

VFPA NEWS

"SERVING VIRGINIA'S FIRE SERVICE AND CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITIES SINCE 1968"

Volume 1, Issue 1

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VIRGINIA FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION



Message from the President



Greetings fellow VFPA members. I am honored to be serving as your new president this year and very excited to have the opportunity to lead this great organization. We will continue to build upon the successes of those who came before us. But I am also excited about the new goals we have set to make the Virginia Fire Prevention Association even better and to further engage our members.

Your new Board of Directors has already met to outline our goals for the year to modernize our professional organization and lead us in the right direction to serve both current and future members. One of our goals is to improve our communications to the membership with newsletters like this one and with active social media accounts. We have already posted pictures and descriptions of various activities involving VFPA members. We want to proactively keep you informed of VFPA activities and concerns.

We also hope to further encourage our members to be involved with our various committees. Did you know our current bylaws call for ELEVEN committees?! In this newsletter, you will see a call for assistance with some of those committees. With eleven committees, there is something for everyone so take a look and get involved with something that interests you. We can always use extra hands and, more importantly, fresh ideas! Involvement helps members to network with others throughout the state. Many of our current board members were initially committee members who moved into leadership positions in subsequent years.

Finally, and most importantly, we need to hear from you! If you have information related to fire prevention that you believe would be helpful to others, we can get that information out to the membership. We welcome announcements of upcoming local events, success stories, and ideas for conference training. We all face similar challenges so please do share information and innovative solutions with our members.

Help me to make VFPA better and stronger than ever! We still face many challenges in our quest to prevent fires, fire deaths and injuries, and property losses. The proposed fire code rewrite remains tedious, time consuming and sometimes contentious. As you know we must continuously educate not only our citizens, but our leaders and legislators as well. You may have seen the recent video of one of our gubernatorial candidates advocating a reduction in our fireworks regulations. The challenges are never ending but by sharing ideas and supporting each other, we can face them together.

I look forward to a fun year. Feel free to email me if you have any questions or ideas you'd like to discuss. You can reach me at ebg5x@virginia.edu until August 24 or ebgall48@gmail.com any time.

Respectfully,

Elaine B. Gall

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Special points of interest:

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2017 Spring Conference and Meeting a Success

The Virginia Fire Prevention Association held a successful 2017 Spring Training Conference and Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach in May. 105 Members attended this dynamic event for recertification and networking opportunities. We thank each of our members for making this event a successful one. We hope to see you in May of 2018 at the Beach.

“Our Business is the Enforcement and the Integrity of the Fire Code and Making Sure the Trustees of the Fire Code are Educated, Well Versed Trustees”.



Call for Committee Assistance

The VFPA Board of Directors has started to fill the committee assignments as outlined in the VFPA Trust Agreement. The Board is seeking interested members in good standing to assist with the following committee assignments:

- Finance Committee (non-voting)
- Code Review and Legislative Committee (non-voting)
- Meritorious Award and Nominating Committee (non-voting)
- Training Conference
- Trust Agreement and Rules Committee
- Technology Committee
- Grants and Funding Committee

Any VFPA Member interested in serving on any of the above committee assignments is asked to email vfpasecretary@vfpa.org with letter of interest and brief background as to why you would like to serve on the committee assignment.



Fire Code Fails



Left: Fire hydrant with a tomato cage decorated like a Christmas tree.



Right: LPG Filling Station
How many violations and/or hazards can you identify?

VFPA Partnered in the Virginia Code Education Conference

The Virginia Fire Prevention Association had the opportunity to participate in the 2017 Virginia Code Education Academy held this week in Charlottesville, VA.

VFPA was not only one of many sponsors, but also provided members to serve on the planning committee for the event and instructors to teach various programs.

Past-president George Hollingsworth presented a program on "Cultural Considerations for Code Enforcement During Inspections" while Secretary Gerry Maiatico presented a program on "The Role and Responsibility of Code Enforcement in Community Risk Reduction".

Special Thanks to the VCEC and various supporting organizations for putting together an excellent training event!



2018 ICC Annual Conference Comment Hearings Heading for Richmond



VFPA Representatives have been working with the ICC Planning Committee for the 2018 International Code Council Annual Conference and Group A Public Comment Hearings are being held in Richmond, Virginia. The VFPA encourages its membership to take an active role in the code development process. Whether you are a code official, architect, engineer, contractor, PMG or fire safety professional, your participation is vital in helping to develop model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. For more information, visit www.iccsafe.org (Don't Wait—Mark Your Calendar Now!)

VFPA Elects 2017/2018 Executive Board

The VFPA Membership Elected the 2017/2018 Executive Board of Directors at the 2017 Spring Training Conference and Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach. We wish each member of the board a prosperous journey in fulfilling the mission and vision of the VFPA.

2017/2018 Executive Board of Directors:

President—Elaine Gall

1st Vice President—Duane Perry

2nd Vice President—Jeremy Luttrell

Treasure—Shawn Maddox

Secretary—Gerry Maiatico

Delegate—Linda Hale

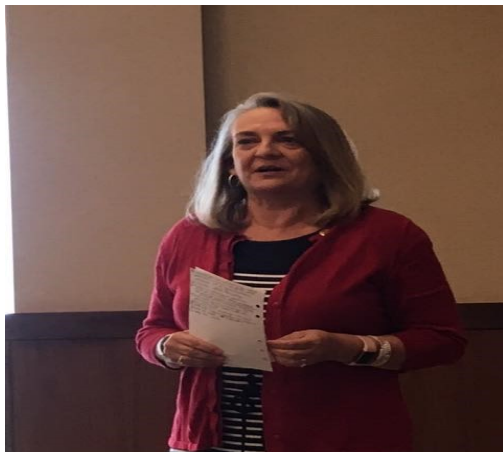
Delegate—Jimmy Csizmadia



VFPA Represented at the NFPA Conference and IFMA Meeting

VFPA President Elaine Gall (below) provided a Report of the VFPA to the members of the International Fire Marshal's Association at the IFMA Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the 2017 NFPA World Conference and Exposition in Boston, MA.

VFPA serves as an official Chapter of IFMA and provides regular updates to the membership and board of the organization.



VFPA Past-President James R. Dawson, Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Chesterfield Fire & EMS was elected as the Second Vice President of the International Fire Marshals Association. Congratulations Chief Dawson!

Pictured: Chief Dawson, second from right with IFMA Elected Board. .

VFPA Announces the 2017 Fall Training Conference

SAVE THE DATE...
2017 Fall Training Conference
October 23 and 24, 2017
Wytheville, VA

Join Us For This Year's Fall Training Conference!

The Virginia Fire Prevention Association is excited to announce the dates for the 2017 Fall Training Conference to be held in Wytheville, Virginia on October 23 and October 24, 2017. The VFPA Board of Directors and Training Committee is working hard to put together an exciting and well-versed training program for our Commonwealth's Fire Service and Code Enforcement Communities. Check www.vfpa.org for more information.

VFPA Works to Address Needs VDFP/VFMA Programs

Members of the VFPA participated in several meetings as part of subject matter expert workgroups consisting of staff from VDFP/VFMA, SFMO, DHCD and fire officials from across the Commonwealth. These SME workgroups have been working to address the needs of the 1031 and 1033 training programs.

Fire Inspector School 18-01 started in Hampton on July 10th with a total of 22 students representing Hampton, Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Gloucester, Hanover County, Franklin County and Chilhowie. Students received 120 hours of training over three weeks for their Fire Inspector I & II (NFPA 1031) certification.

Congratulations to the Commonwealth's newest Fire Inspectors!



Virginia Fire Fatalities—2017

To date, Virginia has experienced **37 civilian fire fatalities**, which excludes two additional fatalities that are being investigated as homicides.

VFPA Encourages cdpVA Access

VFPA is encouraging all members and fire officials to join the cdpVA Access for the various code development processes. The cdpVA system is Virginia's new online Code Development Process. cdpVA allows you to create code change proposals, submit public comments and access any information about the 2015 Virginia Code Change Process. Virginia is a leader in building and fire code regulations, and stakeholder input is vital to Virginia's code development process. We encourage participation in this process through cdpVA, and ask that you invite colleagues and peers with an interest in the 2015 Virginia Code Change Process to participate. (see page 8 to learn more)



VFPA Legislative / Code Update

SFPC Development Update

During its regularly scheduled meeting, Director of Housing and Community Development Bill Shelton provided members of the Board a letter from Secretary of Commerce and Trade Todd Haymore on Monday, July 17, 2017. Among other things, this letter articulated that the Governor believes that the Administration has already granted sufficient time for the stakeholders to review the proposed modifications to the Statewide Fire Prevention Code and further delays in the regulatory process are unnecessary. Additionally, the letter expressed support for the Board of Housing and Community Development to continue with its current timeline to vote on the final regulations in fall 2017. The Codes and Standards and Fire Code Committee is scheduled to meet on September 18, 2017. It is anticipated there will be a significant number of fire service members in attendance. The Fire Services continues to feel the action of the Board of Housing and Community Development are reck-

House Appropriations Moves to Fund AFG and SAFER Grants

On Tuesday, July 18th, the House Appropriations Committee approved legislation funding the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2018. The \$44.3 billion spending bill represents a nearly \$2 billion increase in spending for the Department compared to the current fiscal year.

The bill would fund the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs at \$690 million, the same amount as the current fiscal year. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) would receive a slight cut from \$44 million for Fiscal Year 2017 to \$43.41 million for Fiscal Year 2018. The Urban Search and Rescue System (USAR) and the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) would both be funded at essentially the same levels as the current fiscal year. The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) would receive \$630 million, an increase of \$25 million over the current fiscal year.

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

DHCD Fire Code Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting—9:30am
August 16, 2017
Virginia Housing Center

VFPA Board of Directors Meeting - 10am
August 9, 2017
460 Stagecoach Road, Charlottesville, VA

ICC Region 7
August 11-12, 2017
Hagerstown, MD



SFMO/VFMA Update



SFMO Makes Personnel Changes

Steven Sites has been promoted to the position of Compliance Officer at SFMO Headquarters in Glen Allen. Steve has statewide responsibility for the fireworks, explosives, and RCIP programs as well as serving as the training officer for the SFMO. Steve will continue to provide oversight of the Northern Regional Office until his former position is filled.

Brett Williams, Fire Marshal Supervisor for the SFMO Tidewater Regional Office, retired effective July 10, 2017. Deputy State Fire Marshal Ron Reynolds will be providing the day-to-day management of the Tidewater Regional Office until Brett's position is filled.

SFMO Request Fireworks Incident Information

In preparation for the upcoming legislative session, the Virginia State Fire Marshals Office is requesting information on any fireworks related incidents over the Independence Day Holiday. Please send all information to steven.sites@vdfp.virginia.gov. The SFMO would like to compile data on all fireworks related incidents, including injuries sustained, monetary loss due to fires, whether or not the involved fireworks were permissible or not, quantity of illegal fireworks seized / surrendered, and number of Notices of Violation and Summons issued.



VFMA Announces Basic Law Enforcement School

We are now accepting applications for the 2017 VFMA Basic Law Enforcement School at Fort Pickett in Blackstone, Virginia. The course will begin on September 12 and runs through November 17, 2017. The application deadline is August 9, 2017 at 4:00 PM. The application and instructions can be accessed on our website at www.vafire.com



Do you have news to share?

Submit it to VFPA News by email to vfpasecretary@vfpa.org

All content subject to edit in order to meet the space limitations of VFPA News, items submitted will be utilized at the discretion of the VFPA.

DHCD Update



DHCD Experiences Busy Year Thus Far

2017 has been an especially busy year at DHCD. We are nearing the end of the 2015 code adoption cycle. Workgroups are currently underway, where stakeholders are provided an opportunity to express their positions on proposals. Our last two workgroups will be August 16th and 23rd where we will be reviewing the fire code edits and the remaining proposals, respectively.

For this cycle we introduced cdpVA in partnership with the International Code Council (ICC), which is based on ICC's cdpACCESS. Even though the system was launched in 2016, we are still reaping the benefits of having an online system that is a one-stop shop for code change proposals and the process as a whole. Not only does the system provide an easy and accurate way to create and submit proposals, it also delivers information on all aspects of the process in a transparent way.

Our Virginia Building Code Academy has launched a number of classes, including the Virginia Rehabilitation Code, Asbestos Online and Water Reuse Online. The newest launch is the amusement device inspection orientation program. This is a multi-day class designed to prepare students seeking their ADI certification with midway experiences as required by NAARSO to sit for the exam. There are several classes under development as well. The Elevator Inspection class is a multi-day technical class which will be required for certification. The Mechanical Inspection class is being revamped to include content on the plan review process and relationship to the inspection process and relevant energy code provisions. Train-the-trainer is currently being retooled and will be offered later this year. The Code Academy has been creating code update training in conjunction with the code update process so that it can be offered as soon as possible after the effective date of the 2015 Virginia Codes.

The 2018 ICC Planning Committee has been meeting and making preparations for the 2018 Annual Conference and Group A Public Comment Hearings. The conference will be held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center from October 21-23, 2018. (see page 3 for ICC in Virginia)

Jack A. Proctor Building Code Academy—Upcoming Schedule

Date	Course	Location/Area
Fall 2017 Semester		
August 29-31	<i>Core</i>	Metro Richmond area
September 6-8	VA Rehabilitation Code	SW VA area
September 6-8	Plumbing Inspection	Metro Richmond area
September 12-14	Advanced Official	Metro Richmond area
September 12-14	Electrical Inspection	Metro Richmond area
September 19-21	Plans Review Residential	Metro Richmond area
September 19-21	Fire Protection Systems	Metro Richmond area

To learn more information or to register for a course, please visit www.dhcd.va.gov



Who are we?

Primary Business Address:
PO BOX 504
Bristow, VA 20136

Email: vfpaboard@vfpa.org



Overview

The Virginia Fire Prevention Association is a group of state and local fire marshals, fire officials, fire inspectors, fire investigators, firefighters, building officials, building inspectors and other interested persons involved in enforcing and developing fire safety regulations. The Association has been active in promoting State and Local codes and regulations developed to provide safety to life and property from the hazards of fire.

Our Mission

To promote the development and improvement of the art and science of fire prevention and inspection, and the enforcement of the various fire prevention laws and codes of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the political subdivisions thereof.

To promote and maintain a high professional standing among its members.

To foster, maintain and continue educational advancements for and among its members.

To provide a media for the discussion and exchange of information concerning the methods, techniques, interpretations and problems related to fire prevention.

Meet Your Region 3 Board Representative

President Elaine Gall has recently appointed Mr. Mike Hall to the Vacant Position of Region 3 Representative to the VFPA Board of Directors.

Mike is currently employed at Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center as Occupational & Fire Safety Coordinator. His prior employment was working for 10 years at Western State Hospital as Safety Coordinator and 2 years at VA School for the Deaf and the Blind as Director of Safety & Security. Mike has 21 years working for the state, has been a member of VFPA for 3 years and is a Certified Fire Protection Specialist through NFPA. Mike has also taken the 40 hour HAZWOPER course and the DOT Basic HAZMAT course.



When Mike doesn't have his nose planted in code books, he and his wife Michelle enjoy spending their spare time with their nine grandchildren (soon to be 10), their Blue Tick Hound, Beagle and German Shepard. Mike and his wife live in Greenville, VA.

The Region 3 Position serves the Central Virginia area and was previously filled by Mr. Shawn Maddox who was elected to the position of Treasurer. Please help us welcome Mike to the Board and wish him the best in his endeavor.