

# Arlington County Fire Department Arlington-Aachen Partnership

May 2022



# Department Overview – Fire Chief David Povlitz

- With more than 25 years of experience in fire, rescue and emergency medical services, David Povlitz was appointed as the Fire Chief of the Arlington County Fire Department in Virginia in November 2018. Chief Povlitz's background covers a range of areas, including budget development, information technology integration, emergency communications, training, and emergency management support. He also is an experienced incident commander, planning and operations section chief for large-scale incidents and complex events. He has more than 20 years of involvement with special operations including hazardous materials, collapsed building and rope rescue, as well as technical, marine, and dive rescue incidents. David has served the Anne Arundel County Fire Department in Maryland and retired as a division chief. He then moved to Alexandria Fire Department where he served as an assistant chief, focusing on administration and process management.



# Department Overview

- The Arlington County Fire Department consists of over 340 personnel that provide fire, EMS, hazardous materials, and technical rescue response to an urban community of 230,000+ residents/visitors in an area of 26 square miles, including the Pentagon.
- 9 fire stations which serve to:
- Deliver emergency medical and public safety services
- Respond to environmental emergencies
- Provide comprehensive fire prevention and education
- On duty 24-7, 365 days. 24-hour rotating shift schedule
- The department was the lead Fire/EMS agency for the response to the September 11, 2011 attack at the Pentagon.

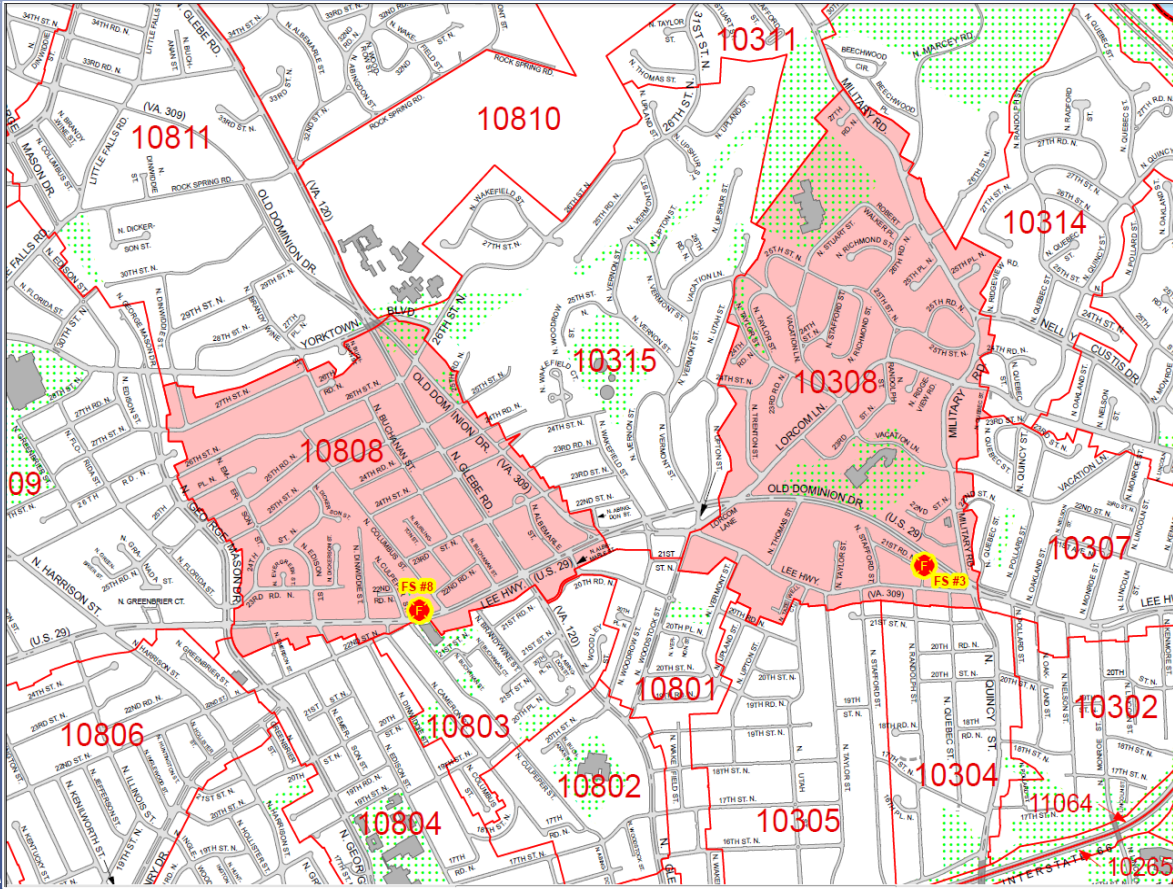
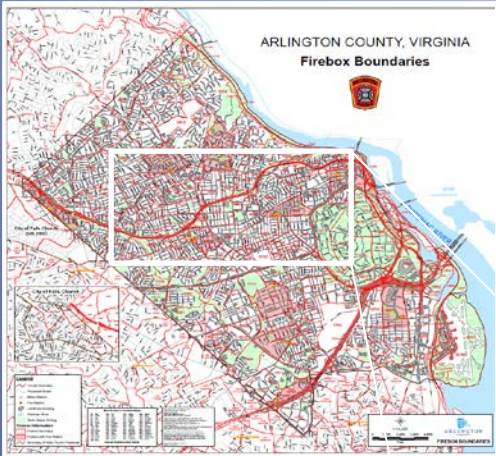


# Regional Mutual Aid Agreement

- Arlington County Fire Department is part of a regional coalition of 14 member departments providing the Northern Virginia region with the best possible emergency services through shared use of resources and coordinated emergency response.
- Additionally, as part of the MWCOG Mutual Aid Agreement to provide resources to all members of the MW COG in Maryland.
- Fully integrated into CAD-2-CAD dispatching which allows for seamless dispatch across jurisdictional boundaries based on GPS location.
- Approximately 22,000 emergency responses per year with 30% of all responses involve Mutual Aid (in or out)



# How we operate - Fireboxes



# Partnership with Aachen, Germany

- ACFD and Aachen started their relationship in 2015 as an information exchange with Chief Nils Lapp.
- In September 2019 FF Ganser was selected to travel to Arlington
- FF Ganser was assigned to Station 5 in Arlington, riding the apparatus, observing emergency operations and participating in training as part of his promotional process.
- ACFD personnel still communicate with Chief Lapp and now Captain Ganser



# COVID-19

- In early 2020, Most of Europe was dealing with a massive wave of COVID-19 which stretched their resources, this was a predictor of what was to come to the US
- In May 2020 ACFD and Aachen FD held a conference call to discuss each organizations response to COVID.
- We found that the processes and basic concepts were similar in both jurisdictions but Aachen was experiencing it in real time and we were in the preparation phase
  - Workforce resiliency, apparatus maintenance, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, FD policies and procedures, societal restrictions, masking, coordination with other stakeholders (hospitals, public health, e.g.)



# Continue to explore

- COVID-19 is an example of a global hazard that led to unprecedented international collaboration
- An extreme weather event is another type of Hazard and is the most common and damaging to this geographical area
- July 2021 rain event in EU
  - Approx 11" of rain in 48 hours
  - Over 240 lives lost
  - Estimated \$3 Billion (2.4 Billion Euros) in damages





# Events in the US

- August 2021 – Tennessee –
  - 20” of rainfall in some places of TN over 24-hour period
  - 20 deaths
  - \$101 Million in damages



# Events in the NCR

—July 2019

- 3.3 inches of rain in 1 hour
- Dozens of water rescues



# Events in the NCR

- Sept 2020
  - 3-6 inches of rain
  - Multiple water rescues



# Events in the NCR

- October 2021
  - Tidal flooding combined with heavy rain



# Events in the NCR

- October 2021
  - Tidal flooding combined with heavy rain



# Where do we go from here?

- Partner with academic institutions to look at the intersection of Public Safety and Climate Change
  - Develop guidance for infrastructure stakeholders so they can plan for public safety needs in the near-term and long-term
  - Develop metrics/modeling that account for current capabilities of public safety resources. (Can we meet the predicted needs?)
  - Investigate different types of technology, equipment and experiences nationally and internationally to help inform some of our strategic decisions.



# Thank You

