

2023 First Responder Virginia Conference

Course Descriptions

Wednesday, September 20, 2023, through Friday, September 22, 2023

VDFP Fire Inspector 1031 Recertification Training Presenter:

Wed. 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 8 hours towards 1031 recertification.**

VDFP Fire Investigator 1033 Recertification Training Thurs. & Fri. 8 am – 5:00 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 16 hours towards 1033 recertification.**

Live Fire Instructor Presenter: Tom Berry

Thurs. 8:00 – 4:30 pm

The Live Fire Instructor program is designed to 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. The class replaces the VDFP-NFPA 1403 Compliance Officer program.

Communications, Tactics & Command Presenters: Joe & Jeff Bailey

Thurs. 8:00 pm – 5:00 pm

To groom company grade officers to relinquish the incident scene to a command level officer (CLO) without it being a clustered, disorganized, and chaotic mess and to update current command level officers with sound principles of incident scene management. Eliminate a dreaded goal that so many departments often reflect and appear satisfied with: "The fire went out and no one got hurt"

Knowledge Objectives:

1. Identify fundamental fireground responsibilities to promote success right out of the gate
2. Identify basic principles of tactical decision making based on modern fire dynamics.
3. Describe the functional method for incident scene communications that provides clarity & eliminates confusion
4. Identify the purpose and scope of ICS, the command post and incident command tracking board(s).

Skill Objectives:

1. Simulations to increase ability to produce an effective IAP.

Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Best Practice

Thurs. 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Presenter: Zachary Hottel

This course will introduce attendees to best practices for recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters and first responders. It will discuss a variety of topics including, but not limited to marketing, mentorship, and leadership.

The course will be interactive and collaborative. Attendees should come prepared to share information about their departments, challenges, and successes.

Forestry Grant Opportunities for Your Department

Fri. 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Presenter: John Miller

This session will provide an overview of the various grant programs and assistance available through the Virginia Department of Forestry to support Virginia's fire departments. A presentation type format with informal question and answer will be used to highlight key grant programs that are available. Key topics will include the application process and the critical details related to each program. Grant programs being covered will include the Virginia Dry Hydrant grant program, Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program, Wildfire Hazard Mitigation grant program, and Community Wildfire Defense Grants.

What is the Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI) and how can it better prepare your department for a pipeline incident?

Fri. 8:00 am-10:00 am

Presenter: Joe Kratochvil

The Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI) was conceived as a way to strengthen relationships among the various stakeholders involved with pipeline safety and emergency response, as well as to spur the development and implementation of enhanced pipeline emergency response training. Some of the ways that this will be done are to:

- * Describe basic pipeline operation.
- * Identify pipelines in the student's jurisdiction.
- * List the applicable "key players" when involved in a pipeline emergency.
- * Identify the steps in the Pipeline Emergency Response Guidelines.
- * Discuss the considerations of a pipeline emergency response event.

With the guidance of US DOT PHMSA, the hope is to implement a standardized Statewide training program for all emergency response agencies in the Commonwealth. Learn how you, your department, and pipeline operators can help establish this effective program in Virginia, and learn a little about pipelines you may have in your community.

"Fueling Success: Ignite Your Fire Department Grants Game"

Fri. 8:00 am – 12 pm

Presenter: Joe Breeden

In this comprehensive fire department grants class, participants will gain a thorough understanding of the intricacies and strategies involved in securing funding for their fire departments. From federal grants to local and private sources, this course covers it all. Through interactive sessions participants will learn how to identify grant opportunities, effectively plan and develop grant proposals, navigate the application process, and maximize their chances of success. Key topics include grant research techniques, budgeting and financial planning, grant writing best practices, and post-award management. By the end of the class, attendees will

possess the basic knowledge and skills needed to pursue and secure vital funding to support their firefighting operations, equipment acquisition, training programs, community outreach initiatives, and overall department sustainability.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Leadership
Presenter: Jay Cullinan

Fri. 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Leadership philosophy is developed through lessons and experiences one is exposed to over the course of a career. It is drawn from a mix of experiences with leaders that one will attempt to emulate, and those that one will do their best to avoid repeating. This presentation will cover the valuable lessons the speaker has learned (sometimes the hard way) and will provide participants with concepts and principles to address conflict, coaching and providing clear expectations.

"A Leadership Guide to Cancer"
Presenter: Joe Brown

Fri. 8:00 am-10:00 am

As the fire service continues to experience an unimaginable increase of occupational cancer diagnosis within our ranks, as a supervisor, leader or co-worker you are likely in a place of discomfort in your support efforts. A cancer diagnosis not only affects the individual, but it can also have a profound effect on you professionally and personally. Receiving a diagnosis of cancer is devastating in all rights and should not be compounded by a lack of empathy from a department leader, supervisor or co-workers. Most organizations and supervisors are not prepared for dealing with a firefighter who has received a cancer diagnosis. This is a difficult time for that firefighter as you guide them through many challenging days. As a supervisor you simply might not have all the answers needed nor the direction required to provide assistance. This presentation will provide you a basis of what to say and not say, how to react, how to offer support and how to coordinate assistance.

DRIVE SMART Virginia – Traffic Safety
Presenter: Rich Jacobs

Fri. 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Since 2020, Virginia has seen an increase in traffic fatalities. Speeding, impaired driving, and not using seat belts have been identified as causative factors. DRIVE SMART Virginia will show the statistics and share demonstrated, effective ways to reduce these bad driving behaviors through education.

Fit for Duty, Fit for Life: Firefighter Physicals and the Volunteer Fire Service
Presenter: NVFC

Fri. 10:30 am – 12:00 am

Firefighters do a dangerous job and face many risks. To mitigate these risks, firefighters should be in top physical condition and participate in occupational health screenings. This course discusses the importance of firefighter physicals, provides an overview of the options available to departments, and demonstrates how firefighter physicals save lives.

Lithium-Ion Battery Response Considerations
Presenter: Tom Berry

Fri. 10:30 am – 12:00 am

Lithium-ion batteries have seen a steady increase in use and popularity over the past decade, and there is more to come. The most visible use of these types of batteries is in electric vehicles due to several high-profile incidents. This is concerning and needs to be addressed, but electric vehicle incidents are only a component of what the fire service needs to know since they make up only a small component of these types of fires

The course offers response considerations concerning many types of lithium-ion battery fires, from small cell phone batteries all the way up to stand-alone storage buildings. Exposure will include strategies, tactics, and tools that should be considered. With this investment of time, you can get the training to help be prepared to help be prepared to keep you and your team safe.

Roadway Incident Safety & Survival for Fire & EMS
Presenter: Jack Sullivan

Fri.10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Prepare students to establish or improve their fire department's response to roadway incidents to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries. This class will also prepare attendees to develop training plans and deliver training in their FD to address this hazard. 1) Students will be able to list and describe strategies & tactics for protecting personnel, victims & other nearby motorists from "D" drivers. 2) Students will be able to describe how to properly position emergency vehicles at roadway incidents to protect firefighters, EMTs, and incident victims from "D" drivers. 3) Students will be able to describe the core elements for fire & EMS departments to train for and implement a professional response to roadway incidents that should be in use in their own department. 4) Students will be able to identify various training resources and materials for roadway incident response training to carry back to their individual departments.

I'm in Charge - Roles and Responsibilities of Fire Service Leaders **Fri. 10:30 am –12:00 pm**
Presenter: David Denniston

Being a Fire/EMS service leader is about far more than understanding strategies and tactics. In this fast-paced session, we will explore the roles and responsibilities of several levels of fire/ems service leadership. We will share examples of leadership styles that have worked well and others that have failed. We will also discuss the role of each individual leader and how the most successful teams are the ones where everyone from the AHJ down to the newest Lt. or Captain is pulling their weight.

Protecting Remote Properties
Presenter: Allen Baldwin

Fri. 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Course will take a look at the challenges of protecting remote developments and properties along with what Fire and Emergency Services can do to better manage them. Topics include types of communities, Access, Preplanning, Command and Control, Tactics, Apparatus Design and Response, Alarm Assignments, Water Supply, Training and Community Preparedness.

Integrating Heavy Wreckers into Rescue Incidents
Presenter: John Burris

Fri. 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Vehicle accidents involving large trucks and buses are becoming more frequent and fire-rescue personnel are ill-prepared and trained to meet this unique challenge. One way of dealing with large transportation vehicle accidents is to involve the use of heavy wreckers and collapse-rated rescue equipment. This 3-hour course teaches rescuers how to interface with towers and better understand how their commercial heavy wreckers can help turn accidents that took hours in the past to mitigate into minutes. The classroom teaches rescuers the physics and limitations behind using heavy wreckers for rescue incidents, and a review of heavy rescue lifting equipment limitations and proper use.

Behavioral Health in the Fire Service
Presenter: NVFC

Fri. 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Behavioral health is just as important as physical health for firefighters and emergency service personnel. Take this course to learn more about what behavioral health means to you, its cultural progress and future potential, along with some of the many concerns first responders and their families are facing.

Using Bylaws and Policies in Fire Service Organizations
Presenter: McNeil & Associates

Fri. 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Why do we get nervous when we see a firefighter reading the policies and bylaws? Mostly because they have become a weapon instead of a tool in many fire service organizations. In this session we will breakdown the intended use of policies and bylaws. We will look at how they can help keep your agency running smoothly. We will also explore how they can bring your operation to its knees if not well written, intended or enforced. Additional time will be devoted to understanding the difference between policies and bylaws and what type of information belongs in each. When used effectively, these two styles of documents can increase your organization's effectiveness and reduce the chance of negative liability.

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

Fri. 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.

Bringing Family Back into the Fire Service
Presenter: Allen Baldwin

Fri. 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

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.

Electric School Bus First Responder Training
Presenter: Scott Hutcherson

Fri. 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

To teach and inform our First responders how to safely respond to emergencies involving a growing fleet of Electric School buses in our state.

VDFP Roundtable
Presenters: VDFP Staff

Fri. 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Join us to hear from VDFP Executive Director Brad Creasy and Training and Ops Branch Chief Jamey Brads regarding several agency initiatives and for a round table discussion.

Advocating for YOUR Fire Department in Government
Presenter: Spencer Willet

Fri. 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Virginia's fire and EMS service is largely funded and overseen by local and state government. To meet growing demands on fire/EMS agencies, leaders of the fire service must work together to advocate for the interests of fire and EMS. This class will provide an overview of advocacy provided by VDFP and provide resources for leaders to apply in their own localities. Topics being covered include building relationships with legislators, utilizing data to support initiatives, coalition building, drafting potential language for new legislation, and marketing your department to local leaders.

Get to Know CSOD
Presenter: Amanda Kennedy

Fri. 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Cornerstone OnDemand (CSOD) is the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) premiere Learning Management System. During this presentation, participants will hear from VDFP CSOD representatives on important features that make navigating the learning system easier. Participants will have an opportunity to view virtual tutorials and ask any questions they might have. Additionally, VDFP will offer insight into upcoming phases and offer participants the opportunity to provide feedback on current learning initiatives.

Register for Conference & Training sessions at:

[First Responder Virginia](#)