For Immediate Release – January 11, 2021

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Sprinklers contain fire in health care facility, averting serious outcome

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD) responded to a structure fire involving a local health care facility, Harrisonburg Health and Rehab (HHR), on Reservoir Street on Sunday evening.

Units from HFD arrived at approximately 5:30 p.m. to find smoke on the first floor of the building and a fire in the basement utility room. HFD personnel and HHR staff evacuated residents in the affected area to a separate wing of the facility which protects occupants against fire spread.

The fire involved an electrical panel in the utility room. Activation of the fire sprinkler system helped to contain the fire to the room of origin.

Harrisonburg Electric Commission responded to secure electrical power to the building. Once power was secured, crews quickly brought the fire under control in approximately 10 minutes. HFD was assisted by units from Rockingham County Fire and Rescue, Harrisonburg Rescue Squad and the Harrisonburg Police Department. There were no injuries.

"This fire demonstrates the effective working relationship between multiple agencies during a complex incident," HFD's Deputy Fire Chief Stephen Morris said. "It also highlights the role of a properly operating fire suppression system in protecting the safety of occupants and conservation of property."

The cause of the fire appears to be a result of an electrical problem with the main service. Damages are estimated at $150,000.

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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