scene. They may also supervise a group of fire companies in a specified geographical region of the city. They may also be assigned roles in operations, personnel/administration, public information, fire prevention, resources, and planning.
Fire Department Safety Officer*	Oversees a fire department's occupational safety and health program and monitors the operational safety of emergency incidents.
Fire Inspector**	Fire prevention specialist and/or fire or arson investigator
Fire Prevention Officer/Inspector*	Conducts technical and supervisory work in the fire prevention program.
Fire Prevention**	Part of the science of fire protection that deals with preventing the outbreak of fire by eliminating fire hazards through inspection, code enforcement, education, and investigation programs
Fire Protection Engineer/Specialist*	Acts as a consultant to the upper administration of the department in the areas of fire department operations and fire prevention.
First Responder (EMS)**	First person arriving at the scene of an incident or medical emergency who is trained to administer first aid or life support.
Fiscal Year (FY)	The State Fiscal Year begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the next calendar year.
Gloves*	Protect the hands from cuts, wounds, and burn injuries.
Hazardous Materials Company*	Responds to and mitigates hazardous materials incidents.
Hazardous Materials Technician*	Handles hazardous materials and nuclear, biological, and chemical emergencies.
Hearing Protection*	Limits noise-induced damage to the firefighter's ears when loud noise situations cannot be avoided.
Helmet*	Protects the head from impact and puncture injuries as well as from scalding water.
Incident Command System "ICS"	System designed to set a span of control under the direct supervision of the Incident Commander.
Incident Commander*	The person in overall command of an incident. Is ultimately responsible for all incident activities, including the development and implementation of a strategic plan. The incident commander has the authority both to call resources to the incident and to release them from it.
Incident Management System (IMS)*	System designed with interactive components that provide the basis for

	clear communication and effective operations that can be applicable to incidents of all sizes and types. The components of the IMS are: common terminology, modular organization, integrated communications, unified command structure, consolidated action plan, manageable span of control, predesignated-incident facilities, and comprehensive resource management.
Inspection**	Formal examination of an occupancy and its associated uses or processes to determine its compliance with the fire and life safety codes and standards.
Instructor*	Delivers training courses to the other members of the department.
Ladder Company**	Group of firefighters assigned to a fire department aerial apparatus who are primarily responsible for search and rescue, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, forcible entry, and other fireground support functions.
Mobile Data Terminal***	A "wireless" data communication device allowing firefighters, while responding to emergency incidents, to securely obtain detailed or sensitive information from dispatch centers in a text format. Mobile computer terminals (MCTs), the next generation of MDT, allow access to features such as graphical preplans, incident reporting tools, and even the Internet.
National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA)*	An international nonprofit organization focused on reducing the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating scientifically-based consensus codes and standards, research, training and education. NFPA membership totals more than 75,000 world-wide and more than 80 national trade and professional organizations.
National Incident Management System (NIMS)	An integrated system of local, state and federal representatives working collectively to prepare for and mitigate emergency incidents
Paramedic*	Handles incidents similar to those handled by EMT's, but is able to provide advanced life support (ALS).
Personal Alert Safety System (PASS)*	Provides life-safety protection by emitting a loud shriek if the firefighter should collapse or remain motionless for approximately 30 seconds
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*	Refers to the garments firefighters must wear while performing their jobs.
Portable Radio**	Hand-held radio used by personnel to

	communicate with each other when away from the vehicle.
Protective Coat and Trousers*	Protect trunk and limbs against cuts, abrasions, and burn injuries (resulting from radiant heat), and provide limited protection from corrosive liquids.
Protective Hood*	Protects portions of the firefighter's face, ears, and neck not covered by the helmet or coat.
Public Fire and Life Safety Educator*	Informs the public about fire hazards, fire causes, precautions, and actions to take during a fire.
Pump Apparatus**	Fire department apparatus that has the primary responsibility to pump water.
Rescue Squad/Company*	Typically is responsible for removal of victims from areas of danger or entrapment.
Safety Shoes or Boots*	Protect the feet from burn injuries and puncture wounds.
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)*	Protects the face and lungs from toxic smoke and products of combustion.
Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) Diver*	Performs both topside and underwater rescues and recoveries.
Special Rescue Technician*	Handles special rescue situations such as high angle (rope) rescue, trench and structural collapse, confined space entry, extrication operations, and cave or mine rescues.
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)*	Procedures that provide a standard set of actions that are the core of every fire fighting incident plan.
Structure**	Constructed object; usually a building standing free and above ground
Tanker**	(1) Mobile water supply fire apparatus that carries at least 1,500 gallons (6000 L) of water and is used to supply water to fire scenes that lack fire hydrants. It is called a Tender in ICS terms. (2) In the ICS, tanker refers to a water-transporting fixed-wing aircraft.
Technical Rescue Technician	Specially trained fire-rescue personnel in the areas of Rope, Confined Space, Trench, and Vehicle Rescue.
Thermal Imaging Camera*** (TIC)	Used by firefighters to "see" through smoke and locate fires, victims, or "hot spots" requiring further extinguishment.
Training Officer/Chief of Training/Drill Master*	Administers all fire department training activities.
Truck (ladder) Company*	Performs forcible entry, search and rescue, ventilation, salvage and overhaul, and provides access to upper levels of a structure.

* Adams, Barbara and Richard Hall, eds. (1999) *Essentials of Fire Fighting Fourth Edition*. Stillwater, OK.

**Brackhage, Cynthia, Michael A. Wieder and Carol M. Smith, eds. (1993) *Fire Service Orientation and Terminology*. Stillwater, OK.

*** Thiel, Adam K. (2004), Hansen, Donald E. (2006) Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Richmond, VA.