



MEDIA RELEASE
From the
**YORK COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY**

Released July 9, 2020

For Immediate Release

**York County Fire and Life Safety Personnel Test COVID-19 Positive
and Department Takes Pro-Active Steps.**

There have been reports of COVID-19 positive results within the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety. This is accurate and not unexpected.

COVID-19 cases have become prevalent in our community. As a natural and expected consequence, fire and EMS personnel have the potential to be exposed both through their profession as well as through normal community exposure similar to what has occurred in other fire/EMS agencies as well as health care facilities/ environments. Since more testing is being conducted community wide, as well as within the department, an “uptick” in positive results can be expected. As a matter of normal practice/procedure and with direct consultation from the Virginia Department of Health, necessary precautions have and will continue to be taken including the use of personal protective equipment as well as quarantine/isolation efforts. VDH is notified of each COVID positive individual in the community and conducts contact tracing as appropriate. The department continues to follow all appropriate recommended procedures while responding to emergencies, interacting with the public, and working in the fire stations. The department is taking pro-active steps to conduct extra testing of department members. Additionally, routine sanitization of all vehicles and equipment continues as it has since the beginning of this health emergency.

Although this situation has affected some members of our department, our services to the community have not been impacted. Our number one priority is to always ensure the health and safety of the public and our personnel that serve them.

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