



EDUCATION TRACKS:

**EMS
PEDIATRICS
FIRE & HAZMAT
LAW ENFORCEMENT
MENTAL HEALTH
TECHNICAL RESCUE
LEADERSHIP & ADMIN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY**



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

1ST ANNUAL VIRGINIA FIRST RESPONDER SYMPOSIUM

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

**The Inn at Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center
Blacksburg, VA
June 12 - 21, 2026**

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OUR STORY



For more than 50 years, Virginia's Fire and EMS professionals have gathered to train, grow, and lead through one of the most enduring and respected educational events in the Commonwealth. What began as a focused training opportunity for rescue squads and firefighters has evolved into a statewide tradition of professional development, skill-building, and fellowship.

That legacy continues, and expands this year with the launch of the 1st Annual Virginia First Responder Symposium, hosted by Virginia Association of First Responders (VAFR).

This evolution reflects a united mission: to bring together the full spectrum of public safety discipline from Fire and EMS to Law Enforcement, Technical Rescue, Telecommunications, Mental Health, and Public Safety Chaplains under one umbrella of training, leadership, and collaboration.

This milestone marks more than a new name. It signifies a new era. Rooted in more than 50 years of tradition and service, the Virginia First Responder Symposium carries forward a proud history while embracing the diverse, modern needs of today's first responders. It is where experience meets innovation, and where Virginia's first responders come together to learn, lead, and inspire.

**Stronger together.
Always Ready.**



SYMPOSIUM CHAIR

As Chair of the Inaugural Virginia First Responder Symposium, it is my honor to invite you to join us this June 12 through 21, 2026, in Blacksburg, Virginia, headquartered at Virginia Tech's Skelton Conference Center.

For more than five decades, Rescue College has served as a cornerstone of education and certification for EMS and rescue professionals across the Commonwealth. That legacy matters—and it continues. —However current demands facing today's first responders require more comprehensive, more collaborative, and more inclusive educational opportunities. The Virginia First Responder Symposium represents that next chapter.

This symposium marks a deliberate transformation in how we prepare and support those whom we serve. Organized by the Virginia Association of First Responders, this new model brings together professionals in EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, Telecommunications, Mental Health, Public Safety Chaplaincy, instructors, and technical specialists. We recognize that no single discipline responds alone, and that our greatest strengths lie in working together.

Throughout the symposium, participants will have access to multiple educational tracks, including EMS continuing education, law enforcement, technical rescue and operational classes, instructor development, mental health and wellness, pediatrics, telecommunications, and public safety chaplaincy. Whether you are a line-level responder, an officer or supervisor, an instructor, or an agency leader, these tracks are designed to meet you where your greatest needs lie—while also building shared understanding, trust, and cross-discipline collaboration.

Our goal is straightforward but ambitious: to help make Virginia one of the strongest, most integrated first responder systems in the nation. By training together, learning from one another, and breaking down silos, we strengthen not only our individual professions, but the entire system that serves the people of the Commonwealth.

In support of that mission, I am pleased to announce that, thanks to generous grant funding, the first 400 VAFR members who register for the symposium will receive free registration. We hope this removes barriers to participation and encourages early engagement from responders across all disciplines. For those who are not yet members of the Virginia Association of First Responders, I strongly encourage you to consider joining and taking advantage of the many professional, educational, and advocacy benefits the Association has to offer.

You are invited to become part of this momentous first year. Your participation matters—not just for your own professional development, but for the future of first responder collaboration across Virginia. Together, we will move forward in a positive, unified way and ensure that we continue to provide the very best service to the communities we are privileged to serve and protect.

I look forward to welcoming you to Blacksburg in June.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Dillard".

Kevin Dillard - Chair - Inaugural Virginia First Responder Symposium

04 2026 Virginia First Responder Symposium

WHAT NEW IN 2026

This year marks an exciting evolution as we officially introduce the Virginia First Responder Symposium, reflecting our expanded mission to serve the full spectrum of emergency services across the Commonwealth. While the name has changed, the foundation of hands-on, high-quality training and collaboration remains stronger than ever.



Introducing Training Tracks

- EMS
- Pediatric
- Law Enforcement
- Fire & Hazmat
- Technical Rescue
- Leadership & Administration
- Mental Health
- Telecommunications
- Public Safety Chaplaincy

Each track features core classes, specialty electives, and opportunities for hands-on application across realistic scenarios.

Expanded Off-Site Venues

To support this growth, Symposium 2026 will utilize an expanded network of off-site training venues throughout the Blacksburg region. Historically centered on EMS, Technical Rescue, and Leadership & Administration, this year's program now welcomes four additional disciplines, bringing new students and new instructional needs. With enrollment expected to rise, additional classrooms, specialized facilities, and scenario environments have been added to ensure high-quality, skill-focused instruction across every track.



MEET THE TEAM

Symposium Committee:

Kevin Dillard, Chair

Ken Morgan

Chris Craft

Kim Craig

Rob Logan

Wayne Myers

VAFR Staff:

Bubby Bish, Executive Director

Doug Eberhardt, Training Coordinator

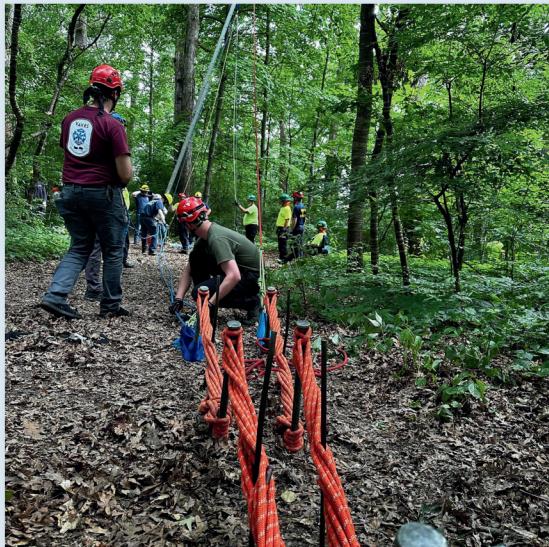
Gary Dalton, Database Administrator



06 2026 Virginia First Responder Symposium



MEET THE TRACK LEADERS



Division Leaders:

Wesley Nelson
Emergency Medical Services

Michael Berg
Pediatrics

Bryant Skeen
Law Enforcement

Byron Andrews
Fire & HazMat

Ingris Coronado
Mental Health

Chris Craft
Technical Rescue

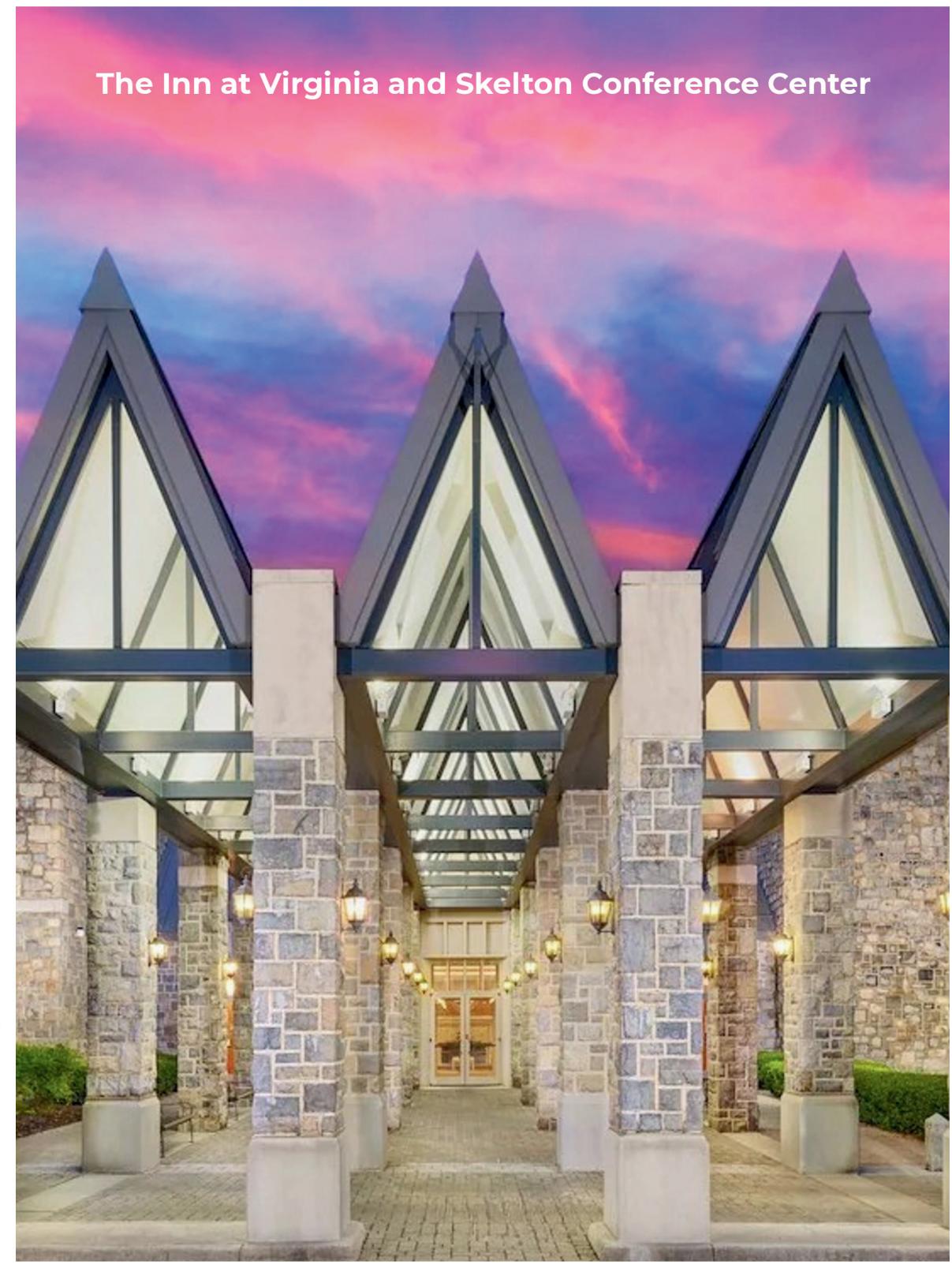
Jeff Grimm
Leadership & Administration

Toby Akers
Telecommunications

Public Safety Chaplaincy
Robin Bemiller



The Inn at Virginia and Skelton Conference Center



ADDRESS:
901 Prices Fork Road,
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061



Lodging & Accommodations

Virginia First Responder Symposium 2026 will again be hosted at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, conveniently located near classrooms and dining.

Room Rate: \$111.00 per night (Double Occupancy)

Additional Guest: \$10 per night

Phone: 540.231.8000

Address: 901 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg VA 24031

Mention VAFR Symposium when booking to receive the discounted group rate. (Online booking discount not available.)

Affordable breakfast, lunch buffets, and dinner specials will be available daily at the hotel restaurant and sports lounge.

Room availability at the Inn at Virginia Tech is limited.



09 2026 Virginia First Responder Symposium



BOOKING TIP

Review your course locations carefully when registering. Attendees with off-site courses may benefit from booking the recommended hotel for their training track.

NEARBY HOTELS – SKELTON CONFERENCE CENTER

These hotels are located within a short drive of The Inn at Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center. VAFR does not have negotiated rates with these properties. Standard rates and availability apply.

Hyatt Place Blacksburg / University

- Fitness center and pool
- Complimentary breakfast
- Free Wi-Fi and parking

Hilton Garden Inn Blacksburg University

- Indoor pool and on-site dining
- Free Wi-Fi and parking



Residence Inn by Marriott Blacksburg–University

- All-suite, extended-stay accommodations
- Complimentary breakfast and parking

HOTELS NEAR OFF-SITE TRAINING LOCATIONS

Scan the QR code to make reservations.



Home2 Suites by Hilton Blacksburg

Recommended Track: Fire & HazMat

- Closest to Blacksburg Fire Station #3
- Rate: \$105/night



Holiday Inn Express Blacksburg

Recommended Track: OSHA

- Rate: \$129/night



Marriott Blacksburg

Recommended Track: Mental Health, Chaplaincy & Telecommunications

- Rate: \$105/night





Registration Information

Online Registration Opens March 1, 2026, • Closes May 15, 2026
Deadline for Refunds: May 23, 2026

Link to online registration: www.vafr.org

Please direct questions or issues with Symposium Registration to the VAFR Office at 804.749.8191 in the State Office, or vafr@vafr.org

Grant-Supported Registration

Thanks to a generous \$40,000 grant from the Walton and Ada Thompson Charitable Foundation, registration costs for the first 400 VAFR members who register will be fully covered.

Category	Fee	Includes
VAFR Member (first 400)	FREE	Registration + T-Shirt
VAFR Member (after 400)	\$100	Registration + T-Shirt
Non-Member (16+)	\$100	Registration + Individual VAFR Membership + T-Shirt
Non-Member (after 400)	\$200	Registration + Membership + T-Shirt
Rescue Camp (Ages 8-16)	\$50	Camp Participation + T-Shirt

Additional Course Fees	Fee
AMLS, PHTLS, TECC	\$75
GRIM, CEMS	\$50
CPR	\$25

**Registration fees are waived for individuals enrolled solely in TIMS Instructor course.

Membership Verification: This year's registration will be handled through the VAFR Website.

To qualify for member pricing:

- Agencies must update rosters before registration.
- You must be listed on your agency's VAFR roster.

If you are having issues:

1. Contact your agency administrator.
2. Contact the State Office if unresolved.

Top Tips Before You Register

- Review course schedule for conflicts before registering.
- Preregister - On-site registration is **not available**.
- Classes fill quickly; register early to secure your spot.
- Some courses have limited seating or prerequisites.

Refund & Cancellation Policy

Registration fees are non-refundable for any reason after May 23, 2026. The Virginia Association of First Responders (VAFR) reserves the right to cancel any classes that do not meet the required minimum enrollment. If a class is cancelled, registered students will be given the option to reschedule into another available class or receive a refund for that specific class only. Please review your schedule carefully before finalizing registration to avoid conflicts or cancellations.

Get the Official Symposium App

Stay updated with live schedule changes, speaker bios, maps, and more!
Access now: <http://virginiafirstrespondersymposium.base44.app>



Administrative Office Hours & Check-In Information

To help you get settled and ready for your classes, the Symposium Administrative Office and check-in will be located at The Inn at Virginia Tech, inside the Drillfield Room on the second floor of the main building.

Early Sign-In begins on Friday, June 6, 2026, at 1400 hours. We encourage all students to check in early to avoid delays on opening day. Upon arrival, each attendee will:

- Sign in and confirm their registration.
- Receive their attendee packet and course materials.
- Have an opportunity to ask questions or verify classroom location.
- Important: All students must complete check-in and receive their packet before attending any classes.

The Administrative Support Desk will remain open daily throughout Symposium to assist with registration, course adjustments, CE documentation, and general event inquiries. If you need assistance at any time, please visit the check-in area or contact a member of the VAFR State Office team for support.

SUPPORT & CHECK-IN DESK HOURS

Friday, June 12: 1400 – 1800

Saturday, June 13 through Friday, June 19: 0700 – 1700

**LOCATED INSIDE THE DRILLFIELD ROOM
2ND FLOOR MAIN BUILDING**



Networking & Social Events

Symposium Social Night

Monday June 15th | 1800–2100 at Mellow Mushroom

Great food · Great friends · Great networking.

Address: 207 S. Main Street, Blacksburg Virginia 24060





MEET US IN BLACKSBURG!

Experience ten days of education, training, and inspiration in beautiful Blacksburg, VA. Home to Virginia Tech and surrounded by the scenic Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains.

Blacksburg blends smalltown charm with a lively college atmosphere. The area offers outdoor recreation like hiking and biking, a walkable downtown filled with shops and restaurants., and a strong sense of community rooted in education, innovation and Hokie Pride

Located in the heart of Blacksburg, The Inn Inn at Virginia Tech (our host location) offers premium accommodations, exceptional conference facilities, and southern hospitality; making it the perfect setting for our 2026 Fall Conference. Enjoy stunning mountain views, modern amenities, and the charm of the Blue Ridge region.





01

AVELLINO'S

1440 S. Main Street
10% off FOOD

02

PANERA

715 University City Blvd.
10% off
\$20 Max per order

03

BULL & BONES

1470 S. Main Street
10% off

04

**YOUR PIE
PIZZA**

608 University Blvd.,
Suite 608
10% off FOOD

05

**THE MELLOW
MUSHROOM**

207 S. Main Street
10% off

06

**RODEO
MEXICAN**

1540 S. Main Street
15% off FOOD

07

PRESTON'S

Located at The Inn at
Virginia Tech

**SHOW YOUR
CONFERENCE BADGE**

DINING DISCOUNTS



HOKIE POKIE SCAVERGER HUNT

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

EXPLORE
BLACKSBURG
AND VIRGINIA
TECH'S CAMPUS

FACEBOOK OR
INSTAGRAM
PHOTO
SCAVERGER HUNT



WINNER
GETS A
PRIZE



VIRGINIA FIRST RESPONDER
SYMPOSIUM • JUNE 12-21, 2026



HOKIE POKIE PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

This is a scavenger hunt in which you will find items listed below, take a picture, and post it to Instagram or Facebook. For every qualifying picture posted to Instagram or Facebook, each person tagged in that photo is entered into a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card. Don't have time find them all? No problem! Each post is an entry to win! Don't have Instagram or Facebook? Time to make a new friend and help them win!

01

LANE STADIUM

Main Entrance

02

BURRUSS HALL

Main Entrance

03

PYLONS & WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL

04

MOSS ARTS CENTER

Curtain Wall

05

HAHN HORTICULTURE GARDEN

Anywhere in the
garden

06

TORGERSEN HALL'S BRIDGE

07

STONE GARGOYLE

Any one of the 15 stone
gargoyles.

08

HOKIE BIRD

Find a hokie bird
around town and snap
a photo!



PHOTO REQUIREMENTS:

- Item must be in background of photo!
- Photo must have a group of 3 or more people!
- VAFR Logo must be in the picture!
- You must use all 3 tags
 - #VAFR
 - #VAFIRSTRESPONDERSYMPOSIUM
 - #VAFIRSTRESPONDERS



Continuing Education Hours

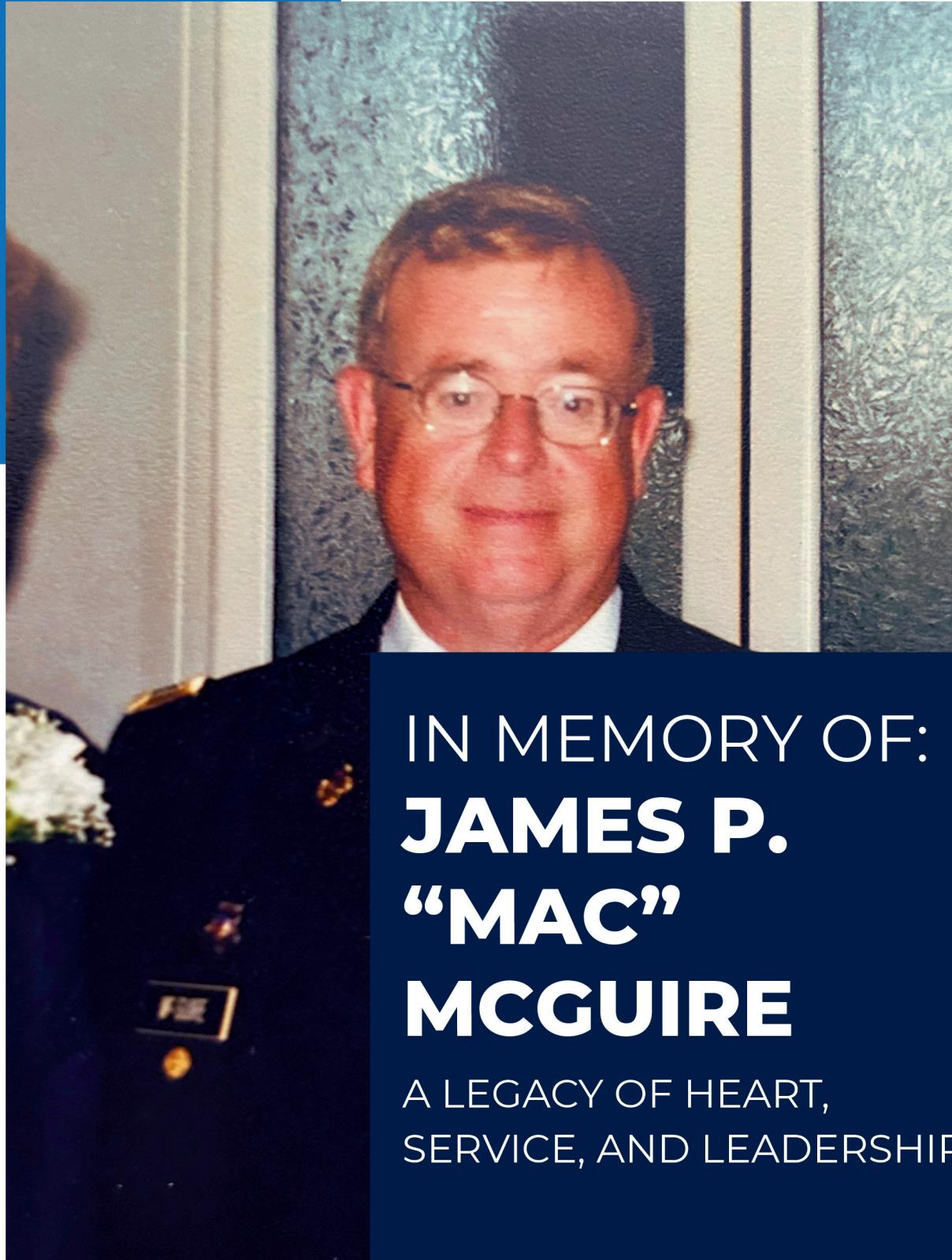
VAFR partners with the Virginia Office of EMS to award CE hours for approved classes. Use your OEMS Mobile App to track CE directly.

Using the OEMS App

- Search “Virginia OEMS” in your app store.
- Download and log in with your EMS Portal credentials.

Scan the code to view the Virginia Office of EMS Mobile App Quick Users Guide.





IN MEMORY OF:
**JAMES P.
“MAC”
MCGUIRE**

A LEGACY OF HEART,
SERVICE, AND LEADERSHIP



James P. "Mac" McGuire: A Legacy of Heart, Service, and Leadership

James Patrick "Mac" McGuire was a steady, humble leader whose influence reached far beyond titles or rank. Born March 16, 1950, Mac dedicated more than 43 years to the U.S. Army, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer 4, and spent nearly five decades serving the Forest View Volunteer Rescue Squad. He was a respected instructor, mentor, Captain, President, and ultimately VAFR State President from 1989–1991, later entering the Hall of Fame.

Mac led quietly but powerfully through kindness, faith, and a genuine belief in lifting others. Whether teaching, mentoring, or coaching softball, he encouraged people to become their best selves. His life was a model of humility, service, and unwavering dedication to his community.

Mac McGuire Memorial Scholarship:

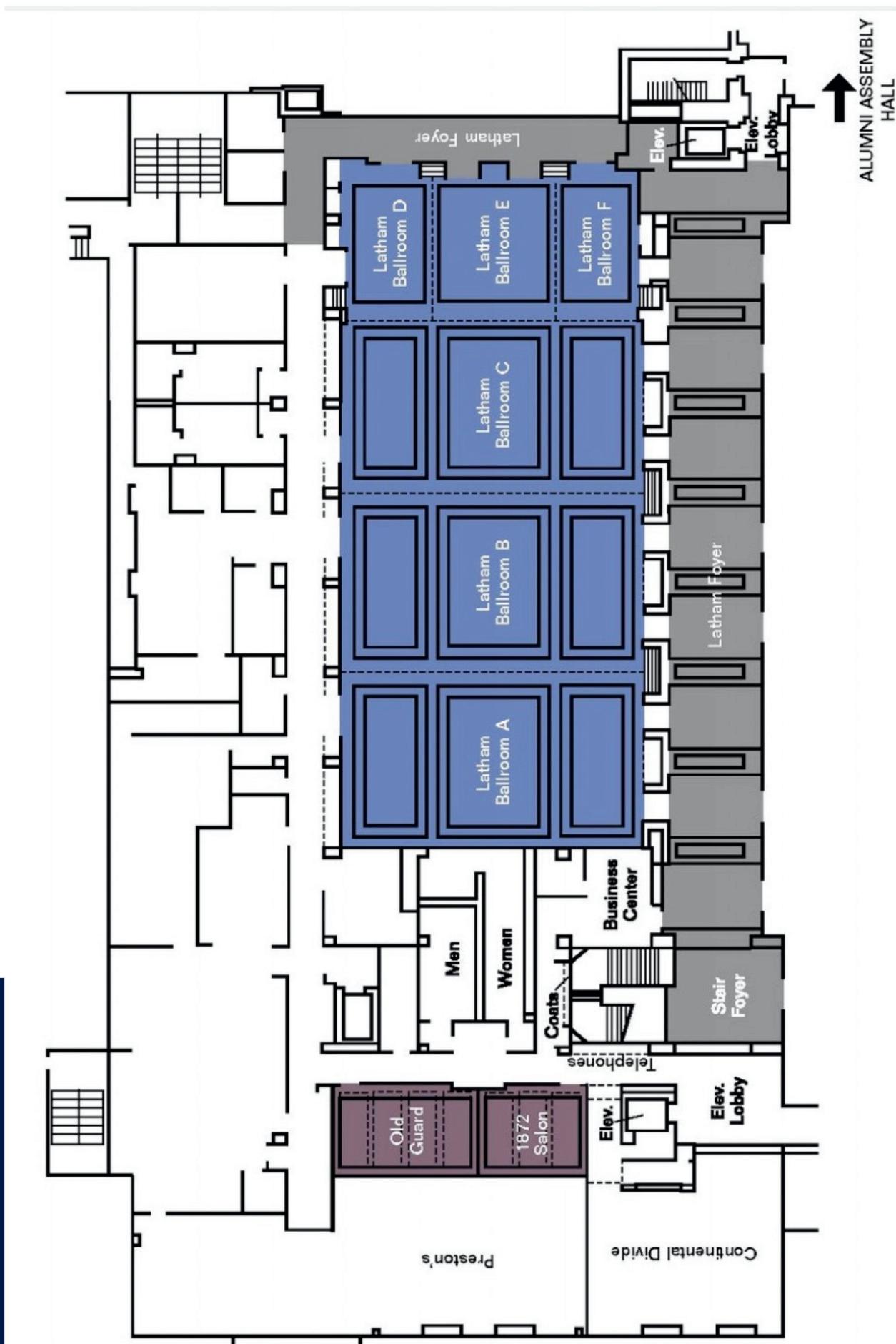
To honor his legacy, the Virginia Association of First Responders proudly offers the Mac McGuire Memorial Scholarship, supporting young responders attending the 2026 Virginia First Responder Symposium. Five scholarships of up to \$400 will be awarded to responders under age 22 to help cover registration, lodging, meals, and travel. Recipients are chosen for their passion, potential, and commitment to growth—values Mac embodied every day.

How to Apply

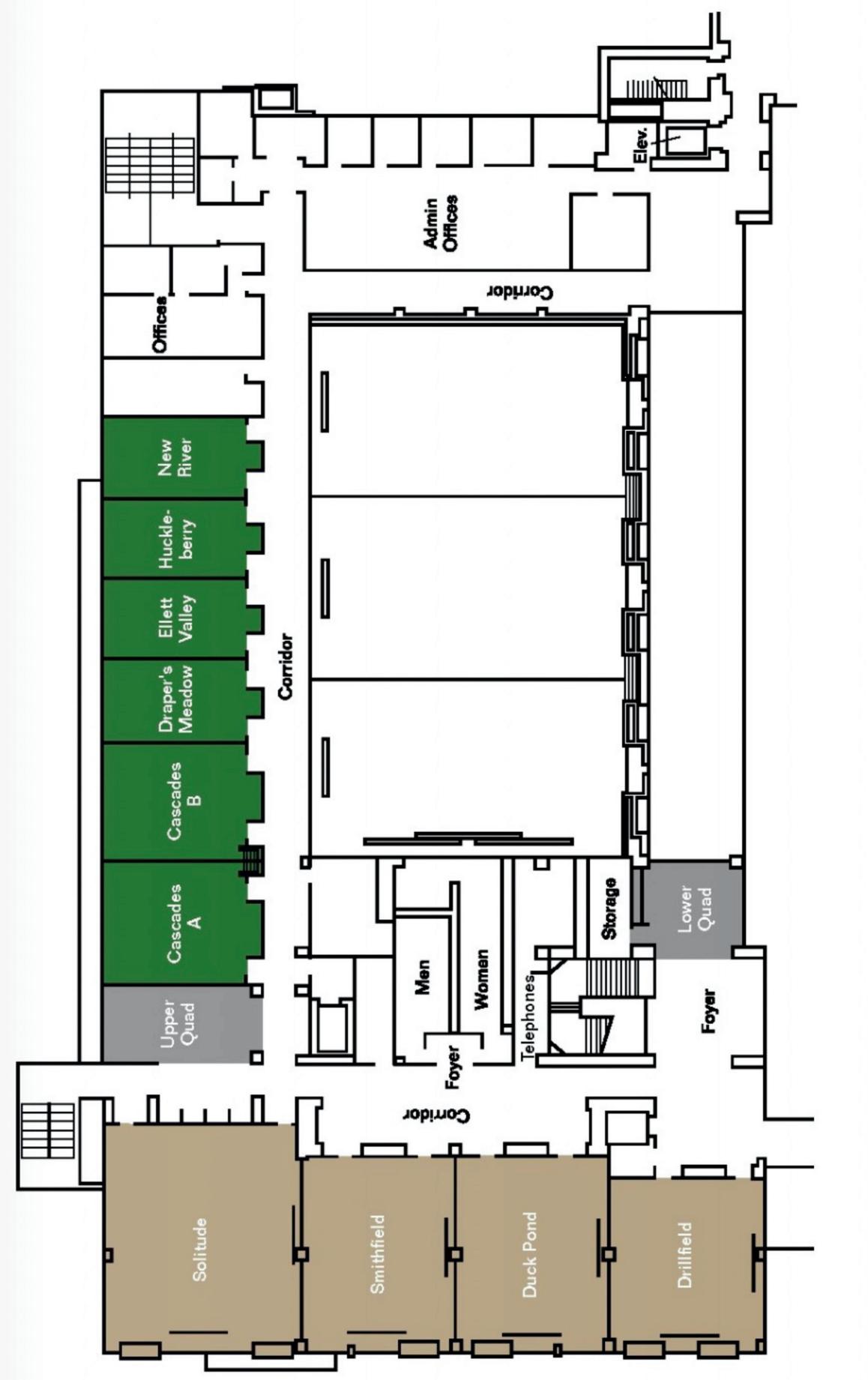
- Apply online at www.vafr.org
- Download and complete the application
- Submit by email to vafr@vafr.org
- For questions, call 804-749-8191
- Applications must be returned before April 30, 2026.

Updated Criteria for Selection (2026)

- Applicants must not have reached their 22nd birthday before May 1, 2026.
- Applicant must be a member of an agency that is a current VAFR member.
- Applicants must register for Symposium classes before the registration deadline.
- Applicants will be notified by May 1, 2026, if selected.
- Scholarship funds (up to \$400) may be used for registration, lodging, meals (maximum \$40 per day), and travel(maximum \$50).
- Reimbursement will be issued by VAFR upon submission of receipts following the Symposium.



1ST FLOOR - SKELTON CONFERENCE CENTER



2ND FLOOR - SKELTON CONFERENCE CENTER



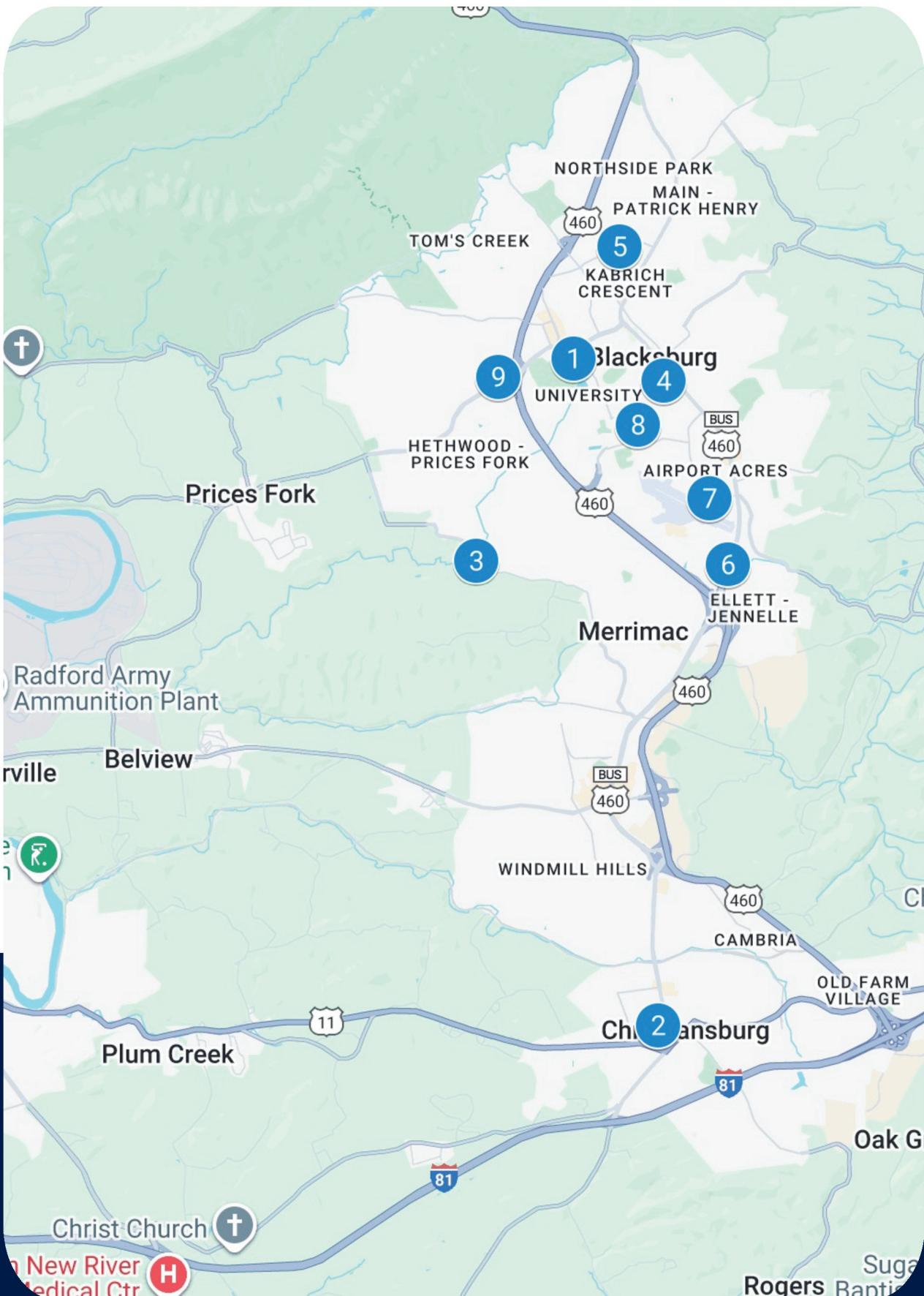
COURSE LOCATIONS

The Virginia First Responder Symposium is growing offering more classes, more hands-on opportunities, and expanded access to specialty facilities across the Blacksburg area. By partnering with local public safety agencies, we are able to provide higher-quality training environments and greater course variety than ever before.

All attendees will check in and complete registration at the Skelton Conference Center before traveling to their assigned course locations.

**Important Reminder:
When registering, please carefully review course dates, times, and locations. Several classes are held at off-site facilities.**

- 1** Skelton Conference Center
901 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg, VA 24061
- 2** Christiansburg Rescue
190 Depot St NW, Christiansburg, VA 24073
- 3** Blacksburg Fire Training Center
1636 Merrimac Rd, Blacksburg, VA 24060
- 4** Blacksburg Police Department
200 Clay St SW, Blacksburg, VA 24060
- 5** Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad
1300 Progress St NW, Blacksburg, VA 24060
- 6** Blacksburg Marriott
105 South Park Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060
- 7** Blacksburg Fire Station 3
407 Hubbard St, Blacksburg, VA 24060
Consider booking Home2Suites for lodging
1321 Rugby Ln., Blacksburg, VA 24060
- 8** Lane Stadium
185 Beamer Way, Blacksburg, VA 24061
- 9** Holiday Inn Express
1020 Plantation Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060



COURSE LOCATIONS



BLACKSBURG TRANSIT

Blacksburg Transit makes getting around simple. BT connects the Inn at Virginia Tech, campus venues, training sites, and downtown — with frequent service, marked stops, and real-time tracking through the BT4U app. Just hop on, ride, and enjoy Blacksburg without the hassle of parking.



Use the Blacksburg Transit app to find your nearest stop and choose your route.



Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the listed arrival time.



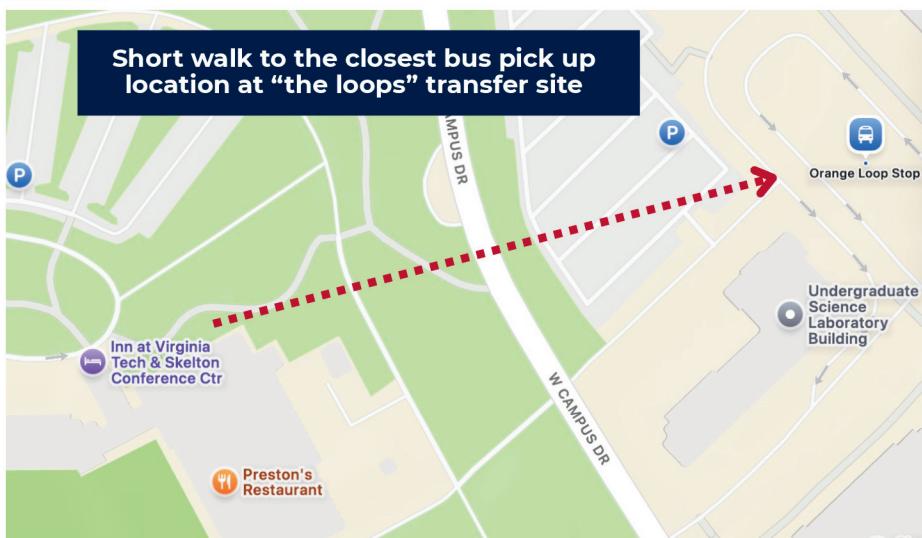
Enter through the front door. Take a seat when available, or hold the handrail if you're standing.



Pull the yellow cord when your stop is next. Buses only stop at marked bus stops.



Leave through the rear door (unless otherwise directed).





TRANSPORTATION GUIDE

BT4U Mobile App

- Real-time tracking
- Arrival times
- Nearest stops
- Plan your route



June Schedule

- Buses every 30–60 minutes
- 8 AM courses: depart Inn 7:00–7:15 AM
- Allow 60–90 minutes travel time

How to Ride

- Wait at marked BT stops
- Arrive 5 minutes early
- Pull yellow cord for stop
- Exit rear door

Common Destinations

- Skelton Conference Center – 901 Prices Fork Rd
- Lane Stadium – 185 Beamer Way
- Downtown Blacksburg – Main Street
- Blacksburg Police – 200 Clay St SW
- Blacksburg Fire #3 – 407 Hubbard St
- Blacksburg Fire #1 - 200 Progress St
- Blacksburg Rescue – 1300 Progress St NW
- Christiansburg Rescue – 190 Depot St NW
- Mellow Mushroom - 207 S. Main St.



About BT

- FREE for all riders
- Blacksburg + VT + Christiansburg
- Summer reduced frequency
- Designated Blacksburg Transit stops only

ridebt.org

or download the ride
blackburg transit app



EMS RIDE-ALONGS

Experience frontline EMS operations during the Virginia First Responder Symposium. Our ride-along program offers participants a unique, firsthand look at station life, response operations, and community service through daytime observational shifts with Christiansburg Rescue and Blacksburg Rescue.



Christiansburg Rescue Squad — serving since 1947 — is the primary municipal EMS provider for the Town of Christiansburg and Montgomery County, handling roughly 4,500 calls annually, the highest call volume among Montgomery County EMS agencies. The squad delivers both emergency medical services and technical rescue capabilities, operating with a commitment to professional, evidence-based care and a respectful, team-centered atmosphere. To learn more visit <https://www.christiansburg.org/753/EMS>

STEP INTO SERVICE WITH CHRISTIANSBURG & BLACKSBURG EMS

Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad (BVRs) — established in 1950 — is a large volunteer-based EMS and technical rescue agency serving the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, and surrounding Montgomery County. Blacksburg Rescue maintains a robust lineup including 6 ambulances and 2 quick response vehicles and operates 24/7 providing both Basic and Advanced Life Support plus technical rescue services (water rescue, cave rescue, extrication, etc.). To learn more visit <https://www.blacksburgrescue.org>





EMS RIDE-ALONG FAQ'S

What is the Ride-Along Program? A limited number of daytime EMS observational ride-along opportunities are available with Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad. Participants get a firsthand look at station culture, crew operations, and real-world EMS response.

Who is eligible? Any registered Symposium attendee with a full conference registration.

How much does it cost? Ride-alongs are free and included with your full conference registration.

What shifts are available? Daytime ride-along slots are available on specific dates and times provided in the Symposium registration brochure. Slots are limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

How do I sign up? You will sign up during Symposium registration. Ride-along slots will appear in the registration system as courses with selectable time blocks. Simply select the time you prefer. Once registered, you will automatically receive a confirmation email, reporting instructions, and required liability release forms to complete.

Do I need to submit anything before attending? Yes. All participants must complete and return the Ride-Along Release & Liability Form prior to their scheduled shift. Instructions for submission will be included in your confirmation email.

Can I book more than one slot? No. Each attendee may sign up for one ride-along to allow more participants to take part.

Where do I report? Ride-along participants will report directly to Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Exact address, parking instructions, and arrival details will be provided in your email.

What should I wear and bring? Station-appropriate attire (polo/shirt, EMS pants, closed-toe shoes), valid photo ID, symposium badge.

Do I need a background check? No background check is required for this program. A signed liability waiver is mandatory for all participants.

Can I earn CE hours for a ride-along? No. Ride-alongs are observational only and do not award continuing education credits.

Should I contact the agencies directly? No. All scheduling and questions must go through VAFR. Participating agencies cannot modify or add slots.

Is there a waitlist? No. At this time, no waitlist is offered for the Ride-Along Program.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)****EMS100 Core NCCR EMS Topics**

6/13/2026 - 6/16/2026	8:00 - 17:30	Smithfield
30	30 ALS: **/BLS: **	\$ -

VCU Center for Trauma & Critical Care Education

A four-day program delivering all mandatory NCCR hours for EMT-Paramedic recertification, blending instructor-led updates, skills review, and scenario-based learning. Students may enroll in the full 30-hour program or select individual modules.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMS 100 – Core NCCR EMS Topics Schedule

Course	Topic	Date	Time	Location
EMS 100-1	Airway	6/13/25	8:00 – 9:30	Smithfield
EMS 100-2	Airway	6/13/25	9:45 – 11:15	Smithfield
EMS 100-3	<i>Stop the Bleed</i>	6/13/25	11:30 – 12:30	Smithfield
EMS 100-4	<i>Stop the Bleed Instructor</i>	6/13/25	1:30 – 3:00	Smithfield
EMS 100-5	Cardiovascular	6/13/25	3:15 – 5:15	Smithfield
EMS 100-6	Cardiovascular	6/14/26	8:00 – 9:30	Smithfield
EMS 100-7	Medical	6/14/26	9:45 – 11:15	Smithfield
EMS 100-8	Trauma	6/14/26	11:30 – 12:30	Smithfield
EMS 100-9	Operations	6/14/26	1:30 – 3:00	Smithfield
EMS 100-10	Medical	6/14/26	3:15 – 5:15	Smithfield
EMS 100-11	Trauma	6/15/26	8:00 – 9:30	Smithfield
EMS 100-12	Cardiovascular	6/15/26	9:45 – 11:15	Smithfield
EMS 100-13	Medical	6/15/26	11:30 – 12:30	Smithfield
EMS 100-16	Cardiovascular	6/15/26	1:30 – 3:00	Smithfield
EMS 100-17	Medical	6/15/26	3:15 – 5:15	Smithfield
EMS 100-18	Airway	6/16/26	8:00 – 9:30	Latham B
EMS 100-19	Operations	6/16/26	9:45 – 11:15	Latham B
EMS 100-20	Medical	6/16/26	11:30 – 12:30	Latham B
EMS 100-21	Airway	6/16/26	1:30 – 3:00	Latham B
EMS 100-22	Medical	6/16/26	3:15 – 5:15	Latham B
EMS 100-23	Operations	6/16/26	4:30 – 5:30	Latham B

This four-day Core NCCR EMS Topics program is proudly sponsored by and delivered by expert instructors from the **VCU Health Center for Trauma and Critical Care Education**, providing high-quality, evidence-based EMS education.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS101 PreHospital Trauma Life Support

6/13/2026 - 6/14/2026	08:00 - 17:00	Solitude
24	16 ALS: **/BLS: **	\$ \$75
Davis EMS		

PTLS is the internationally recognized standard for prehospital trauma care. This course emphasizes a systematic, evidence-based approach to multisystem trauma, aligning closely with ATLS concepts to improve decision-making and patient outcomes in the field.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Open to EMTs, paramedics, nurses, physician assistants, physicians, and other prehospital care practitioners.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS105 Advanced Medical Life Support

6/15/2026 - 6/16/2026	08:00 - 17:00	Solitude
24	16 ALS: **/BLS: **	\$ \$75
Davis EMS		

AMLS uses a structured assessment pathway to help providers rapidly identify, prioritize, and manage medical emergencies. Endorsed by NAEMSP and accredited by CAPCE, this course reinforces clinical reasoning and improves confidence in handling challenging medical presentations.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Open to EMTs, paramedics, nurses, physician assistants, physicians, and other prehospital care practitioners.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS106 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

6/17/2026 - 6/18/2026	08:00 - 17:00	Solitude
24	16 ALS: **/BLS: **	\$ \$75
Davis EMS		

This NAEMT course teaches evidence-based medical interventions and operational principles for civilian tactical incidents. Aligned with current Co-TECC guidelines, TECC combines classroom learning and practical scenarios to build confidence treating patients in complex, high-risk settings.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

** CE credits per the Virginia Auxiliary Course CE Credit Breakdown:

<https://share.google/aLPJjq196upD55PZ6>



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS102 Geriatric Emergency Care

17 6/19/2026	⌚ 08:00 - 17:00	📍 Solitude
24	❖ 8 ALS: **/BLS: **	\$ \$50
👤 Davis EMS		

GEMS focuses on the unique physiology, presentations, and needs of geriatric patients. Participants review common conditions, assessment considerations, and communication strategies to provide safer, more effective care for this rapidly growing population.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Open to EMTs, paramedics, nurses, physician assistants, physicians, and other prehospital care practitioners.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS107 EMS & Forensic Evidence

17 6/15/2026	⌚ 08:00 - 17:00	📍 Cascades A
20	❖ 8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
👤 Clay Overholt		

This program reviews EMS responsibilities at potential or active crime scenes, including evidence preservation, documentation, and interagency coordination. Participants will learn how to provide excellent patient care while supporting investigative needs.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS108 Infectious Disease Control Basic

17 6/19/2026	⌚ 08:00 - 12:00	📍 Duck Pond
20	❖ 4 ALS: 19/BLS: 14	\$ -
👤 Mark Barenklau		

This course reviews OSHA regulations and best practices related to bloodborne pathogens and airborne diseases. Participants will learn how to protect themselves, their colleagues, and their families using updated CDC and VDH guidance tailored to EMS operations.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

** CE credits per the Virginia Auxiliary Course CE Credit Breakdown:

<https://share.google/aLPJjq196upD55PZ6>



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS109 Infectious Disease Control Officer (DICO)

6/19/2026	13:00 - 17:00	Duck Pond
20	4 ALS: 19/BLS: 14	\$ -

Mark Barenklau

This program covers regulatory responsibilities, exposure investigation, documentation, and communication for EMS agency DICOs. Content focuses on protecting workers, ensuring compliance, and responding effectively to exposure incidents.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS110 DICO UPDATE

6/17/2026	08:00 - 12:00	Duck Pond
20	4 ALS: 19/BLS: 14	\$ -

Mark Barenklau

Designed as a biennial refresher, this course reviews OSHA and OEMS requirements, evolving infectious disease risks, and updated CDC/VDH recommendations. Participants will reinforce best practices for managing exposures and advising agency leadership.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS111 Sports Injury/ Sports Medicine for EMS

6/19/2026	08:00 - 17:00	Duck Pond
24	8 ALS: 18/BLS: 13	\$ -

VA Tech Faculty

Presented from a sports medicine perspective, this course reviews common athletic injury patterns, mechanisms, and field management strategies. EMS providers will gain a sideline-focused understanding of sports emergencies from high school through collegiate levels.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)****EMS119 Mass Casualty**

6/17/2026	08:00 - 17:00	Latham B
20	8 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Sam Burnette		

Co-presented with the Virginia Office of EMS, this two-part course introduces initial MCI actions, triage using Virginia Triage Tags, and Medical Group leadership within the incident command system. Participants will build skills for both frontline and leadership roles in large-scale incidents.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)**EMS120 EMS Officer 1**

6/14/2026 - 6/15/2026	08:00 - 17:00	Latham D-E-F
20	16 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Chris Vernovai		

EMS Officer 1 prepares emerging leaders to manage day-to-day operations, personnel issues, safety, quality improvement, and community relationships. The course blends online pre-work with classroom discussion and practical leadership tools tailored to EMS agencies.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Participants must hold a current Virginia Certification of EMT or higher / No corrective action from EMS Agency, OMD, or OEMS / Submit copies of NIMS 100, 200, 700, 800 certificates or FEMA/VDFP Transcript / Review all online video presentations / Complete all homework assignments prior to class / Bring a computer/tablet with internet capability to class.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)**EMS122 CPR BLS Provider**

6/17/2026	08:00 - 12:00	Latham C
20	4 ALS: **/BLS: **	\$ \$25
Steve Hickey		

This course provides the knowledge and hands-on practice needed to perform high-quality CPR and basic life support for adults, children, and infants, culminating in BLS Provider certification upon successful completion.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS129 Terrorism for First Responders

6/13/2026	08:00 - 17:00	Cascades A
24	8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -

Capt Austin White, Virginia State Police

This course reviews domestic and international terrorism trends, radicalization indicators, and the roles of EMS in preparedness, response, and recovery. Content is tailored to threats and intelligence relevant to the Commonwealth.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS130 Helicopter Emergency Training

6/17/2026	13:00 - 17:00	Cascades A
20	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -

Carilion Life-Guard

Developed by Carilion Clinic Life-Guard, HEAT covers landing zone safety, aircraft-related emergencies, crash response, and emergency shutdown procedures. Participants will also receive guided, hands-on familiarization with air medical equipment.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS131 Difficult Airway Management

6/16/2026	13:00 - 17:00	Duck Pond
30	4 ALS: 16/BLS: 11	\$ -

Carilion Life-Guard

Through four intensive skills stations, participants practice cricothyrotomy, RSI preparation and execution, airway decontamination using SALAD techniques, BIAD placement, and pediatric airway management. Pharmacology and clinical decision-making for high-risk airways are emphasized.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Active Virginia OEMS certification



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS134 Becoming Dementia Capable

6/16/2026	08:00 - 12:00	Cascades A
30	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Kimberly Davis		

This course reviews dementia progression, common presentations in EMS, de-escalation strategies, therapeutic communication, and available community resources. Content aligns with the Virginia Dementia State Plan and highlights the key role of EMS in early recognition and support.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS139 Drugs and Meth Labs

6/15/2026	13:00 - 17:00	Latham B
30	4 ALS: 19/BLS: 14	\$ -
Detective Jeff Brown		

This course provides an overview of commonly encountered illicit substances, methamphetamine production, and associated environmental and personal risks. Emphasis is placed on scene safety, situational awareness, and protecting responders from harm.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS145 Best Practices, Agency Field Training Officer

6/13/2026	13:00 - 17:00	Latham D-E-F
24	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Mike Garnett		

Participants will explore best practices for FTO program start-up, roles and responsibilities, teaching strategies, liability considerations, and ongoing program evaluation. The course is ideal for agencies building or refining their FTO structure.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Active Virginia OEMS certification



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS146 Pig Hearts & Pit Crews / Polar Bear Plunge

📅 6/14/2026	⌚ 13:00 - 17:00	📍 Latham B
👤 24	💠 4 ALS: 17/19/BLS: 12/14	\$ -
👤 Becky Anhold		

This engaging 4-hour class uses pig heart anatomy to reinforce cardiac concepts and builds team-based pit crew CPR skills through realistic arrest scenarios. The Polar Bear Plunge will cover exertional hyperthermia recognition and treatment.

Prerequisites: Age: 18. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS147 Burn Treatment

📅 6/16/2026	⌚ 08:00 - 12:00	📍 Duck Pond
👤 24	💠 4 ALS: 18/BLS: 13	\$ -
👤 Elizabeth Bowers - VCU Health - Burn Center		

Participants will review burn pathophysiology, airway considerations, TBSA estimation, fluid resuscitation strategies, and pediatric burn nuances. Emphasis is placed on the first 24 hours of burn management in coordination with burn centers.

Prerequisites: Age: 18. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS160 Autism Response for First Responders

📅 6/13/2026	⌚ 08:00 - 12:00	📍 Latham D-E-F
👤 24	💠 4 ALS: 19/BLS: 14	\$ -
👤 Leah Richardson		

This hybrid course explains what autism is, how it may present in emergency situations, and how to communicate effectively, de-escalate crises, locate missing individuals, and connect families with follow-up resources. Content is designed for EMS, law enforcement, and fire rescue working collaboratively.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS161 Advanced Clinical Concepts for the Field Provider

6/14/2026	08:00 - 12:00	Latham B
20	4 ALS: 18/19/BLS: 13/14	\$ -
Lauren Cloud		

In this 4-hour rotation, participants move through modules on ECG interpretation, lab value application, professional communication, and self-esteem and culture in EMS. The format is ideal for providers seeking practical, immediately applicable clinical refreshers.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS162 Super Saturday: 8-Hour EMS CE Intensive

6/20/2026	08:00 - 17:00	Solitude
20	8 ALS: */BLS: *	\$ -
Various		

This CE marathon blends medical, trauma, operations, and communication topics into a fast-paced, scenario-driven day. Designed for both new and experienced providers, the course reinforces essential skills and builds confidence for real-world prehospital challenges.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMS 162 – Super Saturday: CE Intensive

Course	Session Title	Time	Instructor
EMS 162-1	<i>Is It a Full Moon Out Tonight?</i> Managing Behavioral Emergencies	8:00 – 9:00	Scott McCormack
EMS 162-2	<i>Understanding the Puzzle: Autism and the First Responder</i>	9:00 – 10:00	Scott McCormack
EMS 162-3	<i>Clear! How I Survived Burnout</i>	11:00 – 12:00	Scott McCormack
EMS 162-4	<i>The Hand-Off: Transferring Patient Care in Trauma Alerts and Critical Medical Situations</i>	1:00 – 2:00	Josh Andrews
EMS 162-5	<i>STEMI and SENSI: How I Shocked My Mentor—Literally</i>	2:00 – 3:00	Josh Andrews
EMS 162-6	<i>Scooby-Doo and Patient Care: Lessons from the Mystery Crew</i>	4:00 – 5:00	Josh Andrews



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS163 Burn Care Management

6/14/2026	8:00 - 12:00	Cascades A
20	4 ALS: 18/BLS: 13	\$ -
Dr. Mack Drake, DO		

This evidence-based session delivers a practical, EMS-centered approach to burn care management, spanning prehospital care through initial hospital handoff and early rehabilitation. Built for emergency medical services providers, paramedics, flight/air medical teams, and EMS leadership, the program emphasizes rapid assessment, early interventions, and seamless multidisciplinary collaboration to improve outcomes for burn patients in the field and on arrival to definitive care.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

The following classes are offered in the evening as bonus sessions.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS100-30 The Future of EMS: How AI Is Transforming EMS

6/14/2026	19:00 - 20:00	Cascades B
30	1 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Wesley Melson		

This course explores real-world AI applications in EMS, including predictive dispatching, automated documentation, and clinical decision support. Students will evaluate case studies and prepare for emerging technology in prehospital care.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS100-31 Introduction to Crisis Intervention Training

6/16/2026	19:00 - 21:00	Cascades B
30	2 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Courtland Knight		

This course provides Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel with introductory knowledge and skills to effectively respond to individuals experiencing a mental health or behavioral crisis. Participants will learn how to recognize signs of emotional distress, apply de-escalation and communication techniques, and ensure safety for all involved. The training emphasizes empathy, situational awareness, and collaboration with law enforcement and mental health professionals. Through interactive discussions and scenario-based exercises, EMS providers will gain confidence in managing crisis situations with professionalism and compassion. By course completion, participants will be better prepared to deliver safe, patient-centered care in high-stress behavioral emergencies.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS100-32 "Stayin' Alive: Comms, Conflict, and the Cortisol Curve"

6/17/2026	19:00 - 20:00	Cascades B
30	1 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Sue Carter		

This interactive session examines the link between psychological safety, communication, and clinical outcomes. Participants learn how stress and conflict affect performance and practice rapid strategies to de-escalate tension, support teammates, and protect both providers and patients.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Active Virginia OEMS certification

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS100-33 Your VAFR Membership: Get the Most & Get Involved

6/18/2026 - 6/18/2026	19:00 - 20:30	Cascades B
30	1.5 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Wesley Melson/Jeff Grimm		

This energetic session highlights scholarships, training opportunities, leadership roles, and statewide initiatives available through VAFR. Participants will learn practical ways to get involved at the district and state levels and help shape the future of Virginia's first responder community.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.



The Pediatric Track is offered in coordination with the Virginia Office of EMS Emergency Medical Services for Children (VA EMSC) Program, which works to improve emergency care for infants, children, and adolescents across the Commonwealth. This track emphasizes the unique assessment, treatment, and system considerations required for pediatric patients, recognizing that children are not simply "small adults."

Through focused education and system-based approaches, the Pediatric Track supports EMS and hospital providers in building confidence, competence, and preparedness when caring for pediatric patients in both high-acuity and low-frequency encounters.

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED101 Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP)

6/15/2026	8:00 - 17:00	Cascades B
24	8 ALS: **/BLS: **	\$ -
Jeremy Wampler		

Developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), is a training program for prehospital professionals on assessing and managing sick or injured infants and children. The course includes online knowledge components, a skills portion, and hands-on practice.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED102 Newborn Resuscitation Class (NRC)

6/18/2026	8:00 - 12:00	Cascades B
18	4 ALS: 16/BLS: 11	\$ -
Dusty Lynn		

Though some studies suggest that 3%–8% of newborns receive respiratory support during the first few minutes of life, only 0.1%–0.3% will require advanced cardiopulmonary interventions at birth. The NRC is a four hour in-person class on newborn resuscitation taught by experienced health care providers who have had both newborn resuscitation and EMS experience and is totally focused on newborn resuscitations that may occur outside of the hospital setting.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification



PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED103 Extremes in Pediatric Trauma

6/18/2026	13:00 - 14:30	Cascades B
24	1.5 ALS: 18/BLS: 13	\$ -
Dusty Lynn		

We all know that the kids are just small adults—or... are they? For many reasons, this is true. However, let us look at the general response in both the geriatric and pediatric patient and see just how many similarities there may be.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED104 The Littles Are Loaded

6/16/2026	8:00 - 12:00	Cascades B
24	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Tanya Trevilian		

A Not-So-Serious Guide to Serious Pediatric Transport. This class is a combined lecture/ skills class that focuses on the history of child passenger safety devices and devices for prehospital use. Class time will include hands-on practice with some common devices used in transporting children in an ambulance. Tanya Trevilian, MSN, RN, CCRN-Peds, CPN, TCRN, CPST. Tanya is Manager-Pediatric Trauma Services at Carilion Pediatric Trauma Center in Roanoke

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED105 Pediatric Cardiac Arrest Challenges: Train for the Stress beyond PALS

6/16/2026	13:00 - 15:00	Cascades B
24	2 ALS: 17/BLS: 12	\$ -
Mike Watkins		

This class presents focused skills and techniques for managing pediatric arrest in the prehospital setting. Pediatric cardiac arrest is one of the most stressful situations for EMS providers. This presentation will present scenarios of different complexities and will discuss and demonstrate how to work an EMS team through the challenges.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification



PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED106 Pediatric Trauma Triage: Where are we going with this?

17 6/16/2026	⌚ 15:00 - 16:00	📍 Cascades B
👤 24	💠 1 ALS: 18/BLS: 13	\$ -
👤 Mike Watkins		

There is a wide variety of pediatric trauma resources across the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is important for EMS providers to make decisions for their pediatric trauma patient. Often the critical pediatric trauma patient is the “easiest” decision. What about the less obvious injuries? What can the local hospital handle? What about the family of six from out of town? AND the next unit is 30 minutes away. This course presents case studies of challenging pediatric trauma patients and provides tools to increase provider confidence in pediatric trauma decision-making.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED107 Pediatric Medical Challenges in your Neighborhood

17 6/16/2026	⌚ 16:00 - 17:00	📍 Cascades B
👤 24	💠 1 ALS: 19/BLS: 14	\$ -
👤 Mike Watkins		

What are the pediatric medical challenges in your neighborhood? This course provides a brief overview of the variety of complex and not-so complex medical conditions an EMS provider may face and options to manage them. What additional resources may be available to providers to care for these patients?

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED108 EMS Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator Workshop

17 6/17/2026	⌚ 8:00 - 12:00	📍 Cascades B
👤 24	💠 4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
👤 Michael Garnett		

Ever wonder what a Prehospital PECC is, or even what they do? The PECC is a person within an EMS agency that supports and champions the preparedness, training, and safe delivery of pediatric care to the community. This workshop will present information on how to build a solid pediatric program within your EMS agency.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification



PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED109 Fundamentals of Agency-Based Pediatric Training

6/17/2026	13:00 - 17:00	Cascades B
24	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Michael Garnett		

This course provides EMS educators and agency training officers with a practical framework for designing, coordinating, and validating effective in-house pediatric training programs. Participants will explore common challenges in agency pediatric training, methods for conducting needs assessments, gap analyses and strategies for developing clear and measurable pediatric training objectives.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED111 "The First 28 days"

6/17/2026	13:00 - 17:00	Duck Pond
24	4 ALS: 19/BLS: 14	\$ -
Sarah Curry		

The course also introduces tools for lesson planning, integrating simulation and scenario-based learning, and ensuring pediatric training aligns with state and national pediatric performance standards and real-world patient-care needs. By the end of the session, attendees will understand how to create purposeful, engaging, and evidence-based training that strengthens EMS provider competency and agency pediatric readiness.

Prerequisites: Age: 18. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (PED)

PED110 Inclusive Emergency Management and Response

6/20/2026	8:00 - 12:00	Cascades B
24	2 ALS: 19/BLS: 14	\$ -
Seb M. Prohn, Ph.D.		

Emergency Medical Services are better prepared than ever to support community members with multiple and complex disabilities. Yet in many communities, significant communication gaps remain between first responders and youth with disabilities, gaps that can increase risk during an emergency, especially when individuals do not communicate verbally. This presentation creates an opportunity for direct dialogue between a Virginian with complex disabilities, his family, and Virginia's first responders. Together, they will share practical strategies for supporting people with disabilities during emergencies and for planning with them to ensure safer, more inclusive emergency responses.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Participants must hold an active Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) certification



LEADERSHIP (L)

L100 VAVRS Auxiliary Management

17	6/19/2026 - 6/20/2026	⌚ - 08:00 - 17:00	📍 Cascades A
👤	30	💠 16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
👤	Debbie Rohr		

Engaging session covering officer roles, bylaws, parliamentary procedure, stress management, and navigating challenging meetings. Guest presenters provide practical insights for effective auxiliary leadership.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

LEADERSHIP (L)

L110 Bylaws, Policies, & Robert's Rules

17	6/15/2026	⌚ - 08:00 - 17:00	📍 Duck Pond
👤	20	💠 8 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
👤	Ken Morgan		

Interactive session on bylaws, operating rules, and using Robert's Rules to manage meetings confidently. Includes hands-on practice with real-world scenarios.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.

LEADERSHIP (L)

L106 EMS Agency Leadership

17	6/20/2026	⌚ - 08:00 - 17:00	📍 Latham C
👤	20	💠 8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
👤	Jeff Grimm		

Covers administrative responsibilities, operational oversight, regulatory needs, and practical strategies for success. Participants receive a resource notebook and key contacts.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.

LEADERSHIP (L)

L108 Grant Writing, Rescue Squad Assistance

17	6/18/2026	⌚ - 08:00 - 12:00	📍 Cascades A
👤	24	💠 4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
👤	Michael Berg		

Workshop covering RSAF program structure, scoring, best practices, and hands-on grant writing exercises.



Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

LEADERSHIP (L)

L109 Recruitment and Retention Strategies That Actually Work

6/18/2026	- 13:00 - 17:00	Cascades A
30	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Dave English		

Workshop covering Workforce Utilization Model, psychological principles, business strategies, early flight-risk indicators, and culture-building interventions.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

LEADERSHIP (L)

L111 Becoming a VAFR Officer: Roles, Responsibilities & Expectations

6/19/2026	- 13:00 - 17:00	Latham B
20	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Jeff Grimm		

Foundational session covering association governance, officer expectations, strategic roles, and responsibilities within VAFR.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.

MENTAL HEALTH (MH)**MH401 Resilient Response: Mental Health, Wellness & Survival in Public Safety**

 6/19/2026 - 6/20/2026	 - 08:00 - 17:00	 Marriott
 24	 16 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$
 Various		

Resilient Response is a focused two-day training experience addressing the psychological realities of modern first response. This workshop moves beyond awareness to deliver practical, field-relevant strategies for managing stress, trauma, and cumulative exposure while maintaining performance and personal well-being. Topics include emotional resilience, illicit substance trend awareness, rapid reset techniques, peer support models, family-centered wellness approaches, veteran support initiatives, and suicide prevention training. Participants will leave with tangible tools they can apply immediately—both individually and within their agencies. This workshop is appropriate for responders at all career stages and across all public safety disciplines, as well as leaders seeking to strengthen workforce resilience and retention.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

See next page for two-day agenda.





Resilient Response: Mental Health, Wellness & Survival in Public Safety - Agenda

DAY 1 — FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Foundational wellness, trauma, crisis management, and substance trends

8:30 – 9:00 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

VAFR Leadership | Ingris Coronado

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Resilience & Emotional Wellness for First Responders

Dan Elash, PhD

10:45 – 12:15 PM

Emerging Illicit Substance Trends & First Responder Management

Christopher P. Holstege, MD

1:15 – 2:45 PM

Built to Last: Rapid Reset Tools for First Responders

Beth Frackleton

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Wisdom & Wellbeing: Peer Support for Workplace Resilience

Region Ten Community Services Board

4:30 – 5:00 PM

Day 1 Wrap-Up & Discussion

DAY 2 — SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Family systems, community care, suicide prevention, veteran support

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Behind the Badge: How Family Systems Impact Responder Health

Kristina Moore

10:45 – 12:15 PM

Home Base Strong: Family Support for First Responders

Kristina Moore

1:15 – 2:00 PM

Heads Up: Veteran Coalition & Early Head Trauma Detection

Natalie Worthan

2:00 – 3:30 PM

VA Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training

Katie Foust, LCSW

3:30 - 4:00 PM

Closing Reflections & Evaluations



MENTAL HEALTH (MH)

MH402 CISM - GRIN Assisting Groups and Individuals in Crisis

6/14/2026 - 6/16/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Mariott
24	24 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ - \$50.00
Patricia Copeland		

Designed to present the core elements of a comprehensive, systematic, and multi-component crisis intervention curriculum, the Group Crisis Intervention course will prepare participants to understand a wide range of crisis intervention services. Fundamentals of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) will be outlined, and participants will leave with the knowledge and tools to provide several group crisis interventions, specifically demobilizations, defusing, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD). The need for appropriate follow-up services and referrals, when necessary, will also be discussed. ICISF Certificate of Completion including General Continuing Education Units. Participants are required to complete a course evaluation prior to receiving this Certificate of Completion.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

MENTAL HEALTH (MH)

MH403 Advanced Assisting Individuals in Crisis

6/17/2026 - 6/18/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Mariott
24	13 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Patricia Copeland		

Most psychological crisis intervention is done one person to one person, rather than in groups. These interactions may be face-to-face (in person or electronically), telephonic, via email, or even via text messaging. The SAFER-R model of individual psychological crisis intervention was developed to serve as a simple protocol or procedural guide to aid in conducting such individual psychological crisis interventions. This two day course builds upon, and is the logical continuation of, the basic ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS course. Using the SAFER-R framework as a platform, participants are introduced to scenario based variations of the model. Topics such as advanced psychological triage, grief, suicide intervention, challenges in follow up and referral, and self-care are addressed. In addition, participants are asked to evaluate pre-recorded video examples of crisis intervention using the SAFER-R model. This course is designed for anyone in the fields of Business & Industry Crisis Intervention, Disaster Response, Education, Emergency Services, Employee Assistance, Healthcare, Homeland Security, Mental Health, Military, Spiritual Care, and Traumatic Stress. After the completion of this ICISF course, with verified full attendance, participants are eligible to receive an electronic ICISF Certificate of Completion including General Continuing Education Units. Participants are required to complete a course evaluation prior to receiving this Certificate of Completion.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. (CISM) Assisting Individuals in Crisis (MH102)

MENTAL HEALTH (MH)**MH405 Mental Health First Aid for First Responders**

17 6/13/2026	⌚ - 08:00 - 17:00	📍 Cascades B
👤 20	❖ 8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -

 Steve Southworth

Mental Health First Aid for Fire & EMS is an 8-hour course specifically designed for Fire and EMS personnel. This course will help first responders recognize persons who are experiencing mental health problems, obtain the knowledge to effectively communicate with those during a crisis, understand the immediate and outreach resources available to assist those in need, learn the practical means to improve one's own mental health, and be attentive toward the wellbeing of fellow crew members. The following disorders will be covered: Acute Anxiety/Depression, PTSD, Psychosis, Substance Use/Overdose, and Suicidal Behaviors. A very practical information and resource manual will be provided for each participant to keep. Upon completion of the class, participants will be awarded a 3-year certification as a Mental Health First Aider (MHFA USA).

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.





PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY (CHAP)

PSC301 Foundation of Chaplaincy

6/13/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Christiansburg EMS
24	8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -

Robin BeMiller

This introductory day explores the essential role of chaplains within first responder culture. Participants will learn the foundations of ethical practice, healthy boundaries, confidentiality, and gaining trust with police, fire, EMS, and dispatch personnel. Ideal for new chaplains, peer supporters, or responders curious about the chaplaincy role. Can be taken as a stand-alone session.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.

PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY (CHAP)

PSC302 Trauma & Crisis Response

6/14/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Hilton Garden Inn
24	8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -

Robin BeMiller

This session focuses on spiritual and emotional care during moments of crisis. Participants will practice spiritual first aid, learn to recognize trauma reactions, and build skills to remain steady and supportive during high-stress incidents. Can be taken as a stand-alone session.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.

PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY (CHAP)

PSC303 Practical Skills & Interventions

6/15/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Hilton Garden Inn
24	8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -

Robin BeMiller

A hands-on skills day designed to prepare chaplains and peer supporters for real-world scenarios. Students will practice death notifications, family support, crisis debriefings, and effective communication during emotionally intense situations. Includes simulations and guided role-play. Can be taken as a stand-alone session.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.



PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY (CHAP)

PSC304 Community and Systems

6/16/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Hilton Garden Inn
24	8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Robin BeMiller		

Day 4 begins a two-part sequence exploring the broader systems chaplains operate within. Topics include collaborating with agencies, understanding cultural and community diversity, resource mapping, and building partnerships to support responders and families. Must be taken together with Day 5. Not available as a single-day option.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.

PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY (CHAP)

PSC305 Integration and Commissioning

6/17/2026 - 6/17/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Hilton Garden Inn
24	8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Robin BeMiller		

The final day completes the two-part series begun in Day 4. Participants will develop long-term ministry and support plans, focus on chaplain self-care, engage in peer feedback, and participate in a commissioning ritual affirming their ongoing service. Must be taken together with Day 4. Not available as a single-day option.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+. Must take PSC104





TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T101 Basic & Light Duty Rescue Awareness

6/13/2026 - 6/15/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Lane Stadium
30	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Jimmy Rice		

Entry-level rope rescue course covering low-angle systems, ladder use, rope handling, and safety-based rescue techniques.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+ **.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T102 Vertical Rescue - High Angle Operations

6/16/2026 - 6/18/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Lane Stadium
30	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Jimmy Rice		

Second-level rope rescue course covering rappelling, ascending, lowering, hauling systems, and high-angle rigging.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+ **. Basic & Light Duty Rescue Awareness within the last 5 years; skills pretest.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T103 Advanced Vertical Rescue

6/19/2026 - 6/21/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Lane Stadium
30	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Jimmy Rice		

Advanced rope rescue course focusing on highlines, haul/lower systems, tensioned systems, and complex rescues.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+ **. Basic & Light Duty Rescue Awareness and Vertical Rescue – High Angle Operations within the last 5 years; skills pretest.



TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T107 Farm Machinery Extrication - Basic

6/17/2026 - 6/18/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Fire Training
20	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Wayne Myers		

Course covering farm-machine entrapment, agricultural chemical hazards, stabilization, and safe extrication.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Vehicle Rescue Awareness & Operations.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T108 Farm Machinery Extrication - Advanced

6/19/2026 - 6/20/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	FARM
20	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Lee Roe		

Advanced techniques for complex machinery entrapments and multi-hazard agricultural operations.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Farm Machinery Extrication – Basic.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T110 Vehicle Rescue Awareness & Operations

6/13/2026 - 6/14/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Fire Training
20	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Greg Burton		

Course emphasizing safe, efficient rescue operations using hand tools, power tools, hydraulic equipment, and airbags; NFPA aligned.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T111 Advanced Vehicle Extrication

6/15/2026 - 6/16/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00 -	Fire Training
20	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Greg Burton		

Course covering hybrid/electric vehicle considerations, advanced stabilization, tunneling, floor removal, and complex entrapments.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Vehicle Rescue Awareness & Operations.



TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T113 School Bus Extrication

6/17/2026 - 6/18/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Fire Training
20	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Greg Burton		

Course teaching bus construction, stabilization, multi-patient rescue, equipment use, and tactical considerations.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Vehicle Rescue Awareness & Operations; ability to climb ladder with 75 lbs.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T114 Search & Rescue Awareness

6/15/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Assembly
30	8 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Billy Chrimes		

8-hour introductory course covering clue awareness, navigation, search tactics, crime scene considerations, and statewide best practices.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T115 Search & Rescue Operations

6/16/2026 - 6/17/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Assembly
30	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Billy Chrimes		

16-hour course covering navigation, litter operations, trail marking, advanced search tactics, and outdoor operational readiness.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Search & Rescue Awareness.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T112 Search & Rescue Lost Person

6/18/2026 - 6/19/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Assembly
30	17 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Billy Chrimes		

16-hour workshop based on Koester's research, covering behavioral statistics, dementia-related wandering profiles, abducted children, and tactical planning.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

**TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)****T116 Introduction to Swift Water**

6/18/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Latham B
20	8 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Kevin Bise		

One-day course covering hydrology, safety, strategy, equipment, and medical considerations in water-related emergencies.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)**T117 Swift Water Rescue**

6/19/2026 - 6/21/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	OFF Site
20	8 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
Kevin Bise		

Course covering hydrology, rescuer safety, equipment, swift-water operations; includes swim/tread/dive pretest.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Introduction to Swift Water within the past year; physical fitness; swim/dive pretest.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)**T119 Traffic Incident Management (TIMS)**

6/16/2026	- 1300 - 1700	Cascades A
30	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
Chris Craft		

Course teaching multidisciplinary traffic incident response, safe roadway operations, and responder/motorist protection.

Prerequisites: Age: 16+.



TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T120 Wilderness Medical Provider (BRAM)

17 6/14/2026	⌚ - 0800-1700	📍 Latham C
20	💠 16 ALS: **/BLS: **	\$ -
<p>👤 Alex Axtell</p>		

Course covering trauma, environmental illness, toxicology, extrication, improvised skills, trip planning, and wilderness survival.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Active Virginia OEMS EMT or higher.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T121 EVOC Trailer Operations

17 6/17/2026	⌚ - 08:00 - 12:00	📍 Cascades A
20	💠 4 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
<p>👤 Doug Eberhardt</p>		

Hands-on training in trailer towing, maneuvering, stability, and operational safety for EMS/fire trailer operations.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Current EVOC certification.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T123 Drone Responder - Basic Operations Course

17 6/20/2026	⌚ - 08:00 - 17:00	📍 Duck Pond
10	💠 8 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -
<p>👤 Tarry Pribble</p>		

Course covering UAS basics, FAA interactions, Part 107 fundamentals, aerodynamics, flight principles, and hands-on flight skills.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T124 Rescue Task Force Best Practices

17 6/20/2026	⌚ - 08:00 - 17:00	📍 Smithfield
20	💠 8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -
<p>👤 Mike Garnett</p>		

Course covering NFPA 3000, TECC principles, RTF team structure, tactical operations, and command considerations.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.



TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T125 Special Events and Off-road Operations

6/13/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Latham B
20	8 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -

Tarry Pribble

8-hour course covering safety, Virginia law, riding skills, and hands-on off-road operation.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Current EVOC certification.

TECHNICAL RESCUE (TECH)

T126 OSHA 30-Hour Course

6/13/2026 - 6/16/2026	- 08:00 - 05:00	Holiday Inn
25	30 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$ -

Johnny Nugent

Four-day OSHA curriculum covering PPE, ergonomics, machine guarding, safety programs, and regulatory interpretation.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Attendance required all four days.



INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

ICS300 Intermediate Incident Command System

- 6/12/2026 - 6/14/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Blacksburg Rescue
25	21 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -

Sam Burnette

This 21-hour course is designed for front-line personnel with supervisory responsibilities to serve in a command or general staff position. The curriculum includes instruction in general principles associated with incident command, along with various tabletop exercises that allow students to put this knowledge to practical use. This class will be held off-site.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Applicants must submit documented completion of all of the following prerequisites to be considered for enrollment. Successful completion of accredited versions of: (Required) IS 100, IS 200, IS700, and IS 800. Additional details will be sent after you register.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)

ICS400 Advanced Incident Command System

- 6/19/2026 - 6/20/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Blacksburg Rescue
25	15 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$ -

Robbie Symons

This training is a 15-hour course that provides training on the advanced resource management provisions of the Incident Command System (ICS). Course topics include explaining the special management challenges of major incidents such as unified command, multi-agency coordination systems, and emergency operations centers, as well as explaining how Multi-Agency Coordination Systems (MACS) are established and interface with emergency operations centers. This class will be held off-site.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Applicants must document completion of all of the following prerequisites to be considered for enrollment. Successful completion of accredited versions of: IS 100, IS 200, IS 700, IS800 and ICS300. Additional details will be sent after you register.



The EMS Education Coordinator Course is designed to prepare experienced EMS educators and leaders to effectively manage, oversee, and support high-quality EMS education programs within the Commonwealth of Virginia. This course focuses on the administrative, regulatory, and instructional responsibilities required of EMS Education Coordinators, with emphasis on compliance, program management, instructor oversight, student evaluation, and collaboration with the Virginia Office of EMS.

Registration for this course is by invitation only and is administered by the Virginia Office of EMS. Eligibility, selection, and enrollment are managed in accordance with current Virginia Office of EMS Education Coordinator requirements and policies.

For additional information regarding eligibility, prerequisites, and program requirements, participants should refer to the Virginia Office of EMS – Education Coordinator Resources.

EDUCATION COORDINATOR (EC)

EC1 Virginia Office of EMS Education Coordinator Institute

6/16/2026 - 6/18/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Blackburg Rescue
30	24 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$
Virginia Office of EMS		

The Virginia Office of EMS Education Coordinator Course prepares EMS educators and leaders to plan, administer, and oversee EMS education programs in compliance with Virginia OEMS regulations. Participants will gain foundational knowledge in course administration, instructor coordination, student management, and regulatory documentation.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. By Invite Only. See Virginia Office of EMS Education Coordinator page for addition info.

EDUCATION COORDINATOR (EC)

EC2 Virginia Office of EMS Education Coordinator Update

6/19/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Latham C
24	8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$
Virginia Office of EMS		

The Virginia Office of EMS Instructor Update provides current EMS instructors with updates on OEMS policies, educational standards, and instructional best practices to maintain compliance and enhance teaching effectiveness.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Current Virginia Office of EMS Education Coordinator



INSTRUCTOR (I)

I100 Methods of Instruction

- 6/16/2026 - 6/17/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Smithfield
20	8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$
Kathy Eubank		

Open to anyone interested in becoming a VAFR Instructor, this class provides skilled instruction in basic adult education processes. Students will participate in classroom scenarios as well as requirements for becoming and maintaining instructional certification with the VAFR. Kathy Eubank is Business Manager for Goochland County Fire and Rescue Department, president of Manchester Vol Rescue Squad, and VAFR Life Member. - Steve Ayers is a Realtor in Blacksburg and Life member of both Blacksburg Vol Rescue Squad and VAFR

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I101 EVOC Instructor

- 6/18/2026 - 6/20/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Smithfield
24	8 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$
Gary Dalton		

This course is designed for rescue personnel who have completed the basic EVOC course and who wish to become an instructor. The EVOC Instructor program is patterned after the Department of Transportation Safety's EVOC guide.

Prerequisites: Age: 21+. 21+ years old, 3 years active membership, Basic EVOC 1 year, TIMS certification, Methods of Instruction or equivalent.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I102 Vehicle Rescue Instructor

- 6/13/2026 - 6/14/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Fire Trning
5	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$
Greg Burton		

This course is designed for rescue personnel who have completed the Vehicle Rescue Awareness and Operations Course and who wish to progress to the level of instructor.

Prerequisites: Age: 21+. Vehicle Rescue A&O certification held for 2+ years.



INSTRUCTOR (I)

I103 AHA BLS CPR Instructor

- 6/16/2026 - 6/17/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Latham D & E & F
5	16 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$

Steve Hickey

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Current AHA BLS Provider certification.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I104 Basic & Light Duty Rescue Instructor

- 6/13/2026 - 6/15/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Lane Stadium
5	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$

Jimmy Rice

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Basic & Light Duty Rescue certification held 2+ years.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I105 Vertical Rescue - Instructor

- 6/16/2026 - 6/18/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Lane Stadium
5	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$

Jimmy Rice

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Vertical Rescue certification held 2+ years.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I106 Advanced Vertical Rescue- Instructor

- 6/19/2026 - 6/21/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Lane Stadium
5	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$

Jimmy Rice

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Advanced Vertical Rescue certification held 2+ years.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I107 Farm Machinery Basic - Instructor

- 6/17/2026 - 6/18/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Fire Trning
5	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$

Wayne Myers

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Farm Machinery Basic certification.



INSTRUCTOR (I)

I108 Farm Machinery Advanced - Instructor

- 6/19/2026 - 6/20/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	OFF Site
5	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$

Lee Roe

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Farm Machinery Advanced certification.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I109 School Bus Rescue Instructor

- 6/17/2026 - 6/18/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Fire Trning
5	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$

John Craig

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. School Bus Rescue certification; 2+ years heavy rescue experience.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I110 Advanced Vehicle Rescue Instructor

- 6/15/2026 - 6/16/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	Fire Trning
5	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$

John Craig

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Advanced Vehicle Rescue certification; 2+ years advanced rescue experience.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I112 Swift Water Rescue - Instructor

- 6/18/2026 - 6/21/2026	- 08:00 – 17:00	OFF Site
4	16 ALS: LCCR/BLS: LCCR	\$

Prerequisites: Age: 18+. Swift Water Rescue certification.



INSTRUCTOR (I)

I115 Infectious Disease Control Instructor

- 6/18/2026	- 08:00 - 12:00	Duck Pond
5	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$

Mark Barenklau

You will be contacted by the Lead Instructor to discuss the requirements to attend.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I116 DICO Officer - Instructor

- 6/18/2026 - 6/18/2026	- 13:00 – 17:00	Duck Pond
5	4 ALS: 20/BLS: 15	\$

Mark Barenklau

You will be contacted by the Lead Instructor to discuss the requirements to attend.

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

INSTRUCTOR (I)

I117 TIMS Instructor

- 6/13/2026 - 6/14/2026	- 0900 - 1500	Duck Pond
24	10 ALS: 20/BLS: 15. DCJS - 10	\$

Frank Cheatham

Prerequisites: Age: 18+.

**There is no registration fee to attend the TIMS Instructor course.



FIRE (FIRE)

FIRE501 NFA Incident Safety Officer

- 6/13/2026- 6/14/2026	– 08:00 – 17:00	Blacksburg Fire Station #3
24	ALS: /BLS:	\$

Thomas Andrews

This two-day course examines the Safety Officer's role at emergency responses. A specific focus on operations within an Incident Command System (ICS) as a Safety Officer is a main theme. Response to all-hazard types of situations will be emphasized. This is a National Fire Academy Program.

Prerequisites: Age: ICS100 and ICS 200

FIRE (FIRE)

FIRE502 Recruitment and Retention Certification

- 6/15/2026- 6/15/2026	– 08:00 - 17:00	Blacksburg Fire Station #3
24	ALS: /BLS:	\$

International Association of Fire Chief's - Workforce Solutions

Strengthen your department's recruitment and retention efforts with our one-day Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Certification course that gives you proven strategies to build and maintain a strong volunteer team. This hands-on training tackles real challenges like finding qualified candidates, overcoming common objections, and keeping your best people engaged through practical exercises, role-playing scenarios, and group problem-solving that you can immediately apply in your department. You'll leave with a complete action plan, effective interview techniques, marketing strategies that work, and the confidence to present compelling cases to leadership for support and resources. Whether you're struggling to attract new volunteers, need fresh ideas to boost retention, or want to professionalize your approach to building membership, this free certification provides the tools and expertise to create measurable improvements that strengthen your team and better serve your community. Discover how the right strategies can help you build the committed, reliable volunteer force your department needs to thrive.

**FIRE (FIRE)****FIRE503 Building Collaborative Team**

- 6/16/2026- 6/16/2026	– 08:00 – 17:00	Blacksburg Fire Station #3
24	ALS: /BLS:	\$

International Association of Fire Chief's - Workforce Solutions

Strong teams don't happen by accident, and learning to build them is a skill that transforms both individual careers and entire departments. This one-day course equips participants with the tools to create environments where people genuinely want to work together and support each other's success. You'll develop the ability to turn diverse personalities and conflicting perspectives into unified, high-performing teams that accomplish more than the sum of their parts. Participants gain confidence in facilitating difficult conversations, resolving conflicts before they escalate, and building trust that makes teamwork feel natural rather than forced. The skills learned in this program translate into improved job satisfaction, reduced workplace tension, and more effective emergency responses when coordination and communication matter most. You'll leave with practical techniques for creating psychological safety, establishing clear expectations, and maintaining team cohesion even during high-stress situations. The result is stronger working relationships, enhanced department culture, and personal satisfaction that comes from leading teams that inspire genuine pride among their members.

FIRE (FIRE)**FIRE504 Advanced Aggressive Aerial Operations**

- 6/18/2026- 6/20/2026	– 08:00 – 17:00	Blacksburg Fire Station #3
24	ALS: /BLS:	\$

John Burrus

Classroom Thursday evening 6pm, Hands on Friday and Saturday. Course Description: Training firefighters to become aerial operators, fire agencies tend to rely on their own internally designed basic aerial training courses or use a packaged professional program such as IFSTA or Jones and Barlett (the Virginia Department of Fire Programs currently uses IFSTA). These courses are conservative in nature because they are geared toward the apprentice aerial operator and give a broad perspective on all types of aerials. Beyond this basic class, there are no truly "advanced" courses that teach modern aerial positioning and advanced stabilization, operating, and offensive firefighting tactics. Modern aerial trucks are designed and built for high performance based on the latest NFPA 1900 & 1910 standards, but few aerial operators know where their specific aerial apparatus operation boundaries lie. The Advanced Aggressive Aerial Operations (AAA0) course fills the gap between basic aerial instruction and advanced knowledge and operations by teaching how the driver/operator can gain the increased performance and maximum advantage from their modern aerial device.

YOUTH (K)

K100 Rescue Camp for Youth

📅 - 6/18/2026- 6/20/2026	⌚ - 08:00 - 17:00	📍 Latham D&E&F
👤 40	◆ ALS: /BLS:	\$ - \$50.00
👤 Gail Rice		

A fun-filled, exciting program for ages 8-16, in which students participate in classroom and hands-on practical training sessions in basic EMS, fire, and technical rescue skills. Participants will have the opportunity to observe and/or participate in several of the ongoing Rescue College courses. Based on availability, the session will include interactive demonstrations involving members of the Fire Service and local and state law enforcement. Saturday afternoon will include swimming at the local pool. (Bring a bathing suit)

Prerequisites: Age: 8-16.





LAW ENFORCEMENT (LE)

LE601 Red Dot Pistol Sight Training

- 6/15/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Blacksburg PD
20	ALS: /BLS:	\$
Nick Ratliff		

This one day red dot sight pistol course is designed for a range of students. This is not a beginner pistol course as students are expected to have an understanding of firearms safety. However, whether students are new to red dot shooting or have time and training in red dot shooter, there will be learning points for them. Newer red dot shooters will be afforded the opportunity to learn to be more consistent in finding the red dot on the draw of the handgun and utilizing it effectively. Experienced red dot shooters will be introduced to techniques to improve speed, efficiency, accuracy and overall effectiveness with the red dot pistol platform. This course is designed to enhance three pillars of shooting: grip, trigger control, and sight package. During the course, students will learn to emphasize shot accountability and how to push limits in training to improve overall performance.

LAW ENFORCEMENT (LE)

LE602 Impacts of Stress & Trauma

- 6/16/2026	– 09:00 – 11:00	Blacksburg PD
20	ALS: /BLS:	\$
Chris Parks and Kandace Miller, LCSW		

This workshop takes a practical look at how stress and trauma can affect us over time—both on and off the job. Participants will explore how past experiences, including early life experiences, can influence the way we respond to stress today. We'll discuss different types of stress and trauma exposure and how they may show up in our daily lives, relationships, and work. Most importantly, this session focuses on building awareness and learning effective strategies to manage stress, support overall wellness, and promote long-term resilience.

LAW ENFORCEMENT (LE)

LE603 Integrating Communication – Assessment and Tactics

- 6/16/2026- 6/17/2026	– T 1300-1700/W 0800-1700	Blacksburg PD
20	ALS: /BLS:	\$
Chris Parks and Kandace Miller, LCSW		

This workshop is an innovative, evidence-based approach to use-of-force training. ICAT provides first responding police officers with the tools, skills, and options they need to defuse a range of critical incidents successfully and safely. ICAT focuses on situations involving persons in crisis and those who are unarmed or armed with weapons other than firearms. The training program is anchored by the Critical Decision-Making Model that helps officers assess situations, make safe and effective decisions, and document and learn from their actions. ICAT incorporates different skill sets into a unified training approach that emphasizes scenario-based exercises, as well as lecture and case study opportunities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT (LE)

LE605 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

 - 6/19/2026	 - 08:00 - 17:00	 Blacksburg PD
 20	 ALS: /BLS:	\$

 Dr. Paul Author Phillips, Joshua Horner, Bryant Skeen

This Law Enforcement-only TECC course provides officers with practical, threat-based medical skills for high-risk operations. Training focuses on hemorrhage control, airway management, and casualty movement in austere and hostile environments, emphasizing rapid life-saving interventions prior to EMS arrival.



**TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TELE)****TELE701**

- 6/18/2026- 6/20/2026	- 08:00 - 17:00	Christiansburg Rescue
60	ALS: /BLS:	\$ -
Toby Akers		

This three day 9-1-1 Telecommunications Professional Development Series is designed to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and resilience of emergency communications professionals supporting public safety operations across the Commonwealth. The series addresses the evolving role of telecommunicators as the critical first point of contact in emergency response, emphasizing operational excellence, effective communication, wellness, and leadership.

Across three days, participants will explore a range of essential topics including call handling and caller management, stress and cognitive load, critical incident communications, interagency coordination, quality assurance, and emerging trends impacting 9-1-1 centers. Instruction blends practical scenarios, discussion, and real-world applications to support both frontline call takers and supervisory personnel.

This series is ideal for 9-1-1 telecommunicators, dispatch supervisors, training officers, and communications center leaders seeking to enhance performance, improve outcomes for callers and responders, and support sustainable careers in emergency communications.

See following pages for topic descriptions, agenda and instructor information.





Telecommunicator Track Agenda

Thursday – June 18, 2026

Theme: Foundations, Wellness, and Emerging Threats

- 08:00–08:20 | Opening Session & Morning Motivation – Valerie D'Intino & Toby Akers
- 08:20–08:30 | Break
- 08:30–09:30 | New Employees Are Friends, Not Food – Shannon White
- 09:30–09:45 | Break
- 09:45–11:45 | The 911 Chaplain's Corner: Caring Without Collapsing – Brandi Powell
- 11:45–13:00 | Lunch
- 13:00–14:00 | The Role of DWR as First Responders – Daniel Rabago
- 14:00–14:15 | Break
- 14:15–15:45 | Rescuers Behind the Headset: Combatting Human Trafficking and Internet Crimes Against Children – Kayla Stultz
- 15:45–16:00 | Break
- 16:00–17:00 | Building Resilient PSAPs Using NG911 Technology – VDEM Staff

Friday – June 19, 2026

Theme: Leadership, Technology, and Culture

- 08:00–09:00 | Customer Service: Who C.A.R.E.S.? – Dru Clarke
- 09:00–09:10 | Break
- 09:10–10:10 | Triggers, Trauma, and Telecommunicators – Brandi Powell
- 10:10–10:20 | Break
- 10:20–11:20 | Virginia Relay & 911 Professionals – Felecia Smith
- 11:20–11:30 | Break
- 11:30–12:30 | AI, the New Guy on the Team – JaCorey Glaude
- 12:30–13:30 | Lunch
- 13:30–14:30 | Leading in Crisis: A 911 Director's Perspective – Karima Holmes
- 14:30–14:40 | Break
- 14:40–15:40 | Culture at the Speed of Trust – Dru Clarke
- 15:40–15:50 | Break
- 16:00–17:00 | How to Lose a 911 Trainee in 10 Ways – Samantha Hawkins

Saturday – June 20, 2026

Theme: Crisis Response, Leadership, and Resilience

- 08:00–09:00 | CIT & MARCUS Alert Overview – Joey Thacker
- 09:00–09:10 | Break
- 09:10–11:10 | Leading While Under the Headset – Shannon White
- 11:10–11:25 | Break
- 11:25–12:25 | Tactical Communications – Melissa Lounsbury
- 12:25–13:30 | Lunch
- 13:30–14:30 | A.R.M.O.U.R. – Tiffany Grier
- 14:30–14:40 | Break
- 14:40–15:40 | Trauma Tapping: Change Your Energy – Shannon White
- 15:40–15:50 | Break
- 16:00–17:00 | Hatching Resilience: Building a COOP for Dispatch Success – Jesse Merritt



Telecommunicator Track – Courses & Descriptions

CIT & MARCUS Alert Overview

This course provides a foundational overview of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and its implementation in Virginia. While not a certification course, it introduces key CIT concepts, the history of CIT, and its application within PSAPs. The session also examines MARCUS Alert legislation, including mandates placed on PSAPs and how co-response models are being implemented across the Commonwealth, with a focus on the New River Valley model and its two distinct co-response approaches.

AI, the New Guy on the Team

This session explores the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in emergency communications. Participants will examine how AI tools support telecommunicators through real-time transcription, quality assurance, predictive analytics, and workload balancing—while reinforcing that AI is designed to support, not replace, human decision-making. Emphasis is placed on ethical implementation, data privacy, transparency, and human oversight, with practical examples from ECC environments.

Tactical Communications

Designed for telecommunicators and public safety professionals new to tactical communications, this course focuses on advanced communication strategies that improve situational awareness, coordination with field units, and information accuracy during tactical and rapidly evolving incidents.

Hatching Resilience: Building a COOP for Dispatch Success

This session walks participants through the process of creating a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for dispatch centers. Using a practical, step-by-step approach, attendees learn how to ensure mission-critical services continue during disruptions and disasters, with an emphasis on preparedness, redundancy, and resilience.

Virginia Relay & 911 Professionals

This course provides an overview of Virginia Relay services, including updates and best practices for handling TTY, Captioned Telephone, Video Relay, IP Relay, and Text-to-911 calls. Participants learn how to ensure functional equivalence and maintain accessibility for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and speech-disabled callers through real-world scenarios and interactive discussion.

How to Lose a 9-1-1 Trainee in 10 Ways

A candid and engaging session focused on training, retention, and leadership, this course explores common missteps agencies make during the trainee process.



Instructor Roster

- Joey Thacker – Co-Response Coordinator / Law Enforcement Liaison, New River Valley Community Services
- JaCorey R. Glaude, ENP, RPL, CCSM – 911 Education Manager, GovWorx
- Melissa Lounsbury – Operations Manager, Charlotte Fire Department Communications
- Jesse Merritt, ENP – Communications Technician, Dorchester County Consolidated Dispatch
- Felecia Smith, NIC – Relay Manager, Virginia Relay
- Samantha Hawkins, CMCP – ECC Engagement Lead, ThisGen 911
- Kayla Stultz – ICAC Investigator, Christiansburg Police Department / SOVA ICAC Task Force
- Brandi Powell – Founder, The 911 Chaplain Initiative
- Dru Clarke, CMCP, ENP – Assistant Director of Operations, Fairfax County DPSC
- Daniel Rabago – Conservation Police Officer, Department of Wildlife Resources
- Valerie D'Intino, ENP, RPL – Vice President, The Tenacious Telecommunicator
- Karima Holmes – Vice President of Public Safety, Carbyne
- Tiffany N. Grier – Public Speaker & Telecommunicator Advocate, Watching God's Victory
- Toby J. Akers Jr., CMCP – President & Founder, The Tenacious Telecommunicator
- Shannon White – Chief of Personnel Development, Chesterfield Emergency Communications





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The Virginia First Responder Symposium mobile app puts schedules, maps, and key event information right at your fingertips—helping you stay organized and make the most of your time in Blacksburg.

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