

Virginia Fire Services Board

Fire Education and Training Committee

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Amazement Square

27 9th Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504

2:00 PM

MINUTES

A meeting of the Fire Education and Training Committee was held in Lynchburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Kevin Duck, and a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Duck, Committee Chair – Insurance Industry

Abbey Johnston – Virginia State Firefighters’ Association

Todd Lupton – Virginia Fire Chiefs Association

Jerome Williams – Certified Fire Service Instructor

Todd King – Virginia Association of Counties

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Edward L. Senter Jr. – Virginia Fire Service Council

Jess Rodzinka – Virginia Professional Fire Fighters

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Marc Brade, Chief of Training and Operations

Greg Cavalli, Policy Analyst

GUESTS PRESENT

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings (February 2026)

Motion: Johnston **Second:** Williams

Discussion on the Motion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Minutes approved

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REPORT FROM THE VDFP CHIEF OF TRAINING

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) Training and Operations Branch Chief Marc Brade reported that the agency has completed its reaccreditation with both ProBoard and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). The agency has been accredited for more programs than ever before and plans to add to that number in the future. ProBoard completed its site visit approximately five weeks ago.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Duck thanked the staff of VDFP for their efforts over the past several years in supporting the Board. He believes the relationship between VDFP, and the Board is the best he has ever seen in 46 years of service. He also thanked the members of the committee for their service on the committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

a. Update on SB140 (2026) Mental Health Awareness Training

Chief Brade said that VDFP is in the process of assembling a team of subject matter experts. He estimated there will be seven people, representing a variety of groups, participating in the development of the curriculum. The training rollout is estimated to be March to April of 2027. There is no contract yet as the objectives have not been finalized. The use of third-party vendors, as with the electric vehicle training, will be a model for this training.

b. Update on the National Fire Academy Virginia State Weekend

Chief Brade said that the 2027 state weekend will be March 21 and 22. While this is a week earlier than in the past, he stated that it was necessary to accommodate the Easter holiday weekend. Virginia will partner with Connecticut and Delaware to provide a wider variety of available courses. There should be ten courses with an average of fifteen seats per course. Recently, there was an impromptu state weekend, necessitated by the government shutdown. There were about 60 participants.

Jerome Williams stated that the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) standards on professional qualifications for firefighters have changed. He made a motion to request that VDFP provide a copy of this new NFPA 1010 standard to the Board.

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Motion: To request that VDFP purchase a copy of the NFPA 1010 standard for use by the Board

Motion: Williams **Second:** Lupton

Discussion on the Motion: Williams asked Chief Brade if Training and Operations would support this. Chief Brade said that he would.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: The Board requests that VDFP purchase a copy of the NFPA 1010 standard.

ADJOURNMENT

Clerk of the Committee

Greg Cavalli

Minutes completed by

Greg Cavalli

Documents related to this meeting of the Virginia Fire Services Board may be requested by contacting the Government Affairs Division by emailing PolicyOffice@vdfp.virginia.gov