



## City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

101 North Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
(540) 432-7703 FAX (540) 432-7780

Larry W. Shifflett  
Fire Chief

For Immediate Release

November 2, 2015

Contact: Lt. Wanda Willis

540-432-7703

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This past Sunday morning we all moved our clocks back one hour. Now let's all use the extra hour "gained" from daylight saving time to not only change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms and test them, but also plan and conduct a Fire Exit Drill in the Home (EDITH).

Fire spreads rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds. Before a fire occurs, walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm. This is a great way to get children involved in fire safety in a non-threatening way.

If you need help checking your alarms, or if you need a free smoke alarm and live in the City of Harrisonburg, please call our office at 540-432-7703.

Last week in the United States 51 people died in house fires. Together we can help reduce that number of home fires and make this one of the safest winters ever!

More information is available at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/fire](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/fire).

*The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 50,000 people. The Harrisonburg Fire Department is rated fire class 2 on a scale of 1 to 10 ranking by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). In the nation, only 750 fire departments have received a class 2 rating. More information about the Harrisonburg Fire Department is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/fire](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/fire).*

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