



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Larry W. Shifflett
Fire Chief

For Immediate Release

April 7, 2015

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A few weeks ago in New York City, seven children died in a house fire. The house had no working smoke alarms. In March, eight children in Virginia have died in three separate house fires. Do you think any of these families thought that they would experience such a devastating fire? We all think fires happen to other people but even if we do have a fire we'll know what to do. Unfortunately, when a fire occurs, many people panic, and have no plan to get out of the house. Ask your kids what they will do if a fire occurs in your home. Their answers may surprise you.

Working smoke alarms and having a family fire escape plan will greatly enhance your chances of surviving a fire. You should have at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home. But having working smoke alarms is just the beginning. You must practice a fire drill with your family – knowing two ways out of every room. Put a plan in place with a meeting spot that everyone in the home will know and practice your plan every time the fire alarm sounds for any reason.

Many localities provide smoke alarms at no cost to those who need them. If you need smoke alarms in your home contact your local fire department. For information about home fire escape plans visit www.NFPA.org or <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/>.

If you are a City resident and are in need of smoke alarms please contact the HFD Administrative Offices at (540)432-7703.

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.