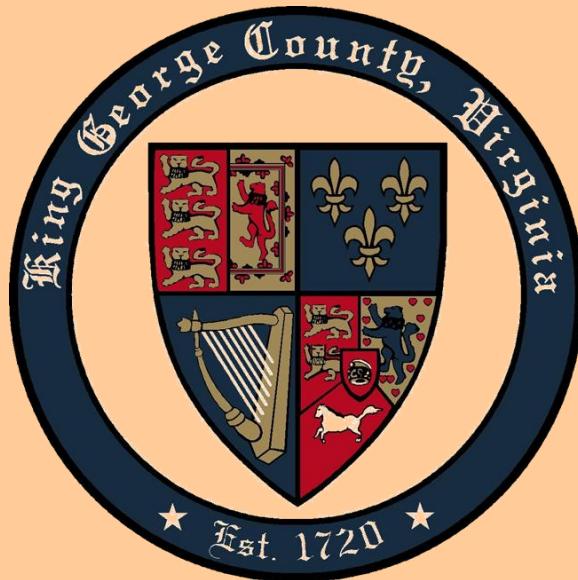


# King George County

## State Fire / EMS Study



Prepared by: Virginia Fire Services Board  
November 2011

# **2001 Fire and Rescue Services Study**

- Completed in February 2001
- Conducted by Virginia Fire Services Board, Virginia Department of Fire Programs, and the Virginia Office of Emergency Services
- Recommended the identification of one person as the head of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Recommended the consolidation of Fire and EMS
- Provided staffing, training, and organizational structure recommendations
- Provided recommendations relating to Emergency Planning and Emergency Communications
- Provided recommendations relating to Equipment and Facilities
- Provided recommendations relating to financial accountability

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study**

- In January 2011, the Board of Supervisors requested the VA Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) to conduct an independent study.
- **Study team Consisted of the following:**
  - VA Fire Services Board (VFSB)
    - Michael T. Reilly
    - Edwin W. Smith
  - VA Department of Health- Office of EMS (OEMS)
    - Carol S. Morrow
  - VA Department of Forestry (VDOF)
    - Karen E. Snape
  - VA Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)
    - Kenneth A. Muhleman
    - Erin B. Rice

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study Process**

- Phase I: Project Initiation**
- Phase II: Obtain Stakeholder Input**
- Phase III: Prepare Analyses and develop  
core strategies**
- Phase IV: Prepare Final Report**

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study Findings**

- **Organized into 4 Themes:**
  - Personnel
  - Organizational Development and Operations
  - Communications
  - Training

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study Findings**

- **Personnel**
  - **Volunteer Recruitment & Retention**
    - Examine feasibility of hiring a Volunteer Coordinator Position
    - Establish a Volunteer Recruitment & Retention program
    - Explore the Fire Corps Program
  - **Requirements for Volunteer membership**
    - Review Volunteer By-Laws
    - Standards for Volunteers based on a minimum staffing plan
  - **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)**
    - Enforcement of SOP's for both volunteer and career personnel
    - Continue an annual review process
    - Ensure consistency with both volunteer and career personnel

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study Findings**

- Organizational Development and Operations**
  - Update the Chain of Command Structure**
    - Incident Management Team to manage emergency incidents
    - Identify a Safety Officer
  - Develop a Strategic Planning**
  - Increased Fire Prevention Activities**
    - Amend local ordinance to appoint a local fire marshal
    - Work with KGCSA to periodically test fire hydrants
    - Strengthen public communication activities

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study Findings**

- **Communications (ECC)**
  - Examine feasibility of increasing personnel
  - Establishment of an Emergency Communications Advisory Committee
    - Update communication system infrastructure (Computer Aided Dispatching CAD)
    - Update communications equipment
    - Interoperability
    - Periodic Full-Scale Emergency Exercises

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study Findings**

- **Training**
  - **Adherence to Mandatory Minimum Training**
    - Strict enforcement of minimum training standards for all positions, both volunteer and career
    - Increase instructors
    - Continue establishing a regional approach to training needs
  - **Continuity of Leadership**
    - Implement professional development program
    - Mentorship programs for both volunteer and career personnel
    - Continue providing leadership training

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study**

## **Action Plan**

- Implementation of a Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Program**
- Volunteer Requirements**
- SOP's**

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study**

## **Action Plan**

- Improve command structure for on-scene emergency incidents**
- Update the organization chart to better represent the Department**
- Institute an effective Span-of-Control for on-scene emergency incidents**
- Department Safety Officer (in progress)**
- Strategic Plan (in progress), to include the Department's Mission, Vision Statements and Core Values**

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study**

## **Action Plan**

- Work with Sheriff, County Attorney, and the Board of Supervisors to implement a Fire Marshal**
- Work with KGSA to coordinate periodic testing of all fire hydrants**
- Expand the Department's website (in progress)**

# **2011 Fire and EMS Study**

## **Action Plan**

- Enforce minimum mandatory training requirements
- Continue regional training partnership (in progress)
- Increase available instructors and leadership training

# Questions?