

PRINCE
WILLIAM



COUNTY
VA

OUTDOOR SAFETY

Camping and Trail Tips



Community Safety Section Monthly Update

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

www.pwcgov.org/fire

5 County Complex Court, #162, Prince William, VA

MAY 2019

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

NEW CONSTRUCTION & FIRE PROTECTION

FPEs performed 98 fire protection plan reviews for sprinkler, fire alarm, underground fire lines, and kitchen hoods.

Technician IIs, Fire Inspectors performed 231 fire protection system inspections, 28 building occupancy inspections, and 71 Operational Permits (HUPs).



PERMITS, PLANS & INSPECTIONS

Fire Lane Inspection: 4 Knox Box Inspection: 5

FMO Follow up: 42 Station Inspection: 47

Assistant Chief

Matt Smolsky

**Prince William County
Fire Marshal**

NEW CASES

Date: 4-27-2019 | **Box:** 18-08 | **Type:** Outside Fire | **Address:** 5406 Quest Court | **Business Name:** N/A | **Cause:** Incendiary | **Value:** N/A | **Loss:** N/A | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Child | **Building Posted:** N/A | **Status:** Closed

Date: 4-28-2019 | **Box:** 25-16 | **Type:** House Fire | **Address:** 8761 Partridge Run Way | **Business Name:** N/A | **Cause:** Accidental | **Value:** \$270,900 | **Loss:** \$15,000 | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Hornaday | **Building Posted:** N/A | **Status:** Closed

Date: 4-29-2019 | **Box:** 06-39 | **Type:** Other | **Address:** Minnieville Road and Alps Drive | **Business Name:** N/A | **Cause:** Incendiary | **Value:** N/A | **Loss:** N/A | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Kronebusch | **Building Posted:** N/A | **Status:** Active

Date: 4-29-2019 | **Box:** 06-10 | **Type:** Vehicle Fire | **Address:** 6933 Colchester Park Drive | **Business Name:** GDC | **Cause:** Accidental | **Value:** \$850,000 | **Loss:** \$850,000 | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Hornaday | **Building Posted:** N/A | **Status:** Active

Date: 5-12-2019 | **Box:** 17-08 | **Type:** House Fire | **Address:** 15354 Finch Court | **Business Name:** N/A | **Cause:** Accidental | **Value:** \$270,000 | **Loss:** \$5,000 | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Child | **Building Posted:** No | **Status:** Closed | **Area of Origin:** Inside

Date: 5-15-2019 | **Box:** 25-45 | **Type:** Vehicle Fire | **Address:** Industrial Drive/Hawkins Drive | **Business Name:** RFC Trucking | **Cause:** Undetermined | **Value:** TBD | **Loss:** TBD | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Hornaday | **Building Posted:** N/A | **Status:** Active | **Area of Origin:** N/A

Date: 5-15-2019 | **Box:** 03-08 | **Type:** Vehicle Fire | **Address:** Wharf Lane/Olde Port Lane | **Business Name:** N/A | **Cause:** Incendiary | **Value:** \$1,000 | **Loss:** \$1,000 | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Hornaday | **Building Posted:** N/A | **Status:** Active | **Area of Origin:** N/A

Date: 5-19-2019 | **Box:** 17-24 | **Type:** Vehicle Fire | **Address:** 4503 Edinburg Drive | **Business Name:** N/A | **Cause:** Undetermined | **Value:** \$8,000 | **Loss:** \$8,000 | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Child | **Building Posted:** N/A | **Status:** Closed | **Area of Origin:** Inside

Date: 5-19-2019 | **Box:** 12-36 | **Type:** House Fire | **Address:** 15010 Illinois Road | **Business Name:** N/A | **Cause:** Accidental | **Value:** \$134,000 | **Loss:** \$25,000 | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Child | **Building Posted:** Yes | **Status:** Closed | **Area of Origin:** Inside

Date: 5-24-2019 | **Box:** 15-16K | **Type:** House Fire | **Address:** 2609 Jackson Drive | **Business Name:** N/A | **Cause:** Accidental | **Value:** \$251,700 | **Loss:** \$25,000 | **Lead Investigator:** Lt. Schultz | **Building Posted:** No | **Status:** Closed | **Area of Origin:** Outside

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



FOX 5 ZIP TRIP & STATION 502

(Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton VFD)

**Town of Occoquan
Union & Mill Street
Friday, June 14th
9:35 a.m.**

Tune In to Fox 5 or Come Out and Join the Fun!

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Brian Misner 703-792-5828
bmisner@pwcgov.org



What's New in Emergency Management

During May, Emergency Management promoted the various national observances that pertain to seasonal preparedness, including National Hurricane Preparedness Week and National Dam Safety Awareness Day. We also promoted May as the 1st Annual Stop the Bleed Month to raise awareness and encourage citizens to seek out training opportunities to learn life-saving skills.

Other highlights from the month include:

- EM Staff attended a two-day Individual Assistance Workshop hosted by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. The venue was located at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Manassas.
- EM Staff met with the leadership at the Four Seasons Community in Dumfries to discuss emergency management-related current issues and to develop a partnership with this well-organized and active community for future endeavors.
- EM Staff member, as well as other Prince William County agency representatives, attended the 508 Compliance course, where attendees learned how to make PDF documents accessible to hearing and vision-impaired members of the community.



- EM Staff member attended the week-long FEMA Floodplain Management Course in Glen Allen, Virginia.
- EM Staff met with a Police Department representative to discuss revising policy regarding public messaging such as missing person alerts, active violence alerts, and other law-enforcement related notifications.

- Emergency Management welcomed new intern, Molly Shaaber, for the Summer. Molly joined us to gain some real-world emergency management experience. She will have the opportunity to apply her experience with the Locust Shade Park Dam, and work on projects relating to several of the other high and significant hazard dams in the county.
- EM Coordinator attended the week-long 33rd Annual Governor's Florida Hurricane Conference in West Palm Beach, which included workshops, training, and exhibits featuring the latest trends and technology relating to the emergency management profession.



Follow us on Twitter: @ReadyPWC

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION & PUBLIC EDUCATION

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Hurricane Season – Be Prepared, Stay Informed



June 1st marked the start of the 2019 Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season, which runs annually, from June 1st through November 30th. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is forecasting a near-normal hurricane season this year, but “It only takes one storm for our area to experience a significant impact,” states Brian Misner, Emergency Management Coordinator. “Personal preparedness is important year-round; however, there are some additional steps that you can take to protect your family and property before a storm threatens our region.”

The County offers the following safety tips in preparation for hurricane season:

Prepare your home

- Hurricane winds can cause trees and branches to fall, so trim or remove damaged trees and limbs to keep you and your property safe.
- Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts and clear any clogged areas or debris to prevent water damage to your property.
- Reduce property damage by retrofitting to secure and reinforce the roof, windows and doors, including the garage doors.
- Create an updated household inventory; use a smartphone or digital camera to take photos or video of valuable items and your home’s condition inside and out.
- Consider purchasing homeowner’s insurance for wind damage and flood insurance if you live in a floodplain.

Prepare your family

- Put together an emergency kit, with basic living essentials to survive on your own for 72 hours after a disaster; for a list, visit www.pwcgov.org/buildakit.
- Make an emergency plan for your family that includes a family meeting place and information on how you’ll reconnect if separated, at www.pwcgov.org/buildakit.

Stay Informed

- Sign up for PWC Alerts by texting PWCALERTS to 888-777 or go to: www.pwcgov.org/alerts.
- Ensure *Wireless Emergency Alerts* are enabled on your compatible cell phone: <https://www.fema.gov/frequently-asked-questions-wireless-emergency-alerts>.
- Bookmark the County’s Emergency Information page for quick access: <https://emergency.pwcgov.org>.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) now issues watch and warning graphics to communicate the danger of storm surge, separate from other watches and warnings that indicate the forecasted arrival of tropical storm or hurricane-force winds. **Storm Surge** is life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline. Storm Surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a tropical cyclone, and it does not always occur at the same times or locations as a storm’s hazardous winds.

Prince William County’s Office of Emergency Management has added a new storm surge resource on their Emergency Information page: <https://emergency.pwcgov.org/flooding>. County residents can use the interactive tool to see if their property is in a federally designated floodplain or Virginia Storm Surge Zone.

To learn more about the hazards associated with a Hurricane, visit the NHC website at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/hazards.php>. For more information about emergency preparedness in the county, please visit www.pwcgov.org/ready.

Help Us Help You in Preventing Cooking Fires – Look When You Cook



Over the past few weeks, fire and rescue crews have battled numerous cooking-related fires. Prince William County Fire and Rescue System Acting Chief Tim Keen urges residents to take the necessary precautions when cooking due to cooking fires being the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Cooking fires are preventable by simply being more attentive when using cooking materials and equipment.

Look When You Cook

- Stay in the kitchen if you are frying, grilling or broiling food.
- Turn off the stove, even if you leave the kitchen for a short period of time.
- Remain in the home, If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food.
 - Check it regularly.
 - Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Use oven mitts when cooking or handling hot food and drinks.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stove, i.e. oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains.
- **NEVER** throw water on a grease fire! If possible, cover the pot/pan with a lid and smother the fire.
- Have a kid-free zone of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is being prepared or carried.

If you have a cooking fire

- Just Get Out! **DO NOT** attempt to fight the fire!
 - More than half of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when people tried to fight the fire themselves.
 - When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number **AFTER** you leave.
- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires.
 - Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan.
 - Turn off the stovetop.
 - Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire:
 - Turn off the heat.
 - Keep the oven door closed.

Chief Keen would like to remind residents to install smoke alarms in the bedrooms and throughout every level of the home; working smoke alarms save lives (www.pwcgov.org/SmokeAlarms). You double your chances of surviving a home fire with working smoke alarms compared to homes without working smoke alarms.



Outdoor Safety: Camping & Trail Tips

As warmer weather arrives people are enjoying the outdoors and all it has to offer. Some hit the trails for daily walks and others make plans for extended camping trips. Whatever piques your adventurous soul, take the necessary precautions to prevent mishaps when exploring the great outdoors.

Camping Tips

- **Pack a first aid kit.** Your kit can prove invaluable if you or a member of your group suffers a cut, bee sting or allergic reaction.
- **Bring emergency supplies.** A map, compass, flashlight, knife, waterproof fire starter, personal shelter, whistle, warm clothing, high energy food, water, and insect protection.
- **Learn the ABC's of treating emergencies.** Recognizing serious injuries will enable you to attend to a victim until medical help arrives.
- **Before you leave, find out the weather report.** Carry a compact weather radio; in inclement weather, find shelter until the worse passes.
- **Avoid areas of natural hazards.** Check the contour of the land and look for potential trouble due to rain. Areas that could flood or become extremely muddy can pose a problem.
- **Inspect the site.** Look for a level site with enough room to spread out all your gear. To include a site that has trees or shrubs, on the side of prevailing winds, will help block strong, unexpected gusts.
- **Build fires in a safe area.** Your open fires and fuel-burning appliances must be far enough away from the tent to prevent ignition from sparks, flames, and heat. **NEVER** use a flame or any other heating device inside a tent. Use a flashlight or battery-powered light instead.
- **Make sure your fires are always attended.** Be sure you have an area for a fire that cannot spread laterally or vertically. When putting the fire out, drown it with water, making sure all embers, coals and sticks are wet. Embers buried deep within the pile have a tendency to reignite later.
- **Pitch your tent in a safe spot.** Make sure your tent is made of a flame-retardant fabric and set up far enough away from the campfire.
- **Dispose of trash properly.**
- **Be cautious when using a propane stove.** Read the manufacturer's instructions for the stove and propane. **ONLY** use the stove as a cooking appliance. **NEVER** leave it unattended while it's burning.
- **Beware when encountering wildlife.** To ward off bears, keep your campsite clean, and do not leave food, garbage, coolers, cooking equipment or utensils out in the open.
- **Beware of poisonous plants.** Familiarize yourself with any dangerous plants that are common to the area.



Trail Tips

- **Before starting out, do warm-up exercises.** Stretching gets the body going and increases your flexibility.
- **Start out slowly,** gradually increasing your pace and distance traveled.
- **Let the slowest person set the pace and distance traveled,** especially when traveling with children or older adults.
- **Hike and bike only on marked trails in wilderness areas.**
- **Hike and travel in groups** as much as possible, especially in hazardous terrain.
- **Leave your itinerary** with a friend or family member and check in with them upon your return.
- **Learn basic repair skills** for changing a bike tire or fixing a backpack; take repair kits on your trail.
- **Dress in layers.**
- **Wear sunglasses and a hat or visor.**
- **Bring sunscreen** no matter the season.

- **Bring a customized first aid kit** tailored to your outing.
- **Take frequent rests** or vary your pace to recover from strenuous activity spurts.
- **Drink plenty of water and treat or filter all water.**
- **Pack carbohydrate-energy bars**, granola, candy, or fruit.
- **Give yourself two hour's daylight to set up camp.**
- **Keep pets on a leash.**

Avoiding Ticks

- **Wear long pants tucked into your socks** to prevent ticks from climbing up your legs (<https://campingandcamping.com/how-to-avoid-tick-bites-hiking-camping/>).

If You Get Lost

- **Pay close attention to your surroundings and landmarks** and relate this to your location on a map.
- **Stay calm.** Try to remember how you got to your present location.
- **Stay put if it is nightfall**, you are injured or near exhaustion.
- **As a last resort, follow a drainage or stream downhill.** This can often lead to a trail or road.

Acting System Chief Tim Keen, of the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System, states, "Prince William County has many National, State and Regional parks and forests in which one can hike, bike, paddle and camp. By heeding the safety tips, you'll have an enjoyable, safe and memorable outing experience."

For additional safety tips, visit U.S. Forest Service at <https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/safety/safety.shtml> or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/family/camping/index.htm> and the National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/camping/staying-safe.htm>.



Fox 5 Zip Trip and Station 504

On Friday, May 31st, Fox 5 Zip Trip visited the town of Haymarket. Numerous vendors, services and county public safety agencies/organizations were on hand to support the event. Our very own, Captain Ron Reingruber and the crew of Station 504(A), had the opportunity to speak with Fox 5 Anchor Steve Chenevey regarding grilling safety. Even the Splash Down Dolphin learned a few grilling safety tips.

