

PUBLIC SAFETY

Division of Fire

Description

The Division of Fire is a community-driven, professional public safety and service organization that takes pride in stewardship and innovation, while maintaining public trust. The Division provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, fire prevention, public education, and disaster preparedness.

The Division's organizational chart includes three major branches: Professional Services, Community Risk Reduction, and Operations. The Professional Services branch is comprised of Administrative Services, Business Management, Logistics, Personnel, and Training. The Community Risk Reduction branch includes Emergency Management, Planning & Technology, Safety, Code Enforcement, Fire Prevention, and Community Services. The Operations section comprises all fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel in the County's twenty fire stations.

Objectives

- To enhance Henrico County's overall ability to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate hazards, emergencies, and disasters.
- To implement a comprehensive community risk reduction model.
- To provide an optimized community-driven service delivery model.
- To ensure the workforce is prepared to achieve the mission and vision of the Division of Fire while exemplifying its core values.
- To maintain processes and data management systems that meet the current and future needs of the Division of Fire.
- To utilize technology efficiently and effectively to meet current and future needs.

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY12 Actual	FY13 Original	FY14 Approved	Change 13 to 14
Personnel	\$ 43,698,652	\$ 44,803,086	\$ 45,939,033	2.5%
Operation	4,744,256	4,611,715	4,619,401	0.2%
Capital	2,471,770	232,345	229,750	(1.1%)
Total	\$ 50,914,678	\$ 49,647,146	\$ 50,788,184	2.3%

Personnel Complement 539 539 548 * 9

*Nine Firefighters are proposed to be included in the FY2013-14 Budget for a new Fire Medic Unit.

Fire (cont'd)

	Performance Measures			Change 13 to 14
	FY12	FY13	FY14	
Workload Measures				
Total Calls for Service	40,963	41,563	42,130	567
Total EMS and Rescue Calls for Service	30,189	31,082	32,059	977
Fire Incidents	983	939	916	(23)
Fires per 1,000 Population	3	3	3	0

Budget Highlights

The Division of Fire's budget for FY2013-14 is \$50,788,184, representing an increase of \$1,141,038, or 2.3 percent from the previous approved budget. The personnel component increased \$1,135,947, or 2.5 percent from the previous approved fiscal year. The increase was driven by nine additional Firefighter positions for the newest Fire Medic Unit. Funding for the ambulance was approved by the Board of Supervisors in September, 2012. In addition to the new Fire Medic Unit, personnel expenses increased because of increased costs for VRS group life insurance, health care expenditures, career development program costs, and the 5.0 percent salary increase as a result of the implementation of Senate Bill 497, approved by the General Assembly in the 2012 Legislative Session, which were partially offset by a reduction in the VRS requirement.

The operating component is forecasted to increase by \$7,686 or 0.2 percent from the previous approved budget. An increase of \$24,381 is included for uniform and equipment costs associated with the new Fire Medic Unit. These new expenses are offset by reductions due to efficiencies found within current operations as well as a decrease in the capital component of \$2,595. It is important to note this component previously included funding for the apparatus replacement program at a total cost of \$1,500,000, which is now being captured in the capital budget.

There are still several items of note currently forecasted within the remaining capital budget of \$229,750. One of these items is the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Equipment Enhancement Program. Funding for this program was created in FY2004-05 at an annual cost of \$96,000, which allowed for the annual replacement of defibrillators. Beginning in FY2011-12, the Division initiated a multi-year lease of defibrillators. This lease program

will provide a reliable inventory of defibrillators, which in turn will allow the Division to utilize its EMS enhancement funds on much-needed replacement of stretchers and other patient care equipment. The current budget of \$76,000 will satisfy this need.

Outside of these replacement plans, funding of \$105,600 is provided for various types of firefighter equipment. Also, funding of \$48,150 is included as a part of the ongoing plan to refurbish the fire stations as well as the maintenance and refurbishment of the Division's Administrative offices.

In FY2013-14, the Division of Fire will focus on expanding the quality of existing programs as well as continuing to provide a consistently high level of service to the citizens of the County. Examples of these programs include enhancing firefighter safety, streamlining training delivery, and a continued priority towards community services.

During 2012, the Division's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) assisted with county-wide emergencies. Hurricane Sandy offered the opportunity to allow multiple agency cooperation for the first time since Hurricane Irene to implement the County's Emergency Operations Plan. This event also provided the opportunity for multiple agencies to better coordinate and collaboratively manage emergency responses in the County during the event. The OEM also coordinated training to maintain the County's NIMS compliance in 2012 by offering training for 108 students using instructors from the Division of Fire and the Division of Police. The Division coordinated numerous Homeland Security grants offered by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, including regional grants to help augment emergency shelter staff training and capacity for domestic animals in times of emergency,

Fire (cont'd)

and improve radio communications capability by continuing to enhance the existing amateur radio system and partnerships with volunteers for the system.

Enhancing community preparedness continues to be a priority for the Division of Fire. This includes participating in outreach programs such as the monthly preparedness targets (i.e. winter preparedness, hurricane preparedness, flood awareness), as well as continuing an aggressive plan to review newly licensed care facilities emergency action plans as required by state licensing agencies such as the Department of Social Services.

Adding to the more than 500 citizens and business members who have completed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training since 2002 are 58 County employees who completed one of the four CERT classes that were offered in 2012. The purpose of Henrico County's CERT program is to provide training to citizens in order to cope in the time period immediately following a disaster when local public safety resources may be overwhelmed. Citizens participating in the program learn basic first aid, search and rescue, and fire suppression techniques as well as how to prepare for a disaster before one occurs.

The Division will continue the commitment to maintain its international accreditation status, first received in FY1998-99, reaccredited in FY2002-03, and reaccredited for the third time in FY2007-08. The Division of Fire was the first internationally accredited fire service organization in the State of Virginia and the ninth in the world. It is important to note that as of 2012, there are only 161 fire service organizations in North America that are currently accredited.

Firefighter safety and health continues to be a top priority of the Division. Proper equipment and apparatus is vital to the safety of the firefighter and the FY2013-14 budget continues to allocate resources to ensure a systematic replacement approach. Funding of \$177,400 is included within the existing approved budget for replacement turnout gear for firefighters as part of the on-going replacement plan. In addition, funding in the amount of \$77,600 is included for maintenance and repairs of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). These efforts will

continue to provide the Division's personnel with the best available personal protective equipment.

Streamlining and enhancing training has been a continuing goal of the Division. In FY1999-00, the Division was able to accomplish Self Certification in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Fire Programs. The Division was recertified for this effort in the fall of 2007 under that agreement and with the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. The ability to plan, develop, and deliver training programs under the guidance of self certification gives the Division greater flexibility and creativity in the training section. Since FY2004-05, the Division of Fire's Training section has conducted more than eleven Recruit Academies, putting more than 200 new employees through an eighteen to twenty week Basic Firefighter Recruit Academy.

The Division continues to provide specialized services to the citizens of Henrico. These services include, but are not limited to the following: the Hazardous Incident Team; Search and Rescue Team; Technical Rescue Team; the Emergency Medical Services Program; Emergency Preparedness Enhancement Program; the Fire Recovery Program; Fire Corps; Citizen's Fire Academy; CERT (Community Emergency Response Team); Fire Prevention Associate Program; and the Fourth Grade Fire Education Program. All of these programs allow the Division to meet its mission, goals, and objectives.

The Division continues the joint Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response effort with the volunteer rescue squads. In FY2013-14, \$218,625 of General Fund support will provide medical supplies, gasoline, and insurance premium payments for the three volunteer rescue squads located in the County. This is in addition to \$218,625 in "Four for Life" funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia, which flows through the Division's budget and is paid to the volunteer rescue squads in order to reimburse them for qualifying expenses. Between the "Four for Life" and general fund support, over \$437,000 is provided to the three volunteer rescue squads.

The Division continues the specialty repair shops by assigning firefighters to these shops in addition to their normal duties. The shops repair and maintain equipment at a lower cost and with less down time

Fire (cont'd)

than if the County had to purchase these services from an outside vendor. There are twenty-eight of these specialty shops and examples include the Hose and Nozzle shop, SCBA shop, Oxygen shop, Hurst Tool shop, Small Engine shop, and the CPAP (Constant Positive Airway Pressure) shop.

In FY2013-14, the Division will continue its efforts with the Henrico Marine Patrol. The primary goal of this program is to provide emergency services to the marine community within the jurisdiction of the County. The Marine Patrol utilizes a C-Hawk vessel for year round response and several inflatable boat for shallow and white water response. There are no full

time dedicated Marine Patrol personnel and response is accomplished by utilizing on-duty fire personnel or by implementing a call back of the Search/Rescue Dive team.

The Division expects to continue to face a number of challenges over the coming years. Some of these challenges include a growing population; additional EMS calls for service as the population continues to age; turnover of personnel due to many reaching retirement age; and the building of Urban Mixed Use developments. The Division continues to plan for these challenges and will meet the increasing service demands presented by these challenges.