



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**FIRE**  
DEPARTMENT

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## **HFD pairs pizza, safety with beloved annual Free Pizza/Smoke Alarm Night**

*Popular community event to take place July 10 in Harrisonburg – Preorders now open!*

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The Harrisonburg Fire Department (HFD) is gearing up to host its 21st annual Free Pizza/Smoke Alarm Night on July 10 with community partner Cicis. And, for the first time in the event's history, community members can preorder their pizza.

The popular event allows individuals who live in Harrisonburg to order a free, large cheese pizza, which will be delivered by fire personnel and volunteers on fire apparatus who will check smoke alarms in the residence. The annual program seeks to conduct as many smoke alarm inspections as possible while replacing necessary smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and batteries and educating families on fire escape plans and fire prevention. Free Pizza/Smoke Alarm Night is only available to people who live in Harrisonburg.

“This incredible event has made such a huge difference in the community over more than two decades,” HFD Chief Matthew Tobia said. “We are so grateful to all of you in our community who have allowed us into your homes over the years so we can help keep you and your family safe. This is a great partnership between the woman and men of the Harrisonburg Fire Department and those we work hard to serve every day.”

Participants should call 540-432-7703 or go online to [www.harrisonburgva.gov/pizza-night](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/pizza-night) to preorder their pizza before 8 a.m. on July 8. Ordering will still be available, but limited, on the day of the event.

“We are hoping that preorders allow us to serve our community and the Pizza Night process more efficiently,” HFD Public Education Officer Lt. Erin Stehle said. “Taking orders ahead of the event will let us plan out our delivery routes and give us more time interacting with our community members.”

Free Pizza/Smoke Alarm Night is not only a beloved program that thousands in Harrisonburg have taken part in – it's also vital to the safety and the health and wellness of the community. There were either no smoke alarms present or no working alarm



(Above) A family's smoke alarm is checked at a past Free Pizza/Smoke Alarm Night.

in the home in more than half of home fire deaths across the country in 2021, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Smoke alarms save lives through alerting occupants to the presence of smoke or fire and are an essential tool every home should have. Free Pizza/Smoke Alarm Night makes that easier for local families as fire personnel and volunteers will make corrections to smoke alarms when they deliver each pizza to ensure the safety of all residents.

“The reason this event is such a benefit to our community is that it allows the fire department to check and replace smoke alarms as needed, as well as have personal interactions with residents about fire safety in a non-emergency setting,” Stehle added. “Over the years we have seen so many homes that need working smoke alarms. People may not even realize their alarms are no longer working. But we’re here to help, and bring you a pizza at the same time!”

People who live within Harrisonburg city limits who are unable to participate on July 10 can call the HFD Administrative Office at 540-432-7703 during business hours, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., throughout the year to have their smoke alarms checked for free.

*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 about the Fire Department is available on-line at [www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/fire) or on Facebook®, Twitter® and Instagram®.*

*The **City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,990 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).*

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