



ISLE OF WIGHT
COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Services



ANNUAL REPORT • CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Isle of Wight County Citizens,

I am pleased to present to you the 2017 annual report for Fire EMS and Emergency Services and would like to share with you a few of our highlights and accomplishments. With the support of our citizens and County leadership, we are in the midst of replacing a much-needed public safety radio system. This project has been a tremendous undertaking and a huge investment in public safety that will directly improve the functionality and safety of our first responders. Our Fire and Rescue Association; comprised of volunteers and County staff, drafted and approved our first system-wide Standard Operating Guidelines targeting improving responder safety. We've completed repairs, renovations and maintenance to several of our public safety facilities. We placed a new medic unit for Windsor in service and two additional units, scheduled for Carrollton and Isle of Wight/Smithfield, are approved in our current budget. Our Board of Supervisors authorized the "Safe Harbor" for EMS billing that exempts County residents from out-of-pocket expenses that are not covered by their insurance when transported by ambulance. A streamlined budget process for volunteer fire ems agencies was implemented as a means of reducing the administrative burdens and simplifying the process. We continue to measure system performance against established benchmarks. We embrace the use of data for decision making and know "what gets measured gets done". We prepare for the challenges of growth and increased demand for service to ensure that our fire/EMS system remains capable of meeting or exceeding our citizens' expectations.

In summary, 2017 has been a year of continued progress. Our community is very fortunate to have such a phenomenal group of firefighters, EMT's, volunteer and career members alike, that exemplify our mantra of "Delivering Excellence Daily". While this has been a good year; I remain optimistic that 2018 can and will be even better! On behalf of the hundreds of emergency responders in Isle of Wight County, we look forward to another successful year of progress and excellence.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Terwilliger



BY THE NUMBERS

There were **5,231** Fire/EMS Incidents in 2017

Over **86.5%** of all incidents were EMS related

Fire/EMS agencies responded to **95** mutual aid calls outside of the County

6,259 station responses resulted from calls for service

Agencies reported over **107,542** hours of volunteer activity serving the community

Average response time across system - **10** minutes **7** seconds

Total patients transported **2,854** by ambulance

686 – number of blood glucose checks

Crews performed **929**-Lead EKG's

IV's started in the field - **1,307**

36 - vehicle fires

Brush fires - **63**

Responded to **193** fire alarms

84 - structure fire incidents



2017 Emergency Services Annual Report



2017 BY THE NUMBERS		
Population Served	(2017 Weldon Cooper center Pop estimate)	37,333
Area Served	(square miles)	319
Municipalities	Isle of Wight County Town of Smithfield Town of Windsor	3
Operating Budget (FY18)		\$4.4 million
Capital Budget (FY18)		\$400,000
Population by Primary (1 st Due) Station Fire Coverage (2010 Census data)	Carrollton Vol. Fire Dept.	8,050
	Smithfield Vol. Fire Dept.	16,401
	Rushmere Vol. Fire Dept.	1,148
	Windsor Vol. Fire Dept.	7,369
	Carrsville Vol. Fire Dept.	2,302
Population by Primary (1 st Due) Station EMS Coverage (2010 Census data)	Carrollton Vol. Fire Dept.	8,050
	Isle of Wight Vol. Rescue Squad	17,549
	Windsor Vol. Rescue Squad	7,369
	Carrsville Vol. Fire Dept.	2,302
Career Staff		23 FT/86 PT
Career Staffing Support	Carrollton Vol. Fire Dept.	24 hours a day/7 days a week
	Isle of Wight Vol. Rescue Squad	24 hours a day/7 days a week
	Smithfield Vol. Fire Department	8am – 5pm/M-F
	Windsor Vol. Rescue Squad	24 hours a day/7 days a week
	Carrsville Vol. Fire Dept.	24 hours a day/7 days a week
Average EMS transport fee billed	\$694 (CY17)	\$694 (projected CY18)
Actual EMS fees collected	\$1,437,845* (CY17) (Includes amounts collected from prior year transport claims in CY17)	\$860,000 (projected CY18)
EMS record requests	18 (CY17)	30 (projected CY18)
Number of EMS transports	2,854 (CY17)	2,854 (projected CY18)
EMS Fees (FY17)	Basic Life Support (BLS)	\$450
	Advanced Life Support (ALS1)	\$650
	Advanced Life Support (ALS2)	\$800
	ALS Assessment	\$100
	Loaded Patient Mileage (per mile)	\$11.25

Help others and give something back, I guarantee you will discover that while public service improves the lives and the world around you, its greatest reward is the enrichment and new meaning it will bring to your own life.

-Arnold Schwarzenegger



Key Staff

Administration

Chief of Fire and Rescue
Emergency Management Coordinator
Office Administrator
Medical Billing Supervisor
Billing Clerk

Jeff Terwilliger
Andrea Clontz
Renee Stallings
Inga Johnson
Sharon Hilton

Fire & Rescue Response - Operations

Carrollton Vol. Fire Department (Station 10)
Carrsville Vol. Fire Department (Station 20)
Rushmere Vol. Fire Department (Station 30)
Windsor Vol. Fire Department (Station 40)
Smithfield Vol. Fire Department (Station 50)
Isle of Wight Vol. Rescue Squad (Station 60)
Windsor Vol. Rescue Squad (Station 70)
IOW Dept. of Emergency Services

Chief Tim Nunez
Chief Chris Carr
Chief Brandon Jefferson
Chief Lee Marshall
Chief Jerry Hackney
Chief Brian Carroll
Chief Keith Griffin
Captain Bob Flick

Fire & Rescue Response - Support Services

IOW Dept. of Emergency Services - Training

Amanda Pulley

What do I make? I make holding your hand seem like the biggest thing in the world when I'm cutting you out of a car. I can make 5 minutes seem like a lifetime when I go in a burning house to save your family. I make those annoying sirens seem like angels when you need them. I can make your children breathe when they stop. I can help you survive a heart attack. I make myself get out of bed at 3am to risk my life to save people I've never met. Today I might make the ultimate sacrifice to save your life. I make a difference, what do you make?

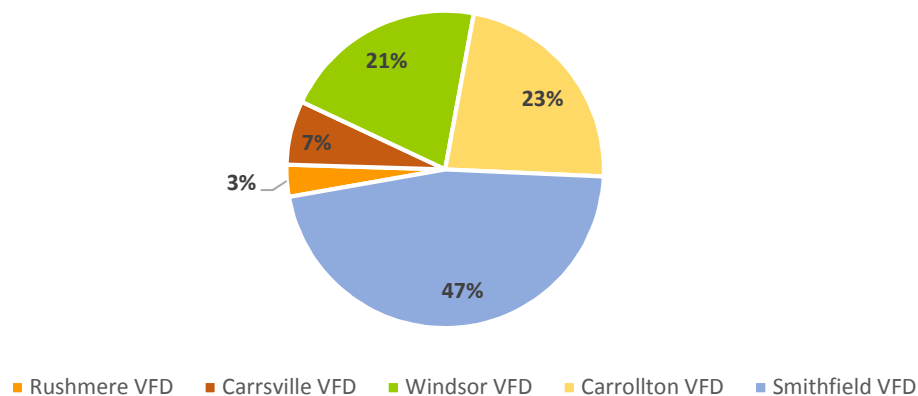
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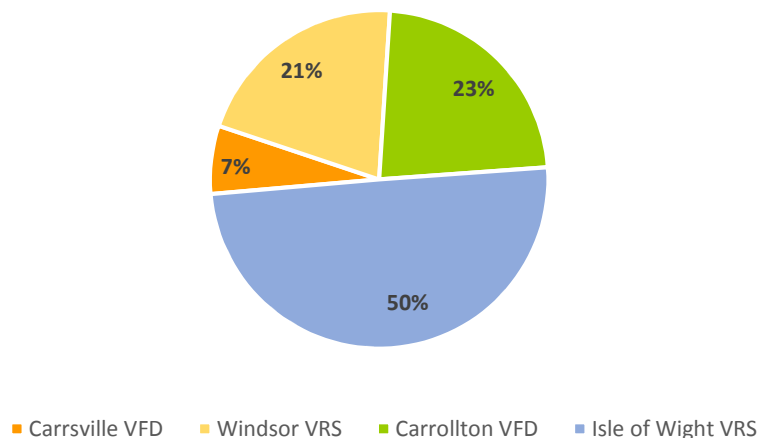
Overview

Fire and emergency medical services (EMS) in Isle of Wight County are provided through a combined volunteer-career system which includes over 300 volunteer members and approximately 100 career personnel (full- and part-time). We provide basic life support (BLS), advanced life support (ALS), and fire response to all types of emergencies that impact our county. Emergency Services are delivered from 5 independent volunteer fire companies and 2 independent volunteer rescue squads. This combination delivery method is a cost-effective means of providing 24-hour fire/EMS protection to Isle of Wight citizens and visitors.

Fire Coverage
% of Population Covered by 1st Due Station



EMS Coverage
% of Population Covered by 1st Due Station



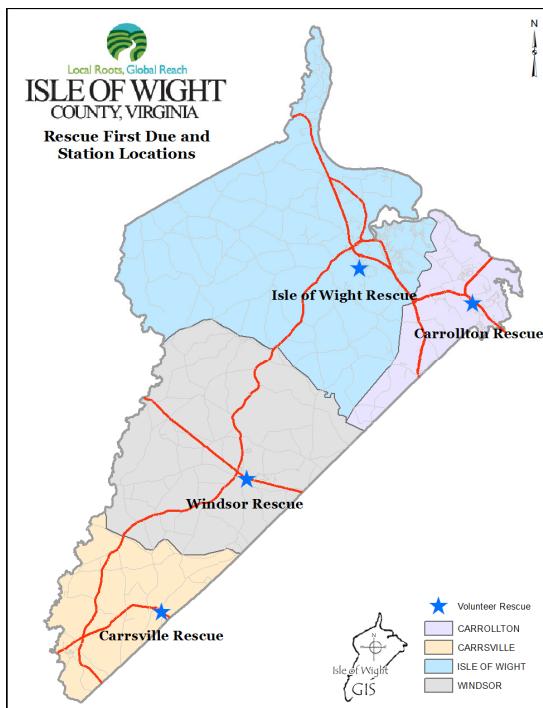
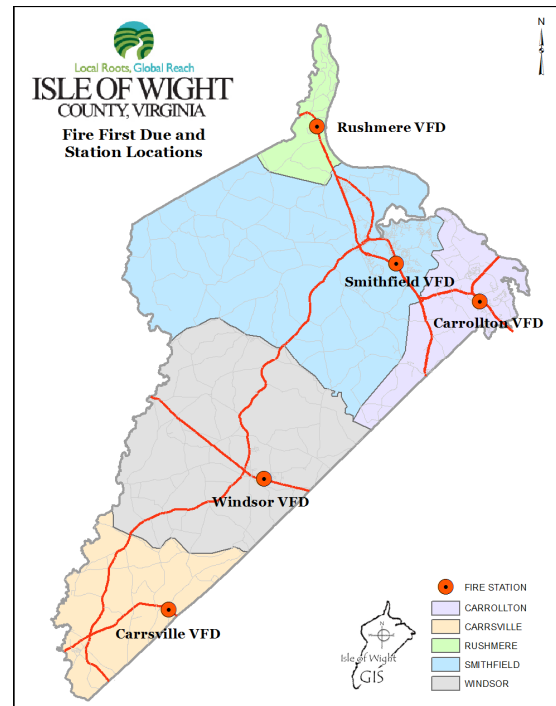


2017 Emergency Services Annual Report



Fire Services in Isle of Wight are provided from 5 Volunteer Fire Departments located across the county:

- ❖ Rushmere Vol. Fire Department
- ❖ Smithfield Vol. Fire Department
- ❖ Carrollton Vol. Fire Department
- ❖ Windsor Vol. Fire Department
- ❖ Carrsville Vol. Fire Department



EMS Services in Isle of Wight are provided from 4 Volunteer Fire/EMS Departments located across the county:

- ❖ Isle of Wight Vol Rescue Squad
- ❖ Carrollton Vol. Fire Department
- ❖ Windsor Vol. Rescue Squad
- ❖ Carrsville Vol. Fire Department



Administration

In addition to providing career fire/EMS response staff, the Department of Emergency Services (DES) manages the County's EMS recovery program, the Emergency Management program, and provides additional support for our volunteer response partners.

The Chief of Fire and Rescue is tasked with ensuring the consistent delivery of fire and EMS services throughout the county. In addition to many administrative functions, the Office Administrator provides support services to the entire DES, handles payroll and payable processing, and maintains the DES website.

Emergency management staff assists with emergency/disaster preparedness through the provision of training, and the development and updating of plans that prepare the County government to support its citizens during various types of emergencies. Emergency management also coordinates response and relief efforts with agencies such as FEMA, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Sheriff's Office, volunteer fire and EMS agencies, the Department of Social Services, the American Red Cross and other local, regional, state and national agencies and organizations that serve our citizens during times of disaster.

The EMS revenue recovery program continued to be a successful endeavor for the county in 2017. Revenue for FY18 was projected at \$860,000 during the budget process. Billing staff also provides customer service for patients with questions, performs follow-up on unpaid claims; and maintains and post payments to patient accounts. This division also provides software management and support for the fire and EMS electronic reporting software.

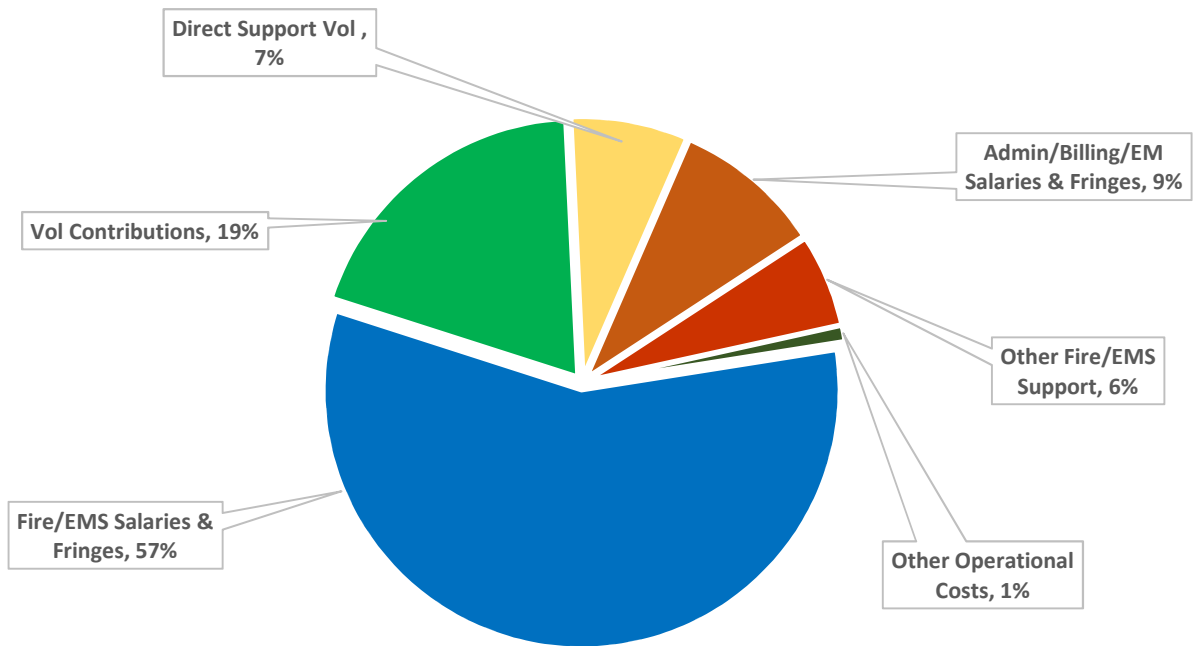
DES has an operating budget of \$4.4M for fiscal year 2017-2018 (FY18). In FY18, the county restructured the contributions being made to the volunteer departments. The County began funding the volunteer company's utilities directly and reimbursing insurance costs rather than as part of their annual contributions. In FY18, over \$1.17M of operating budget is allocated for direct funding contributions to the County's 7 volunteer fire and EMS agencies and for utility and insurance costs. The volunteer agencies are also funded by donations, fundraisers, and grants acquired by the respective departments.

For accounting purposes, in addition to internal departmental costs, annual funding (including contributions) for the volunteer fire and EMS departments, and fire/EMS related state and regional dues and fees are included in the DES operating budget. Capital budget funding in the amount of \$400,000 was also approved in FY18-19 capital budget for 2 new medic units.

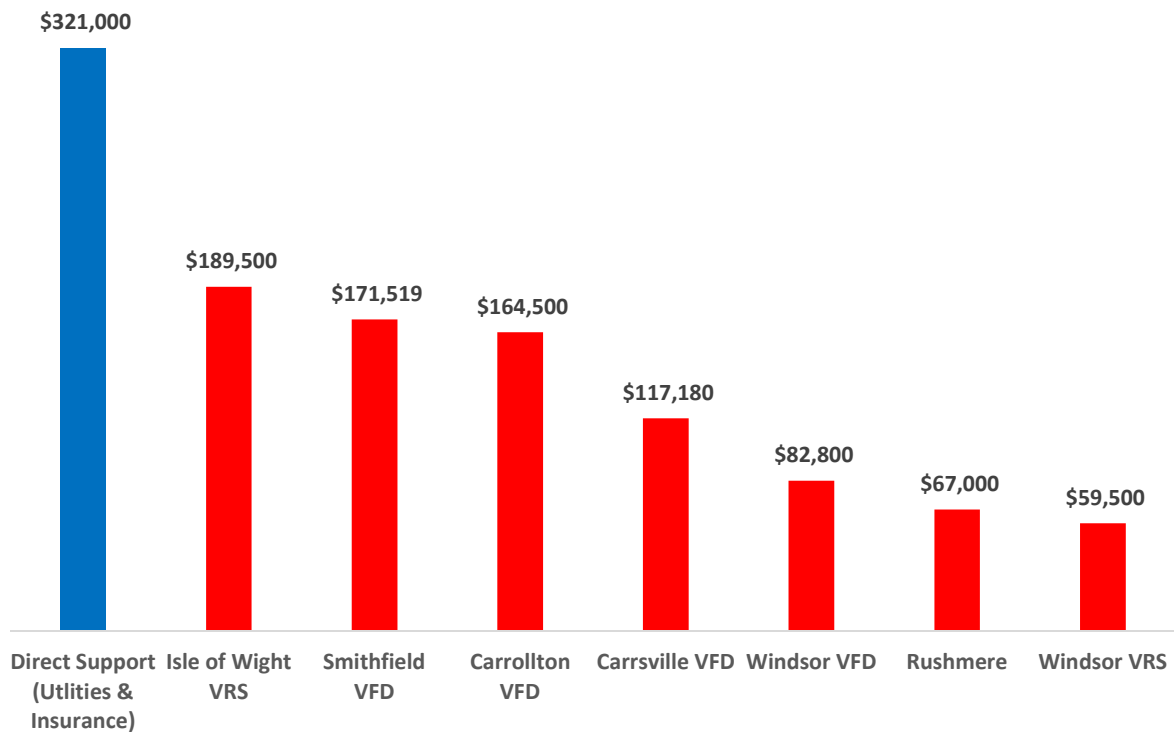
Service can have no meaning unless one takes pleasure in it. When it is done for show or for fear of public opinion, it stunts the mind and crushes his spirit. Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. -Mahatma Gandhi



DES Budget Breakdown



FY18 Volunteer Contributions and Direct Support





Highlights

Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)

During 2017, efforts continued to develop, review, and enhance SOGs. For the first time, the Fire and Rescue Association in conjunction with the Chief of Fire and Rescue developed several standardized operational SOGs that dealt with incident safety and coordination that all the county's fire/EMS departments have adopted. The SOGs that were developed/revised in 2017 include:

Fire and Rescue Association Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Emergency Communications Procedures➤ Mayday Procedures➤ Evacuation Order Procedures	Emergency Services Administrative Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Uniforms and Personal Appearance➤ EMS Recovery Program
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Dominion Energy Surry Power Station Tour

In April, DES staff along with members of the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator, and Assistant County Administrator, spent time at Dominion Energy's Surry Power Station. Because a portion of Isle of Wight is located within 10 miles of the Power Station, it is considered one of the risk jurisdictions for the nuclear power plant. During the trip to the power station, Dominion Energy provided an overview of their operations and safety plans to our elected officials.



State & Regional Leadership

The Chief of Fire and Rescue continues to serve on the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Board of Directors, the Board of Directors for the Tidewater Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Council, and the Hampton Roads Fire Chiefs Association.



The emergency management staff is active on many regional and state committees. In 2017, the Emergency Management Coordinator (EM Coordinator) served as the Chair of the Hampton Roads Emergency Management Committee (HREMC), is a member of the Hampton Roads All Hazard's Advisory Committee (AHAC) and the State's Hurricane Evacuation Coordination Committee.

Public Safety Radio System Upgrade



Isle of Wight County began a major capital project to upgrade the County's failing VHF Public Safety Radio Communications to a new 800MHz system that meets the current industry standards for a public safety radio system in the fall of 2016. While the project is currently estimated to be completed sometime during the summer of 2018, the bulk of the infrastructure work was accomplished in 2017. The Emergency Management Coordinator serves as county's coordinator for the project. During 2017, 4 primary-communication tower sites were developed

across the county to serve as the communications backbone of the system. In addition, staff and elected officials traveled to Motorola's equipment staging area in late summer to begin the factory acceptance testing process for the communications hardware that will support the system.



To give real service, you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity.

— Douglas Adams



VOPEX

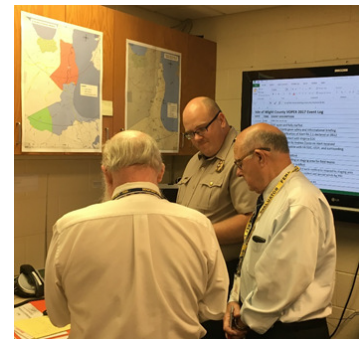
In July, more than 80 individuals from DES and partner agencies took part in the biennial, graded, FEMA evaluated Virginia Operational Plan Exercise 2017 (VOPEX 2017) - Surry Power Station. The purpose of this exercise is to evaluate participants actions against current response plans and capabilities related to a nuclear power plant incident to demonstrate reasonable assurance that the public can be protected during a nuclear power



plant emergency. On July 25th, the exercise culminated with a demonstrated full-scale response to a simulated incident at the Surry Power Station. Over the course of the exercise, 274 criteria areas were evaluated across 6 primary evaluation areas.

Isle of Wight received several commendations for performance during the exercise including:

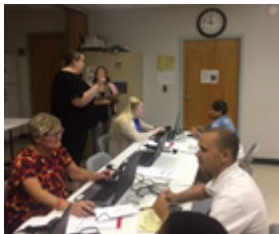
- The EM Coordinator and the Public Information Officer worked closely together to disseminate timely press releases which assisted in ensuring the safety of the public.
- The entire EOC staff were all-knowledgeable and worked together helping to make this a successful exercise.
- There was seamless integration of a mutual aid Hazmat Team for Field Monitoring, which lead to a unified approach to the overall response.
- The IOW Radiological Officer provided an effective radiological officer's briefing to emergency workers
- The Staging Area participants worked well together and made good use of plans, procedures and their detailed knowledge of the area.
- Staging Area discussions were well facilitated. The flow of information and communications was excellent and often.





Hurricane Season

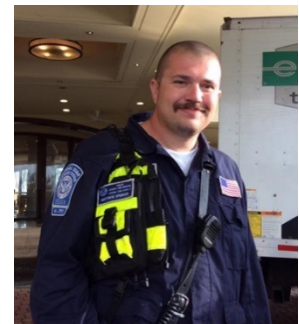
The 2017 hurricane season will be remembered as one of the most destructive and deadliest hurricane seasons on record. The season saw 17 named storms, 10 hurricanes and 6 major hurricanes (CAT3 or above). September had the most active hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin ever. While the mid-Atlantic coast was extremely fortunate and did not suffer a direct hit, we did watch several storms very closely for possible impacts to the area. During the hurricane season, Emergency Services provides frequent updates and coordinates the county's preparedness for potential impacts. For several days, it looked like the path of IRMA would bring her up the east coast and potentially near Isle of Wight. As part of our preparations, we held just-in-time training with our Department of Social Services (DSS) staff on use of the county's computerized shelter registration system in case we had to open an evacuation shelter.



Two of the Emergency Services fire/EMS staff, Brian Sanzo and Matt Spencer, are part of the National Search and Rescue System established by FEMA in the 1989. It is a framework for structuring local emergency service personnel into integrated disaster response task forces. As one



of the 28 nation-wide FEMA teams, Virginia Task Force 2 is a specialized rescue organization comprised of highly trained Firefighters, Technical Rescue Technicians, Medical Professionals, Canine Handlers, Engineers and Physicians from various cities and departments located throughout the region. VA Task Force 2 was deployed to assist with hurricane recovery efforts 3 times during the 2017 hurricane season.



EMS Safe Harbor Provision

In 2005, the County began billing for ambulance services provided by EMS agencies within the county. Federal regulations require that when billing for services, billing must be uniform. If the patient's insurance is billed, the bill must include private pay portions (cost-sharing) not covered by insurance. However, based on the safe harbor provision, Isle of Wight was deemed eligible to bill for emergency ambulance services for residents and non-residents differently. In November, The Board of Supervisors voted to no longer bill county residents for the private pay portion of any ambulance service billings.

There are people that put their lives in harm's way every day. It's not something they do, it's something they are. - Unknown.



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Training



In 2017, DES provided 13 CPR training and certification classes to more than 110, law enforcement officers and other county employees. Additionally, the training division also taught an EMT class, and sponsored several lunch and learn sessions covering topics such as Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) topics. In all, more than 230 individuals received training in 2017.



In August, DES Supervisors traveled to Chesterfield to participate in the Horse Sense for Leaders class. The day-long class, sponsored by the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, focused on establishing relationships based on mutual trust and respect. It discussed how to:

- ✓ establish a shared understanding of mutual needs and expectations
- ✓ gain commitment and increase motivation
- ✓ develop meaningful partnerships with employees, colleagues, and customers
- ✓ deal with conflict resolution or manage change in the workplace
- ✓ establish clear and concise lines of communication creating a common thread throughout your organization



In September, Inga Johnson, Medical Billing Supervisor, and Sharon Hilton, Medical Billing Clerk, completed their National Academy of Ambulance Coders (NAAC) Certified Ambulance Coders recertification requirements in Hershey, PA.



Department of Emergency Services Chief's Award

In 2017, the Chief of Fire and Rescue issued the first annual Chief's award to recognize a department member, full or part-time, who has performed in an outstanding manner representing Isle of Wight Emergency Services within the past calendar year. The 2017 Chief's Award recipient was Captain Bob Flick.



A Special Visit



Emily Finchum from Sussex County visited one of the Fire and Rescue Association meetings to deliver thank you cards to our first responders. Through her "Positive

Patrol" she spreads words of encouragement and appreciation to first responders via thank you cards.

Station Improvements

Carrollton Volunteer Fire Department has both a live-in volunteer program and career fire/EMS staff working on a 24-hour rotation at the station. To accommodate these programs, sleeping quarters are necessary. In 2017, much needed renovations to Carrollton's bunk room were completed.



New Apparatus

A new medic unit was put in service at Windsor Vol. Rescue Squad in 2017.



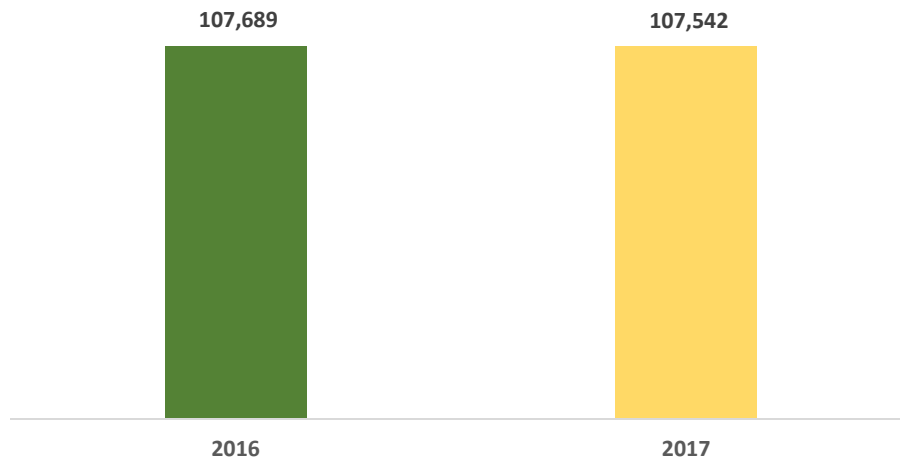


Operations – Fire & Rescue Response

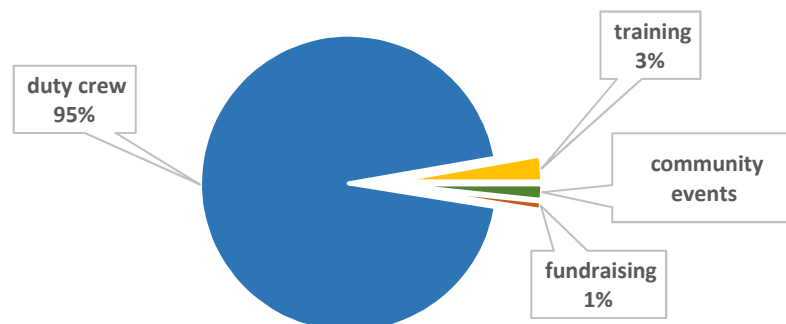
The Fire and Rescue Response division is composed of both volunteer and career members. These providers work collectively to ensure the delivery of high quality fire/EMS services to Isle of Wight County citizens and visitors. Each station has a volunteer chief that provides direct oversight for the activities of his or her station and response district. In addition, a career fire/EMS officer provides direct supervision for assigned career personnel.

Each Station Chief, or designee, along with the County Chief of Fire and Rescue comprise the Isle of Wight County Fire Rescue Association which develops system-wide policy and procedures. In addition to emergency response, stations provide duty crews, participate in training, fundraising events and numerous other community activities. In 2017, the Fire and Rescue Response division responded to over 5,200 emergency calls for service resulting in over 6,200 individual station responses. Additionally, in 2017, over 100,000 activity hours were logged and reported by county volunteers. (Note: Volunteer activity is based on 2017 activity reported by the volunteer agencies as of February 15, 2018.)

Reported Volunteer Activity Hours

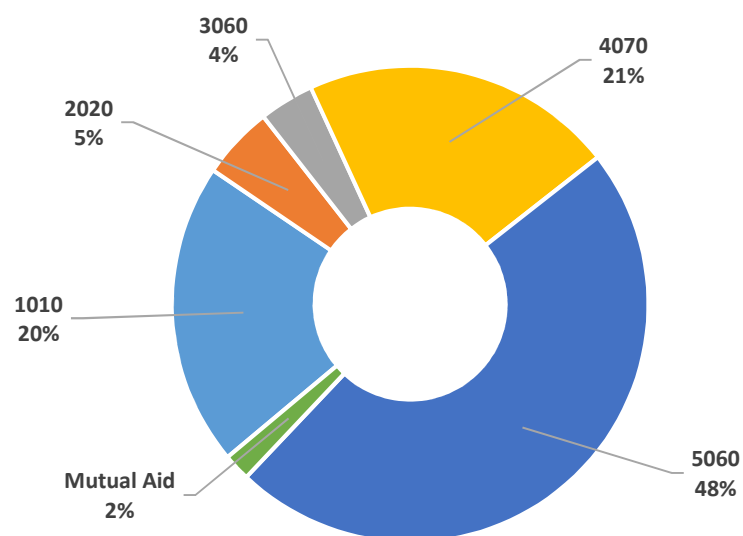
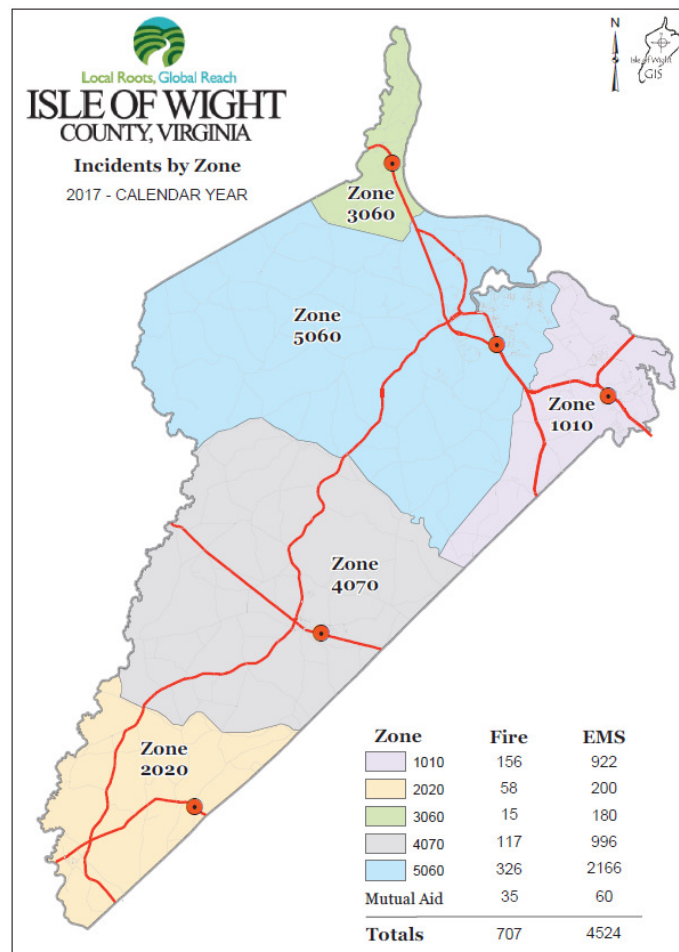


How Volunteer Hours Were Spent



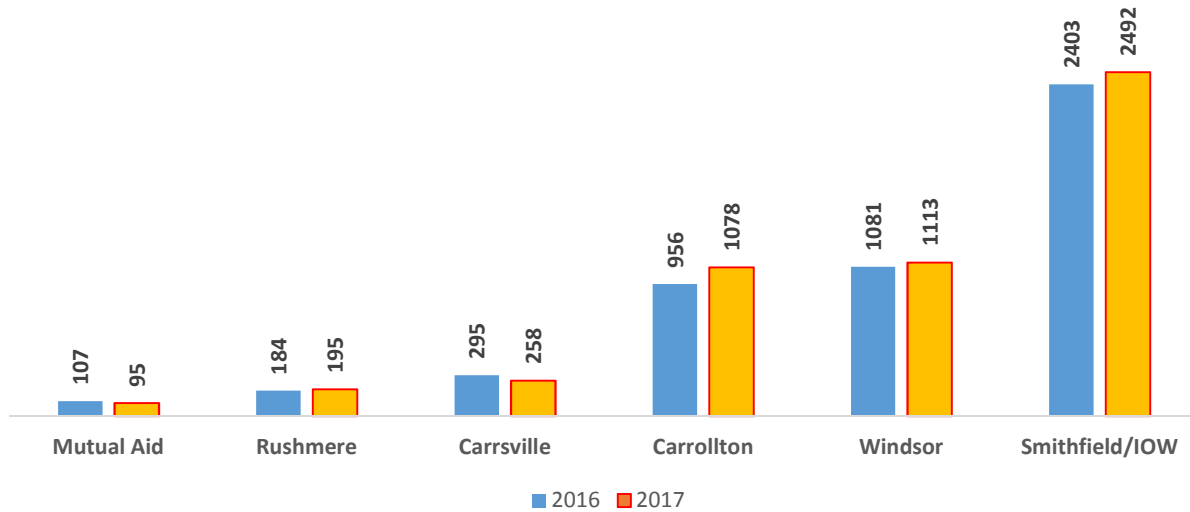


Incidents by Zone

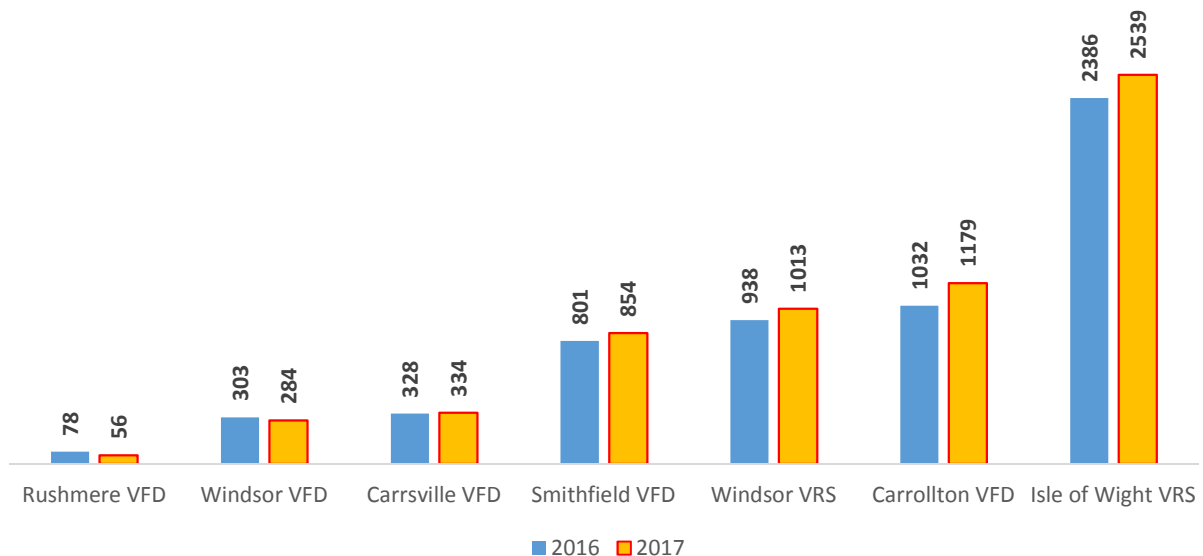




Incidents by Zone Trend



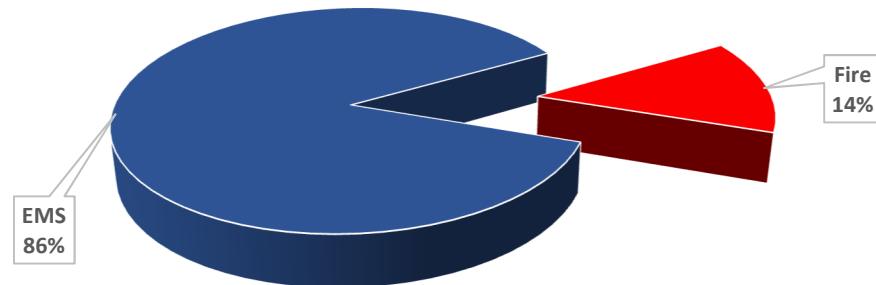
Station Responses Trend



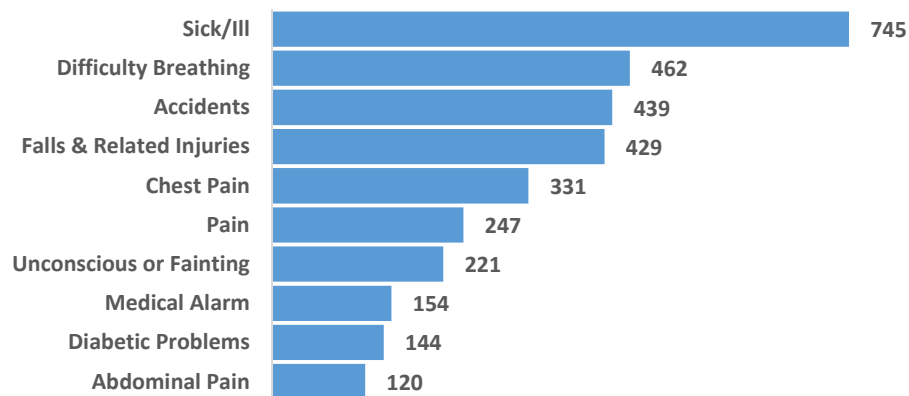
Though most of our calls are relatively benign, often enough we are required to engage in situations that would shock and terrify most people, and to do it with the highest level of professionalism, while keeping our emotions in check. It is not a requirement to be unfeeling, to stow away pain, hurt, doubts, confusion and anger. It is our responsibility to watch over one another and be there for one another through the grief and healing. We may be seen as heroes in the moment, but in between those moments we are merely human. - Unknown



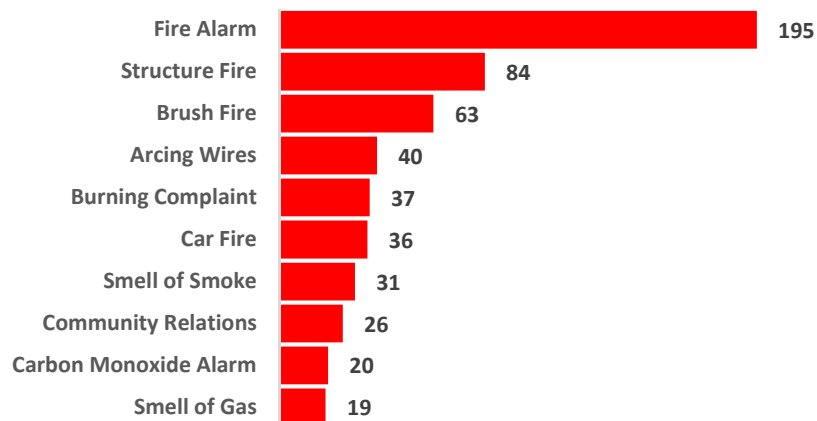
Responses by Incident Type



Top 10 EMS Call Types



Top 10 Fire Call Types





Major Events in 2017

Isle of Wight started off 2017 with a significant snow event on January 7th. Most of the county saw 6-10 inches of snow from the storm. The County's Fire/EMS departments provided services to our citizens throughout the event.



On February 1st, Windsor Vol. Fire Department and Windsor Vol. Rescue responded to the Windsor Mart for a gas pump fire. The pump was bumped off its footing during a police pursuit. In addition to the gas pump fire, a police officer also sustained minor injuries. February also brought the beginning of wildfire season.



The County's fire/EMS system was very busy in March. Departments responded to a higher than normal number of structure fires. On March 7th, Rushmere, Windsor and Carrollton Vol. Fire Departments assisted Surry County with a structure fire by providing personnel and tankers to shuttle water to the scene.

During the 2nd half of March, the north-end stations responded to several working structures fires in a single week. On March 18th, Smithfield Vol. Fire Dept. responded to a structure fire on the western edge of their district. Rushmere, Isle of Wight





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and Dendron VFD also responded.



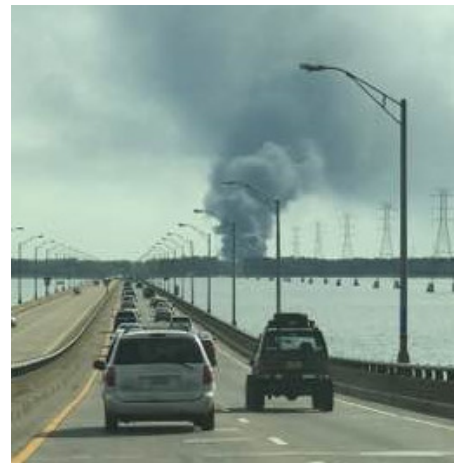
On March 24th, Smithfield was the first due on another structure fire in their district. While they were able to bring the fire under control in about 30 minutes, the structure suffered major damage.



On March 27th, Smithfield responded to a 3rd structure fire in their district and arrived to find a barn with heavy smoke and flames showing. Rushmere and Carrollton as well as Isle of Wight VRS also responded to these fires.



On April 12th, fire/EMS departments in the county were dispatched to one of the most visible events of 2017 – a large tire fire in Carrollton VFD's district. Smoke from the fire could be seen from much of Hampton Roads. Crews from more than 12 agencies responded including: the Carrollton, Smithfield, Windsor, and Rushmere VFDs; Isle of Wight VRS, IOW DES, Suffolk Fire and Rescue, Chuckatuck VFD, the Southside Regional Hazmat response team, the Chesapeake Fire Dept. Foam suppression unit, and the Va. Dept. of Forestry.



Hard times don't create heroes. It is during the hard times the "hero" within us is revealed.

- Bob Riley



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On May 18th, a trash truck driver drove his truck several blocks to Smithfield VFD, once he noticed that it was on fire. There were reports of 20-foot flames coming from a gas container near the top of the truck. Since the trash truck was



powered by natural gas and due to the large amount of propane involved, business near the fire department were asked to shelter in place until the fire was under control. Units from Smithfield and Carrollton VFDs and Isle of Wight VRS responded.



In June, Carrsville VFD assisted Courtland VFD on a large commercial fire in Southampton. Ivor and Wakefield VFDs also responded to the incident.

On June 11th, Carrollton VFD provided support to Suffolk Fire and Rescue as they battled a fire at a commercial landfill.



In August, Carrsville fire and rescue units were the first vehicles allowed to cross the new overpass near the fire station. Route 58 was closed near the station for more than a year while VDOT built the new overpass over the train track.



I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save lives.

- Chief Edward F. Croker



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On August 23rd, fire/EMS crews from Carrollton and Smithfield responded to a working structure fire in Carrollton's district. On arrival they found a large 2-story structure well

involved.



In September crews from Windsor, Smithfield and Isle of Wight were dispatched to an overturned



log truck in Windsor's district. The driver was reported entrapped. Route 620 was closed for several hours while the scene was cleared.

On September 29th, a car crashed into a local favorite, Ringo's Donuts. Crews from Smithfield worked to clear the vehicle and shore up the front of the building.



Crews from Smithfield and Carrollton closed out 2017 with a working structure fire in Smithfield's district. On December 18th, crews arrived to find smoke showing from a 3-story, center-unit townhome. Fire crews contained the fire to the room of origin.

And be sure to keep your light bright and shining – you never know just how many people you may be a lighthouse for. You never know just how many people find their way home, in even the wildest storms, because you are there. - Cleo Wade



Other Highlights

Training on the standardized Mayday procedures included dispatch, career staff and the volunteer departments.



The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

– Deann Hollis



CVFD hands-on firefighter down training



Ongoing training takes many forms – including some classroom style training at SVFD





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Vehicle extrication training in Carrsville.



WVFD members after some live fire training.



Carrollton VFD is hosting a Firefighter I & II class.



I firmly believe that volunteering is good for our society and brings communities together. It's a fantastic opportunity to get involved in your local community, to meet new people and to gain a sense of pride and achievement. – Boris Johnson



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Smithfield VFD's Truck Class covered many different skills and training methods.

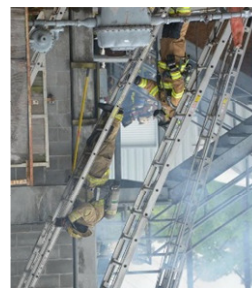
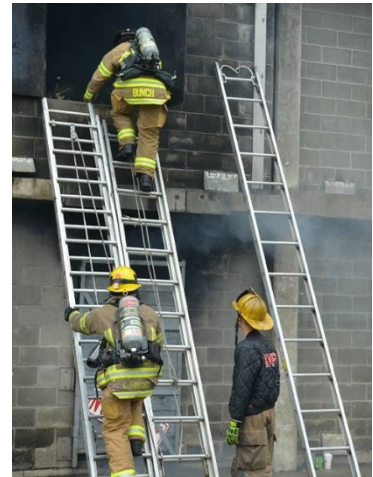
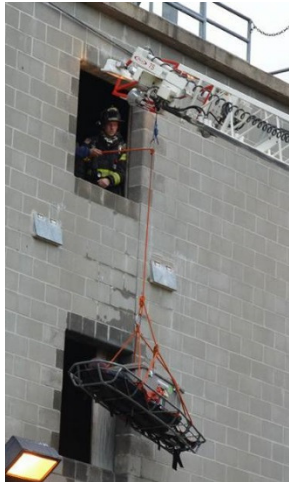


SVFD's Hook & Can Class





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SVFD's 7th annual Truck Company class had over 120 students & trainers from over 30 depts.



You can never learn too much about a job that can kill you.
- Cpt. Tommy Brennan



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Other Community Support



Carrollton VFD's station was a rest stop for the Police Unity Bike Tour



IOWVRS provides EMS support for number of special events in Smithfield.



The Fire/EMS volunteers supported National Night out.



Windsor VFD & VRS provided fire/EMS support for the fair. The 2017 County Fair added a demolition derby.





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Carrollton VFD members brought home the trophy from the Healing Waters Triathlon for the 2nd year in a row.



Our volunteers reach out to the county's school children throughout the year.



Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.

– Marion Wright Edelman



2017 Emergency Services Annual Report



Firefighter/Provider of the Year

The following individuals were recognized by their departments as Firefighter/Provider of the Year: Jerrad Waldorf (Carrollton VFD), Chris Price (Carrsville VFD), Bob Flick (IOW Dept. of Emergency Services), Andrew Jackson (IOW VRS), Byron Jones (Rushmere VFD), and Cody Hassell (Smithfield VFD).



The George F. Dashiell, Post 49, American Legion honored the county's first responders at their annual First Responders Award Ceremony in February. The fire/EMS provider of the year from each station was recognized with a plaque. Lt. Andrew Jackson, Lt. Cody Hassell and Cptn. Bob Flick were in attendance at the ceremony.

*If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion.
For passion will lead you right into your purpose.*

- Bishop T. D. Jakes

Note: Information was requested from each volunteer fire/EMS agency for inclusion in the annual report. Information was included from all of the volunteer departments that responded to the request.