

Press Release
Harrisonburg Fire Department
101 North Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

For Immediate Release

Date: October 8, 2013

Contact: Captain Arthur Miller (432-7703)

Date of Occurrence: Several different dates in early September

Time of Occurrence: Unknown

General Location/Address of Occurrence: Downtown Area, East Market Street Corridor

Property Affected: Metal Fire Sprinkler Connection caps

Injuries Sustained: None

Narrative : The Harrisonburg Fire Department and Harrisonburg Police Department conducted a joint investigation of thefts of metal fire sprinkler connection caps that occurred at 14 separate locations throughout Harrisonburg in early September. The locations range from downtown Harrisonburg to the commercial area of East Market Street near University Boulevard.

The caps that were stolen are located outside of businesses and made of brass and other metals.

Fire Marshals and Police were alerted of the thefts by a local metal scrap yard that had received the caps. The scrap yard paid an individual a scrap metal price for the caps.

Martin Steve Smith, 56 of Harrisonburg, is charged with 14 counts of tampering with a fire protection device as well as multiple charges of obtaining money by false pretenses, larceny, and trespassing.

Smith is scheduled to appear in Rockingham County General District Court on October 30, 2013.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 50,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov. The Harrisonburg Fire Department is rated Fire Class 3 out of a 1 to 10 ranking by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). In the nation only 3.6% of fire departments have received a Class 3 rating. More information about the Harrisonburg Fire Department is online at www.harrisonburgfire.org and on Twitter @HFDVA.