

**Falls Church
Volunteer
Fire Department**



Annual Report – CY 2007

Paul Schomburg

Fire Chief: August 2007 – present

James W. Clarke, Jr.

Fire Chief: January 2007 – July 2007

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Fire Station 6

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department (FCVFD) is to aid in the preservation of life and property. This mission is completed in cooperation with the City of Falls Church government and the Arlington County Fire Department. During the calendar year 2007, the volunteers participated and contributed in a myriad of functions related to the public safety of the citizens of the greater Falls Church and Arlington communities. This report provides an overview of these incidents and events as well as a summary of training and other activities that FCVFD members have completed in order to continue to provide a high level of professional emergency response and public education services.

The report is organized as follows:

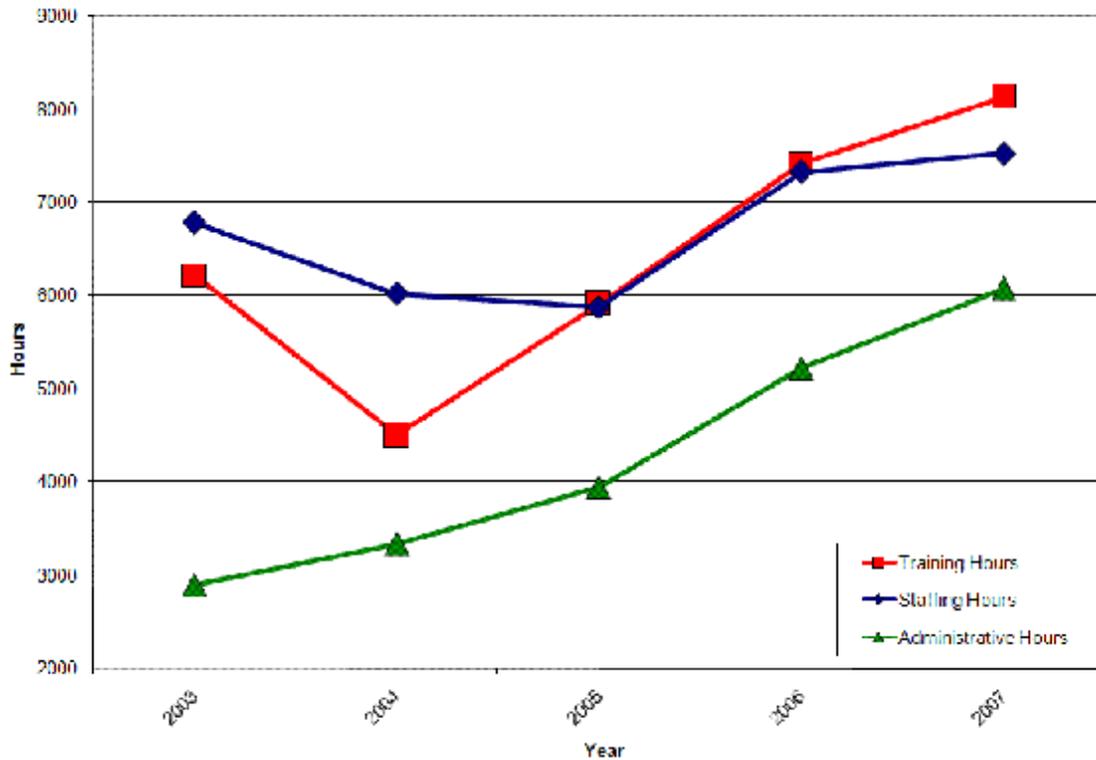
- **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**
Provides summary data of the personnel strength and hours contributions during incidents, events and training.
- **MAJOR INCIDENTS – EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**
Provides a summary of the major incidents and apparatus staffed by volunteer personnel in partnership with the Arlington County Fire Department
- **PUBLIC EVENTS**
Identifies public gatherings where personnel provided fire and medical support or participation
- **FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**
Overview of interactions with the community to promote fire and life safety
- **TRAINING**
Highlights the fire, rescue, hazardous materials, and emergency medical training activities of the membership throughout the year
- **PRESENTATIONS**
Honors and awards received from outside agencies and organizations
- **APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT**
Acquisitions and contributions of station equipment, apparatus, and other tangible goods that enhance service delivery to the community

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Hours and Emergency Responses

For the fourth consecutive year, the total number of hours contributed by FCVFD members increased. Overall, the FCVFD increased hours contributed to the community during 2007 by 9% over 2006. This year marks the first time since official records have been kept that the total number of hours exceeded 20,000. Membership contributions generally fit into three major categories, Apparatus Staffing, Training, and Administration.

**Hours Contributed to the Community
2003 to 2007**



Apparatus Staffing and Standby

Members of the FCVFD contributed over 7,500 hours staffing volunteer units and supplementing the career staff during 2007, equating to nearly 4 full time equivalent positions. These hours included:

- o Participation in 1,387 calls for assistance
- o 104 unique days of supplemental staffing for Engine 106
- o 145 unique days of supplemental staffing for Truck 106
- o 85 unique days of supplemental staffing for Medic 106

Training

In preparation for fire department activities, members participated in over 8,100 hours of fire and emergency medical services training. This training is both in-station and from outside resources. These accomplishments are outlined in the Training section of this report.

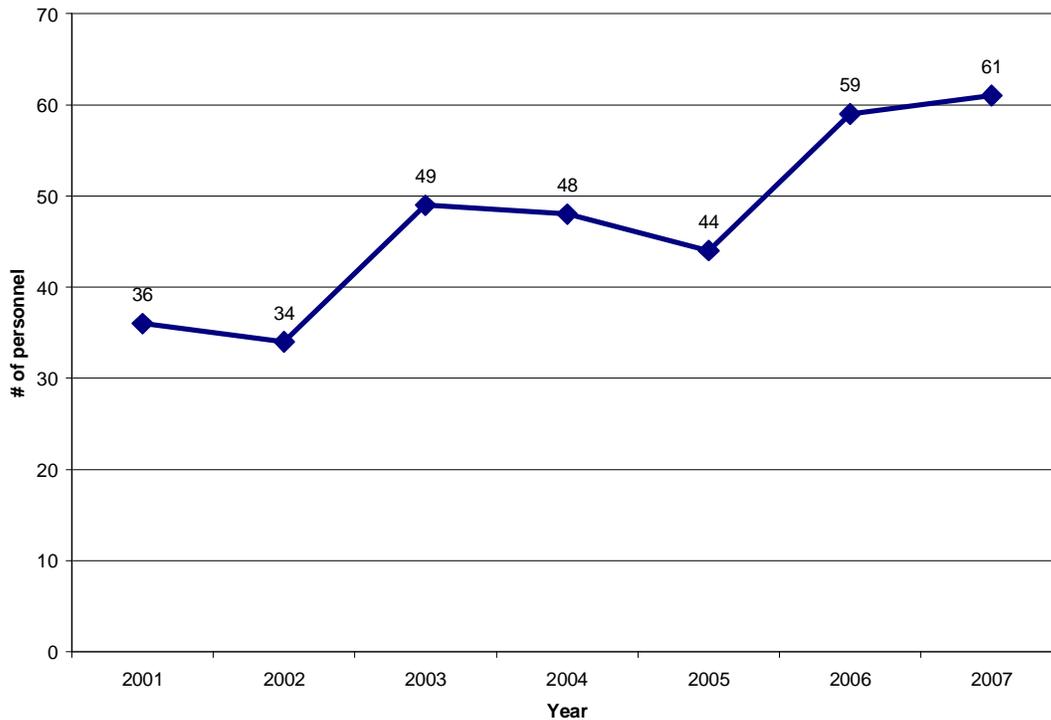
Administration

In addition to the actual emergency operations and service delivery aspects of the Department, members spent over 6,000 hours completing the necessary administrative functions to deliver fire prevention information, raise funds, maintain facilities, and perform other basic business tasks.

Membership

The FCVFD ended the year with 89 members on the rolls, including 10 members of the Auxiliary. Thirty-five of these individuals are operational members serving as firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

**Number of Personnel Contributing Hours
2001 to 2007**



MAJOR INCIDENTS – EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Structure Fires

Throughout 2007, FCVFD firefighters responded with the career staff to numerous working fire incidents. During these incidents, members performed a variety of functions with the career crews, including placing ladders, ventilating structures, overhaul, salvage, hoseline management, breathing air replenishment, investigation support, and overhauling fire areas. Examples of incidents where FCVFD members engaged in operations included:

- 2nd alarm fire – 4517 North 41st Street, Arlington, 6 members
- 2nd alarm fire – 2100blk Highland Avenue, Falls Church, 2 members
- Working fire – 7100blk Alger Road, Falls Church, 3 members
- 2nd alarm fire – 104 North Wayne Street, Arlington, 4 members
- 2nd alarm fire – 1100blk North Stafford Street, Arlington, 3 members
- Working fire – 400blk West Broad Street, Falls Church, 4 members
- Working fire – 1105 West Broad Street, Falls Church, 4 members

Basic Life Support Ambulance

The Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad is an organization formed as a subsidiary to the Arlington County Firemen's Association. The Volunteer Rescue Squad owns and maintains a basic life support ambulance that is staffed on weekends by fire department volunteers from Arlington and Falls Church. In addition to the normal weekend shifts, the ambulance was



placed in service on a callback basis during a snow storm in February, a tropical storm in August, and during a period of high call volume following a construction accident in December. During 2007, Falls Church volunteers performed nearly 1,800 hours of service on the Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad ambulance. During those hours, the ambulance responded to 145 calls for emergency assistance. This unit supplements the career advanced life support ambulances by handling less serious emergencies, thus freeing the advanced life support units to respond to more life threatening situations. In addition to staffing the unit, the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chief, Deputy Chief, Apparatus Captain, and all five members of the Board of Directors of the Volunteer Rescue Squad are FCVFD personnel. During the winter months the base of operations for the ambulance changes from Fire Station 2 in Ballston to the Falls Church Station due to space limitations in Ballston.

Light and Air 103

The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department owns and maintains a unit to provide lighting, salvage, and air cylinder replenishment at the scene of major incidents. During an emergency, staffing is obtained by use of pagers to call in volunteer members, including firefighters from the FCVFD. FCVFD members responded to 28 significant incidents with Light and Air 103 spending 152 man-hours on emergency scenes in 2007.



These incidents ranged from greater alarm fires to water leaks to police events. FCVFD members also contributed many hours to staff the unit during training exercises and public events. The vehicle is stored at the Falls Church fire station due to space limitations at its previous location in Arlington.

Canteen 106

The Auxiliary to the FCVFD maintains a stepvan equipped to operate as a mobile kitchen during extended incidents. The unit is capable of preparing hot or cold food and drinks. It is staffed exclusively by volunteers alerted by pager during large incidents. During 2007, the unit responded to five incidents and also assisted during three training events for a total of 152 man-hours. Additionally, the unit was requested to provide refreshments as first responders assembled during the pre-dawn hours before the 2007 Marine Corps Marathon. The canteen also provided services during a mass casualty exercise conducted at Marymount University in August.



Snow and Ice Storm – February 13-14

Forecasters predicted a significant ice accumulation during the overnight hours of February 13. In preparation, callback staffing of volunteer personnel allowed a variety of support units to be deployed throughout Arlington and Falls Church. Light and Air 103, Utility 103, Utility 106, and Ambulance 106 remained staffed for a period of 9.25 hours. As weather conditions remained uncertain for the following day, additional callback staffing was pre-arranged for all four units to remain readily available.

Snow Storm – February 25

During a moderate snowfall that unexpectedly increased call volume, members were requested by the ACFD to staff two support units. Within 30 minutes of notification, Utility 106 and Light and Air 103 were staffed with Falls Church personnel and deployed in Falls Church and Nauck (south Arlington). The units remained available for 5.25 hours. As weather conditions remained uncertain for the evening, additional callback staffing was pre-arranged for units to remain readily available. Additionally, members provided supplemental staffing on both Engine and Medic 106.

Heavy Rains – April 14-15

Over a 24-hour period, the Washington area received 2 ½” of rain accompanied by high winds. This prompted a request from the ACFD to pre-arrange callback staffing for Utility 106 and Light and Air 103.

Station Fill-ins

On two occasions in 2007, FCVFD personnel assisted the Arcola-Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department with staffing of their station in Loudoun County. On January 27, seven members staffed a rescue engine, engine, and command unit to allow the duty crew to attend the annual banquet. On March 17, three firefighters again staffed the rescue engine to allow the duty crew to attend the funeral of an APVVFD member.

PUBLIC EVENTS

New Year's Eve

Six volunteers staffed an ambulance and a pumper in support of the New Year's Eve festivities in downtown Falls Church. There were no requests for emergency assistance during the event. In addition to their emergency function, members provided tours of the fire engine and information about the Department.

Memorial Day 3k Fun Run and Parade

Twenty-four volunteers provided emergency medical services during the annual Falls Church Memorial Day festivities. Members staffed both fixed and mobile assets that included two ambulances, a pumper, an EMS Bike Team and two first aid stations. Units handled numerous emergencies during the festival and parade, treating approximately 20 people. Incidents ranged from heat-related illness to a possible stroke. Despite assisting numerous patients, only 1 required transport to a hospital for further treatment.



Due to the unusual level of support required during the 2006 festivities, the 2007 event was managed using the National Incident Management System with an incident action plan, briefings with City of Falls Church department managers, a unified command post, and after-action report completed.

Independence Day – Falls Church

Eight volunteer personnel staffed Engine 116 and Ambulance 106 for a neighborhood party on West Cameron Road and the annual City of Falls Church Independence Day celebration at George Mason High School. During the block party, units assisted in the location and treatment of a person suffering from multiple bee stings at a nearby residence.

During the events at the high school, Ambulance 106 assisted one person with debris in their eye from the fireworks. During the fireworks display, Engine 116 assisted Recreation and Parks Department employees extinguishing several small fires around the athletic fields started by wayward fireworks. Units remained at the school until released by the fireworks contractor following the display.

Independence Day – George Washington Parkway

In addition to the City of Falls Church activities, ten FCVFD emergency medical technicians, along with one member each from the Ballston VFD and Cherrydale VFD, assisted the ACFD with emergency medical services along the George Washington Parkway. These personnel staffed two basic life support ambulances and three bicycle EMS teams from 11am until 4pm. As staffing was required in Falls Church, the volunteer units were reduced to one basic life support ambulance and two bicycle EMS teams from 4pm until 10pm. Units assisted five patients requiring care beyond first aid during the event.

Marine Corps Marathon

Eight FCVFD members, assisted by one Cherrydale VFD and one Ballston VFD member, staffed two basic life support ambulances and two EMS bicycle teams in support of the Marine Corps Marathon. Ambulance 102 treated 5 patients and transported one for further advanced life support treatment. Ambulance 106 treated 5 patients and numerous walk-up requests for bandaids. The bicycle teams assisted approximately 12 patients in and around the Rosslyn Metro Station. Additionally, the Falls Church Canteen unit was requested by the ACFD to serve refreshments to first responders as they arrived in the morning. Reimbursement for those expenditures is still being sought from the ACFD.

Arlington Police/Fire 9-11 Memorial 5k Race

Three FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance during this annual remembrance event in Pentagon City. In addition to staffing an ambulance, eight FCVFD personnel were among the over 2,500 runners who participated in the race. FCVFD Firefighter Devin Lyons-Quirk placed 13th overall and 1st among male firefighters. Sarah Greear placed 4th among female firefighter participants and the FCVFD placed 5th among fire department teams.

United States Army Ten-Miler

Two FCVFD members and one Cherrydale VFD member staffed a basic life support ambulance in support of the Army Ten-Miler, an annual race sponsored by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. In 2007, over 25,000 runners participated in the event and made it the largest 10-mile race event in the United States. During the event, the crew treated several patients with minor injuries and transported one patient to Alexandria Hospital for further care.

Anti-War Protest – March 17

Three FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance to assist the ACFD with a protest at the Pentagon. Approximately 15,000 people participated in the protest. The ambulance transported one protest participant suffering a medical emergency.

American Red Cross Basketball Tournament – March 24

Three FCVFD emergency medical technicians staffed a basic life support ambulance during the annual American Red Cross Basketball Tournament conducted at Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington. There were 1500 to 2000 people in attendance throughout the day and a total of 5 players received medical attention for orthopedic injuries.

Line of Duty Death Funeral – April 21

Three FCVFD officers attended the funeral of Prince William County Firefighter Kyle Wilson following his death while fighting a house fire. They participated in the procession with Engine 116 and Ambulance 106. During the day, Canteen 106 was requested to provide coverage for Fairfax County as all of their canteen units were committed to the funeral events.

Clarendon 10k – May 12

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance to provide EMS support for a foot race in the Clarendon neighborhood of Arlington. The crew provided treatment to three walk-up patients with minor injuries.

Courthouse Day Parade – May 12

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance to provide EMS support for a community parade in the Courthouse neighborhood of Arlington. The crew responded to several calls for assistance and provided treatment on the scene with no transport.

Tae Kwon Do Kickathon – May 12

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance to provide EMS support for a fundraising event at Jhoon Rhee Karate in North Arlington. There were no requests for assistance during event.

Rolling Thunder – May 27

Two FCVFD personnel along with one Cherrydale VFD member staffed a basic life support ambulance in conjunction with the ACFD to support this annual motorcycle event. The unit provided treatment for several minor injuries, and transported one patient from a vehicle collision at the end of the event.

Clarendon CSC Invitational Bike Race – June 2

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance in conjunction with the ACFD to provide EMS support of this annual 1km bike race in North Arlington. The crew assisted three cyclists during the event suffering from minor abrasions following falls on the pavement.

Bike Arlington – June 3

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance to assist the ACFD in providing EMS support for this annual event in the Shirlington area. The unit assisted one child who fell from a bicycle and required only minor first aid.

Cub Scout Soapbox Derby – June 9

Two FCVFD volunteers provided emergency medical services during the festivities on South Oak Street in Falls Church. There were no requests for assistance during event.

Air Force Crystal City Classic – June 16

Two FCVFD personnel along with one Cherrydale VFD member staffed a basic life support ambulance in conjunction with the ACFD to support the inaugural Crystal City Class bicycle event. The event included youth and amateur races, a celebrity tricycle race, pro women's 50K and pro men's 80K races, which took place over a 2K enclosed course in the Crystal City shopping and business district. The unit provided treatment for several minor injuries with no transport needed.

Fit Arlington Expo – June 23

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance providing EMS support for this event promoting a fitness culture in the Ballston area. Fitness demonstrations and displays were open from 11am to 3pm. There were no requests for assistance during event.

Taste of Falls Church and Fall Festival – September 15

Four FCVFD members staffed an aid tent and provided tours of the fire truck during the annual Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church event in Cherry Hill Park. Numerous attendees were treated at the tent for bee stings following the agitation of a hive near the center of the festival.

Vienna Halloween Parade – October 24

Ten members represented the FCVFD with Engine 116 and the AFCVRS ambulance in the annual Town of Vienna Halloween Parade. Old Tom and Sparky the Fire Dog did not participate due to the rainy weather conditions. While waiting in the staging area, personnel assisted a Fairfax County ambulance with a basic life support emergency that occurred nearby.

W&L High School Events

Due to an unexpected period without an Athletic Trainer, the administration at Washington and Lee High School requested assistance with several events during the month of January. FCVFD members staffed a wrestling match and 2 basketball games.

High School Varsity Football Games

The FCVFD was requested to provide emergency medical services by Bishop O'Connell and Yorktown High School at their home football games. During the course of eleven games in 2007 there were no requests for emergency assistance.

Old Tom Activities

Throughout 2007, the 1918 Model T Chemical Fire Engine known as "Old Tom" represented the FCVFD at public events. Through the generosity of a private citizen, the unit continues to be housed in a garage in the City of Falls Church. Public events and awards included:

- Apple Blossom Festival Firefighter's Parade, Winchester, Virginia, May 4 - *Best in Class for Privately Owned Antique Fire Apparatus 1800-1919*
- Falls Church Memorial Day Parade, Falls Church, Virginia, May 28
- Fairfax Independence Day Parade, Fairfax, Virginia, July 4
- Falls Church VFD Open House, Falls Church, Virginia, October 13



FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Fire Prevention Week and Open House

During the week designated by the National Fire Protection Association as Fire Prevention Week, Falls Church volunteer firefighters visited Saint James, Mount Daniel, and Thomas Jefferson Schools to teach approximately 600 children in grades K through 4 about fire safety.

The FCVFD hosted its annual open house on October 13 to top off fire prevention week activities. Thirty-six members spent over 340 hours planning and executing this event. Citizens were invited to visit the fire station and obtain fire safety tips, learn about the equipment, and watch demonstrations of fire and rescue techniques. Volunteers conducted demonstrations that included fire extinguisher use, structure fire attack, kitchen fire safety, vehicle rescue, aerial ladder operations, and emergency medical procedures. Displays of fire and EMS equipment were available for close examination by visitors and blood pressure screenings were offered. A silent auction fundraiser netted approximately \$1,800 for goods and services donated by local businesses. The Auxiliary provided refreshments to visitors throughout the day that included the consumption of 480 hotdogs.



Also participating in the Open House were deputies from the Falls Church Sheriff's Office assisting parents with child fingerprinting. The Sheriff's Office also provided the use of their traffic control trailer to assist in maintaining an orderly parking lot and traffic flow during the event. For the week prior to the event, the local office of the Virginia Department of Transportation provided a large programmable sign board that directed traffic on Lee Highway to the event.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

During 2007, eighteen FCVFD personnel assisted the Arlington County Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management conduct four CERT courses graduating 42 participants. Personnel aided with teaching various topics to Arlington citizens, including fire suppression, emergency medicine, and search and rescue, for a total of 191 hours. An initiative of the Department of Homeland Security, CERT is a neighborhood based program that prepares citizens to augment first responders during a natural or manmade disaster.

Operation Enduring Claus – December 15-23

Annually the reserve engine is decorated and a chair prepared for Santa Claus to travel in atop the hosebed. Santa's travels encompassed the entire City of Falls Church and other neighborhoods on the fringes of the City as time permitted. During the trips, FCVFD members handed out candy canes and fire safety literature to citizens. Dog biscuits were provided for our four-legged friends who frequently come out to visit with Santa too. This year, the FCVFD purchased and distributed nearly 6,000 candy canes and 200 dog biscuits. Thirty-three FCVFD members donated 307 hours of service during the operation.



EMS Week

In conjunction with National Emergency Medical Services Week in May, nine members contributed 49 hours staffing a booth for five days providing free blood pressure screenings to 203 patrons of the Ballston Common Mall in Arlington.

First Aid and CPR Classes

Firefighter/EMT Schloss instructed several cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses through Northern Virginia Community College, as well as courses for new FCVFD recruits attending Indoctrination, and an annual recertification class for the Arlington County volunteers.

Scout Visits and Training

Throughout 2007, FCVFD personnel interacted with scouting groups from a variety of local schools and churches. Several events were conducted at the fire station that included tours of the facility, fire prevention talks, reviews of equipment, and protective equipment demonstrations. Additionally, first aid and summer safety tips were taught to a large group of Boy Scouts in preparation for summer vacation activities. In summary, 17 FCVFD members educated approximately 175 scouts, their leaders, and their parents during these events.

Falls Church Pre-School

Four firefighters discussed exit drills, stop, drop, and roll, demonstrated firefighter protective clothing, and proper handling of matches and lighters with 15 pre-school children at the Falls Church Community Center.

Louis Archer Elementary School

Three firefighters discussed exit drills, firefighter protective clothing, and tools with twenty third grade children at the Louis Archer Elementary School in Fairfax County. Following the classroom discussion, a firefighter deployed a hoseline from the pumper and the children were treated to a tour of the fire engine.

Rodef Shalom Pre-School

Three firefighters discussed exit drills, stop, drop, and roll, demonstrated firefighter protective clothing, and proper handling of matches and lighters with over 100 pre-school children at the school.

FCVFD Meeting Hall

Through a lease agreement with the City of Falls Church, the FCVFD manages a meeting facility on the second floor of the fire station. In addition to being a classroom and meeting room for the FCVFD, public safety agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens reserve the room throughout the year. During 2007, FCVFD members contributed over 725 hours hosting 88 birthday parties attended by 1,146 children. The children's events included fire safety presentations and tours of the station facility. In addition to the birthday parties, the facility was utilized by a variety of entities:

Arlington County Fire Department	53 events
Arlington County Emergency Communications Center	1 event
Arlington County Office of Emergency Management	3 events
Arlington County Police Department	1 event
Falls Church Police Department	5 events
Private Organizations	14 events

TRAINING

Falls Church volunteers participated in a wide variety of certification and non-certification courses throughout 2007. The following is a summary of the formal courses completed by our members.

Certification Courses

Course	Hours	Location	# of personnel completing
Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic	800	Associates in Emergency Care Manassas, VA	1
Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate	272	Associates in Emergency Care Manassas, VA	1
Firefighter I/II	225	Falls Church VFD	7
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic	121	Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, VA	1
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic	121	Arlington County Career Center	2
Fire Instructor 1	56	Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy	1
Driver/Operator – Pumper	48	Rockingham Regional Fire School Harrisonburg, VA	2
VDFP Officer 2	40	Top of Virginia Regional Fire School Winchester, VA	1
Fire Instructor 2	40	Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy	1
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic recertification	36	Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy	1
Hazardous Materials Operations	32	Falls Church VFD	7
Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support	16	Associates in Emergency Care Manassas, VA	1

Course	Hours	Location	# of personnel completing
Emergency Vehicle Operator – Class 2	16	Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy	2
Emergency Vehicle Operator – Class 3	16	Falls Church VFD	5
Hazardous Materials Operations – Train-the-Trainer	16	VDFP Instructor College Roanoke, VA	1
International Trauma Life Support Advanced	16	Associates in Emergency Care Manassas, VA	1
Pediatric Advanced Life Support	16	Associates in Emergency Care Manassas, VA	1
Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Professionals	16	Associates in Emergency Care Manassas, VA	1
NFPA 1403 Live Fire Compliance Officer	8	Loudoun County Fire Training Center Leesburg, VA	2
CPR Instructor	8	Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy	6
Driver/Operator – Train-the-Trainer	4	Loudoun County Fire Training Center Leesburg, VA	1
NFPA 1403 Live Fire Instructor Awareness	4	Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy	1

Non-Certification Courses

Course	Hours	Location	# of personnel completing
Basic Pump Operations	16	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	4
Truck Company Operations	16	Central Shenandoah Valley Regional Fire School Harrisonburg, VA	2
NFA: Arson Detection for First Responders	14	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	4
NFA: Health and Safety Officer	12	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	3
NFA Leadership III: Strategies for Supervisory Success	12	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	3
NFA Building Construction: Combustible	12	Central Shenandoah Valley Regional Fire School Harrisonburg, VA	5

Trex Plant Tour and Demonstration

Three FCVFD officers participated in a training event at the Trex Company headquarters in Winchester, Virginia with personnel from the Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD. “Trex” is a synthetic alternative to pressure treated wood products composed of recycled plastic and wood particles.

Members of the Trex Safety Health Emergency Response Team provided a guided tour of the manufacturing facility and processes used to generate the Trex product. They reviewed some of the properties of the raw materials to allow a better understanding of the fuels involved during a fire.

Following the tour of the facility, fire department personnel used decommissioned manufacturing equipment to practice rescue techniques. A large dust hopper was lifted using a combination of air bags and hydraulic tools.

In addition to the training at the plant, the Trex Company constructed several structures at the Frederick County Fire Training Center to simulate typical configurations of their products in construction. These structures were ignited and extinguished to familiarize fire department members with the fire behavior characteristics of the materials.



USPP Basic Helicopter Operations

Two officers participated with personnel from the Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in a 3-hour training exercise at the United States Park Police Aviation Headquarters in Anacostia. Members of the USPP Aviation Division reviewed helicopter capabilities, safety, medevac operations, and hoisting operations. The course included two practical exercises conducted in Anacostia Park. The first required personnel to attach a rescue litter to the hoist and guide the litter using taglines during the lift. The second placed fire department personnel on a "jungle penetrator" personnel hoist where they were raised and lowered from the hovering aircraft.



Rapid Intervention Team Training

Five firefighters traveled to the Panther Family Fun Center in Dulles, Virginia to train with the Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD. The exercise was conducted using the laser tag area of the business to simulate a low visibility and maze-like environment. Theatrical smoke, black light, and high intensity music were used to further confuse personnel and create a difficult operating environment.

Teams were assigned to locate and rescue a downed firefighter in a variety of scenarios. The exercise introduced the Falls Church personnel to a new tracking system developed by Scott Aviation. The tracking system allows a rescue team to identify when a firefighter is in trouble, and then locate the firefighter using a signal emitted from the breathing apparatus worn by the firefighter. Additionally, personnel practiced tagline and thermal imaging operations, as well as firefighter rescue techniques.

Live Fire Exercise

Three FCVFD instructors assisted Fairfax County volunteer instructors conducting a live fire exercise with their recruit class on Tapawingo Road, SW in Vienna. Throughout the day fires were set in various locations within the 1-story frame residence to provide recruits an opportunity to experience conditions they could encounter during a real incident. The Falls Church instructors were assigned to construct the burn sets and ignite the fires with two Fairfax County personnel.

Lightweight Frame Construction

Prior to the FCVFD business meeting on May 14, Assistant Chief Evinger and six volunteer personnel visited a home under construction at 1113 Lincoln Avenue in Falls Church. Members reviewed the construction features of the partially finished residence, including trusses, engineered I-beams, and oriented strand board. Chief Evinger led a discussion of how these features would affect fire behavior and structural stability.

“Point of No Return” Seminar

Two instructors attended a 1-day workshop sponsored by the City of Fairfax Fire Department regarding the monitoring and conservation of breathing air during firefighting operations, tactical safety, and firefighter survival.

VDH Community-based Emergency Response Seminar

Three FCVFD members attended a 1-day seminar to discuss planning requirements for special needs populations during a variety of emergency situations.

CNG Explosion “Near Miss” Seminar

Two members attended a presentation by Seattle Fire Department Battalion Chief Randy Hansen at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy. The chief shared lessons learned following a Firefighter Near Miss when a compressed natural gas fuel cylinder catastrophically failed as a result of a vehicle fire. The resulting explosion destroyed the vehicle, threw debris over 100 feet, and subjected approaching firefighters to great risk.

INOVA EMS Night

Seven personnel attended a seminar at INOVA Fairfax Trauma Center regarding pedestrian versus vehicle collisions and the injuries associated with such incidents.

BLS Provider

Four personnel completed the 16-hour course required to qualify as an Attendant-in-Charge when staffing a basic life support ambulance. This course is a requirement associated with the volunteer-staffed ambulance that operates within Arlington County and is the adopted standard of the FCVFD for its own ambulance operations. It is in addition to the emergency medical technician curriculum offered by the local colleges and fire academies. Participants are also required to complete a supervised internship program to complete the process. During 2007, one FCVFD member became authorized as a vehicle operator for the BLS unit.

Light and Air Orientation

Personnel staffing the Cherrydale VFD Light and Air Unit must complete a 12-hour course to ensure proficiency. This training included a review of response procedures, typical response scenarios, and features of the unit. Students are required to pass a written and practical evaluation at the completion of the course. In 2007, eight FCVFD personnel became qualified to staff the Light and Air Unit.

Indoctrination and Orientation

During one 4-month session, FCVFD instructors conducted indoctrination and orientation training for recruits from Falls Church and the six other volunteer departments within Arlington County. Six FCVFD recruits completed their indoctrination in 2007. Most of the training occurred at the meeting facility at Station 6 using Falls Church apparatus and equipment for practical evolutions. The orientation program consists of a comprehensive 2-tiered system that trains new volunteers in fire and rescue administration and operations. Topics range from cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cultural diversity, and Fire Department Organization to personal protective equipment, managing hoselines, and placing ground ladders. Recruits must pass both written and practical exams before being permitted to participate in emergency operations.

County Drills

In order to ensure proficiency and comply with government requirements for education, Countywide training is conducted on a monthly basis. FCVFD instructors organized and supervised many of the drills. The drills in 2007 consisted of:

- February: Highrise Building Systems
Firefighter Schild organized a visit to the Fairview Park Marriott where the Director of Engineering provided a guided tour of the fire detection, fire suppression, and mechanical systems.
- March: Mayday!
Assistant Chief Evinger led a classroom and practical review of firefighter removal, buddy breathing, personal tool selection, and the NOVA protocols for rapid intervention teams.
- April: Standpipe Operations
Lieutenant McCarry and Firefighter Schild organized an exercise in the training tower at the Arlington County Fire Training Academy that required personnel to deploy the highrise hose packs as well as rescue a mannequin from the top floor.

- May: Ladders
Personnel practiced a variety of tasks with ground ladders at the ACFD Fire Training Academy.
- June: Fire Detection Systems
Firefighter Schild and Cherrydale VFD Chief Pardi reviewed basic operating characteristics of common fire detection and suppression systems.
- July: Bloodborne Pathogens and HIPAA
Firefighter/EMT Schild conducted annual refresher training regarding first responder infection control and the legal requirements for patient confidentiality.
- August: Public Education
Personnel interacted with the public at the Arlington County Fair under the supervision of senior members.
- November: SCBA Replenishment
Personnel performed the tasks associated with refilling breathing air cylinders using both Light and Air 103 and the new Scott Revolv-Air System at Fire Station 6.
- December: Bloodborne Pathogens and HIPAA
Captain Fortner conducted annual refresher training regarding first responder infection control and the legal requirements for patient confidentiality.

Company Drills

The FCVFD conducts training meetings on the fourth Monday of each month to provide continuing education on fire and EMS topics. The drills in 2007 consisted of:

- January: EMS Skills Stations
Paramedic Parker and instructors from the Holly Grove Volunteer Rescue Squad organized reviews of the KED, automated external defibrillator, injuries from falls, and pediatric immobilization.
- February: ACFD BLS Protocols
EMT Byron led a discussion of the newly revised basic life support protocols for medical emergencies.
- March: Mayday!
Assistant Chief Evinger organized a series of practical evolutions that required searching for and removing downed firefighters under simulated smoke conditions.

- April: Memorial Day Operations
Captain Fortner, Lieutenant Vilpors, and Assistant Chief Evinger reviewed protocols and the after-action report from the 2006 Memorial Day event that resulted in a large number of medical emergencies.
- June: Safety Standdown 2007
In accord with a national initiative, Assistant Chief Evinger and Deputy Chief Schloss presented information on risk management, personal preparedness, and response procedures.
- August: Football Injuries
In preparation for high school football season, Lieutenant Vilpors, Yorktown High School Athletic Trainer Bruce Ferratt, and O'Connell High School Athletic Trainer Don Tillson reviewed basic life support procedures for traumatic injuries encountered at sporting events. Personnel practiced removal of protective sports equipment to facilitate treatment of an injured player.
- September: Fire Prevention Education
Captain Fortner reviewed the typical fire safety information presented to the variety of audiences members encounter.
- October: Fireground Scenarios
Personnel reviewed standard operating procedures and basic firefighting skills through a series of practical exercises at the ACFD Fire Training Academy.
- November: Winter Fire Emergencies
Assistant Chief Evinger reviewed typical cold weather fire department responses, such as heating equipment malfunctions, carbon monoxide alarms, and chimney flue fires.

Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad Drills

The AFCVRS conducts training meetings to keep members updated on developments in delivery of emergency medical services in Arlington County. The drills in 2007 consisted of:

- May: New Equipment
Chief Schloss reviewed the operating instructions for the Phillips automated external defibrillator, Ferno cot, and Stryker stair chair.
- December: ALS Assist Skills
Chief Schloss organized skills stations to review typical tasks expected of basic life support personnel when assisting advanced life support providers.

PRESENTATIONS

Arlington County Volunteer Appreciation Reception

FCVFD Lieutenant David Vilpors was selected as one of Arlington County's Outstanding Volunteers for 2006. The ceremony was held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association building in Ballston. In addition to David, several volunteers from the Department of Human Services, Police Auxiliary, Sheriff's Office, and Department of Parks and Recreation were recognized. County Board members presented the awards with approximately 200 people on hand. Twenty-six FCVFD members contributing over 250 hours of volunteer service to Arlington County also received certificates recognizing their participation.

Firemen's Fund Insurance Company Grant

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company established the Heritage Program to assist fire departments nationwide with obtaining equipment to improve service delivery to the community. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman's Fund products are able to direct these grants to support fire stations in their communities. Through a series of relationships, the Falls Church VFD was chosen by both Early, Cassidy & Schilling and Lighthouse Underwriters to receive allocations of funds generated by each agency. The grant of \$43,571.00 was presented to the FCVFD on December 10, 2007 and will be utilized to offset the costs associated with the replacement of a 17-year old utility vehicle.



APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

Advanced Life Support Unit

On April 30, the FCVFD signed a contract with Singer Associates of Gainesville, VA, to build a new advanced life support ambulance based upon the Arlington County specification and contract. The vehicle will be manufactured by Medtec on an International chassis. Delivery is anticipated in the Spring of 2008 with a final cost of approximately \$205,000. It will replace a 1997 Medic Master ambulance that served in roles as the primary advanced life support unit, reserve advanced life support unit, and volunteer-staffed basic life support unit. The vehicle is being purchased solely utilizing monies raised through fundraising activities of the FCVFD.



Utility Vehicle

During the summer of 2007, the process of replacing the 17-year old utility vehicle was started. In August 2007, the FCVFD signed a letter of intent to purchase a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 crew cab chassis from Koons Chevrolet in Vienna, Virginia. The chassis was specified to include a custom Reading utility body with compartmentation and an open cargo bed. The chassis and body were completed in February 2008. In early January 2008, FESCO Emergency Sales was selected to complete the custom installation of the warning lights and auxiliary equipment for the vehicle. Delivery of the final vehicle is expected in June 2008. Final cost of the vehicle is approximately \$90,000, funded entirely by the FCVFD. A large portion of the cost of the vehicle was defrayed by a grant from Firemen's Fund Insurance Company.