



Warrenton Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

167 WEST SHIRLEY AVE. WARRENTON, VIRGINIA 20186
FIRE STATION 1 (540) 347-0522 EMS STATION 1 (540) 347-4873
BUSINESS SERVICES (540) 347-3232 FAX (540) 347-6513
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April 7th, 2017

Public Information Statement FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARRENTON VOL. FIRE COMPANY – REMINDERS FOR SPRING SAFETY CLEANING

WARRENTON, VA – The Warrenton Volunteer Fire Company (WVFC) would like to remind our community of some spring time cleaning safety recommendations. As warmer weather approaches, so begins the annual task of spring cleaning inside and outside the home. Please consider the following:

Around the house:

- Check, vacuum and clean smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. We recommend testing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and changing batteries regularly. This is also a good time to check those detectors for the “10 year” rule (we recommend replacement then).
- Make sure all exits and escape routes are clear from debris and are easily accessible.
- Reduce clutter in and around your home. Clear at least a three foot space around your electrical panel, furnace, hot water heater, fireplace, space heaters and dryer.
- Have furnaces, chimneys and air conditioning units cleaned and inspected by a licensed professional.
- Check electrical outlets, extension cords and power strips to ensure they’re appropriately sized and not overloaded.
- Ensure all cleaning products, household chemicals, paints, and poisons are properly marked and safely stored out of children’s reach.

In the Yard:

- Trim bushes, plants, and trees surrounding your home and keep vegetation at least ten feet from the structure.
- Keep gutters and roofs clear of debris. If using a ladder, be sure the rungs are dry and the ladder is securely positioned on a flat surface.
- When operating a lawn mower, rake before you mow to prevent stones or loose debris from flying into the air. Never start a mower indoors and when refueling, make sure the engine is turned off and cool.



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- Gasoline and cleaning fluids should be well marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Spread mulch at least 18" away from the house with a non-combustible barrier in between, such as rock or gravel. Mulch is combustible, and if placed directly beside a structure, can rapidly increase fire spread.
- Discard smoking materials in an appropriate container, such as a metal or ceramic pot filled with sand. NEVER use a container filled with soil/plants OR one made of plastic.
- Place cigarette butt containers away from the house. NEVER place containers on the porch, deck, or just outside the door. Hot embers can smolder for days!

For additional fire safety information, please visit our website at www.warrentonfire.org.

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//Authority of Fire Chief Jason T. Golden//