

“Leadership in Tough Times”



Alexandria, VA Fire Chief Adam Thiel

Chief Thiel provides overall leadership and strategic direction for the city of Alexandria's fire/injury prevention, all-hazards emergency response, emergency medical services, building/fire code administration, and disaster/emergency management functions.

Adam's operational experience includes serving with distinction in four states (MD, NC, VA, and AZ) as a chief officer, incident commander, company officer, hazardous materials team leader, paramedic, technical rescuer, structural/wildland fire fighter, and rescue SCUBA diver. Chief Thiel directly participated in response/recovery efforts for several major disasters including the 9/11 tragedy, Hurricane Gustav, and Hurricane Isabel.

Chief Thiel earned undergraduate degrees in history and fire science from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and University of Maryland University College; he holds a Master's degree in public administration from George Mason University and is finishing his Doctoral degree in public administration at Arizona State University.

Beyond completing the Virginia Executive Institute and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government, Adam is a Certified Emergency Manager® (CEM), designated Chief Fire Officer® (CFO), and Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers (MIFireE).

Adam has authored more than 20 publications; presented at more than 30 conferences in multiple states/countries; and teaches graduate-level courses at several colleges/universities.

Chief Thiel is active in a number of professional groups, boards and committees: he chairs the National Fire Protection Association Technical Committee on Emergency Services Organization Risk Management; is a member of the National Fire Academy Board of Visitors; and serves on the steering committee for George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute.