

APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2017.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico

Program Title: Residential Fire Risk Identification

Program Category: Criminal Justice & Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Holly Zinn

Title: Management Specialist

Department: County Manager's Office

Complete Mailing Address: 4301 E. Parham Road, Third Floor, Henrico, VA 23228

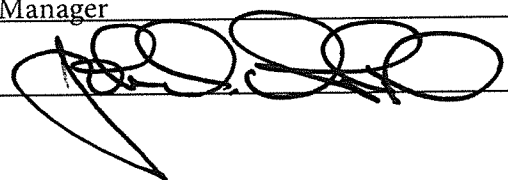
Telephone: 804-501-4370 **Website:** henrico.us

Email: zin01@henrico.us

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: John A. Withoukask

Title: County Manager

Signature: 

1. Program Overview

Often, localities can fail to utilize the many information-gathering opportunities provided by Geographic Information Systems (GIS) resources. The Henrico County Division of Fire sought to utilize various GIS resources to enhance the Division's efforts toward Community Risk Reduction. As a team, we successfully identified residences within our community at risk for fire by pairing and visualizing census, real estate, utility, and fire incident data. We now have an effective tool, the Residential Fire Risk Identification Program, to provide education and free smoke detectors to those in immediate need.

2. Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

The Division of Fire, through partnerships with for-profit and non-profit organizations, provides new smoke detectors to county residents free of charge. Smoke detectors are provided upon request or upon Division personnel identifying a need during an emergency incident. Until the Community Risk Reduction Program was implemented, no methods existed for identifying residential locations at-risk to house a fire incident or for proactively providing the resources to prevent a tragic fire incident.

3. How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The Residential Fire Risk Identification program is truly worthy of award based upon the improved administration of the existing program to provide smoke alarms to County residents. This program focuses distribution efforts to actively provide alarms to those most in need. Additionally, the program fills an identified gap in service delivery as well

as provides better information to effect public policy. Smoke alarm distribution showed a service gap in focused distribution and did not specifically target at-risk homes. Policy, to guide county employees, is now updated to ensure the Residential Fire Risk Identification is used effectively.

4. How Program Was Carried Out

The objectives of this program are to identify at-risk residents within Henrico County and provide smoke detectors free of charge, to provide a useful tool for operations personnel to identify the location of at-risk residents, and to provide a record of contact for offering or providing service to the identified resident.

At-risk properties and residential addresses are identified, and a process is in place to maintain data accuracy. The most current data is available to the Division of Fire from across county agencies and databases through cooperative agreements. Each address within Henrico County is queried based on four criteria, and addresses that meet these four criteria are identified as “At-Risk” for fire. The criteria are as follows:

- Residential Address
- \$40,000 Median Household Income
- House Build Date < 1984
- Property Last Sale Date < 1994

Based on geodatabase technology, the results of residential properties identified as at-risk are available in printed, desktop computer, and mobile map form. Through GIS

development, the residential properties remain active on the map until contacted by Division of Fire personnel. After contact is established and Fire provides the affected residents with any necessary resources, the property becomes “inactive” on the map and remains inactive for five years.

The Division of Fire implemented a mobile data collection application for limited use during targeted Community Risk Reduction activities. As the Division’s Information Technology section moves forward with replacing mobile computers to support Microsoft Windows 10, the mobile application will become available in every response apparatus. A division-wide implementation is expected by June 2017.

Once the mobile applications become available division-wide, response units can utilize the technology to routinely contact at-risk residents during normal daily operations. When emergency crews complete their needed assistance at one location, they can locate a nearby at-risk location and make contact when appropriate. The current plan is to contact one at-risk resident a day per response unit and five residents on “Smoke Detector Saturdays.”

5. Financing and Staffing

There is no cost incurred to identify the at-risk residences. The Residential Fire Risk Identification Program hinges on existing technology currently available within the organization and existing partnerships. Licensing for the use of the GIS software package and associated tools are provided within the County’s Enterprise License Agreement.

6. Program Results

Department-wide implementation of the program is expected in June 2017; although through partnerships with agencies, such as the American Red Cross, the data is currently being used to focus risk reduction efforts. Approximately 4,496 properties were identified as at-risk within our community. As community volunteers and career firefighters work toward community risk reduction, these are the properties used to identify neighborhoods. Still early in the program's implementation, unofficial results of smoke detector surveys show many of the targeted properties are without a working smoke detector. As a supplemental benefit, the Residential Risk Identification Program is also used during the "After the Fire Program" (NACo 2015) to assist in focusing efforts in and around neighborhoods where a structure fire occurred.

7. Brief Summary

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