

2022 First Responder Virginia Conference

Course Descriptions

Wednesday, August 10, 2022, through Friday, August 12, 2022

VDFP Fire Inspector 1033 Recertification Training

Wed. & Fri. 8 am – 5 pm

The course is open to all state and local inspectors and will provide CEU's for those that are currently certified with the VFMA and require recertification credits. Conference attendees are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to earn much needed recertification hours. **This course qualifies for 16 hours towards 1031 recertification.**

Live Fire Instructor

Wed. 8:00 – 4:30 pm

Presenter: Tom Berry or Jeff Leibold

This program is to update and/or provide those instructors that are going to conduct live fire training with the requirements of the current NFPA standard as well as the policies of VDFP including the requirements to operate as the VDFP Compliance Officer.

VDFP Fire Investigator 1031 Recertification Training

Thurs. 8 am – 5 pm

The course is open to all state and local investigators and will provide CEU's for those that are currently certified with the VFMA and require recertification credits. Conference attendees are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to earn much needed recertification hours. **This course qualifies for 8 hours towards 1033 recertification.**

Wildfire Suppression in Virginia's Wildland Urban Interface

Thurs. 1 pm – 4:30 pm

Presenter: John Miller

The course will use Virginia specific instruction to help responders operate safely and effectively on a wildland urban interface incident by using situation awareness, performing structure triage, using pre-planning tools, having a basic understanding of wildfire behavior, and using strategy and tactics unique to the wildland urban interface environment. This course is an abbreviated version of the NWCG's S-215 course, but no NWCG credit can be given for completing this offering.

Instructional units include firefighter safety in the interface, managing human factors in the interface, pre-incident planning, size-up and initial strategy, structure triage, structure protection overview, tactics in the interface, tactical operations and resource use in the interface, action assessment, plan update, and after-action review.

Railroad Investigation & Safety Course

Thurs. 1 pm – 4:30 pm

Presenter: Josh Cease

The Railroad Investigation and Safety Course provides first responders with critical information allowing them to effectively respond to and safely investigate incidents involving the railroad in addition to maintaining on-scene safety unique to the railroad environment.

Attendees will learn personal safety techniques while they are investigating a grade crossing collision or trespasser incident.

Fire Service Forum – Issues Facing Virginia’s Fire Service
Presenters: Walt Bailey.

Thurs. 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Please plan to attend this open forum to share important issues that face the Virginia Fire Service today.

The group discussion will provide an opportunity to provide information on what challenges your department is facing today in Virginia. This forum is the ultimate in fire service networking. Come and join the group of fire service representatives in this discussion.

Rural Water Supply: Preparing Your Firefighters and Apparatus Thurs. 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm for Success!

Presenter: Taylor Goodman

Does your response area have homes and businesses that require long lays and tankers to provide fire suppression? Has your department developed SOPs/SOGs for rural water supply and trained on them? Have you sought input on how to design your engines and tankers to make them more efficient? This class will provide real-world examples of successful strategies and tactics in rural and suburban settings that the student can immediately implement in their own department.

Solar Energy and the Fire Service
Presenter: Jeff Simpson

Thurs. 1 pm – 2:30 pm

As society increases investments in alternative energy sources emergency responders and leaders must evolve in their preparation to successfully and safely mitigate the hazards presented. This class was developed based on instructional experience and feedback from students and classes on what they need to be better equipped to prepare, train, implement and operate effectively.

Emergency response personnel are not equipped to handle the host of alternative energy source hazards that are becoming commonplace across their residential and commercial communities. This class has been designed to prepare first responders with the knowledge and practical applications to handle these emergencies effectively and safely. Topics include increasing solar energy awareness, hardware configurations, electrical operation, fire service dangers including electrical, and HazMat and safety precautions needed. Additional information on how to interface with utility company representatives is provided.

Cornerstone on Demand;
Your VDFP Learning Management System
Presenter: Amanda Kennedy

Thurs. 3 pm – 4:30 pm

Cornerstone on Demand (CSOD) is the Cloud-based Learning Management System that was launched by VDFP in early 2020. Learn how this user managed system will enhance the ability of the members of Virginia's Fire Service to have a more active role in the management of their

training. See how department training officers can assist in the development of department members, monitor learning objectives, and add external training to an already robust cadre of "events".

**Summer of 63 - Gettysburg Leadership
Presenter: Allen Baldwin**

Thurs. 3 pm – 4:30 pm

Summer of 63 Leadership Conference – This presentation takes a look at the leadership styles and lessons in leadership both good and bad that were presented at the Battle of Gettysburg in the summer of 1863 to see what we as leaders and future leaders can learn from these Leaders/Commanders to better our leadership styles and skills. The presentation will take the attendees back in time to visit with and take a look at the personalities and leadership traits/skills of the prominent leaders of this battle to look and learn different styles of leadership and the outcomes of these styles so they may apply the lessons learned to their own leadership style and skills. Additional time will be taken to look at how to build this topic into company/station level training.

**Critical Decision Making: The Art of Quality Decision Making
Presenter: Michael Barakey**

Fri. 8 am – 12 pm

The closest distance between two points is a straight line. Achievement is not arriving at the solution; it is the journey and overcoming the obstacles to achieve a successful outcome. In the fire service, getting from point "A" to point "B" is a challenge. Firefighters are faced with challenges around the fire station and challenges in the administrative arena, like development of a succession plan or team. This class provides fundamental principles that identify the challenges that fire service leader's encounter. This class is designed to lead the class through real, life altering incidents that resulted in critical decisions and action. We will break down the incidents to understand the variables and obstacles that were presented the decision makers. After building a foundation, I will provide "step by step," principles and methods to prevent this same result from occurring. Finally, I will tie back why critical decision makers are needed in fire and emergency services.

**Cornerstone Tips and Tricks/learning Lab
Presenter: Amanda Kennedy**

Fri. 8:00 am – 10:00 am

CSOD/Hybrid Training Tips and Tricks: Ideal for the instructor and end user, this session will explore key items in CSOD critical for end users and Instructors. Instructors will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the current CSOD development projects and explore the partnership of hybrid training and CSOD.

**Do Movies Hold the Keys to Successful Volunteer Recruitment and Retention?
Presenters: Spencer Cheatham**

Fri. 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Recruitment and retention is difficult. What if the key to getting in and keeping quality volunteers could be found in some of your favorite movies? What if "Goodfellas" tells us everything we need to know about retention? Don't just come to this presentation expecting to watch movie clips though. Pointed questions that lead to discussion and some interactive roll playing will keep you from sleeping after a quality night of networking with your fellow firefighters.

Depression, PTSD, and Suicidal Ideation - One Couple's Account Fri. 8 am – 10:00 am
Presenter: JT & Terri Lee Clark

JT and Terri Lee Clark have been married for 35 years. They met through their shared experience in fire and EMS. JT was employed with the DC Fire Department and a volunteer with the Warrenton Volunteer Fire Company. Terri Lee was a volunteer Firefighter/EMT with the New Baltimore Volunteer Fire Company. Prior to their meeting, Terri Lee witnessed the death of her first husband. He was killed in a car fire/explosion. She was the first provider on the scene of the incident. In the aftermath of this incident, she experienced Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Thirteen months after the death of her first husband JT and Terri Lee met. While JT was actively serving in the fire service, he was also struggling with mental health challenges of his own. He was seven years into a battle with depression and suicidal ideation. This battle would result in his departure from the career fire service. Attendees will hear of a first-hand account of this couple's experience.

A Survivor's Story – "A funny thing happened on the way from the back step to the buggy"
Fri. 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Presenter: Randolph Feltner

On October 11th, 2018, I suffered a major heart attack and went into cardiac arrest on duty. I thought my career was over; my life's work had come to an end. Little did I know, it was just the beginning. My pity party quickly turned into motivation to be even better after learning of the death of another Virginia Firefighter that same day. I made up my mind lying in that hospital bed that I was changing from being singularly focused on my career to helping others enhance their career. The 4 F's - Faith, Family, Fitness, Firehouse that I learned from a fellow VCOA graduate were made a priority. Once I focused on making my home life better, my brothers and sisters better, and the fire service better, things began to fall into place with my professional goals and aspirations. I use my story to help others avoid making the mistakes I made. If I can help one person change that attitude it's a win and this was all worth it.

Sizing-up Your Grant Opportunities

Fri. 10:30 am – 12 pm

Presenter: Joe Breeden

Just as the size-up is a critical part of emergency scene operations it is also a critical part of grant writing.

This class will provide the average everyday Firefighter or EMS provider with the tools necessary to be an effective grant planner and writer. What makes this class different from most "Grants 101" type classes is that it is from the perspective of a Firefighter/EMT-I and not a "professional grant writer". I have developed this class after going to many of those professional classes only to be left with more questions than answers.

I will take you through my "lessons learned" over the last 10 years of writing both successful and not so successful grant proposals at the State and Federal level for my fire department. Grant writing can be very intimidating for smaller departments who feel they have limited, or no grant writing resources. The reality is nothing could be further from the truth, and I will give you the needed resources to plan, write, and manage a competitive grant no matter the size of your department.

Apparatus - Your Rig is on Order, Now What?**Fri. 10:30 am – 12 pm****Presenter: Allen Baldwin & Tom Shand**

This program will focus on what the apparatus committee should expect in preparing for the preconstruction conference, the change order approval process, and review and sign-off on production materials. There are any number of technical materials that should be reviewed by the committee including weight analysis, electrical load analysis, turning radius, equipment placement, and warranty statements that should be part of your department's contract documents. Time preparing for your preconstruction meeting, whether virtual or in-person will help to ensure positive results at the final inspection

Certification versus Training, is there a Difference?**Fri. 10:30 pm – 12 pm****Presenter: Dave Jolly**

The program is designed for Chief Officers to Firefighters to be provided the knowledge on how decisions made in training may or may not prepare you or your members for certification. Participants will be provided an understanding of how national standards are used in development of some training and why testing is designed the way it is. This program will allow those taking certification tests to improve their understanding on how to prepare for the final assessment in their desire to become certified. Lastly, the presenter will leave the participants with how they can develop programs at the station level that produce measurable results.

Introduction to Technical Large Animal Rescue Incidents**Fri. 1 pm – 4:30 pm****Presenters: Doug Monaco & Melissa Mainville**

Prepare responders for TLAR incidents.
Explain the hazards and risks involved for providers and animals.
Present the first steps to initiate while waiting for a team to arrive.
Review previous rescues - case studies.

Can We Talk? – Communications, Coordination and Cooperation - Effective**Communications During Roadway Emergencies.****Fri.1 pm – 2:30 pm****Presenter: Todd Leiss**

Secondary crashes are a leading cause of injuries and deaths to emergency responders working at roadway incidents. In 2019, 44 emergency responders were struck & killed, and thousands of other responders injured at roadway incident scenes, in 2020, 46 emergency responders were struck & killed. In 2021, 65 emergency responders were struck & killed and in 2022, 22 emergency responders have been struck and killed as of April 19th.

Effective communications, increased situational awareness and utilizing a unified command approach to roadway incidents lead to safe, efficient clearance of the roadway and less time being a target for “D” Drivers (Drunk, Drugged, Drowsy, Distracted or just plain Dumb).

This session will look at techniques and best practices for roadway safety for you and your emergency responders and give information on what you can do to increase safety before, during and after an incident.

Advanced Aggressive Aerial Operations
Presenter: John Burruss

Fri. 1 pm – 2:30 pm

Modern aerial apparatus offers vastly improved capability and are truly marvels of engineering, yet few incident commanders and operators are aware of their awesome firefighting ability. This interactive and fast-paced presentation explores modern aerial ladder positioning and operating practices that employ safe industry accepted practices that will unlock your aerial's potential.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the different types of aerial apparatus.
- Learn the advantages and disadvantages of each type of aerial apparatus.
- Understanding apparatus design and equipment for maximizing safety, efficiency and usage on the fire ground.
- Discuss the various hose loads and equipment for pumpers.
- Discuss the best practices for pumper positioning and utilization of master stream devices.
- Identify the best operating practices for aerial positioning.
- Learn the best practices for stabilization and set-up of aerial apparatus
- Identify the best practices for aerial operations

Put Me in the Game Coach
Presenter: Dereck Baker

Fri. 1pm – 2:30 pm

Attendees will benefit from a presentation on the game plan on being a leader. The various types of leaders that will be addressed will always have a solution to the vast majority of problems that arise. As a leader, attendees will have a focus on being in-charge and making the right calls. Attendees will also be able to describe their own type/style of leadership and how calling an audible at times, will make a difference in outcomes that are presented. Taking action is the key to making decisions but you might have to punt at times to allow your defense to make the right calls and keep you in the game.

They are trained and they are certified, but are they ready?
Presenter: Tom Berry

Fri. 1pm – 2:30 pm

Recognizing the difference between having a piece of paper saying you "know" how to and actually doing the job – regardless of what that job may be is something managers and seasoned leaders often forget. Taking a class is only one of the many components to doing a job safely and effectively.

We as leaders are hesitant to embrace this concept. We blame the current generation or bureaucracy rather than our own lack of understanding. The funny thing is it has been this way for generations. It is time for us to be proponents of change and work towards changing the current mindset. Classroom time is not always enough, we need to work towards a process to get our teams 100 percent ready!

Register for training sessions at [First Responder Virginia](#)