



For Immediate Release
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Get Prepared, Harrisonburg

Harrisonburg, VA – The City of Harrisonburg has already taken measures to get prepared for the upcoming winter season. Supplies have been stocked, equipment was checked, and staff members are prepared to deal with whatever Mother Nature delivers to Harrisonburg.

The National Weather Service with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management selected **December 1-7, 2013 as Winter Preparedness Week in Virginia.**

With the chance of winter weather quickly approaching the city would like to remind residents to get prepared today.

Tips to prepare for winter:

- Have an emergency kit stocked with all the essentials: flashlights, batteries, water, blankets, first aid kit, battery powered radio, and three days worth of food.
- Consider a back up battery or charging device for cell phones, laptops, and tablets.
- Download the Ready Virginia App at www.ReadyVirginia.gov.
- Stay connected to weather information issued by the National Weather Service, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, local emergency contacts, and local media outlets. Current information will also be posted on the city's website (www.HarrisonburgVA.gov) and social media sites (www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/Stay-Connected).
- Check fuel oil and gas tank levels and have chimneys, kerosene heaters, and generators properly serviced. Always follow standard safety instructions regarding home heating.
- Purchase supplies now. It will be easier to find rock salt and shovels now instead of waiting until the first storm is supposed to arrive.
- Drive safely and do not take any chances traveling if the road conditions are treacherous.

This also serves as a reminder for those who live and or work in the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County to sign up for the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Alert System by visiting www.HREmergencyAlert.com. Citizens may sign up for this service to receive alerts about an emergency-related event or life-threatening weather event such as a tornado or flash flood warning.

Members of the community are also asked to spread this information to their neighbors, friends, and relatives. Anyone who uses social media is encouraged to post this information and be sure to include #GetReadyHburg.

Additional information on winter safety tips is also available at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/Winter-Safety.

*Who will notify you if an emergency-related event is happening in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County? Sign up to receive free alerts through the **Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Emergency Alert System** by visiting www.HREmergencyAlert.com.*

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