

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE CHIEF RECEIVES R.C. DAILEY EXCELLENCE IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AWARD

SUFFOLK, Virginia (May 16, 2022) Suffolk Fire & Rescue is proud to announce that Fire Chief Michael Barakey was selected by the Tidewater EMS (TEMS) Council to be the recipient of the 2022 R.C. Dailey Excellence in Emergency Medical Services Award. The award was presented at the 2022 Tidewater Regional EMS Awards Dinner held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 in Chesapeake, Virginia. This prestigious award is given to an individual who displays a commitment to a comprehensive integrated system of Emergency Medical Services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As a pediatric critical care paramedic for the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters (CHKD) transport team, Michael Barakey, the Fire Chief for Suffolk Fire & Rescue, understands the necessity to constantly improve Virginia's EMS System in innovative and unconventional ways. Since taking the reins of his department, Chief Barakey immediately got to work putting Suffolk Fire & Rescue "on the map" to bring the skills of his dedicated EMS providers to the region and the state. This effort led to the development and expansion of several programs, notably Suffolk's Marine Response Team, Tactical Medic Team, and its participation in one of Virginia's two Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams.

After arriving in Suffolk, Chief Barakey saw an enormous opportunity for expansion by bringing the expert medical care of his rescue and medical personnel to the many waterways that traverse the City. As a result, he directed the formulation of Suffolk's first Marine Incident Response Team (MIRT). Through the immense dedication of its members, the Suffolk Marine Incident Response Team is viewed by its neighboring agencies as a valuable asset for waterborne emergencies, including those of a medical nature. In December 2021, Suffolk Fire & Rescue took delivery of a 34-foot Munson Landing Craft fire & rescue boat in a demonstration of its solemn promise to bring lifesaving medical and rescue services to its citizens and its industry partners along Suffolk's waterways and the Port of Virginia.

Another lifesaving service expanded under Chief Barakey was the Suffolk Fire & Rescue's Tactical Medic Program. This team of highly trained Suffolk paramedics provides close-end medical coverage to several area law enforcement SWAT/Tactical Teams, including the Virginia State Police. Though this program predated Chief Barakey's arrival, his expansion has dramatically improved the program's operational response, medical capabilities, and lifesaving effect. Suffolk's paramedics now respond across the state to selflessly protect our "brothers in blue" during their dangerous missions.

As a task force leader of the Virginia Task Force 2 (VA-TF2) Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team, Chief Barakey saw the value in bringing the dedicated and talented members of Suffolk Fire & Rescue on board this internationally recognized team. Suffolk now counts many of its members among the team's cadre of rescue and medical professionals. Suffolk members have already deployed across the country, including the Surfside Florida Condominium Collapse in 2021.

Michael J. Barakey, MPA/EFO/CFO, is the Fire Chief of the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department. He is a nationally registered paramedic serving Suffolk and

the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, adjunct faculty at Tidewater Community College, a task force leader for VA-TF2, a classroom instructor for FDIC International, a contributor to Fire Engineering, and the author of Critical Decision Making: Point-to-Point Leadership for Fire and Emergency Services.

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