

For Immediate Release
January 12, 2017

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HFD Responds to Fire that was Extinguished by Sprinkler

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD) responded to a fire in an apartment building earlier this week that was saved by the residential sprinkler system.

Firefighters responded to the 100 block of Chestnut Ridge Drive on January 9 around 2:30 p.m. for the report of a structure fire. Upon arrival, crews discovered that a grease fire started on the stove and was extinguished by the residential sprinkler system.

The sprinkler system is credited for saving not only the residence, where the fire originated, but the entire 12 unit apartment complex.

“Without the sprinkler system inside this apartment, the damage from the fire could have easily impacted the entire building,” explained Captain Mike Armstrong, HFD’s deputy fire marshal.

According to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, fire sprinklers can stop a fire in less than 1 ½ minutes.

HFD recommends the following safety tips for residents to keep their home and family safe:

- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- Keep a fire extinguisher near the kitchen (possibly under the sink) and know how to use it.
- Never put water on a grease fire. Put the lid on the pan, use baking soda, or use a fire extinguisher.
- Keep flammables, like dish towels and paper or plastic materials away from the hot stove.
- Call 9-1-1 anytime there is a fire.

Additional safety information can be found at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/hfd-prevention-division.

The city of Harrisonburg is home to four **Harrisonburg Fire Department** stations. For more information about each fire station, visit www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/hfd-stations.



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