



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**FIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT**

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## **Fire Marshal's Office Reminds Businesses of Safety in Reopening**

HARRISONBURG, Va. – As retail and dining establishments open for business, the Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD) Fire Marshal's Office is reminding business owners of the critical importance of maintaining fire prevention life safety strategies for patrons.

The City of Harrisonburg and surrounding communities entered Phase 2 of Governor Ralph Northam's "Forward Virginia" Plan on Friday, June 5, further easing health restrictions and allowing for the reopening of more businesses. With that in mind, Harrisonburg officials are working to remind business owners and operators of the importance of key safety measures in brick and mortar businesses, restaurants and other places of gathering.

Marked exits cannot be locked or blocked, or in any way prevent members of the public from quickly exiting the building in case of a fire or other emergency. Additionally, public restrooms must be accessible in facilities that are open to the public.

"It is important to keep in mind, as these dining and retail establishments begin to re-open, that health considerations are important and, in addition, so are fire safety and other safety measures, without one compromising the other," explained HFD Deputy Fire Marshal Mike Armstrong.

The HFD is committed to your safety. Further questions regarding safety standards for buildings can be directed to the HFD Fire Marshal's Office at 540-432-7703.

***The Harrisonburg Fire Department is an ISO-Class II All-Hazards agency providing essential emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the public who live, work and travel in Harrisonburg. More information is available on-line at [www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire) or on Facebook®, Twitter® and Instagram®.***

