From:	Farrell, Robert
To:	DOF-ALL EMPLOYEES
Subject:	The Branch
Date:	Tuesday, September 22, 2020 8:22:27 AM
Attachments:	2020-09-21 Branch.pdf

Good morning everyone. Looks like Autumn is off to a beautiful start here in Virginia. We still have two full-time and six part-time firefighters from Virginia on deployment in California, please keep them in your thoughts.

Last week was IT Professionals Week in the Commonwealth and I wanted to take a moment to recognize our IT team; Parik Patel, Lauren Whitlow, Josh Shepko along with Jason Braunstein and Jim Pugh for all that they do to make sure that our hardware, systems and applications are available and work the way they are intended.

IT is one of those things that we take for granted when it works and we howl when it doesn't – and our IT staff are the ones we have to thank when it works and who come to our rescue when it doesn't. This crazy year has taken that to a whole new level. Our IT team has supported us through the COVID response with VPNs and remote meeting access. At the same time keeping everything else going like the Cardinal payroll project; the new Website development project; right-sizing our PC inventory and agency servers; an IT audit; and all the while building relationships with new VITA account managers.

All this would be impressive on its own, but this year our IT team demonstrated tremendous initiative and teamwork to maintain agency operations by cross training and learning additional duties. They demonstrated the DOF way by getting the job done while supporting each other and helping the transition in IT directors to go smoothly. I want to recognize their work and thank them and I hope you all will take an opportunity to do the same.

Rob Farrell
State Forester
Virginia Department of Forestry

Headquarters
900 Natural Resources Drive, #800
Charlottesville, VA 22903
office (434) 220-9047

cell (757) 810-6943
fax (434) 220-9140

rob.farrell@dof.virginia.gov

www.dof.virginia.gov