



**Loudoun County, Virginia
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management**

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December 22, 2014

**For Immediate Release:
Two New Assistant Chiefs Join Department**

The Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management is pleased to welcome Assistant Chiefs Keith Johnson and Matthew Tobia to the Loudoun County Combined Fire-Rescue System. Both positions were approved by the Board of Supervisors as part of the FY2015 Budget.

Assistant Chiefs Johnson and Tobia will begin their assignments December 4th, 2014 with Assistant Chief Johnson being primarily responsible for department operations and Assistant Chief Tobia largely responsible for support services and volunteer administration. Over the next several months, the Department will begin to realign the organization and integrate the Assistant Chiefs into our daily operations.

Chief Keith Johnson is a fourth generation firefighter who began his fire service career in 1982 as a volunteer with the North Merrick Volunteer Fire Department in New York. In 1983, he graduated from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Training Academy and was assigned to Bailey's Crossroads, Fire and Rescue Station 10. Over the next 30 years, Chief Johnson was promoted to Apparatus Technician, Lieutenant, Captain I, Captain II, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief. Since his promotion to Deputy Chief in 2009, he served as the Chief Training Officer in the Fire and Rescue Department's Personnel Services Bureau, Training Division, Deputy Chief of the Operations Bureau, Special Operations Division, and most recently, as the Deputy Chief, Business Services Bureau, Support Services Division. Chief Johnson was also a member of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team and is the former Fairfax County Task Force Leader of the National Medical Response Team.

Chief Johnson holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Fire Science Administration from the Northern Virginia Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, minor in Fire Science from the University of Maryland University College, and a Master of Arts degree in Security Studies, Homeland Security, and Defense from the Naval Postgraduate School. Chief Johnson is designated as a Chief Fire Officer by the Center for Public Safety Excellence and is certified as a Fire Official in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He maintains Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator certifications with the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. He is a member of the National Fire Protection Association, International Fire Marshal's Association, Virginia Fire Prevention Association, Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, International Code Council, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Fairfax County Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Local 2068, and the Fairfax County Fire Officers Association.

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Chief Matthew Tobia’s experience in fire and rescue service spans more than 25 years. He has served as a firefighter, paramedic, company officer, and command officer in the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, located in suburban Baltimore, Maryland. His most recent assignment was as a Battalion Chief in the Fire-Rescue Operations Bureau and as a Public Information Officer for the Department. He is also certified as a Type III IMT Public Information Officer and a member of the Baltimore Regional Type III Incident Management Team. Chief Tobia is a nationally-registered paramedic and is licensed in Maryland and Pennsylvania. He serves on the Incident Management Team for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. He is a long-time member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, having served as Chair of the Safety, Health and Survival Section from 2011 to 2014. He is also a member of the National Fire Academy Alumni Association and an appointed member of the board of Directors for the American Trauma Society – Maryland Division.

Chief Tobia holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Emergency Health Services Management from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He has also completed courses at the National Fire Academy, the Emergency Management Institute, and is an NFPA 1021 certified Fire Officer IV and Instructor III. Chief Tobia is currently completing his final Applied Research Project, leading to certification as an Executive Fire Officer by January 2015. His teaching credentials include adjunct faculty instructorships with the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy and Harrisburg Area Community College. He is a guest lecturer for the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute and has spoken nationally on subjects as Leadership and Supervision, Managing MAYDAY Events, Rapid Intervention Teams, and fireground safety. He has also taught extensively in the field of Emergency Medical Services and has served on curriculum development teams. Chief Tobia is a contributing editor for Fire-Rescue Magazine, currently serving as their back-page monthly columnist.

“The hiring of two Assistant Chiefs is an exciting milestone in the growth of the Loudoun County Combined Fire-Rescue System,” stated Chief of the System W. Keith Brower Jr. “These new chiefs will help us provide critical emergency services, expand our programs, and support the needs of the volunteer community.”



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