

Prince William County, Virginia
Statement for Fire and Rescue Chief Mary Beth Michos
April 16, 2007
News Conference – Firefighter Fatality

This morning at approximately 6 am our department suffered a tragic loss of one of our own in the line of duty. And so, as Fire and Rescue Chief, I regret to announce the death of Technician I Kyle R. Wilson who died fighting a house fire on Marsh Overlook Drive in Woodbridge.

This is the first time in our 41-year history for a line of duty fatality. As a Department, our grief knows no bounds. I made personal notification to Technician Wilson's family this morning and conveyed our deepest sympathy and sadness for their immense loss on behalf of the department. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them. We will continue to do everything we can to support them during this difficult time.

I also want to acknowledge the heroic efforts of Technician Wilson's fellow firefighters who risked their own lives to in efforts to save his.

- Tech Wilson is a long-time County resident.
 - Is 24 years old and attended County schools
 - Joined department January 2006
 - Assigned to OWL Station 12
- He is survived by his parents, brother, sister and girlfriend who live locally
- We have resources in place to help department members deal with this tragedy.
- The Department has seen an outpouring of help and support both within the County and from our neighboring jurisdictions as well as other community groups.
- We also appreciate all of the citizens who have offered condolences and support.
- We are in the process of doing a complete investigation as is our policy using both internal and external resources.

I want to ask you to please respect the family's wishes to not speak to the media at this time. Any requests should be directed from the Department of Fire and Rescue.

Despite all our efforts to provide the best training and equipment, there are still risks that our firefighters face everyday. This is very sad day for Technician Wilson's family, the Department, the County and all firefighters everywhere.

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