Alexandria City Academy

Session 7

April 18, 2013

Fire and EMS Department

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Dedicated to Our Community,
Our Profession, and Each Other

Alexandria Fire – EMS Department

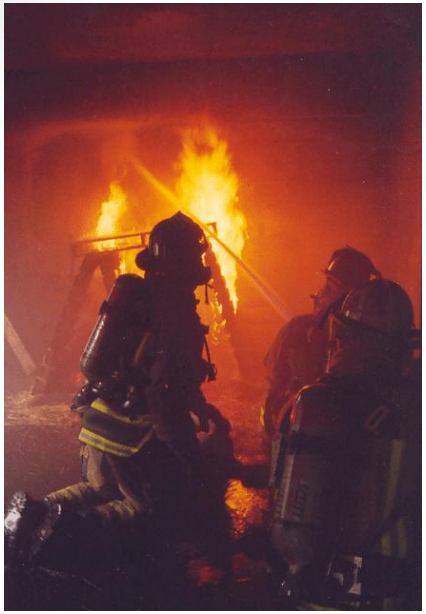
- Founded in 1774
- Employ over 300 personnel
- Divisions include Suppression, EMS, Communications, Fire Prevention and Life Safety, Professional Development, Fleet Maintenance, and Administration
- 9 Stations protect 15 square miles

Proud History

CHIEF
A.F.D.

1883
COLUMBIA
EMERGENCY FIRST AID
EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Continued Dedication…



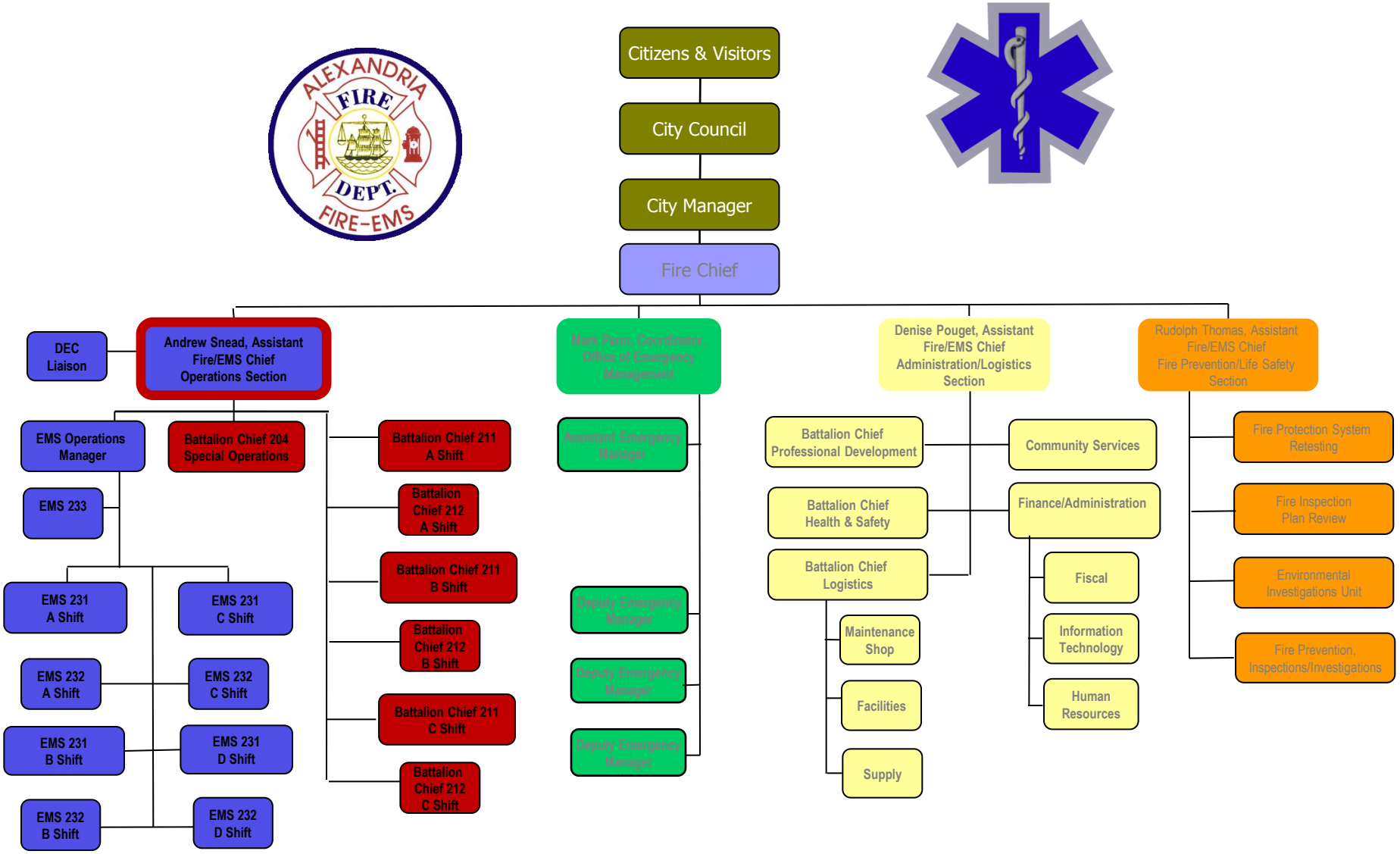
FIRE-RESCUE
207
ALEXANDRIA
MEDIC
325
ADVANCED LIFE SUPPOR
AMBULANCE
FIRE RESCUE
WARNING
HELIPORT
AREA
PEDESTRIANS
PROHIBITED

Mutual Aid

- National Capitol Region employs a system of Mutual Aid
- Members include: Washington, D.C., Arlington County, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, Prince Georges County, Prince William County, Montgomery County
- Units respond on a first available basis regardless of jurisdiction

ALEXANDRIA FIRE-EMS

The Alexandria Fire Department Organizational Structure



Administrative Support Staff

- Budget and Finance
- Information Technology
- Facilities and Supplies
- Human Resources

Alexandria Stations

Station Locations

Suppression

- 24/7 Service Delivery
- 141 personnel, including Assistant Chief, 9 Battalion Chiefs, 25 Captains, 16 Lieutenants
- 8 Engine Companies
- 3 Ladder Trucks
- Rescue Engine
- Fire Boat – *"The Vigilant"*
- Specialty Teams: Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, and Marine Operations

FIRE LANE
KEEP BACK 500 FEET

Hazardous Materials Team

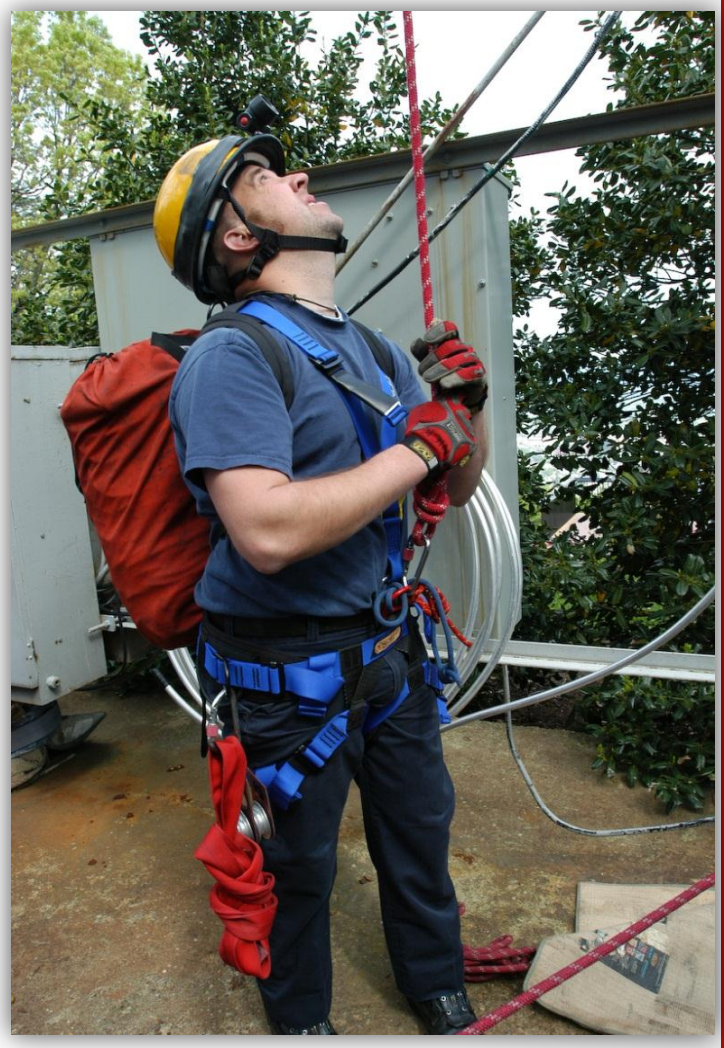
- State Response Team of over 40 trained Specialists & Technicians
- Respond to Incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction and all other hazards, including fuel spills
- Engine Company 209
- Haz-Mat Unit 209
- Support Unit 209

Marine Operations Team

- Established in 1997
- 24 Member Team
- Boats 204 & 214: 13 foot, Inflatable Zodiac Boats
- Fireboat 201: 30 foot Metal Craft, “The Vigilant”

Technical Rescue

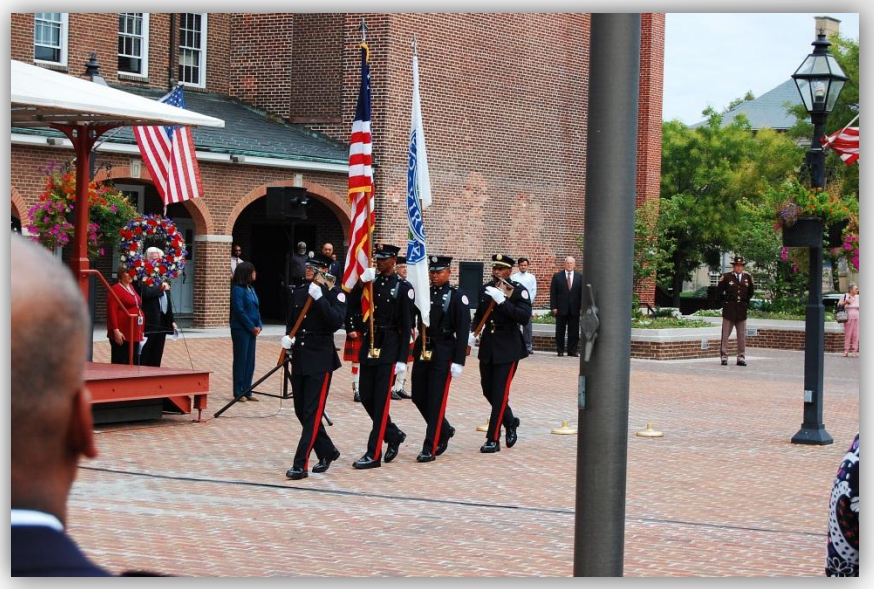
- 24 member team specializing in trench collapse, confined space, and high angle rescues
- Trained for advanced auto extrication and building collapses



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

CG375

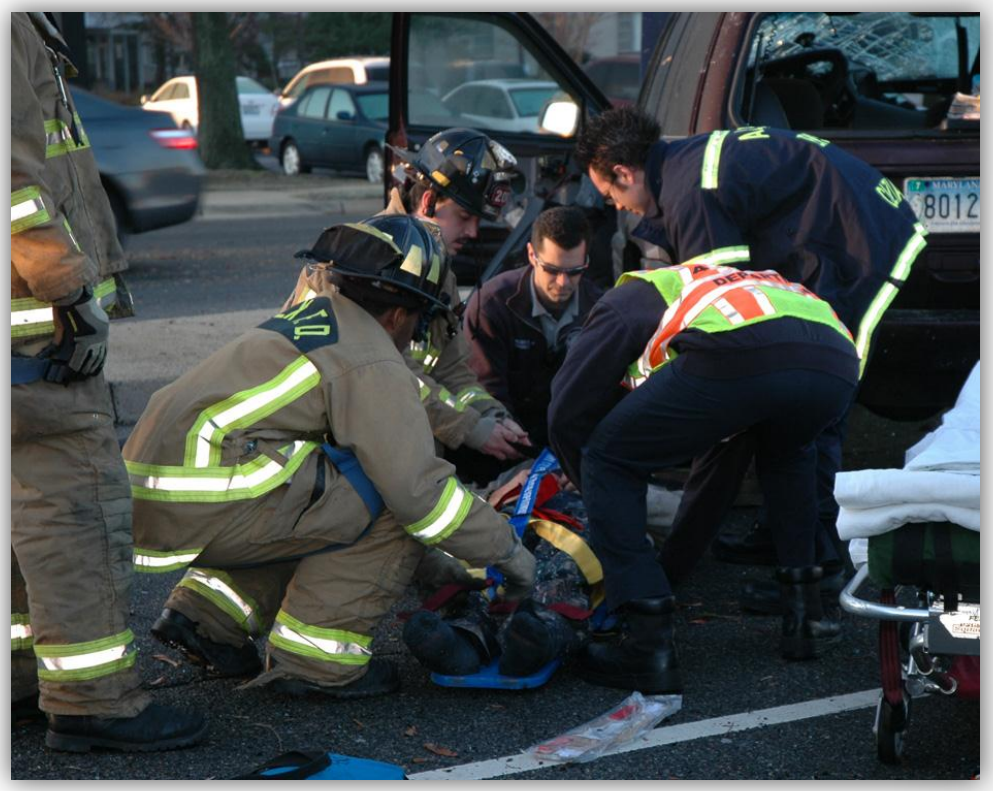
Honor Guard



ALEXANDRIA VA
FIRE · EMS

Emergency Medical Services

- 24 hour Advanced Life Support Care
- 44 Full Time Paramedics staff 5 units and 2 Peak Time Medic Units
- Assistant Chief, EMS Manager, and 9 EMS Supervisors
- Answer more than 12,000 calls annually



207

ALEXANDRIA
ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT
MEDIC 202

Special Event Medical Support

- Reduce the arrival time to treat patients in areas of limited accessibility
- Deployed for City Events, including Parades, Charity Walks/Runs, and Festivals
- Fire Department Mobile GATOR
- ALS Bicycle Medics

Special Event Medical Support

EMS Bike Medic Team

Health and Safety Unit

- 1 Battalion Chief and 3 Captain Shift Safety Officers
- Acts as Incident Safety Officer
- Provide care for injured/ill employees throughout the City
- Infection Control
- Survey worksites for safety hazards

Health and Safety Unit

Maintenance Shop

- Shop employs 1 Supervisor and 3 Mechanics
- The entire AFD fleet, including engines, ladder trucks, medic units, Fire Chief/Assistant Chief/Battalion Chief/EMS Supervisor/Battalion Aide trucks, and supply and code enforcement vehicles, is maintained internally

Professional Development

- On site training, classroom facility, and recruit academy
- Staff includes Battalion Chief, Lieutenant, EMS Supervisor and Training Assistant
- Burn Building on site
- Full Gym and CrossFit facility

6030

WHAT OUGHT ONE SAY THEN
AS EACH HARDSHIP COMES?
I WAS PRACTICING
FOR THIS,
I WAS TRAINING
FOR THIS
Funding for the
New Physical Fitness Equipment
Obtained Through a Grant From
Virginia State Fire Programs
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE PROGRAMS
FIREFIGHTER
FD
ALEX
AFD

Emergency Management

Mark Penn, Director

Emergency Management

- Coordinates, mitigates, prepares, and responds to all disasters within the City
- Maintains the Emergency Operations Center
- Liaison with VDEM and FEMA

Emergency Management

- Coordinates response to local emergencies such as Hurricanes Isabel and Hanna
- EOC is composed of City Staff from all departments as well as local and regional aid groups such as the American Red Cross

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

- Trains members of the community to assist the AFD during disaster responses
- Members assess damages, organize volunteers, triage and perform first aid to victims of local disasters
- Call 703.746.5259 for information

Community Services Unit

- Public Information Office
- Youth and Senior Education Programs
- Smoke Alarm Program
- Juvenile Fire Starter Intervention Program
- To Schedule, call 703-746-5260

Community Services Unit

- Maintain Smoke Alarms
- Plan and Practice an Escape Plan
- Give Space Heaters Space
- Be Alert While Cooking
- Use Electricity Safely
- Call 911
- STOP, DROP, AND ROLL
- NEVER Re-enter a Burning Building

Fire Prevention and Life Safety

The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Section is comprised of several units:

- Fire Code Inspections
- Fire Protection Systems Retesting
- Environmental Investigations
- Fire / Explosion Investigations

The section administers the provisions of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, applicable sections of the Virginia Construction Code and related Codes of the City of Alexandria.

Fire Prevention and Life Safety

- Fire Marshals conduct the fire code inspections and all investigations for fire, explosive, hazardous materials and environmental offenses. Fire Marshals provide round the clock staffing. Fire Marshals are sworn law enforcement officers.
- Fire Protection Retesting Inspectors handle fire protection system retesting and complaints and work Monday-Friday.

Uniform Statewide Building Codes: A Family of Codes for the Life of the Building

- **Continued Compliance**
  - **New Construction Code** (How we build them)
  - **Virginia Maintenance Code Maintenance Inspections** (How we maintain them)
  - **Fire Prevention Code** (How we use them)

Fire Code Inspections

- Fire Marshals conduct proactive inspections and respond to complaints of fire code violations.
- Proactive inspections include day and evening inspections of assembly use buildings (restaurants, nightclubs, bars and theaters) at peak times of occupancy to ensure proper crowd management, occupancy and code compliance.

Fire Code Inspections

- Fire Marshals conduct proactive inspections of target areas and industrial areas to monitor for illegal occupancy and violations of fire code.
- Fire Marshals respond to complaints for violations of the fire code, fire lane violations, and other related issues.
- Fire Marshals respond to emergency complaints involving violations of the Virginia Maintenance Code and Uniform Statewide Building Code after normal business hours

Fire Code Inspections

- Fire Prevention Permit Program – Permits are required for certain occupancies that are classified as assembly or educational use such as restaurants and schools; or to store and use hazardous materials or operate hazardous use processes. Fire Marshals conduct inspections of these facilities annually.
- Violations of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code and City of Alexandria Fire Prevention Code are classified as a Class 1 Misdemeanor carrying a possible penalty of up to 1 year in jail and/or up to a fine of $2,500.

Fire Protection Systems Retesting

- This section witnesses the required maintenance testing and inspections of all existing fire protection systems to ensure proper testing in accordance with fire code and referenced NFPA standards.
- Inspectors respond to specific complaints involving issues with fire protection systems and ensure that property owners make the necessary repairs to systems for proper function.

Environmental Investigations Unit (EIU)

- Fire Marshals assigned to this unit respond to complaints and investigations involving the illegal storage or release of hazardous materials.
- EIU Fire Marshals conduct focused inspections on facilities that store or use hazardous materials or conduct hazardous processes under the Fire Prevention Permit program.
- EIU Fire Marshals work closely with State and City agencies to monitor and address environmental issues and violations.

Fire Investigations

- Fire Marshals investigate the origin and cause of all fires in the City and any incidents of bombings or explosive devices.
- Criminal investigations are conducted on fires that are determined to be deliberately set. Cases are submitted to the Commonwealth Attorney for prosecution.

Fire Investigations

- Fire Investigations are complex investigations and involve significant time and resources.
- Fire Investigators are highly trained in advanced investigation techniques and continually attend training to maintain certifications.
- Properly conducted fire investigations identify fire causes and trends, and help to focus prevention efforts and education.

Volunteer Organization

Provides adjunct services to:

- Suppression
- Emergency Medical Services
- Canteen
- Air & Light Unit

Questions?

Fire and EMS Department
900 Second Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.746.5200

www.alexandriava.gov/Fire

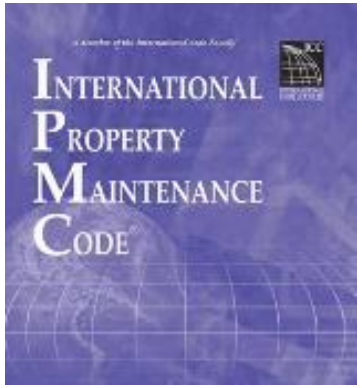
Code Administration

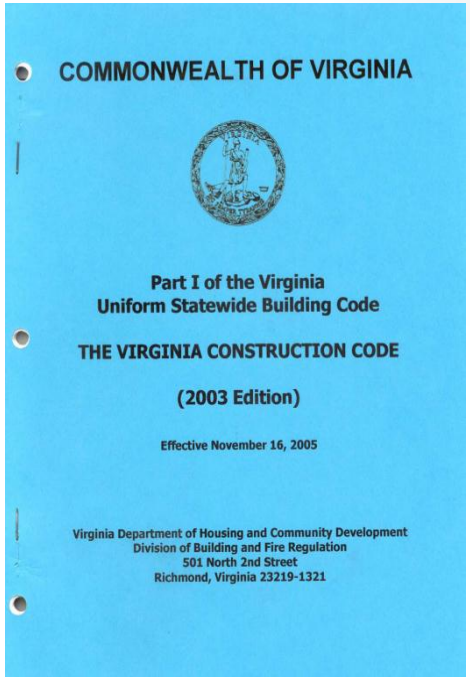
John Catlett, Director

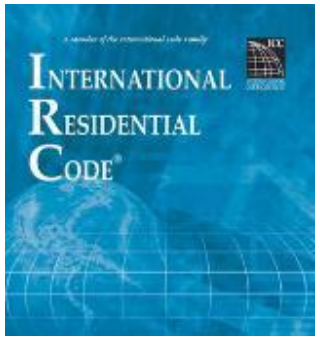
Code Compliance Through Education and Enforcement

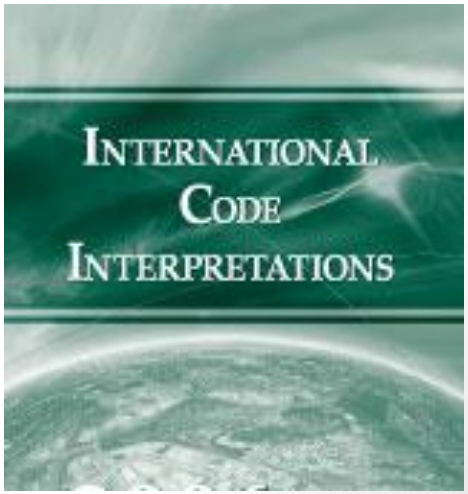
Code Administration

- Administer seven Virginia Codes (Virginia Uniform Statewide Building)
  - Construction Code
  - Virginia Maintenance Code
  - Virginia Rehabilitation Code
  - Virginia Amusement Device Regulations
- City Code Nuisance Ordinances
- Respond to complaints; Nuisance Abatement Hotline
- Damage assessment



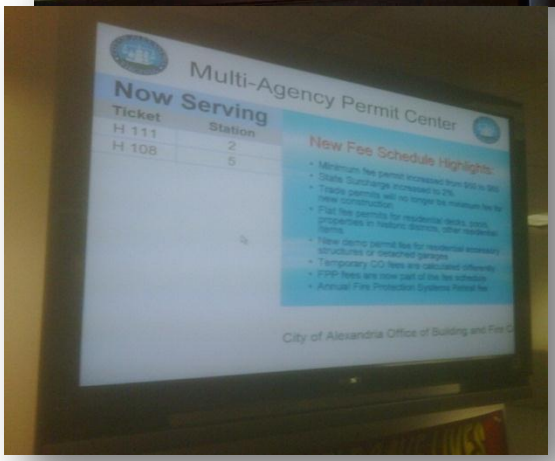






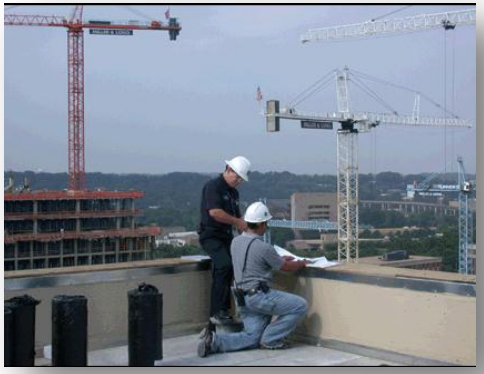
Administrative Services Section

- Division Chief - Diane Best
- Budget/Fiscal Management
- Purchasing
- Training/Certification tracking
- IT Services/Improvements
- Web site management
- Customer enhancements through process improvements and electronic access



Deputy Director

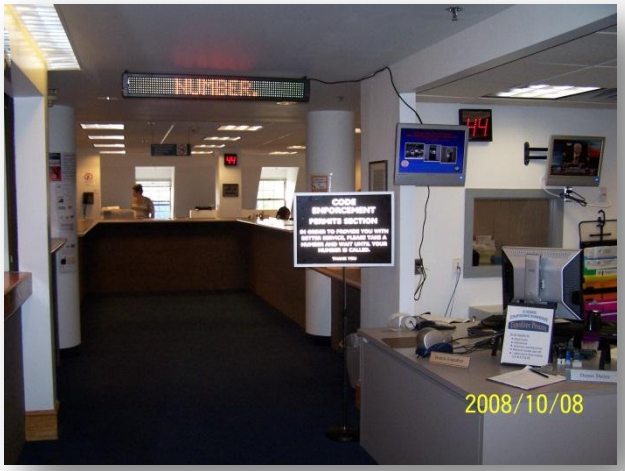
- Plan Review Services Division
- New Construction Inspection Services Division
- Multi-agency Permit Center
- Web Based Permitting
- Customer Relations/Call Center
- Public/Staff Inquires
- Records Retrieval, Management, and Retention; FOIA Request



Permit Center Division

- Web Based Permitting
- Customer Relations/Call Center
- Public/Staff Inquires
- Records Retrieval, Management, and Retention; FOIA Request
- Expanded; Full Service Permit Center in FY 2014
  - Walk Thru Service
  - All agencies represented
  - Business license processed
  - Web based permits

- James Hunt, Division Chief – Permit Center Manager



New Construction Inspection Services

- Division Chief – July 2013

- Inspections
  - Compliance with USBC Codes
  - Built per approved plans
  - Inspectors check for compliance with site issues pertaining to the building code and applicable City regulations
  - State mandated minimums achieved; site plan compliance

- Inspect new construction and renovation work:
  - Building
  - All Trades
  - Fire protection
  - Accessibility
  - Demolition
  - Residential & Commercial

Plan Review Services

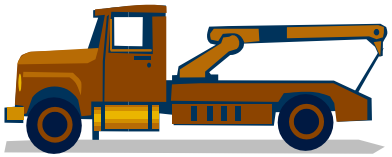
- Ken Granata, Division Chief
- Review plans for compliance with building, trades, fire protection codes
- Site Plan, SUP, DSUP building code review
- One Stop Program
  - Scheduled plan review
  - All appropriate agencies
  - Review completed in one hour
- Small Business and Residential Project Facilitation Office July 2013

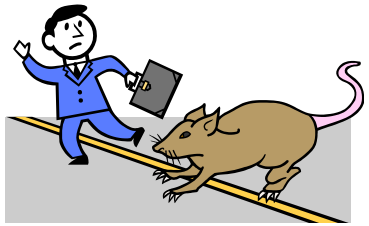
Maintenance Code Division

- Philip Pugh, Division Chief
- Virginia Maintenance Code
- Local City Ordinances
  - Nuisance Provisions
  - Trash Provisions
- Vacant Building Registration
- Residential Rental Permit Program
- Maintenance Code and Nuisance Complaint Investigation
- Proactive Neighborhood Inspection Program (N.I.P.)

Maintenance Code Division Areas of Enforcement

- Tall Grass/Weeds
- Improperly Maintained Structures
- Hoarding
- Abandoned, Inoperative vehicles
- Construction Noise
- Light Pollution
- Refrigerators and other white goods improperly disposed of
- Rodent Complaints
- Sewage Backups
- Trash and Garbage Complaint
- Water Damage

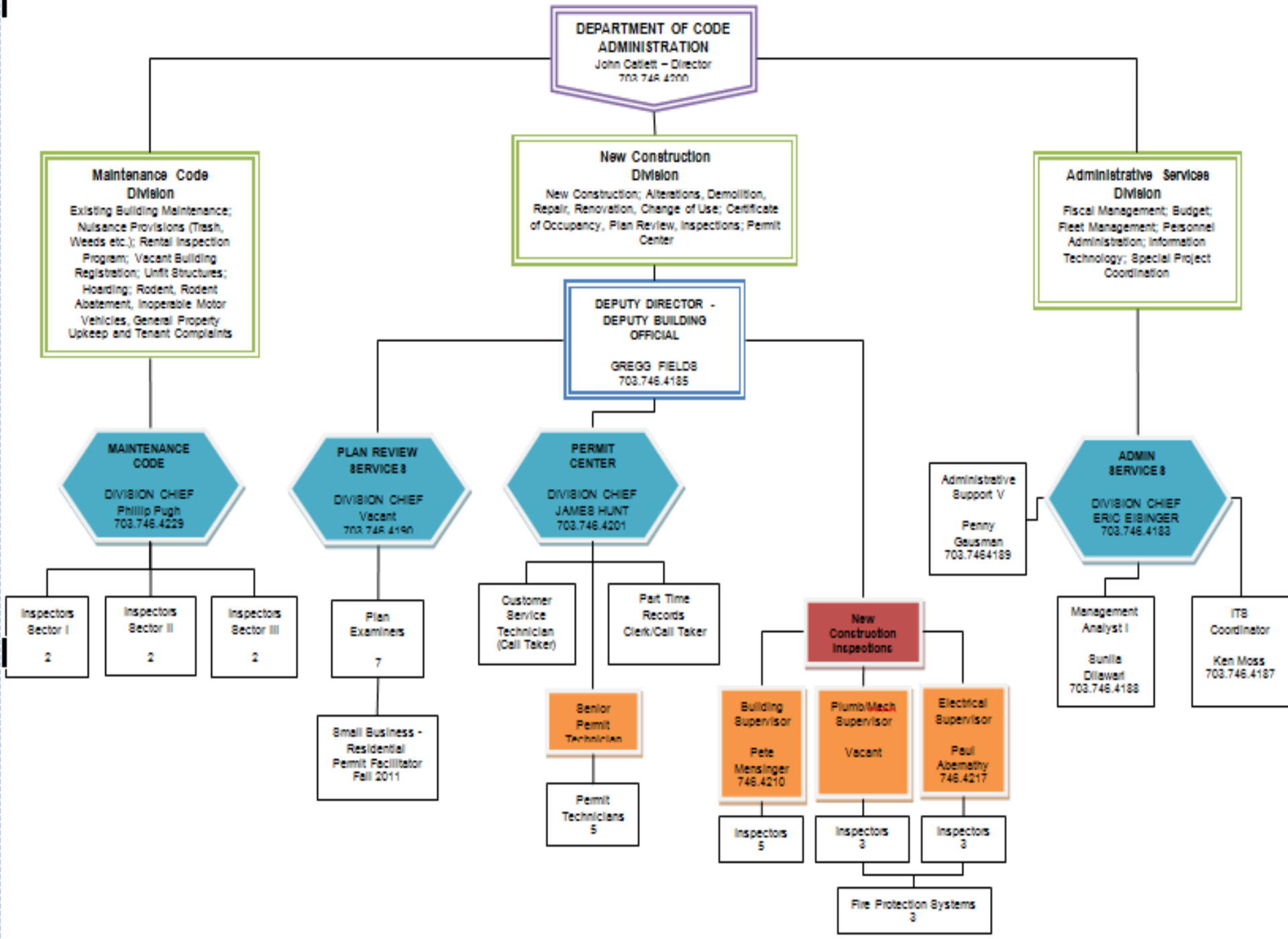




How to File a Complaint

- Normal Business Day
  - 703.746.4200
  - www.alexandriava.gov
    - Email a complaint

- Nuisance Abatement Hotline – 24/7
  - 703-836-0041
  - Answered during normal business hours by Citizen's Assistance
  - After hours, Weekends and Holidays answered by Emergency Communications


DEPARTMENT OF CODE ADMINISTRATION
John Catlett – Director
703.746.4200
Maintenance Code Division
Existing Building Maintenance; Nuisance Provisions (Trash, Weeds etc.); Rental Inspection Program; Vacant Building Registration; Unfit Structures; Hoarding; Rodent, Rodent Abatement, Inoperable Motor Vehicles, General Property Upkeep and Tenant Complaints
New Construction Division
New Construction; Alterations, Demolition, Repair, Renovation, Change of Use; Certificate of Occupancy, Plan Review, Inspections; Permit Center
Administrative Services Division
Fiscal Management; Budget; Fleet Management; Personnel Administration; Information Technology; Special Project Coordination
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - DEPUTY BUILDING OFFICIAL
GREGG FIELDS
703.746.4185
MAINTENANCE CODE
DIVISION CHIEF
Phillip Pugh
703.746.4229
PLAN REVIEW SERVICES
DIVISION CHIEF
Vacant
703.746.4190
PERMIT CENTER
DIVISION CHIEF
JAMES HUNT
703.746.4201
ADMIN SERVICES
DIVISION CHIEF
ERIC EISINGER
703.746.4183
Administrative Support V
Penny Geusman
703.7464189
Inspectors Sector I
2
Inspectors Sector II
2
Inspectors Sector III
2
Plan Examiners
7
Small Business - Residential Permit Facilitator Fall 2011
Customer Service Technician (Call Taker)
Part Time Records Clerk/Call Taker
Senior Permit Technician
Permit Technicians
5
New Construction Inspections
Building Supervisor
Pete Mensinger
746.4210
Plumb/Mech Supervisor
Vacant
Electrical Supervisor
Paul Abernathy
746.4217
Inspectors
5
Inspectors
3
Inspectors
3
Fire Protection Systems
3
Management Analyst I
Sunita Dilawari
703.746.4188
ITS Coordinator
Ken Moss
703.746.4187

Information

- Permit Center – 703.746.4200
  - http://alexandriava.gov/fire/code/info/default.aspx?id=8866
- Online Permit Applications
  - http://permits.alexandriava.gov/tm_bin/tmw_cmd.pl?tmw_cmd=UserHome&tmw_current=1
- Daily Inspection Viewer
  - http://apps.alexandriava.gov/codeinspection/
- VA. Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations (DPOR)
  - Contractor look-up: http://www.dpor.state.va.us/regulantlookup/selection_input.cfm
- Code Administration Main Page
  - http://alexandriava.gov/Code
- Permit and Inspection Tracker
  - http://www3.alexandriava.gov/city/codeenforcement/permittracker/index.html

Questions?

Code Administration
301 King St., Room 4200
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.746.4200

www.alexandriava.gov/Code