



# Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For further information please contact:

Jennifer Conley Sexton, Volunteer & Marketing Coordinator

(540)777-8706 or (540)400-5825

[JSexton@RoanokeCountyVA.gov](mailto:JSexton@RoanokeCountyVA.gov)

## **Roanoke Co. Fire & Rescue Receives Outstanding EMS Agency Award**

November 15, 2010 (ROANOKE COUNTY) -- Roanoke County Fire & Rescue Department has received the Governor's Award for Outstanding EMS Agency. The annual Governor's EMS Awards were presented at the EMS Symposium ceremony held in Norfolk, Virginia over the weekend.

The Governor's EMS Awards were established as a formal recognition of outstanding contributions to EMS across the Commonwealth. You may remember that back in June the Department was selected as the Regional Outstanding EMS Agency and was then forwarded to compete at the state level. The State EMS Advisory Board's EMS Awards Selection Committee reviewed the first place winners in each of the 11 Regional EMS Councils' competition. Winners selected at the state level were forwarded with the Committee's recommendations to the Governor for final approval. The winners in the ten categories were announced at the annual EMS Symposium conference ceremony in Norfolk this past Saturday evening.

Roanoke County Fire & Rescue was recognized as the Outstanding EMS Agency. The department was selected because it exemplifies outstanding professionalism and service to the citizens and visitors of Roanoke County; provides a high level of patient care that is evident by innovative training, community awareness, preventive health programs, public relations efforts and participation in local, regional and statewide EMS systems.

During the 2009 calendar year the department:

- Dedicated a new station in North Roanoke County to enhance fire and rescue services across the county
- Upgraded their Emergency Radio System to allow the County to maintain interoperability with other local agencies

- Dedicated the new Roanoke Valley Regional Fire Training Tower that allows firefighters from across the Valley and beyond to train for a range of fire and rescue scenarios
- Continued to participate in the regional 12-Lead/Heart Alert Program
- Continued to train students through its accredited EMT-I regional program located at the Roanoke Valley Regional Fire-EMS Training Center
- Enhanced current safety protocols and procedures to including introducing a captain's chair that has integrated infant and toddler seats in the back of ambulances
- Launched the Roanoke County Partners Advancing Senior Safety (RoCoPASS) initiative
- Hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Character Academy for Kids Camp and
- Continued to spearhead the Roanoke Regional Fire-EMS Hiring Process

The department was also responsible for rescuing 63 stranded motorists from Interstate 81 last December after a snow storm dumped a record 16 inches of snow on the region paralyzing motorists.

The Department serves under the EMS direction of Dr. Carol Gilbert.



Virginia Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Remley (left), OEMS Director Gary Brown (third from right) and Secretary of Public Safety Marla Graff Decker (right) congratulate (l-r) Division Chief Dustin Campbell, Division Chief Steve Simon, and Battalion Chief Bill Duff on receiving the Governor's Award for Outstanding EMS Agency at the ceremony on Saturday evening in Norfolk.