



For Immediate Release – Aug. 21, 2020

Contact: Fire Chief Matthew Tobia
540-432-7703

HFD seeking to remind residents that Smoke Alarms Save Lives

HARRISONBURG, Va. – According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms.

With that in mind and following two residential structure fires in the city in successive days, the Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD) wants to stress to the community the criticality of working smoke alarms.

"The speed of fire is more rapid than people can imagine," Fire Chief Matthew Tobia said. "That's why the advance warning provided by smoke alarms is essential to saving lives."

In addition to having working smoke alarms, it is important to know how they function, and to plan your escape making sure every member of your household is prepared:

- All smoke alarms contain a battery – either as a back-up or primary power. An intermittent "beep" from the alarm means the battery needs to be replaced.
- Draw a map showing all doors and windows.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible.
- Have an outside meeting place (like a tree or mailbox)
- Practice at least two times a year (preferably at night when most fires occur)



For assistance with free smoke alarms or questions about fire safety, Harrisonburg residents can call 540-432-7703.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department is an ISO-Class II All-Hazards agency providing essential emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the public who live, work and travel in Harrisonburg. More information about the Fire Department is available on-line at www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire or on Facebook®, Twitter® and Instagram®.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 54,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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