

For Immediate Release – Oct. 3, 2019

Contact: Deputy Chief Steve Morris
Harrisonburg Fire Department
540-432-7703

Fourteen Firefighters complete Regional Fire Training Academy

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Fourteen firefighters from across our area are now ready to make a greater impact on their communities after graduating from the Central Shenandoah Valley Regional Fire Training Academy.

The 14, who are all recently hired firefighters from several surrounding jurisdictions, will attend a graduation ceremony on Friday, Oct. 4, following training at the academy. Throughout the past three weeks, the students have completed training including hose deployments, firefighter down rescues and search and rescue.

The Regional Fire Training Academy is a multi-agency organization focused on new career firefighters serving with the Harrisonburg Fire Department, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue, and the Staunton Fire Department. It was established in 2012 to ensure consistency of training among the five jurisdictions which often work together across jurisdictional boundaries. Instructional staff and facilities were provided by the represented departments, as well as Augusta County Fire Rescue, the Charlottesville Fire Department, and Albemarle County Fire Rescue Department.

“This academy is made possible through the regional support of Augusta County, Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Staunton and Waynesboro,” explained Harrisonburg Fire Chief Ian Bennett. “It allows these newly hired firefighters to hone their basic firefighting skills and better prepare them to serve our community.”

The firefighters completing the Regional Fire Training Academy are:

- Aaron Buster, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue
- Ty Carter, Staunton Fire Department
- Ryan Eagle, Harrisonburg Fire Department
- Conner Ifft, Harrisonburg Fire Department
- Thomas Moriarity, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue
- Jason Nutty, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue
- Nathan Pettit, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue
- Brady Raccanello, Harrisonburg Fire Department
- Jonathan Robertson, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue



(Above) A firefighter takes part in a training exercise. Fourteen firefighters will officially graduate from training on Friday.

- Alec Thibodeaux, Harrisonburg Fire Department
- Michael Thompson, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue
- Genevieve Trevino, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue
- Jack VanOrden, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue
- Emily Walter, Harrisonburg Fire Department

The graduation will be held at the Rockingham County Administrative Building, 20 E. Gay Street on Friday at 5 p.m.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department is an ISO-Class II All-Hazards agency providing essential emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the public who live, work and travel in Harrisonburg. More information about the Fire Department is available on-line at www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire or on Facebook®, Twitter® and Instagram®.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 54,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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