



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
**FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

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For Immediate Release: June 6, 2024

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HFD's Armstrong named president of Virginia life safety organization

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Harrisonburg Fire Department Battalion Chief Mike Armstrong is adding another impressive designation to his list of accomplishments, having recently been named President of the Virginia Fire Prevention Association.

Armstrong, who has more than 25 years of experience in firefighting and fire prevention at the state and local level, serves as HFD's Deputy Fire Marshal and oversees the department's Community Risk Reduction Division. As president of the Virginia Fire Prevention Association, he will help lead an organization representing state and local fire marshals, fire officials, fire inspectors, fire investigators, firefighters, building officials, building inspectors and others involved in enforcing and developing fire safety regulations. The Association has been active in promoting State and Local codes and regulations developed to provide safety to life and property from the hazards of fire.

"I am deeply honored to be asked to serve in this capacity," Armstrong said. "The opportunity to impact the health and safety of our Commonwealth through advocacy is at the core of our mission, and I am humbled to be selected."



(Above) Battalion Chief Mike Armstrong

Through his work with HFD's Community Risk Reduction Division, Armstrong supervises a group of fire investigators and inspectors charged with enforcing the fire and life safety codes of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He also oversees a three-person team of personnel responsible for educating the community in strategies designed to prevent fires and other incidents from occurring that have the potential to risk lives. The division's Life Safety Education team conducts frequent educational programs in all City schools and for at-risk communities in Harrisonburg. They also provide free smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, along with a child passenger seat safety program. Armstrong also is a sworn law-enforcement officer and holds numerous professional certifications, including national certification as a Type III Wildland Incident Commander.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Chief Armstrong serving the City of Harrisonburg," Fire Chief Matthew Tobia said. "Mike is a tireless and ardent leader in maintaining a vibrant business community in Harrisonburg through the prevention of fires. He has dedicated his entire adult life to saving lives and property not only through response, but in the all-important realm of prevention."

The Virginia Fire Prevention Association, per its website, has a multi-faceted mission including the promotion, development, and improvement of the art and science of fire prevention and inspection, and the enforcement of the various fire prevention laws and codes of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the political subdivisions thereof; promotion and maintenance of a high

professional standing among its members; fostering, maintaining, and continuing educational advancements for and among its members; serving as a resource to the media for the discussion and exchange of information concerning the methods, techniques, interpretations and problems related to fire prevention; and, promotion of compliance with the State Fire Prevention and Control Plan.

Armstrong will serve as President effective immediately and may serve a second consecutive term in 2025.

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 55,990 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.

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