



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
FIRE
DEPARTMENT

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HFD Lt. Chris Snyder Graduates State Fire Marshal Law Enforcement Academy

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Chris Snyder, a lieutenant assigned to the Operations Division of the Harrisonburg Fire Department, recently completed a rigorous 14-week training course sponsored by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs State Fire Marshal Academy. Snyder, a 19-year veteran of the department, is already certified as a fire inspector and shift fire investigator.

Snyder joins a small group of HFD personnel with law enforcement authorities. This certification will permit Snyder to investigate and enforce laws involving fire and environmental crimes. During the program, Snyder learned skills relating to constitutional law, defensive tactics, firearms training, de-escalation techniques and investigatory processes.

“Becoming a certified law-enforcement officer for our department reflects Lt. Snyder’s ongoing commitment to his own professional development and our community,” HFD Fire Chief Matthew Tobia said. “Having personnel who are able to not only investigate crimes related to fire prevention and the criminal code but can independently bring charges is critical to keeping our community safe.”

Snyder was promoted in March 2023 and is currently assigned to Fire Station #1, where he leads the crew of Engine #1 on C Shift. Previously, Snyder spent numerous years assigned to the Tower Company and has an extensive background in technical rescue and hazardous materials mitigation.



Lt. Chris Snyder

The Virginia State Fire Marshal’s Office is a division of the Department of Fire Programs and manages a comprehensive training program, in addition to its mission of enforcing fire prevention laws. The Basic Law Enforcement Academy is held annually and includes candidates from multiple jurisdictions.

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[®] and Instagram[®].

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 56,879 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.

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