

ADAM K. THIEL



With nearly two decades in the field, Adam K. Thiel is a recognized thought leader across the fire and emergency services industry. Currently fire chief for the City of Alexandria, Virginia—a diverse and densely populated urban community in the National Capital Region—Chief Thiel provides overall leadership and strategic direction for the city'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.

In 2002, Adam was appointed by then-Governor Mark Warner to lead the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) through a critical post-9/11 transition and state fiscal crisis. Executive Director Thiel transformed VDFP—modernizing systems, adding capacity, and enhancing capabilities—by engaging employees and stakeholders statewide in charting the agency's course. During his tenure in state government, Adam was a member of the Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group, Virginia Emergency Response Council, State Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Advisory Committee, Critical Infrastructure Working Group, and Child Day-Care Council.

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).

For the past decade, Chief Thiel has provided strategy, risk management, and leadership consulting/expertise to international organizations, non-profits, government agencies at all levels, educational institutions, and private firms. 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 currently serves as chair of the National Fire Protection Association Technical Committee on Emergency Services Organization Risk Management and is a member of the National Fire Academy Board of Visitors.

Outside his professional activities, Adam is a volunteer youth mentor, endurance athlete, Ironman® triathlon finisher, Crossfit enthusiast, martial arts student, adventure racer, SCUBA diver, husband, and father of two children.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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