



# Virginia Association of Counties ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 3, 2019.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

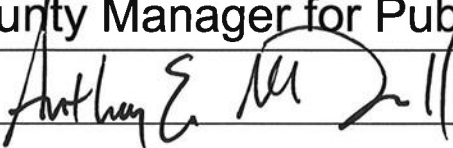
### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico  
Program Title: Firefighter Individual Records of Exposure (FIRE) Program  
Program Category: Information Technology

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis  
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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Anthony McDowell  
Title: Deputy County Manager for Public Safety  
Signature: 

## **Program Overview**

The Firefighter Individual Records of Exposure Program (FIRE) serves as a repository of each time a firefighter is exposed to chemicals or products that could be cancerous or dangerous over time. The program uses the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) reporting software that the Division of Fire utilizes for report writing to capture these exposures and places them into individual files specific to each employee. The result ends up being a personal repository of information available to a specific employee, occupational health, or their personal physician when needed to evaluate potential exposures, and subsequently treatment.

## **Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality**

It is well documented that firefighters face a cancer diagnosis at a higher rate than their general public counterparts. To date, the Division of Fire was not documenting or capturing any information related to potentially dangerous or cancer-causing exposures. The Commonwealth of Virginia has a presumption clause for certain types of cancer, but often the burden of proof falls to the employee. By having a repository available, they will be better served in documenting their exposures which will allow for more adequate medical treatment. This program works in the background capturing exposures for individual firefighters, using Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) information, as well as the Division of Fire PASSPORT program which captures which firefighters are assigned to a specific assignment for the day. Occupational health and private physicians can utilize

this information to determine how specific illnesses will respond based on the type of chemical exposures an individual has been exposed to.

### **How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria**

This program will directly aid physicians in treating their patients and knowing the types of chemicals a firefighter has been exposed to, the frequency of such incidents, and the time period within which they occurred. Our most valuable assets are our employees, and this program helps us directly take care of our firefighters as best we can. We are setting them up for success by providing resources to them that capture vital information regarding their dangerous chemical exposures over the course of a career. Additionally, the Commonwealth of Virginia has a presumption law for specific types of cancer. This program aids firefighters with making qualifying claims by having actual information to provide. This program is built to serve the firefighters that serve the County of Henrico. By tracking personal exposures, we can assist occupational health and wellness as well as private physicians to better treat our firefighters. It is an innovative, cost effective program that specifically attributes exposures to known carcinogens for individual firefighters.

### **How Program Was Carried Out**

This program was built using county personnel to design the program and integrate it with our homegrown Computer Automated Dispatch system.

## **Financing and Staffing**

This program is fiscally responsible because it does not require any county funding. The program did use human capital from Henrico Fire and Henrico County IT but did not incur any operating cost. Comparatively speaking, a previous cost estimate for the same program from a third-party vendor would cost \$17,000 dollars annually.

## **Program Results**

This program has shown tremendous success in its early stages. Using the same business logic that will be utilized to capture exposures in the future, we were able to perform a longitudinal analysis of the past ten years to give a more complete history for each firefighter within the Division. Moving forward, we will be able to capture every exposure an individual firefighter faces throughout the span of a career. With this, we will be able to provide them a media storage device (USB thumb drive) with each exposure over this period. Within each file is the CAD number, the personnel on the call for service, and the NFIRS report attached to it

## **Brief Summary**

The FIRE Program is unique in that there are very few departments across the country using a stand-alone, fully CAD integrated exposures tracking program. Most of these programs require significant input by the end user and as such, often are missing complete records. This program runs in the background using integration from CAD, the NFIRS reporting software, and RedNMX, the fire departments' report writing program.

This integration pulls in the necessary data without having manual interaction by the individual firefighter. As such, we feel that we get a more thorough report for each individual. To ensure validity and reliability of the information brought into each repository, a single individual at the rank of Battalion Chief manually validates each exposure. As such, we have seen tremendous reliability and accuracy. Since we are using programs that pre-dated the creation of this program, we can use storage servers with archived information to build a complete history for those firefighters serving for the past 11 years. This number represents close to 50 percent of the entirety of the sworn population within Henrico Fire.