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For Immediate Release

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Mulch Fire Safety

Harrisonburg, VA— The Harrisonburg Fire Department is reminding our community of the importance of fire safety relating to mulch fires. With the change in season, many residents are spending more time outdoors and already the department has seen an increase in mulch-related fires. One of the problems with vegetative mulch is that the decorative material, usually located against structures, is easily ignited resulting in a fast-moving fire that can endanger property and lives.

Discarded smoking materials constitute the primary ignition source for the overwhelming majority of mulch fires. We urge those that smoke to be responsible smokers and put cigarettes out properly. One way the community can help prevent such fires is to use proper receptacles for smoking materials and smoke only in designated smoking areas. Residents and visitors should avoid discarding cigarettes, and other smoking materials, in mulch or potted plants.

“This all comes down to our department’s mission, which is life safety and property conservation. We want our community to be safe for everyone,” said Fire Chief Ian Bennett.

“Combustible landscape cover material shall not be placed within eighteen (18) inches of buildings with combustible siding, including but not limited to, vinyl siding, wood siding, or Masonite,” in certain occupancies as noted in the [City Code](#).

To learn more, follow the Harrisonburg Fire Department on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) !

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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