



For Immediate Release
April 29, 2016

Contact: Mary-Hope Vass, Public Information Officer
540.432.8931
MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov

HFD Reminds Residents to Check Smoke Alarms

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD) reminds residents of the importance of having a working smoke alarm in every home.

Every year, members of HFD visit thousands of homes to check and install smoke alarms. Many times, homes are found to be unprotected by a broken smoke alarm or one with a dead battery.

HFD recommends for residents and landlords to check their smoke alarms on a monthly basis and replace the batteries at least twice a year. When testing the smoke alarms, it is important to teach children to exit their home when they hear the beep.

“We recommend each home have a working smoke alarm in every bedroom,” explained Captain Mike Armstrong, HFD’s deputy fire marshal. “A working smoke alarm can provide enough of a warning for residents to escape a fire.”

In some communities, individuals are selling costly smoke alarms and heat sensors, some of which are door-to-door sales. Before purchasing, residents should always research the product, ensure the salesperson has a valid business license, and check with their local fire department.

Any city resident without a smoke alarm should call the Harrisonburg Fire Department at 540-432-7703 for a free smoke alarm. A member of HFD will deliver the smoke alarm and assist the resident with the installation, if needed.

For more information on the city’s fire prevention efforts or to follow the latest news, visit www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/fire.

*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.*



###