

Good evening everyone,

I hope some of this rain is reaching where you are today. Fire season was not ready to go down without a fight this year unfortunately. Thanks to everyone who responded to the fires last week. Great job in Suffolk getting ahead of what could have been a very dangerous fire and getting it stopped. We weren't able to get containment on the Goshen fire before it spread in difficult terrain with those crazy winds on Friday. Thanks to everyone that responded there over the weekend, sounds like another example of DOF working with our partners to get the job done under difficult conditions. Hopefully more to share later about the great work that was done on that fire.

Please see this week's Branch for information on open enrollment for health insurance and don't miss out on the chance for Premium Rewards.

Many of you have probably seen or heard that the new VDOF Website is operational. We are in the midst of a quiet opening for a couple of weeks to test the site and work the bugs out before we announce anything publicly. Please feel free to visit the site and test it out. **If you see any issues, report them to Janet Muncy.**

- Everyone should visit the agency directory and make sure their own information is correct.
- The website includes an access point for the Employee-Only Intranet site but that function is not turned on yet. Everyone will be receiving login information in the coming weeks when that part is ready to go.
- One of the most prominent features on the homepage is the Find A Forester link where users enter the locality they are interested in and it returns the VDOF forester or technician identified as the first points of contact for that locality. This does not mean we are going away from work areas. We just thought it was important to give the public a more direct link to the staff in the work area who are most familiar with their locality of interest. The contacts were identified by the SAFs so start there if you have any questions for where you show up or don't.

A lot of thought and work has gone into this website and I am excited to see it launch. I hope it will serve Virginia well.

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