



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

STRONGER TOGETHER. ALWAYS READY

VAFR Training & Education Newsletter – March 15, 2026

Training Officer's Update

The Virginia Association of First Responders continues to expand and enhance training opportunities across the Commonwealth. State Training Officer leadership recently worked with program coordinators to review and update existing courses to ensure they remain current and relevant for today's first responders.

New Virtual EMS Continuing Education Program

In response to concerns raised by members regarding limited EMS continuing education opportunities, a committee has been established to develop a Virtual EMS CE Program.

- Program details:
- Two Category 1 EMS CE sessions each month
- First Wednesday and Fourth Thursday
- 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
- Live via Google Meet

The program launches April 1, 2026 with presenters including:

- VCU Life Evac
- Brandon Aurther – Carilion Clinic
- FBI Presentation on Human Trafficking (May)

Learning Management System Development

A committee has been reestablished to develop a VAFR Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS will allow select recertification courses to be delivered as prerecorded modules with post-course assessments.

New Programs in Development

Advanced Farm Machinery Rescue

- Completed and scheduled to debut at the Virginia First Responder Symposium in June.
- Prerequisites include Basic Rescue, Light Duty Rescue, and Basic Farm Machinery.

Heavy Tactical Rescue (HTR)

- Currently under development with anticipated completion in 2027.

Aviation Emergency Response Program

- Developed by ARFF Chief Kevin Garber and designed for rural response agencies. • Focuses on coordinated response operations involving dispatch, law enforcement, and fire and rescue during aviation emergencies.

A local general aviation airport has donated five decommissioned aircraft for use in simulated fire attack and extrication scenarios. Fire Safety & Equipment has also volunteered their extrication tool trailer to support the program.

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Upcoming VAFR Training Opportunities

- EVOC 1-2 & 1-3 — Instructor: Pazdric — Priority Patient Transport — March 21–22, 2026
- Methods of Instruction — Instructor: Eubank — DoubleTree Charlottesville — March 21–22, 2026
- EVOC 1-2 — Instructor: Waldin — Vinton FAC — March 21–22, 2026
- IDC/DICO Update — Craft/Barenklau — VAFR Spring BOG — March 22, 2026
- EVOC 1-2 — Rogers — Blacksburg VRS — March 28–29, 2026
- EVOC 1-2-3 & Refresher — Cheatham — North Halifax VFD — March 28–29, 2026
- EVOC 1-2-3 — McDaniel-Ellis — Isle of Wight VRS — March 28–29, 2026
- Vehicle Rescue Awareness & Operations — Paxton — Cheriton Vol. Fire Co. — April 11–12, 2026
- EVOC 1-2-3 & Refresher — Mason — Mattaponi VRS — April 11–12, 2026
- EVOC 1-2-3 & Refresher — Knight — Bridgewater VRS — April 11–12, 2026
- Vehicle Rescue Awareness — Barber — Danville LSC — April 17, 2026
- EVOC 1-2-3 & Refresher — Maupin — Grottoes Rescue — April 18–19, 2026
- Farm Machinery Extrication – Basic — Roe — South Hampton Regional — April 18–19, 2026
- EVOC Instructor Update — Hodge — Washington County LSC — April 18, 2026
- EVOC 1-2-3 & Refresher — Caplinger — Broadway Emergency Squad — April 23–25, 2026
- Bus Extrication — Roe — Goshen Fire & Rescue — April 25–26, 2026
- EVOC Instructor Update — Rohr — Rockbridge County High School — April 25, 2026
- EVOC 1-2-3 — Wright — Callao VFD — April 30 – May 2, 2026
- EVOC 1-2-3 Refresher — Sargent — Respond 1st LLC — May 9, 2026

VAFR Spring Board of Governors Meeting & Training

March 21, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Charlottesville

990 Hilton Heights Rd., Charlottesville, VA

Welcome Reception: Friday March 20 – 7:00 PM

Board of Governors Meeting: Saturday March 21 – 9:00 AM

EMS Continuing Education Sessions (No Pre-Registration Required)

- 8:00 AM – Seen but Deadly – Recognizing DKA, HHS & Hypoglycemia – Instructor: Squires
- 9:00 AM – Time = Brain – Recognition of Stroke in the Field – Instructor: Squires
- 10:00 AM – So, They're Dead – A Guide to Death Delivery in EMS – Instructor: Gentry
- 11:00 AM – Back to the Basics – Vital Signs Review – Instructor: Gentry
- 1:00 PM – EMT Pharmacology – Understanding EMS Medications – Instructor: Gentry
- 2:00 PM – You Have Been Burned – Burn Pathophysiology – Instructor: Gentry
- 3:00 PM – Trauma After the Call – Instructor: Hurst
- 4:00 PM – Head Injuries – Our Personal Story – Instructor: Hurst

Additional Training: (REGISTRATION REQUIRED):

- **Methods of Instruction** – March 21–22, 2026 | 8:00 AM–5:00 PM | Instructors: K. Eubank / S. Ayers
- **Infectious Disease Control** – March 21, 2026, | 9:00 AM–12:00 PM | Instructor: M. Barenklau
- **DICO** – March 21, 2026, | 1:00 PM–4:00 PM | Instructor: M. Barenklau
- **DICO - Update** – March 22, 2026, | 9:00 AM–12:00 PM | Instructor: M. Barenklau

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Virginia First Responder Symposium – Important Information and Helpful Links

Register for the Symposium

<https://www.vafr.org/symposium/>

View the Symposium Course Catalog

https://issuu.com/vavrs/docs/2026_vafr_symposium_brochure.vf

Symposium App (Most Up-to-Date Information)

<https://virginiafirstrespondersymposium.base44.app>

Hotel Information

<https://virginiafirstrespondersymposium.base44.app/hotels>

Become a Vendor / Exhibitor

https://issuu.com/vavrs/docs/26_vfrs_sponsor_and_vendor-11

Symposium Registration Help Guide

https://www.vafr.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/VAFR_Symposium_Registration_Guide.pdf

The **Symposium App** serves as the central location for the most up-to-date information, including hotel booking links, course information, schedules, and event updates. The **course catalog** also includes a hotel section with QR codes that link directly to the discounted hotel booking pages.

Common Registration Issues

Currently, one of the most common challenges participants experience is completing registration. In most cases, this is due to one of the following:

1. **Member Not Listed on Agency Roster**

Individuals must be listed on their agency's VAFR roster to register. Agency leadership must update their roster in the membership system if a member is missing.

2. **Unable to Log In to the VAFR Website**

If you are unable to log in to your account, please contact the VAFR office for assistance.

Email: vafr@vafr.org

3. **Agency Membership Dues Not Paid**

Agencies must have current VAFR membership dues paid before members can register for the Symposium.

If you continue to have trouble registering or locating information, please do not hesitate to contact the VAFR office. Email: vafr@vafr.org. Phone: 804.749.8191



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