



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

STRONGER TOGETHER. ALWAYS READY

NEWS FROM THE VAFR – MAY 1, 2026

Symposium Update – Registration Closing May 15

The Virginia First Responder Symposium continues to see strong participation, with over 400 individuals already registered. As a result, the free registration period has officially closed.

Current Registration Rates:

- Members: \$100.00
- Non-Members: \$200.00 (includes an individual VAFR membership)

Registration will close on May 15, and attendees are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Several courses are filling quickly, while others are at risk due to low enrollment. If you have been considering attending, now is the time to secure your seat and help ensure a full and successful training schedule.

VAFR Camporee – Natural Bridge Jellystone

The annual VAFR Camporee at Jellystone Camp Resort in Natural Bridge is beginning to fill rapidly. As of now, only four riverfront sites remain available, along with a limited number of cabins and yurts. Additional non-river sites are still available.

This family-friendly campground offers a wide range of amenities, including fishing in the trout pond, river floating, water parks, mini golf, and more. It is a great opportunity for members and their families to relax and connect outside of the operational environment.

Event Details:

- Dates: July 31 – August 1
- Booking Deadline for Discounted Rates: June 16
- Group Name: VAVRS (Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads)

Reservations must be made by calling Jellystone Natural Bridge directly. For questions or assistance, please contact Chris Craft.

📍 2535 Turkey Creek Road
Oilville, VA 23129

☎ Phone: (804) 749-8191
Fax: (804) 749-8910

✉ vafr@vafr.org



WWW.VAFR.ORG



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Convention 2026 Update

Planning for the 2026 VAFR Convention is well underway. The official convention brochure, including a full list of training opportunities, will be released soon.

Attendees can expect a wide variety of training tracks designed to meet the needs of all disciplines, including:

- Advanced Life Support (ALS)
- Basic Life Support (BLS)
- Fire and Rescue
- Law Enforcement

In addition to training, the convention will provide valuable networking opportunities, leadership engagement, and agency collaboration.

Learn more: <https://www.vafr.org/vafr-convention/>

Convention Competitions – Challenge Issued

A challenge has been issued ahead of Convention competitions. Millboro Area Rescue Squad has dominated EMT competitions within their district this year and is calling on other agencies across the Commonwealth to step up and compete.

Competition Events Include:

- ALS
- BLS
- EVOC
- Truck Rodeo
- Firefighter Challenge

This is a great opportunity to showcase your team's skills, build camaraderie, and represent your agency at the state level.

Winter Symposium Announcement


Be on the lookout on May 16 for an exciting announcement regarding a new Winter Symposium initiative. Additional details will be released soon.

Scholarships – Deadline June 1

VAFR continues to support member development through scholarship opportunities. Applications are currently open and must be submitted by June 1.

More information: <https://www.vafr.org/scholarship-information/>

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VAFR VILT Program – Statewide Launch

The VAFR Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) program is expanding and will officially launch statewide for all EMS providers across Virginia on May 6.

The first statewide session will focus on Human Trafficking and will be taught by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This marks a significant step forward in expanding accessible, high-quality training opportunities across the Commonwealth.

Learn more: <https://www.vafr.org/vilt/>

FREE VIRTUAL EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION

FOR VIRGINIA PROVIDERS



VIRTUAL INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING (VILT)

High-quality free CE hours taught by experienced EMS instructors and Education Coordinators from across Virginia.

WHEN:	WHAT YOU GET:	REGISTER:
<p style="margin: 0;">First Wednesday of Every Month Beginning May 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free statewide CEU-approved EMS education ✓ Virtual learning from expert instructors ✓ Diverse topics each month ✓ Open to providers across Virginia 	<p style="margin: 0;">View the class schedule and sign up https://www.vafr.org/vilt/ SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>

Sponsored by the
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VAFR Officer Nominations

Members interested in serving in a leadership role within VAFR are encouraged to submit nominations. This is an excellent opportunity to help shape the future of the organization and support first responders across the Commonwealth.

Nomination Deadline: June 1

Submit nominations to: vafr@vafr.org or the State Office


Closing Message

VAFR continues to provide a wide range of training, leadership, and engagement opportunities for first responders across Virginia. We encourage all members to stay involved, register early, and take advantage of everything the organization has to offer.

Together, we are building stronger agencies, stronger responders, and stronger communities.

Stronger Together. Always Ready.

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