

Enclosure 3

ACCOMACK --The Accomack County Board of Supervisors approved a 10-year capital spending plan for the Eastern Shore Regional Fire Training Center. The plan includes a new half million dollar burn building, training props, water systems and storage.

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The state has ranked the Eastern Shore center second in line for a \$430,000 grant toward the cost of the new burn building, which will be used to train firefighters from Accomack and Northampton counties.

The Regional Fire Training Committee, which consists of five representatives from the Accomack County Fire and Rescue Commission and four from the Northampton County Fire and Rescue Commission, has made progress in several areas recently, Public Safety Director Jason Loftus said -- including making site improvements at the center in Melfa, approving a charter, having approved financial guidelines with both county fire commissions, developing a capital plan and expanding the facility's use.

Additional uses at the fire training center now include hunter safety courses, EMS training and Sheriff's Office training. The Department of Public Safety website also now has agendas and minutes from committee meetings posted as well as offering online registration for classes.

Volunteer fire and rescue companies in Accomack and Northampton counties each contribute \$1,000 per year for the center, along with funding from the two counties.

Improvements made to the center during the last year include the removal of berms and repair of the existing burn building, which was paid for by a \$11,000 grant and brought the building up to state standards. The classroom building also was remodeled.

The center also has received a \$30,000 grant to construct a hazardous materials training area and \$17,000 in grant money was used for an LP gas simulator.

The center also has a ventilation prop to simulate cutting holes in a roof during a fire and it will soon have a flashover simulator. There also is a maze used to train firefighters to navigate in confined spaces while wearing self-contained breathing apparatus during a fire.

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