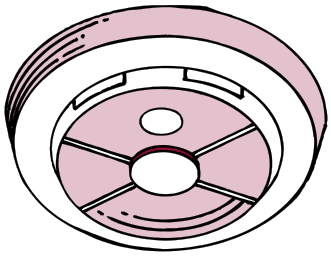
FYI

Special Supplement for James City County Citizens

Important Safety Information

The James City County Fire Department would like to help you be safer this winter!



Did you know that most manufacturers recommend that you replace your smoke alarm after 10 years? Don't become a statistic for lack of a battery! Many electric smoke alarms have battery back-ups. Only use smoke alarms that are approved by a recognized testing laboratory (such as UL).

If you need a smoke alarm, or have questions about smoke alarms, call the public fire education office at 253-0574!

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Can we find you? Look at your home at nighttime; are your house numbers visible from the main road? If they aren't, precious time could be lost trying to find you when you need us. House numbers should be 4 to 6 inches high and reflective. If you live a distance from the main road, have a sign with your house numbers at the main road. Help us to be able to help you if you need us in times of emergency! The life you save could be your own.

Carbon Monoxide: tasteless, colorless, odorless, deadly! If you have any source of fossil fuel (gas, propane, oil), use a woodstove, fireplace or generator, particularly during a power outage, or have an attached garage with vehicles inside then you need a carbon monoxide alarm.

Every year, 1,500 people die and another 10,000 need medical attention due to carbon monoxide. It has been estimated hundreds of thousands more suffer from lower level effects. Headaches, sluggishness and flu-like symptoms can all be caused by carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide displaces oxygen in the body at a rate of 300:1. Do you need a carbon monoxide alarm or have questions about carbon monoxide? Call the fire education office at 253-0574. A limited number of alarms are available for County citizens.

The holiday season is fast approaching! If you celebrate Christmas with a live tree, please make sure the tree is well watered. A dry Christmas tree is a torch in your home. Within six seconds, a Christmas tree catching fire can ruin packages, decorations and furniture and make your home unlivable.

Wishing you a safe, happy winter and holiday season!

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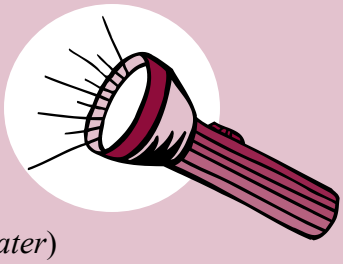
Be prepared for winter storms

Prepare now for the potential loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day. These are supplies you should have available:

- ✔ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ✔ Battery-powered radio
- ✔ Extra food and water
- ✔ Extra medicine and baby items
- ✔ First-aid supplies
- ✔ Heating fuel
- ✔ Emergency heat source (*fireplace, wood stove, space heater*)
- ✔ Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm (*Test smoke alarms once a month*)
- ✔ Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter



If you would like information about assembling a disaster supply kit in four easy steps, contact Margaret Tucker, Public Fire Educator, at 253-0574.

Winter storm words to know

The National Weather Service issues outlooks, watches, warnings and advisories for all winter weather hazards. Here's what they mean and what to do. Use the information below to make an informed decision on your risk and what actions should be taken. Remember to listen to your local officials' recommendations and to local news media for the latest winter storm information.

Outlook: Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2-5 days. Stay tuned to local media for updates.
Watch: Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Prepare now!
Warning: Life-threatening severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. Act now!
Advisory: Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If you are cautious, these situations should not be life threatening.

Flashlights are much safer to use for lighting than candles. Home fires and fatalities caused by candles have increased dramatically in the past few years nationwide. Never leave a candle burning unattended -- "when you go out, blow out!" Check out the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's Web site at *www.vaemergency.com* for useful information on preparing for winter storms.

Be prepared to help yourself and your neighbors during another disaster such as Isabel by taking CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) training. The next class will be in February. For more information about CERT, visit www.jccEgov.com or call 253-0574. Some important numbers you might wish to know: JCC Emergency Hotline: 875-2424 and Citizen Inquiry (after EOC activation): 566-4315.