

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Contact:**

Debbie George  
757.514.4106  
757.374.1770  
Andy Franklin  
757.514.4105

### **Suffolk Firefighters Receive Search and Rescue Training**

SUFFOLK, VA (September 20, 2011) – Ten Suffolk firefighters, along with seven volunteers from Tidewater Search and Rescue, are spending the night in the woods this week, all in an effort to learn the basics of land navigation. From map and compass, to global positioning systems, these first responders are honing their skills in the art of search and rescue.

The class is a joint training effort with Tidewater Search and Rescue, a locally based group of volunteer searchers. In the event of an emergency, the group is the closest state certified search and rescue team available for local cities to utilize. The group can provide searchers, command management assistance, and even additional communications for operations.

Basic land navigation is extremely important for search and rescue operations, with team members needing to accurately describe their location to other rescuers for the evacuation of victims, or for other assistance. Nighttime navigation is especially important, as no landmarks are visible.

The City of Suffolk Search and Rescue Team consists of nearly 40 members, with each trained to conduct search operations in various terrain. Common search and

rescue operations involve lost hikers, autistic patients, and elderly persons suffering from Alzheimer's.

For more information, please contact Lieutenant Mason Copeland at 514-4545.

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