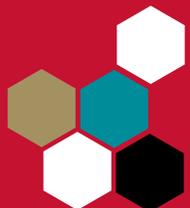


# Virginia Department of Fire Programs

Enhancing Public Safety Throughout Virginia



## FY 2010 Annual Report



# Table of Contents

From the Executive Director . . . . .	3
Virginia Fire Services Board . . . . .	5
A Look at Training Programs . . . . .	6
Aid to Localities . . . . .	8
FY 2010 Grant Recipients and Programs . . . . .	9
VFSB Burn Building Projects . . . . .	11
Governor’s Fire Services Awards . . . . .	12
Social Media Programs . . . . .	13
Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service . . . . .	13
State Fire Marshal’s Office . . . . .	14
Virginia Fire Statistics for 2009 . . . . .	16
Researching Our Needs . . . . .	18

## Our Mission:

It is the mission of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) to provide funding, training and educational programs to enhance public safety throughout the Commonwealth; and to enforce building code, statewide fire prevention code, and life safety code compliance

## 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.



I am pleased to submit the FY 2010 Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) Annual Report. VDFP serves 837 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 percent of fire departments statewide/ 92 percent of the population). 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 dedicated staff to ensure that our statistics are correct and current. 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 for Fire Officer and Fire Instructor; Marine Firefighting for Structural Fire Companies.
- Improved website navigation and materials; our new webmaster has updated the entire web site to be more user friendly.
- The success of the Virginia Fire Corps initiative continues in the Commonwealth with more jurisdictions coming onboard enhancing our communities.
- The distribution of 100 percent of the \$20.1 million of Aid to Localities (ATL) funding for FY 2009; FY 2010 is \$20.4 million; and FY 2011 is \$20.96 million. Our goal continues to be zero forfeiture in any funding cycle.

In addition to the ATL allocations, the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) has awarded \$176,464 in mini-grants and \$25,000 in VFIRS grants in FY 2010; disbursements will commence in September 2010. The VFSB has been very proactive in funding both of the grants in the last three years.

Along with the aforementioned accomplishments in FY 2010, 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. For 2009, fire losses were over \$275 million and there were 68 reported fatalities. VDFP needs your cooperation to continue the fight to reduce these losses as we move through CY 2010 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 four-year program has commenced with an Articulation Agreement with the University of Phoenix. 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 out of the 24 accredited programs are eligible for ACE accreditation. Our next ACE review is scheduled before September 30, 2010.

The backbone of our agency is our training curriculum; the agency strives to keep the over 50 accredited and non-accredited programs updated and current. The 24 accredited programs are constantly reviewed and updated every five (5) years to meet Pro-Board requirements. New programs have been released include Fire Officer III & IV, Fire Instructor I, II & III, and Heavy and Technical Rescue. All programs undergo 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 meets the student needs. Firefighter I & II have been revised and the Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course (EVOC) is currently being updated.

Our partnership with the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) for curriculum, trailers, and bookstore staffing has proven to be extremely 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 VFSB and the dedicated staff of VDFP for the long hours devoted to improving the Commonwealth's Fire Service. Three mobile firefighting training simulators have been ordered to better serve the state's training requirements. Our Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) program will receive a new training simulator by mid-September 2010 paid entirely with Federal Stimulus Funds through the Federal Aviation Administration and Virginia's Department of Aviation. With your continued support, we look forward to another year of transforming Virginia's fire service through innovation, teamwork and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,



W. G. Shelton Jr., CEM



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 a maximum of 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.

VFSB 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 and to enforce building code, statewide fire prevention code, and life safety code compliance."

In addition, the Board Members develop and interpret policies that govern the Aid to Localities Entitlement Program and several other grant programs, and oversee the Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service and the Governor's Fire Service Awards.

Below is a summary of the VFSB's actions over the past three fiscal years:

**ATL Funding/Distribution:** ATL goes to 324 cities, counties and towns within the COV.

- FY08 - \$19.5M (100 percent disbursed)
- FY09 - \$20.1M (100 percent disbursed)
- FY10 - \$20.4M (96.1 percent disbursed to 294 jurisdictions)
- FY11 - \$20.96M

## Current Board Members

Richard E. Burch, Jr., Chair – Virginia Fire Services Council

Brian Mullins, Vice Chair – Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development

Michael Reilly – Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators

James 'Mike' Armstrong, Training & Education Committee Chair – Virginia Chapter of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors

Elaine Gall, Fire Prevention & Control Committee Chair – Virginia Fire Prevention Association

Kenneth J. Brown, Burn Building Subcommittee Chair – Virginia State Firefighter's Association

Edwin Smith – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association

Ed Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal

Thomas H. Moffett – Virginia Professional Firefighters Association

William B. Kyger – Virginia Association of Counties

Joe Wilson – Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)

Carl Garrison II – Virginia State Forester

Kaye Brown – Virginia Municipal League

Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr. – General Public

Robert F. Scott – Insurance Industry

## Grant Programs:

### Burn Building Grant Program:

- \$975,000 annually disbursed
- \$430,000 for new construction (as of 6/2010):
- 2 new construction projects
- 7 repair projects
- 8 renovation projects

### Mini-Grant Programs:

#### *FY 2008 Award Disbursements:*

- Training Mini Grants: \$209,379
- VFIRS Hardware Grants: \$38,000

#### *FY 2009 Award Disbursements*

- Training Mini Grants: \$208,184
- VFIRS Hardware Grants: \$24,000

#### *FY 2010 Award Disbursements:*

- Training Mini Grants: \$176,464
- VFIRS Hardware Grants: \$25,000

### **Be Fire Safe Virginia! Grant Program: Life safety detection device grant program.**

#### *FY 2007 Smoke Detector Program:*

- 10,080 smoke detectors distributed in 2006; and
- 20 documented life saves.

#### *FY 2008 Carbon Monoxide Program:*

- Joint venture with VFSB, SFMO, & VDFP (\$110K) committed for grants;
- 40 jurisdictions;
- 5800 CO detectors distributed; and
- 5 documented saves.

#### *FY 2009 & FY2010:*

- No funding

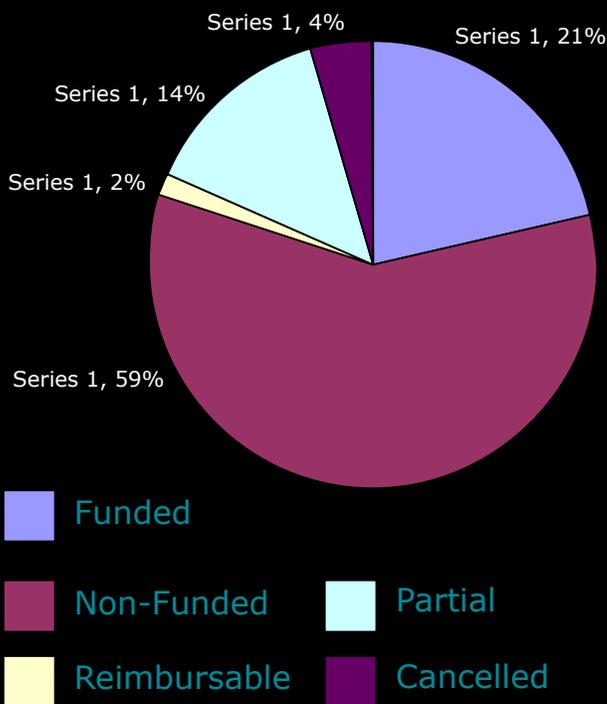
# A Look at Training Programs

Firefighter training is a vital element in ensuring that departments across the Commonwealth of Virginia 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 certifications seminars across Virginia.

VDFP offers four types of training: funded, non-funded, partially 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 part-time 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. Partially funded schools are supported by VDFP personnel utilizing part-time instructors to administer tests, manage live burn compliancy, and perform as evaluators during specific certification testing. Reimbursable schools are coordinated, delivered, and initially funded by VDFP, which is later reimbursed through a cooperative effort of departments or localities receiving the training.

VDFP coordinated a total of 2,054 schools in FY 2010, a decrease of 162 schools from FY 2009. The FY 2010 totals included 441 funded schools (21%); 1,202 non-funded schools (59%); 283 partially funded (14%); 37 reimbursable (2%); and 91 cancelled (4%). In FY 2010, VDFP had sufficient funding for 35 percent of all direct training through funded and partially funded statewide deliveries. 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.

VDFP continues to experience a demand for National Incident Management System (NIMS) and position specific 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.



**FY 2010 Courses by Funding & Division**

Division	Funded	Non-Funded	Reimbursable	Partial	Cancelled
Statewide Training	6	32	0	5	0
Glen Allen Division 1 Office	66	148	10	63	28
Orange Division 2 Office	19	159	0	50	13
Farmville Division 3 Office	34	47	12	29	26
Marion Division 4 Office	46	25	5	15	13
Hampton Division 5 Office	66	141	5	57	2
Roanoke Division 6 Office	68	137	3	8	5
Northern Virginia Division 7 Office	13	203	0	39	1
Fire Marshal Academy	38	186	2	17	3
ARFF/ HTR/ VFIRS	85	124	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>1202</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>91</b>

## A Look at **Training** Programs



Once again in FY 2010 VDFP was able to continue assisting Virginia's firefighters with higher education initiatives working directly with the American Council on Education. This provides many of these students with the credits necessary for graduation at either a community college or four-year institution.

In an effort to continue the progress of higher education, VDFP was tasked with 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 lack formal authority, we have identified the need to define a clear path of 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.

VDFP continues to strengthen 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 in 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 provide college credit through the dual-enrollment program with participating community colleges. The agency has become a national leader for focusing on the education of Virginia's emergency service personnel without boundaries and prides itself on its mission of partnering with both private and public entities to ensure that future generations of firefighters are as well prepared as possible.

Lastly, VDFP has broadened the dissemination of available training opportunities to include alternate, blended and computer-based on-line training. In the spring of 2008, VDFP explored options to assist firefighters with obtaining much needed didactic training in rural areas of Virginia. Partnering with several state agencies, VDFP was able to begin offering multiple basic through advanced level classroom courses online, with no direct cost to the student, followed by a practical session when necessary for firefighter proficiency in the field. This method has proven to be beneficial to rural departments, career departments with minimal staffing, and emergency medical providers that would otherwise be challenged to attend the traditional in-class session. Currently the Commonwealth of Virginia Knowledge Center for Fire Programs has 3,761 registered users.

# Aid to **Localities** Distributions

VDFP allocated **\$20,388,306** from the **FY 2010 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 percent 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 Virginia cities, towns and counties with funds to pay for training, construction of training centers, fire fighting equipment, and protective clothing. These funds may not be used to supplant or replace any other appropriations by counties, cities, and towns for fire service operations.

## FY 2010 ATL Allocation Summary

Summary	Locality	Population	Allocation	Per Capita
95	Counties	4,287,466	\$11,842,624	\$2.76
190	Towns	442,154	\$2,058,308	\$4.66
39	Cities	2,349,410	\$6,487,374	\$2.76
324	Virginia	7,079,030	\$20,388,306	
29%	Counties %	61 %	58 %	
59%	Towns %	6 %	10 %	
12%	Cities %	33 %	32 %	

The entire Fire Programs Fund FY 2010 Allocation Report may be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Additionally, the FY 2011 Allocation Report is online at our agency website and can be viewed by [clicking here](#). The procedure for distributing ATL will change beginning in FY 2011. For more information on the new procedures [click here](#).

### FY 2011 ATL Disbursement Schedule

Properly completed forms received from a jurisdiction by . . .	will have their ATL released by VDFP for transfer:
Friday, August 13, 2010	Friday, September 17, 2010
Friday, November 12, 2010	Friday, December 10, 2010
Friday, February 18, 2011	Friday, March 18, 2011
Tuesday, May 31, 2011	Thursday, June 30, 2011



The Virginia Fire Services Board awarded 41 **Training Mini-Grants** in FY 2010 totaling \$176,464. Grant funds come from the interest earned by the Fire Programs Fund. These grants are awarded to local governments for projects and programs which positively impact and/or further fire service training within the Commonwealth.

## FY 2010 Training Mini-Grants

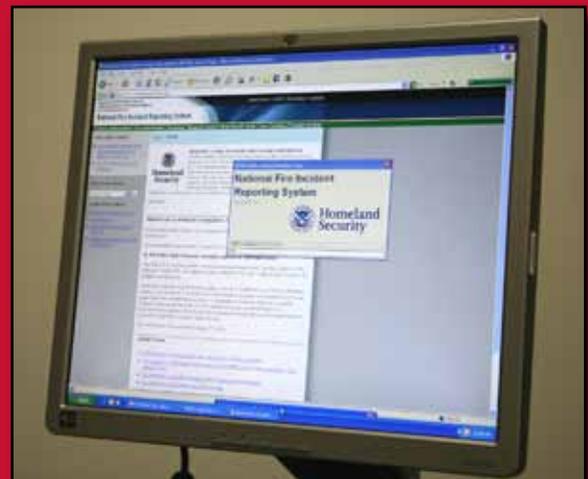
Accomack, County	\$ 230.00
Botetourt, County	\$ 5,063.00
Caroline, County	\$ 1,965.00
Carroll, County	\$ 3,000.00
Fauquier, County	\$ 4,564.00
Goochland, County	\$ 6,874.00
Greene, County	\$ 2,713.00
Henrico, County	\$ 2,870.00
Henry, County	\$ 2,063.00
Isle of Wight, County	\$ 6,393.00
King George, County	\$ 10,000.00
Loudon, County	\$ 10,000.00
Louisa, County	\$ 7,000.00
Orange, County	\$ 6,073.00
Pittsylvania, County	\$ 1,263.00
Pulaski, County	\$ 8,764.00
Rockingham, County	\$ 1,714.00
Spotsylvania, County	\$ 1,757.00
Surry, County	\$ 3,200.00
York, County	\$ 3,679.00

Abingdon, Town	\$ 5,195.00
Blacksburg, Town	\$ 6,596.00
Blackstone, Town	\$ 856.00
Bluefield, Town	\$ 9,961.00
Clarksville, Town	\$ 2,600.00
Hillsville, Town	\$ 6,177.00
Keysville, Town	\$ 4,600.00
Lacrosse, Town	\$ 5,061.00
Narrows, Town	\$ 300.00
Pulaski, Town	\$ 1,215.00
Richlands, Town	\$ 2,720.00
Rural Retreat, Town	\$ 1,000.00
Woodstock, Town	\$ 3,845.00
Alexandria, City	\$ 10,000.00
Fairfax, City	\$ 1,686.00
Newport News, City	\$ 2,526.00
Norfolk, City	\$ 1,600.00
Poquoson, City	\$ 8,179.00
Roanoke, City	\$ 6,758.00
Williamsburg, City	\$ 4,241.00
Winchester, City	\$ 2,163.00

# FY 2010 Grant Recipients and Programs

In FY 2010 fifteen (15) localities received a total of \$25,000 from the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) **Technology Hardware Grant Program**. The purpose of this grant program is to provide an incentive to jurisdictions not currently participating in VFIRS by lessening the economic burden associated with purchasing hardware.

LOCALITY	AWARD AMOUNT
Bath, County	\$ 3,000.00
Campbell, County	\$ 2,000.00
Fauquier, County	\$ 8,000.00
Fluvanna, County	\$ 1,000.00
Scott, County	\$ 1,000.00
Blacksburg, Town	\$ 1,000.00
Bloxom, Town	\$ 1,000.00
Dublin, Town	\$ 1,000.00
Dungannon, Town	\$ 1,000.00
Edinburg, Town	\$ 1,000.00
Richlands, Town	\$ 1,000.00
Tazewell, Town	\$ 1,000.00
Fredericksburg, City	\$ 1,000.00
Harrisonburg, City	\$ 1,000.00
Manassas, City	\$ 1,000.00



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 VDFP. 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. It is administered by the Virginia Department of Health with marketing assistance from VDFP. The smoke alarm installation and public education program includes smoke alarms, equipment, and project coordination costs for installation and education management. A current listing of Get Alarmed, Virginia! grant participants can be found at: <http://www.vahealth.org/Injury/getalarmedva/>

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. The total funding base for awards per fiscal year is up to \$50,000 (budget permitting). In 2010, VDFP provided funding to the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Virginia Fire Chief's Foundation, Virginia Fire Prevention Association, Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Virginia State Firefighter's Association, Fairfax County Professional Fire & Rescue Officers Association, and City of Alexandria Fire Department.

The **Burn Building Grant Program** is a Capital Construction Project to include new construction, renovations, or repairs. The purpose of a Burn Building is to provide live fire training to fire service personnel in support of Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II training throughout the Commonwealth. The Burn Building Grant Program is a matching/cost sharing program based on the size of the project the locality intends to build. Currently, there are two new construction projects; seven repair projects; eight renovation projects.



## Current Burn Building Projects

New Construction		Repairs related to FFI & FFII Minimum Standards (projects up to \$10,000)	
Fauquier, County	Wise, Town of	Buckingham, County	Franklin, County
<b>Renovations related to FFI &amp; FF2 minimum standards (projects greater than \$10,000)</b>		Halifax, County	Henrico, County
Emporia, City of	Franklin, City of	Newport News, City of	
Galax, City of	Harrisonburg, City of	<b>General Renovations (projects greater than \$10,000)</b>	<b>General Repairs (projects up to \$10,000)</b>
Goochland, County	Northumberland, County	Shenandoah County	Emporia, City of
Spotsylvania County			Harrisonburg, City of

The Governor's Fire Services Awards were presented to recipients in eight categories in February 2010 during the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association's Expo and Symposium 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 VFSB's Executive Committee. All individuals selected by the Committee are forwarded to Governor Robert F. McDonnell through the Secretary of Public Safety for final approval. Governor's Fire Service Awards were presented to the following individuals:

## 2009 Governor's Fire Services Award Recipients (presented Feb 2010)

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Award:</b>     | Excellence in Virginia's Fire Service                          |
| <b>Recipient:</b> | Richard Thomas, Virginia Department of Forestry                |
| <b>Award:</b>     | Excellence in Virginia's Public Fire & Life Safety Education   |
| <b>Recipient:</b> | Brian Clingenpeel, County of Roanoke Fire & Rescue Department  |
| <b>Award:</b>     | Excellence in Virginia's Fire Service Management               |
| <b>Recipient:</b> | The Roanoke Valley Fire-EMS Hiring Process                     |
| <b>Award:</b>     | Excellence in Virginia's Fire Service Training                 |
| <b>Recipient:</b> | Thomas Fuqua, Retired Chief from County of Roanoke Fire & EMS  |
| <b>Award:</b>     | Excellence in Virginia's Fire Prevention                       |
| <b>Recipient:</b> | Timothy Garwood, Pulaski Fire Marshal's Office                 |
| <b>Award:</b>     | Excellence in Virginia's Fire Service Support - Private Sector |
| <b>Recipient:</b> | Bill Jones, FirePro, Inc.                                      |
| <b>Award:</b>     | Outstanding Fire Department Response                           |
| <b>Recipient:</b> | County of Roanoke Fire & Rescue - Fort Lewis VFD Station 9     |
| <b>Award:</b>     | Civilian Lifesaving Award                                      |
| <b>Recipient:</b> | Dennis Mitchell & Master Technician Schellhammer               |





VDFP launched a major initiative in FY 2010 to dramatically increase our participation in social media marketing and now has a presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr.



**Facebook** is a social media tool that has been embraced by audiences of a wide range of ages after it was originally introduced for the college-age crowd. Facebook features the ability to set up a page about yourself, a business or a subject to which friends subscribe. Updates are short micro-blog updates or longer video, photo or profile updates. Once subscribed to a person or linked to a business or group as a fan, you receive the latest posts and can follow your contacts on your home page. Initially this tool was mainly being used for only social interaction; use by businesses and government agencies is now becoming more common.



VDFP is utilizing Facebook to facilitate immediate communication with fire service stakeholder groups and the general public about fire service trainings, events, fire prevention, code compliance, and a variety of fire and life safety topics. The VDFP Facebook page can be viewed by Facebook and non-Facebook members at no cost at [www.facebook.com/VaFirePrograms](http://www.facebook.com/VaFirePrograms). Currently, the VDFP Facebook page has over 1,800 fans and is growing daily.

**Twitter** is a micro-blog communications tool. It features low-tech 140 character communications that are posted to one's followers. Users connect to friends and strangers to receive short thoughts, updates, postings or to "retweet" content they read on others pages. Twitter is free, but one must "sign up" in order to receive tweets.

**Flickr** is an image hosting and video hosting website, web services suite, and online community created by Ludicorp and later acquired by Yahoo!. In addition to being a popular website for users to share and embed personal photographs, the service is widely used by bloggers to host images that they embed in blogs and social media.

## Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service

The 13th annual Virginia Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service was held on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at the Richmond Raceway Complex Old Dominion Building. Six firefighters who died in the line of duty or had been recognized by the Virginia Line of Duty Death Act in the last year were honored for their bravery and dedicated public service.



The fallen firefighters honored were: *Firefighter Jeffrey H. Reed of Pulaski Fire Department, Captain Michael E. New of Chesapeake Fire Department, Master Firefighter Carl A. Barber of Virginia Beach Fire Department, Firefighter Larry W. Felton Sr. of Norfolk Fire Department, Captain Carl Nordwall of Norfolk Airport Authority Fire Department, and Assistant Fire Chief Bobby Joe Mullins of Dante Volunteer Fire Department.* In addition to honoring recently fallen firefighters, the Memorial Service honored the memory of all Virginia firefighters who have given their lives in the service of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Memorial Service, hosted by VDFP, included a keynote address by Secretary of Public Safety Marla G. Decker, a Virginia Fire Services Honor Guard procession featuring the Saint Andrew's Legion Pipes and Drums, musical performances by Nashville recording artist Kari Smith and Richmond recording artist Susan Greenbaum, and a fire apparatus display from fire departments across the state. Virginia state flags were presented to the families of the fallen firefighters.

# State Fire Marshal's Office



The mission of the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is to provide safety to life and property from fire for the citizens of the Commonwealth. The SFMO is responsible for enforcement of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) in areas of the Commonwealth in which the local governments do not employ a fire marshal. The SFMO may also enforce the SFPC in cooperation with the Local Fire Marshal in localities who have elected to enforce the SFPC. The General Assembly has mandated and funded the SFMO for specific inspections and other services as indicated below. To provide these services as mandated by the Code of Virginia (COV), SFMO has six offices, consisting of the headquarters office in Glen Allen and five regional offices in Glen Allen, Marion, Roanoke, Orange, and Hampton.

The SFMO has authority to enforce the SFPC in all areas of the Commonwealth and is mandated by the COV to inspect state residential buildings, state owned or operated college dormitories, public schools (in areas without local fire prevention inspections), and adult care residences (in areas without local fire prevention inspections). Also, as specified in the COV, the SFMO provides assistance, including plans review, construction inspections, and technical assistance, to the Department of General Services acting as the state building official on the fire protection and prevention provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). We also provide the same services to the College of William and Mary and University of Virginia Building Officials as required by the Acts of Assembly and §23-38.109 of the COV.

In addition, the SFMO is under agreement with the State Health Department to inspect Health Care Facilities, primarily nursing facilities and mental health buildings, for conformance with federal standards (Life Safety Code). We also inspect child care facilities and local correctional facilities in areas without local enforcement and respond to requests or complaints under provisions of the SFPC. Additionally, the SFMO operates the Explosives Safety Program, including issuing permits for the storage, sale, and use of explosives in areas without local enforcement.

The SFMO also provides consultive assistance to building and fire officials, architects, engineers, contractors, and building owners and occupants in support of our inspection programs. The assistance provided relates to the provisions of the SFPC, USBC and referenced standards. An extremely important function of the SFMO, 95 percent of this assistance is on the SFPC or fire safety provisions of the USBC as described below, including referenced standards on automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, standpipe systems, and other fire suppression and protection systems. Many small local governments rely heavily on this assistance for the proper application of the USBC, and to ensure initial conformance with the USBC. This assistance has proven enormously beneficial in support of our SFPC inspections, reducing initial inspection times associated with developing a building database.

Approximately 90 percent of our time is now spent in three areas: SFPC inspections and enforcement (mandates, requests and complaints), Life Safety Code inspections, and construction inspection on state facilities. SFMO also provides training to client groups and participates in state and national organizational meetings such as the Virginia Fire Prevention Association, Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, National Fire Protection Association, and the International Code Council. Attendance is very important in support of fire service objectives in code development and application.



## FY 2010 Accomplishments/Activities

- Over 4,200 hours providing technical assistance to 6,914 various clients.
- 11,354 inspections/re-inspections mandated/scheduled, 230 of those were requests/follow-up to complaints/investigations. Included in these are:
  - 1) 1009 Life Safety Code inspections, of which 156 were in state-owned buildings and 853 were in non-state buildings.
  - 2) 2,042 construction inspections of state construction projects.
- 108 hours performing plans review for 80 state building construction projects.
- 88 inspection permits were issued to nightclubs, hospitals, and private colleges under the SFMO Permit program.
- Issued 164 permits to store/sell explosives; 135 permits to use explosives; 4 permits to manufacture explosives; processed 229 blaster certifications and background clearance cards.
- SFMO staff was present to provide immediate monitoring of fire alarm control panel during President Obama's visit at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus on July 1, 2009.
- State Fire Marshal Ed Altizer was appointed to the Virginia Department of Social Services' Child Day Care Council on July 14, 2009. The Child Day Care Council is authorized by the COV to adopt regulatory standards for licensure and operation of child day care centers in Virginia. The council is comprised of a minimum of 28 members who are appointed by the Governor and represent a variety of interests from around the state.
- Staff met with the representatives of the Virginia Health Care Association, Virginia Association of Non-profit Homes for the Aging, Department of Social Services and Department of Health on January 8 to discuss proposed changes to the Uniform Statewide Building Code affecting Assisted Living Facilities. After a series of meetings with this group, they supported a proposal by the State Fire Marshal's Office to require automatic sprinkler systems in all newly licensed Assisted Living Facilities housing residents not capable of self-preservation. This critical life-saving protection has been left out of these facilities by the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) even though national standards have indicated the need for several years. The BHCD adopted these provisions at its meeting on July 26, 2010 for inclusion in the 2009 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.
- State Fire Marshal Ed Altizer was elected President of the International Fire Marshal's Association (IFMA) at their annual meeting in June 2010 in Las Vegas.
- State Fire Marshal Ed Altizer attended the Fire Safety Council in Washington, DC as a First Vice President representing the International Fire Marshal's Association (IFMA). The Fire Safety Council is a 16-member partnership of federal agencies and non-government organizations, created to develop a coordinated national effort to eliminate residential fire deaths by the year 2020. Many council members rank among the nation's leading sources of public fire safety educational information and research and include the major code and standard making organizations, the U.S. fire service, fire safety educational organizations, federal agencies, and many more.

# Virginia **Fire Statistics** for 2009

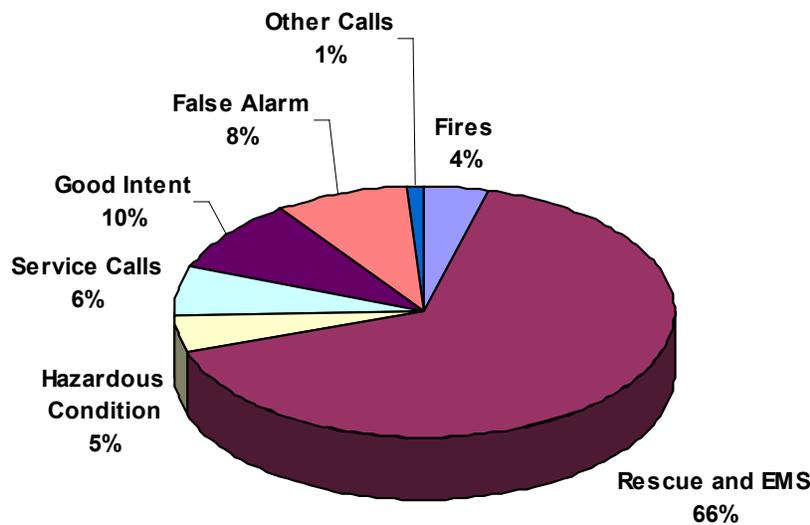
Fire Dollar Loss Summary	Total
Total Property Loss	\$199,808,852
Total Contents Loss	\$78,406,371
<b>Total Dollar Loss</b>	<b>\$275,215,223</b>

Casualty Summary	Number
Civilian Fire Injuries	382
Civilian Fire Deaths	68
Fire Service Injuries	341
Fire Service Deaths	1

Residential Structure Fire Causes	Number	Percent
Cooking	2,672	32.4%
Unknown Cause	2,359	28.6%
Heating	1,279	15.5%
Open Flame, Ember, Torch	378	4.6%
Incendiary, Suspicious	350	4.2%
Exposure	269	3.3%
Other Heat, Flame, Spark	266	3.2%
Appliances, Air Conditioning	206	2.5%
Smoking	143	1.7%
Natural	124	1.5%
Electrical Distribution	112	1.4%
Other Equipment	57	0.7%
Children Playing	22	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,237</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

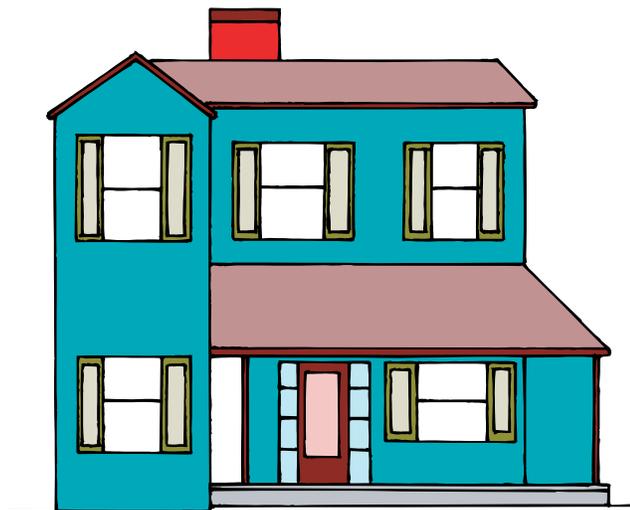
Incident Type Summary	Number
Fires	26,138
Rescue and EMS	424,135
Hazardous Condition	30,518
Service Calls	40,819
Good Intent	61,877
False Alarm	54,579
Other Calls	7,432
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>645,498</b>
Aid Given (Mutual/Automatic)	34,352
Fire Exposures	440
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>680,290</b>

Incident Type Summary, Virginia, 2009



Note: Data is compiled from information reported to the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) for 2009 as of 3/5/2010. For all frequency or incident counts, mutual/automatic aid given and fire exposure incidents were excluded from the numbers. For casualty statistical information, mutual/automatic aid given incidents were included for all fire service and excluded for all civilian data, and, in addition, fire exposure incidents were included with all casualty numbers. For dollar loss amounts, mutual/automatic aid given incidents were excluded and exposure incidents were included with the numbers.

Top 10 Areas of Fire Origin with Residential Building Fires	Total	Percent
Cooking Area, Kitchen	3,398	45.2%
Chimney	1,040	13.8%
Bedroom - <5 persons	433	5.8%
Undetermined	407	5.4%
Laundry Area, Wash House (laundry)	187	2.5%
Common Room, Den, Family Room, Living Room, Lounge	180	2.4%
Attic: Vacant, Crawl Space Above Top Story, Cupola	168	2.2%
Wall Assembly	153	2.0%
Function Area, Other	133	1.8%
Bathroom, Checkroom, Lavatory, Locker Room	131	1.7%



Note: Residential Structure Fires include incidents with incident type coded as 110, 111, 120, 121, 122, and 123 (Building Fires), 113 (Confined Cooking Fires), and 114 (Confined Chimney Fires) with Property Use coded as 400-464 (Residential).

## Fire Service Training Record System (FSTRS) Summary

Fire Department Type	Career	Volunteer	Combination	Brigade	Other	Grand Total
Primary Fire Department	18	476	104	0	0	598
Fire Station or Substation	4	23	5	0	0	32
Fire Administration or Training Center	8	5	27	0	0	40
Fire Brigade	0	0	0	53	0	53
Military, Federal or Airport	37	0	0	0	5	42
State Agency	0	0	0	0	23	23
Grand Total	67	504	136	53	28	788

Note: Data is compiled from information from the Fire Service Training Record System (FSTRS) as of 6/8/2010.

Students	Number	Percent
Career	14,834	18.2%
Volunteer	31,263	38.4%
Combination	2,146	2.6%
EMS	9,719	11.9%
Brigade	4,978	6.1%
Other	14,073	17.3%
Unknown	4,410	5.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>81,423</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Data is compiled from information from the Fire Service Training Record System (FSTRS) as of 7/27/2010. Active students are individuals who have taken a VDFP training course within the last 5 years and is not meant to be an exact count of the number of fire service personnel in Virginia.

# Researching **Our Needs**

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. As in past years, in FY 2010 VDFP continued to conduct studies to address these issues and promote safety in Virginia.

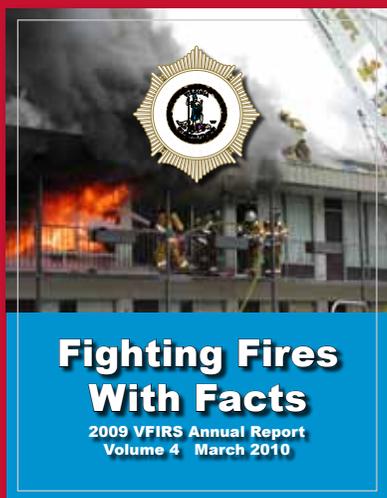
## Virginia Fire Service **Needs Assessment Volume VI**

The Fire Service Needs Assessment is an annual survey conducted by VDFP. Fire departments complete a survey questionnaire designed to identify the needs of Virginia's fire service. Results are then compiled and published in a comprehensive report available each year in January in time for the General Assembly. 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. Volumes III - V were released each successive year in January.

Volume VI, released in January 2010, continued to focus on the efforts of Virginia's fire service to identify specific needs in the areas of apparatus, equipment, facilities, personnel and training and also analyzed the ability of fire departments to adequately perform the duties of the emergency first responder. The overall survey response for the 2009 Needs Assessment was 86 percent, with personnel reported as the top need by fire departments, followed by training as the second highest need.



## Fighting **Fires** with Facts



The fourth edition of the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) Annual Report "**Fighting Fires with Facts Volume 4**" was released in the Spring of 2010 providing localities with detailed data to assist with future fire response and planning efforts.

For calendar year 2009, 83.4 percent of the fire departments in Virginia reported incidents to VFIRS. Based on each locality's VFIRS participation and census population, the departments that reported incidents for 2009 represent 95.3 percent of Virginia's population. Virginia fire departments responded to 645,598 incidents in calendar year 2009, averaging 1,768 calls every day.

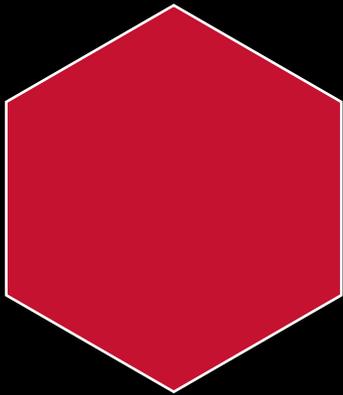
The 2010 report continued the previous trend of examining VFIRS data from the State View, Locality View, and Fire Department View.

Note: The publications shown above are available for viewing and/or download at [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com).

# VDFP Agency Directory



Click on the VDFP logo above to access a directory of all Virginia Department of Fire Programs and State Fire Marshal's Office personnel, including phone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses.



**Virginia Department of Fire Programs**

1005 Technology Park Drive  
Glen Allen, VA 23059-4500  
Phone: 804.371.0220  
Fax: 804.371.3444

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