

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Fire & Rescue honored at Va. Beach conference

March 3, 2015 - Hampton's Fire & Rescue Division received several awards and recognitions last month during the 40th annual Fire and Rescue Conference in Virginia Beach, sponsored by the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association. The honors include:

Governor's Award for Excellence in Virginia Public Fire and Life Safety Education

This award recognizes an individual or department that exemplifies outstanding dedication and service for the furtherance of Virginia public fire and life safety education. Among the programs cited by conference organizers:

- **Hampton's 2014 Home Safety Survey Campaign.** The Division used multi-media marketing to offer courtesy home safety surveys to 52,000 privately-owned residences, and targeted multi-family residential complexes in order to identify and correct hazards that could lead to fire or injury. The program was coordinated by Asst. Chief Maurice Wilson (Community Risk Reduction Section) and Battalion Chief Mike Birdsong (Operations Section, Suppression Branch).
- **Hampton TRIAD partnership.** The TRIAD provides focused support for senior citizen life safety issues. According to a conference news release, "the division continuously works to focus their efforts on teaching and promoting safety and preparation measures that help instill personal confidence in our aging residents." Lynn Cherry-Miller, Senior Administrative Assistant (Fire Chief's Office), coordinated this initiative.
- **Camp Fury.** An educational camp for young women and the first of its kind on the East Coast, Camp Fury educated girls in grades 6-12 in fire and life safety and character development. The camp faculty was comprised of female firefighters and instructors from several local and regional jurisdictions. Camp Fury was developed and coordinated by Division members Lt. Denee' Nichols, and Medic/Firefighter Jami Salvio.
- **Citizen's Fire Academy.** A successful, 10-week series of classes held throughout Hampton, the Academy provides behind-the-scenes and hands-on educational opportunities in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, fire extinguisher training, operations, and valuable information for our citizen customers. The Fire Academy was developed and coordinated by Lt. Joe Brown and Capt. Charlie Kempton III.

Virginia Fire Chiefs Association and Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation “Best Practices in Fire Service Health and Safety Award – Combination Department”

This award acknowledges creative, comprehensive, and/or significant accomplishments and programs that provide for the health, safety, and welfare of fire service members. Each year the VFCA/VFCF honor one formally established fire department within Virginia in three categories: volunteer fire department, career fire department, and combination fire department.

Conference organizers said the creation of a dedicated health and safety officer position was the first step initiated in order to identify primary and secondary safety concerns within the Division. A review of existing standard operating procedures as well as a comparison of Division practices versus industry-wide best practices was also used to identify deficiencies.

Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation Robert E. White Memorial Scholarship

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation offers annual scholarships for continuing education. The scholarship program was established in 2002 in memory of Robert E. White, a citizen of the Commonwealth who donated money towards the betterment of the Fire Service throughout the state. Medic Firefighter Joshua Simmons, who is pursuing his Doctor of Science degree in Emergency Management, received a scholarship award during the conference.

Center for Public Safety Excellence – Chief Fire Officer Designation

The Chief Fire Officer designation is recognition of broad career and educational professional accomplishments. Asst. Chief Tracy Hanger recently completed the designation process and was recognized for her accomplishment at the 2015 Virginia Fire-Rescue Conference.

National Fire Academy – Executive Fire Officer Program

The National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program is a four-year program that provides senior fire officers with a broad perspective on various facets of fire and emergency services administration, including executive leadership, emergency management, and community risk reduction. Each of the four years requires a two-week residency at the NFA’s campus in Emmitsburg, Md., and an applied research project at the conclusion of each year. Deputy Chief Jason Monk recently completed this program and was recognized for his accomplishment at the 2015 Virginia Fire-Rescue Conference.

Also during the Fire-Rescue Conference, two members of the Hampton Division of Fire & Rescue were elected to serve as 2015-2016 officers for the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association.

- Fire Chief David Layman – President
- Captain Charlie Kempton III – Chairman, Company Officer Section

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