

# Preface

## Background

At the request of the Virginia General Assembly (VGA), Secretary of Public Safety John W. Marshall directed the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VD FP) to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of Virginia's fire service in 2003 in order to provide members of the VGA with adequate information to make informed decisions with regard to fire service funding issues.

The first needs assessment supplement, which began four fiscal cycles ago, laid the ground work to assist in the legislative decision-making process. The second volume, which covers another portion of the original material, is the result of a follow-up survey conducted in the fall of 2005. Volume III was published last year in January 2007 and was produced from survey results gathered from fire departments in 2006.

This survey will focus on the efforts of Virginia's Fire Service to identify specific needs in the areas of apparatus, equipment, facilities, personnel and training and will also analyze the ability of fire departments to adequately perform the duties of the Emergency First Responder.

## Survey Team

The 2007 Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey team consisted of the following VDFP staff: **Marion A. Long, Information and Statistics Manager**, and **Dwight E. Crews, Fire Research Analyst**.

## Acknowledgements

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- Teresa Duncan, Branch Chief - Administration and Support
- Larry McAndrews, Branch Chief - Training and Operations
- Russell Chandler, Branch Chief - Training and Technical Services
- Brook Pittinger, Policy, Planning and Legislative Affairs Manager
- Mark Buff, Marketing and Communications Manager
- David Jolly, Curriculum/QA Chief
- Christine Lopilato, Grants Manager

The following VDFP Division Chiefs greatly helped to encourage completion of the needs assessment survey with fire departments and publicized the importance of the needs assessment in their areas.

- Tom Berry, Division Chief - Division 1 Office - Richmond
- Bert Roby, Division Chief - Division 2 Office - Orange
- Don Brown, Division Chief - Division 3 Office - Farmville
- Dennis Price, Division Chief - Division 4 Office - Marion
- Samuel Burnette, Division Chief - Division 5 Office - Hampton
- Donald E. Hansen, Division Chief - Division 6 Office - Roanoke
- Melvin Byrne, Division Chief - Division 7 Office - Loudoun

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