



For Immediate Release – July 6, 2023

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## Reminiscing on 20 Years of Free Pizza and Smoke Alarms

*This year's event to take place July 12 for Harrisonburg community members*

Harrisonburg, VA – Twenty years, thousands of pizzas, and countless lives protected.

The Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD) is gearing up to host its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Free Pizza/Smoke Alarm event on July 12 with community partner Cicis. During the event, anyone who lives within the Harrisonburg city limits can call 540-432-9099 or go online to <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/pizza-night> and select the **Online Order Form** between 4 and 8 p.m. to place their order for a free, large cheese pizza that will be delivered by fire personnel and volunteers on fire apparatus who will also check smoke alarms in the residence.

The objective of the event is to:

- Provide as many smoke alarm inspections inside homes as possible.
- Replace necessary smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and/or batteries.
- Educate on fire escape plans, alarm maintenance and fire prevention.

“This is such a special event for us, seeing so many families open their doors to allow us inside to help make sure they are safe and protected from fire dangers,” HFD Chief Matthew Tobia said. “I would highly encourage anyone who lives in Harrisonburg to give us a call on July 12, get a free pizza, and let us visit your home for a few minutes to make sure your smoke alarms are working in order to keep you, your loved ones and your neighbors safe.”

In more than half of home fire deaths across the country, there was either no smoke alarm present or no working alarm in the home. Smoke alarms save lives through alerting occupants to the presence of smoke or fire. During the Free Pizza/Smoke Alarm event, fire personnel and volunteers will make corrections to smoke alarms to ensure the safety of all residents.

Public Education Officer Lt. Erin Stehle added, “The reason that this event is such a benefit to our community is that it allows the fire department to check and replace smoke alarms as needed, as well as have personal interactions with residents about fire safety in a non-emergency setting.”

To commemorate 20 amazing years, be sure to check out HFD’s and other City departments’ social media pages and take part in the celebration.



*(Top) HFD firefighter Kellie Sacksteder with a family on a past Pizza Night. (Bottom) Pizza Night participants with their HFD badge stickers.*

People who live within Harrisonburg city limits who are unable to participate on July 12 can call the HFD Administrative Office at 540-432-7703 during business hours, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., throughout the year to have their smoke alarms checked for free.

**The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).

