

Northern Virginia Fire & Rescue

Leadership Development Institute



2026 Strategies and Tactics Course

Introduction

The Northern Virginia Fire and Rescue Department's Leadership Development Institute (LDI) provides unique and important leadership training for aspiring company-level and command officers. Firefighting is a challenging and dangerous profession that requires comprehensive strategy and tactics to ensure the safety of firefighters and the community in which they serve. In Northern Virginia, the risk of fires and other emergencies is high, and therefore, it is crucial to have a well-planned and executed program to address these issues.

Programs

Historically, the LDI has offered two programs, the Company Officer Leadership Program (Company) and Command Officer Leadership and Management Program (Command). Both are six-day residency programs where students are required to stay on campus for the duration of the program. The programs are designed to be challenging to the students, with minimal downtime. The primary goal of the program is to encourage cross-organizational communication and networking.

The LDI has integrated the Strategies and Tactics Course for a fourth annual event in 2026. This program is designed to challenge and increase students' knowledge of firefighter strategies and tactics to include bridging the gap between the company officer and command officer, combat ready firefighting, radio communications, and many more topics which are relevant to the Northern Virginia region.

Strategies and Tactics Course

This course provides unique training environments and opportunities to exercise leadership and implement initial strategy and tactics during simulated incident responses and responding to various structural "box alarms" scenarios. The course will be offered as a five-day class. Two days of classroom content which will prepare students to engage in practical evolutions on two following days, culminating in a graduation luncheon on the fifth day.

Leadership through Empowerment, Encouragement, and Excellence

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2026 Strategies and Tactics Course

The target audience for the Strategies and Tactics Course is aspiring and newly promoted company officers. All levels of experience in these roles are encouraged to attend with the goal of capturing those with one (1) to two (2) years of experience. The program will help to prepare students to respond effectively in a variety of emergency situations, improve coordination and collaboration between agencies, and provide ongoing training and education to keep firefighters and officers up to date on current trends which can prepare them for a multitude of situations. The benefits of the program include improved safety with increased efficiency and effectiveness through hands-on training that helps to develop student confidence and experience necessary to make critical decisions under pressure.

Summary

The LDI is dedicated to delivering a thorough leadership and management training program for firefighters and officers by prioritizing the development of practical skills and strategies essential for success. The inclusion of the Strategies and Tactics Course is expected to increase the readiness and proficiency of the students in the Northern Virginia region, resulting in greater effectiveness and preparedness for emergency situations.

The 2026 NOVASAT program will be held on September 28, 2026 – October 2, 2026 as a five (5) consecutive day course. The schedule is as follows:

- September 28-29, 2026: Classroom sessions held at Fairfax County's Public Safety Headquarters (12099 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA.).
- September 30, 2026 – October 1, 2026: Practical training held at both Alexandria Fire Station 210 (5255 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA.) and DC FEMS Training Center Burn Building.
- October 2, 2026: The course concludes with closing lectures, a luncheon, and program wrap-up at Fairfax County's Public Safety Headquarters.

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