

NEWS RELEASE

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County Administrator

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ORANGE COUNTY HIRES NEW FIRE AND EMS CHIEF

Orange County, VA – The County is pleased to announce that John Harkness has been hired as the new Fire and EMS Chief for Orange County. Mr. Harkness will begin his new position in July, 2012. Mr. Harkness holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Emergency Management from Grand Canyon University. Mr. Harkness most recently served as the Battalion Chief for the City of Richmond, where he led the Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services. He has also served as an Advanced Life Support provider. Mr. Harkness brings over 30 years of experience to Orange County, including 25 years of supervisory experience. He is also very familiar with the County of Orange, serving for over five years as the County's Emergency Management Coordinator, as a life member of the Lake of the Woods Rescue Station and a volunteer for the Mine Run Fire Department.

Orange County Administrator, Julie Summs stated, "Mr. Harkness has a wealth of experience, knowledge and contacts and will be an outstanding asset to our Fire and EMS efforts and to the quality service we aim to provide Orange County citizens. We are pleased that he will serve in the role of Orange County's first Fire and EMS Chief."

Mr. Harkness has received numerous certifications through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (FEMA), the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Mr. Harkness lives in Madison County with his wife and child. For more information, or to reach John Harkness, please call 540-672-7044.

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