

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 (VD OF)**
 - **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?