



VDFP Dispatch

PUBLISHED FOR AND ABOUT VDFP'S EMPLOYEES



Congratulations to the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company for earning the Spirit of Virginia Award. Presented by First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin, on behalf of Governor Glenn Youngkin, the award recognizes unique qualities and standout achievements within the Commonwealth.

Enhancing public safety throughout the Commonwealth

Community Risk Reduction

Training

Virginia Fire Marshal Academy

State Fire Marshal's Office

All About Logistics

What's Inside?

In this month's featured story, we took the opportunity to learn more and dive deeper into our amazing Logistics department!

Under the Training and Development branch, Logistics handles the behind the scenes duties that go into delivering professional courses and development for our fire service members.

Logistics' main warehouse is housed at the Virginia Public Safety Training Center (PSTC). At this facility, in the event any equipment comes back damaged or in need of repair, logistics has all the materials needed to do in-house and timely repairs.

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All Hands Meeting

An Agency View of How Far We Came
& Where We Are Headed



November 15-17 @ VDFP HQ

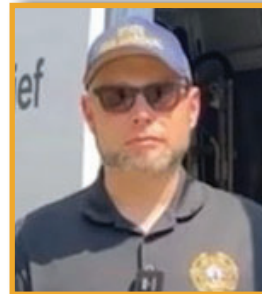
Congratulations on the Promotion!



Damon Price was promoted to Deputy State Fire Marshal II in Division 7. He has served as Deputy State Fire Marshal I since February 2020. He is responsible for conducting fire safety inspections, investigating complaints, and enforcing the Statewide Fire Prevention Code.



Norris Evans is now the Special Projects Coordinator in the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy. Norris served VFMA in a part-time role before taking this full-time position. He has years of experience in education and most recently served as an Assistant Principal.



Matthew Bright was promoted to Deputy State Fire Marshal II in Division 4. Matthew is a certified Fire Official and Certified Building Official and brings 18 years of experience to his new position. Matthew recently coordinated the smoke alarm installation events in Big Stone Gap and Norton.



Michael Parris was recently promoted to Deputy Chief of Training and Operations. He joined VDFP in May 2016 as the Division Chief of Division 4 in Marion.

CyberSecurity Awareness Month

Since its declaration in October of 2004, Cybersecurity Awareness Month gives individuals the opportunity to better understand how they can protect themselves online. This is a collaborative and coordinated effort made between government and industry agencies in order to raise awareness about cybersecurity across the globe.

For this year, the campaign theme puts an emphasis on "Seeing Yourself in Cyber" and although cybersecurity may seem daunting and complex, the fact is that it starts with us as individuals taking the necessary precautions. Everyone plays an important role in ensuring the safety of our agency's systems and data.

As agency employees, we must always be cognizant of security threats such as ransomware, hacking, phishing, and malware. As new threats emerge, it is key to pay attention and stay aware at all times. Simple tips to follow to ensure our safety and security include:

TIME IT TAKES A HACKER TO BRUTE FORCE YOUR PASSWORD IN 2022

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
7	Instantly	Instantly	2 secs	7 secs	31 secs
8	Instantly	Instantly	2 mins	7 mins	39 mins
9	Instantly	10 secs	1 hour	7 hours	2 days
10	Instantly	4 mins	3 days	3 weeks	5 months
11	Instantly	2 hours	5 months	3 years	34 years
12	2 secs	2 days	24 years	200 years	3k years
13	19 secs	2 months	1k years	12k years	202k years
14	3 mins	4 years	64k years	750k years	16m years
15	32 mins	100 years	3m years	46m years	1bn years
16	5 hours	3k years	173m years	3bn years	92bn years
17	2 days	69k years	9bn years	179bn years	7tn years
18	3 weeks	2m years	467bn years	11tn years	438tn years

 [Learn about our methodology at hivesystems.io/password](https://hivesystems.io/password)

- Regularly use unique and strong passwords. VDFP employees should ensure they meet the new 14-character minimum password complexity requirements.
 - Using multi-factor authentication
 - Immediately report any suspicious behavior, emails, and/or pop up messages
 - Ensure operating system is up to date

Training Reminder

MANDATORY AGENCY TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETE BY NOVEMBER 15

Reach out to your supervisor with any questions or concerns

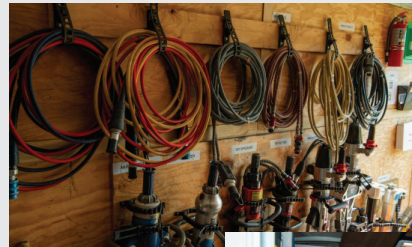
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Logistics is led by Chief JP Calhoun, full-time technician Glenn Akers, and administrative assistant Teresa Whittaker. The team is augmented with several part-time staff members. For each course that requires a trailer, such as fire investigator, rope rescue, surface water rescue and many more, it is up to the logistics team to ensure a trailer is fully stocked and accounted for with all the materials for that specific course.

Each trailer must first be prepped with materials and machinery. During this process, labels for each piece of equipment are put in the trailer so items are returned to the proper place. Once a trailer is ready to be deployed, the team delivers the trailer to the course location. During any given week, logistics may travel more than 2,500 miles working to deliver the trailers and return them following the completion of training. When the trailer arrives back at PSTC, each one must be thoroughly checked for any possible functionality issues or damage to each piece of equipment.



Logistics makes it a top priority to ensure all materials are safe and up to standard for use in training courses. It's pivotal for our fire service members to train with the proper gear to learn procedures so they can better serve their communities.



Vehicle rescue trailer prepped for upcoming training. (Left)

Trench rescue trailer prepped for upcoming training. (Right)



Employee Adventures: Paige Roberts and Family Drive 1923 Model T for Crewe VFD

Paige Roberts, Senior Intelligence Analyst, and her dad, Dave, recently took Crewe Volunteer Fire Department's 1923 Model T to the annual Old Dominion Historical Fire Society Muster held in Farmville in early October.

The truck has belonged to Crewe since it was purchased new and recently fully restored. The Department earned two awards: 1st Place People's Choice Award and Oldest Motorized Apparatus.



Recap: Halloween Happenings at VDFP

This month at VDFP, we made sure to get in the spirit and celebrate a wonderful Halloween! Throughout the month, we challenged employees to decorate their desks, offices, and doors in the spookiest way possible. Congratulations to our award winners!

Office Awards

- Family Friendly** - Amanda Kennedy
- Spookiest Office** -Charlotte Green
- Best Theme** - Ashley Simien
- Most Spirited** - Priscilla Pardue
- Over the Top** - Heather Smolka

Costume Awards

- Fictional** - Tammy Harrison
- Realistic** - Brad Creasy
- Scariest** - Warren Shearin
- Punniest** - Chad Riddleberger
- Funniest** - JP Calhoun



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NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS



NOVEMBER 8
ELECTION DAY

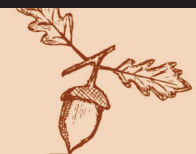
NOVEMBER 11
VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 23
4 HOURS ADDED
HOLIDAY TIME

NOVEMBER 24
THANKSGIVING



NOVEMBER 25
DAY AFTER
THANKSGIVING





Halloween Happenings at VDFP



Decorations, Photos and Smiles

Glen Allen staff dressed in costumes for Halloween



Congratulations to this year's
HalloQueen, Ashley Simien!
(Pictured to the Right)



Halloween Happenings at VDFP



Food Drive Was a Success!

Additionally, during the month of October as part of the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign, VDFP held a food drive to collect non-perishable food items. We are pleased to announce that we were able to donate nearly 700 items, with a total weight of 408 pounds to Feed More! Feed More is a food bank that collects, prepares and distributes food to neighbors in need across 34 cities and counties in central Virginia. (Pictured to the right are all of the items packed for delivery.)



Employee Spotlight

Meredith Robinson came to VDFP in October of 2019 as an Accounts Payable Accountant, then climbed the ranks to become the Accounting Supervisor in February of 2020, ultimately earning her current role as Accounting Manager in March of 2021.

While Robinson obviously has a passion for numbers, this is only one aspect of her many talents. She is married, a proud mother of a college student, singer, musician and traveler.

At only four years old, she could be found banging on a piano and singing. Without formal training, she was soon able to play by listening. Growing up in a musical family, she was always surrounded by singers and musicians. She would later join her family's gospel group as a singer and travel across the Commonwealth performing. Robinson went on to sing at her own high school graduation and many venues around the world. In 2001, she had the opportunity to be part of the Sister Act 2, a musical comedy

that played live at theaters across Italy from December 2001 until April 2002. Italy quickly became one her favorite destinations because of the history, culture, authentic Italian favorites (pizza and pasta), and amazing fashion.

"Seeing the pages of the books I read come to life was a memorable experience. The beauty of the country, scents and tastes of the authentic food is something I will never forget. I even got to witness the pope come out of the Vatican during the time of the resurrection," said Robinson.

Her musical journey doesn't stop there. In 2010, she was part of the Gospel Angels performance in Germany. While the recent global health crisis has put a hold on a lot of travel, she is still passionate about music and has plans to get in the studio and release something of her very own soon.

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Employee Spotlight (Continued)

When Robinson isn't playing with numbers or performing across the globe, she can be found sharing laughs and enjoying time with her family. From their annual after Thanksgiving bowling day, to playing uno, and cooking, she truly cherishes those moments together. **"Family is everything**

and I am grateful to be able to assist with the caregiving of my mother, support my daughter's ambitions, spend quality time with my husband, and have a good time with loved ones during the upcoming holidays," said Robinson.

Random Question: If you went for a karaoke night, what would you sing?

"I'm every woman by Chaka Khan. I just want to stay positive, encourage and help at least one person a day. If I am able to do that then, I haven't wasted a day. It's not just about me, when I am able to help others it helps me become a better me," said Robinson.

Instructor Spotlight: Mike Kaliher

Mike Kaliher is both a VDFP adjunct instructor and a master firefighter with the Virginia Beach Fire Department which he's served in for 25+ years.

Mike enjoys learning and expanding his knowledge at every opportunity. After starting his career, Mike began to develop a strong passion for heavy technical rescue (HTR) and became a member of the HTR team in Virginia Beach.

For more than 22 years, Mike has also been a member of Virginia Task Force 2 - FEMA Urban Search and Rescue. Recently, Mike deployed with the team to areas in South Florida that were damaged by Hurricane Ian.

Outside of his contributions to the fire service, Mike enjoys spending time with his family and the outdoors. When the weather is right, Mike can be found in the wilderness hunting or fishing. Due to his love for machinery, Mike can also be found repairing small engines in his free time.

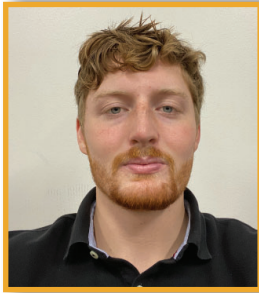


NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monica Acevedo-Roper
11/2 | Brigette Dugan
11/7 | Charlotte Green
11/12 |
| Alicia Styles
11/13 | John Fugman
11/20 | Mark Hopkins
11/26 |
| Tammy Harrison
11/28 | | |

Welcome to the VDFP Family!



Will Roberts joins VDFP as the Community Risk Reduction Specialist. He is a junior at Randolph-Macon college studying cyber security and computer science. He will be working with Ken Brown to support Community Risk Reduction efforts.



Spencer Willett recently started as the Government Affairs Specialist. He is a student at Randolph-Macon College studying political science where he had the opportunity to serve as a Governor's Fellow under Governor Glenn Youngkin's administration.



Anna Wenzler joins VDFP as the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy Support Specialist. She is assisting the team with reviewing old class files, scanning and sending requested training files to Fire Marshals across the Commonwealth. Anna is a junior at Randolph-Macon College studying Marketing.



David Stuart joins VDFP as the Division Chief in Division 2 (Culpeper). He has served as an adjunct instructor and a part-time instructor for Stafford County. David has been a course coordinator for several different courses and was responsible for developing schedules, acquiring instructors, coordinating logistics and more.

Did You Do Something Interesting?

Interested in sharing your weekend activities with the VDFP family? Email a summary of your weekend, what made it interesting, along with a photo to be included in the next publication. Send your summary and story to PIO@vdfp.virginia.gov

VDFP is on Social Media

Stay up to date with everything VDFP by following us on social media. Click on the buttons below to visit the official pages.

