

PRINCE
WILLIAM



COUNTY
VA

www.pwcgov.org/fire

Holiday Cooking Safety Tips



Community Safety Section Monthly Update

Fire Marshal's Office
Office of Emergency Management
Public Information
Public Education
Hazardous Materials

Assistant Chief Matt Smolsky
Prince William County
Fire Marshal

5 County Complex Court, #160, Prince William, VA 703-792-6360

OCTOBER 2019

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

NEW CONSTRUCTION & FIRE PROTECTION

153 fire protection plan reviews for sprinkler, fire alarm, underground fire lines, and kitchen hoods.
361 fire protection system inspections, 38 building occupancy inspections, and 52 Operational Permits (HUPs).

PERMITS, PLANS & SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

Fire Lane Inspections: 2

Knox Box Inspections: 2

FMO Follow up: 36

Fire Prevention Inspections: 544



Bob Harrell

September FMO Team Member of the Month

This month, Robert Harrell exceeded the expectations of his job duties. Under the new Station Inspection Program, he was assigned over 200 inspections this month to complete. With his thorough review and attention to detail, Bob issued 8 Code Compliance Reports and 9 Notices of Violation. Each report required research and details related to each code violation. This information was then given to the Building Department and Property Code Enforcement for them to follow up and ensure safety and code compliance. Bob also has an additional 11 FMO cases that he is still monitoring to make sure that each business will be compliant and can pass their yearly inspection. Thanks to Bob's hard work, he has demonstrated his belief and dedication to protecting the safety of all customers and citizens in Prince William County.

Visit us at www.pwcgov.org/fire and click on the Fire Marshal's Office.




OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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What's New in Emergency Management

On October 1st, Emergency Management (EM) hosted a meeting in the Emergency Operations Center to discuss a multi-year Northern Virginia evacuation planning project based on the concept of a catastrophic incident occurring in Washington, D.C. that would require mass evacuations out of the District through all modes of transportation. This was the initial operational planning meeting to discuss topics related to executing Prince William County's roles and responsibilities as part of the larger planning project.

 On October 9th, the Everbridge User Group held its annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City. Several private, local, state, regional, and out-of-state entities were in attendance. Topics included: System best practices, a review of recent releases, the road map for the next several years, a panel of presenters from several industries and professions, and a single presenter from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (a private sector entity).

The 2019 WebEOC Symposium was held October 17-18 at the Marriott Hotel in Fair Oaks. This two-day conference featured outstanding presentations by some of our local jurisdictions as well as by representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the private sector. Juvare, the company that owns WebEOC, also presented at the symposium to provide updates and upcoming enhancements to the system. The keynote speaker on Day 1 presented on the role of emergency management in a rapidly changing world.



October 23 – Staff from CSX provided an overview of the CSX infrastructure in PWC, as well as an overview of the commodities and items that travel the rails and discussed large incident response to rail emergencies. This training provided senior leadership with information regarding the County's role in rail responses, and provided insight into how CSX responds to emergencies on their lines.

Community Safety Section Chief Smolsky stopped by the Emergency Management offices to congratulate EM Planner Matthew Schultz on reaching a career milestone. Matthew joined the Prince William County Department of Fire & Rescue in January 2008 as a career firefighter. Matthew remained in the Operations Section for 10 years before joining Emergency Management in 2017.

Congratulations Matt!



The NCR WebEOC Team



Chief Smolsky, Matthew Schultz, and Joe Warner

Visit the Office of Emergency Management at www.pwcgov.org/ready or call 703-792-5627.

PUBLIC INFORMATION & PUBLIC EDUCATION

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Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

The Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays are just around the corner when family and friends gather to celebrate all it has to offer including the sharing of a home cooked meal. Yet, the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, in the U.S., are cooking fires with the peak days being Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), many home cooking fires involve the stovetop with unattended cooking as the common cause of these types of fires. To keep you and your loved ones safe, follow these simple safety tips:

Cooking Safety Tips

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
 - If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off your range or cooktop.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep your cooking area clean and free of combustible materials.
 - Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.
 - Clean up spilled or splattered grease in the oven or on the cooktop; built up grease can catch fire.
- When cooking wear close-fitting clothing or short sleeves so your clothes won't catch on fire. Loose clothing can easily brush over a hot burner and catch fire.
- If cooking in a microwave:
 - Never attempt to heat articles that are not approved for use in a microwave.
 - Use only microwave-safe utensils and containers.
 - Remove food from packaging before defrosting in a microwave oven.
 - Never use recycled paper products in microwave ovens.
 - Do not leave a microwave oven unattended when microwaving popcorn, since the heat buildup can cause fires.

Kitchen Fire Safety Tips

Should a fire occur when cooking:

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the stove.
- For an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed.
- In a microwave, turn it off immediately. Then simply wait until the fire suffocates. Never open the microwave door until you are absolutely certain that the fire is out. If in doubt, call the fire department.

Additional Cooking Safety Tips

- Use back burners and turn pot handles toward the back of the stove to prevent knocking the pots over or children pulling them down.
- Keep children away from the stove when cooking by using a safety gate for younger children and marking with tape a 3-foot “no-kid zone” for older children.
- Use oven mitts when cooking or handling hot food and drinks.
- Stir and test food cooked in the microwave before serving; open heated containers away from you from back to front.



The Prince William County Fire & Rescue System Chief Tim Keen states, “Holidays are meant for fun-filled cherished moments, not memories of visits to the emergency room. Whether cooking during the holiday season or anytime throughout the year, take the necessary precautions to protect you and your loved ones from fires, fire injuries or worse.”

For additional information on cooking fire safety, visit the National Fire Protection Association www.nfpa.org and the U.S. Fire Administration at www.usfa.fema.gov.

Toys for Tots Drive is Underway

The Department of Fire and Rescue and the members of the Fire and Rescue System have begun collecting toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation. This year’s event will run through **December 14, 2019**.

Toys for Tots is a national charity program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Toys are collected and distributed to less fortunate children whose parents may be struggling financially and unable to purchase gifts during the traditional Christmas Holiday Season. It is the only charitable endeavor associated with the Department of Defense that reaches out to local communities. The program was started in 1947, in California, by Major William L. Hendricks and was inspired by his wife, Diane, when she tried to donate a doll to a needy child but could not find an organization to do so. At Diane’s suggestion, Major Hendricks gathered a group of local Marine reservists who coordinated and collected 5,000 toys for local children. Hendricks used his position as director of public relations at Warner Brothers Studio to enlist celebrity support and later asked his friend, Walt Disney, to design a poster for a national campaign. The result was the three-car, red train logo.

Please drop off your new and unwrapped toy at any Prince William County, City of Manassas Park or Manassas City fire station, Prince William County Public Safety Training Center in Nokesville as well as the lobby at the McCoart Government Center in Woodbridge. Clothes and used toys cannot be accepted. Please consider donating used toys and clothing to churches and shelters in your neighborhood.

All toys will be delivered to the Toys for Tots collection site for processing and delivery to pre-authorized organizations who have requested toys. Fire stations are not permitted to deliver toys directly to citizens.



International Walk to School Day October 2, 2019

*(Fire & Rescue members with students from Antietam, Enterprise, Gravely,
Marumsco Hills & Cedar Point Elementary Schools)*





**Prince William County Fire & Rescue System
OPEN HOUSE
Fire Prevention Week October 6 — 12, 2019
(Photos provided by Station 515A, 516C, 523A & 526A)**



National Air & Space Museum's Air & Scare October 26, 2019

MWCOG (Prince William County F&R, Loudoun County F&R, Fairfax County F&R & the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority) participated with over 22,000 in attendance.







UPCOMING EVENTS



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
PWC Fire & Rescue Station 6 (Coles)
(Date & Time To Be Announced)



I  MyPWCFirefighter

presents

Pictures with SANTA!

When: Saturday Dec 7th & Sunday Dec 8th

Time: 1:00 - 3:30pm

Where: Station 26

5026 Davis Ford Rd.

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

Our elves will be hosting pictures taken with Santa and the fire truck @ Station 26.

There will be yummy treats, cookie decorating, and more. Plus, each child will get a special gift from Santa.

And all of this is FREE and exclusively for all Fire Families of PWC Fire & Rescue System!

To RSVP and for MORE INFO go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4caaa829a2fc1-pictures1>



ilovemypwefirefighter

He's made a list! Now he's checking it twice!
Don't miss a morning of breakfast with Santa!



Pancakes,
eggs,
sausage
or bacon

Pancake Breakfast with Santa!

Saturday, December 14, 2019

8:00am - 11:30am

\$5.00 per person

Kids 3 & Under Free



Lake Jackson Volunteer
Fire Department

11310 Coles Drive
Manassas, VA 20112



Santa & Fire Pup will arrive in the fire truck at 9:00am!



MANASSAS, VIRGINIA
Est. 1901

Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department

COMMUNITY SAFETY SECTION

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Public Education

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Hazardous Materials

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