



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
FIRE
DEPARTMENT

101 NORTH MAIN STREET
HARRISONBURG, VA 22802
OFFICE (540) 432-7703

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Contact: Matthew Tobia, Fire Chief
540-432-7703

Harrisonburg firefighters complete prestigious programs

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Two members of the Harrisonburg Fire Department recently graduated from one of the State’s most prestigious fire officer training programs.

Lieutenant Matthew Bauserman completed the Virginia Chief Officer Academy (VCOA), and Master Firefighter Robert Hilley completed the Virginia Fire Officer Academy (VFOA).

Established in 2007, both courses include an intense focus on leadership and personnel management, physical training, practical scenarios, team building exercises as well as speakers from all aspects of the fire service. The goal of the VFOA is to develop leaders in the fire service through scenario-based training with a focus on accountability, education, safety and ownership. The goal of the VCOA, is to prepare officers to assume the responsibilities associated with higher rank, typically focused on strategic leadership and management. Both programs were held concurrently at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg.

Lt. Bauserman has been employed with the Department for more than 16 years and is currently assigned to the Maryland Avenue Fire Station on “C” shift. He commands personnel assigned to the Tower Ladder. Lt. Bauserman is authorized to function as an Acting Battalion Chief and is on the eligibility list to be promoted to the rank of Captain. Lt. Bauserman has completed the Managing Officer program at the National Fire Academy and is a previous graduate of the VFOA.

Master Firefighter Hilley is also assigned to the Maryland Avenue Fire Station but serves on “A” shift. He has been with the City for more than eight years, serving as both a firefighter and a sworn law enforcement officer. MFF Hilley is a certified fire investigator and fire inspector and works in the Fire Marshal’s Office, in addition to his primary responsibilities as a firefighter. MFF Hilley is also a nationally registered and Virginia certified paramedic. He is the primary relief officer on Engine 28, and recently competed in the promotional process for the rank of Lieutenant, finishing first.



(Above, from left) Lieutenant Matthew Bauserman and Master Firefighter Robert Hilley. The two recently completed the Virginia Chief Officer Academy and Virginia Fire Officer Academy, respectively.

“We are tremendously proud of both Lt. Bauserman and MFF Hilley, who are continuing the Department’s tradition of sending talented current and future officers to these programs. Their investment in this intense week of training will pay dividends for years to come,” Fire Chief Matthew Tobia said. “We also extend our deepest appreciation to the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association for implementing and supporting these courses of instruction.”

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 almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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