



NEWS RELEASE

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11 Roanoke County Recruits Graduate from Regional Fire-EMS Academy

June 26, 2009 (VINTON) - The Twelfth Roanoke Valley Regional Fire-EMS Academy consisting of 11 personnel from Roanoke County graduated earlier today at the Vinton War Memorial. Each recruit was called to the stage and pinned with their new firefighter badge as their families looked on.

Eleven individuals representing *Roanoke County Fire and Rescue* spent 14 weeks receiving instruction and practical training in the areas of basic firefighting skills to emergency medical techniques. The training included: rope rescue, vehicle extrication, emergency vehicle driving, and hazardous materials mitigation skills, along with EMS certification. Most of the training was completed at the Roanoke Valley Regional Fire-EMS Training Center located on Kessler Mill Road in Salem.

The graduates received their station assignments immediately following the ceremony and some will start their first shift on Saturday. These graduates were hired, in part, to help staff the new North County Fire & Rescue Station #1 that is scheduled to be operational this August.

Bringing the fire and EMS departments together to learn, train, and grow provides consistency

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among all firefighter/EMS personnel, whether stationed in the Roanoke County, City of Roanoke or City of Salem, minimizing costs to each jurisdiction through shared instructors and equipment. Although there were only Roanoke County recruits in this particular academy instruction was provided by a variety of instructors from the partnering localities.

The Roanoke Valley Regional Fire-EMS Training Center is a partnership between Roanoke County, the City of Roanoke, the City of Salem, and the Town of Vinton, and is a continuing effort to enhance fire and EMS safety operations and to improve the delivery of these critical services through better training. It creates a system that allows for each area to have access to a state-of-the-art facility, as well as the sharing of resources to include specialized instructors and equipment, resulting in greater productivity region-wide.

See attached graduate list and station assignments

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Roanoke Valley Regional Fire-EMS Academy # 12 Graduate Names and Station Assignments

Brad Bryant	Roanoke County	Fort Lewis
Jarrold Deal	Roanoke County	Hollins
Patrick English	Roanoke County	Clearbrook
Zach Graybill	Roanoke County	Clearbrook
Kevin Harbour	Roanoke County	Hollins
Ryan Hartman	Roanoke County	Hollins
Greg Montgomery	Roanoke County	Fort Lewis
Drew Oakes	Roanoke County	Clearbrook
Andrew Poland	Roanoke County	Cave Spring
Craig Sellers, Jr.	Roanoke County	Hollins
Samuel Tuttle	Roanoke County	Masons Cove