



# Hoarding

## *Did you know that hoarding is dangerous?*

- ◆ Hoarding is the excessive collection and retention of things or animals to the extent it interferes with day to day function, sanitation, and safety within the home.

### **What are the associated regulations found in the Virginia Maintenance Code?**

- ◆ The interior of every structure shall be free of excessive accumulations;
- ◆ A safe, continuous and unobstructed path of travel shall be provided throughout the structure and to points of egress.

### **Why is it Dangerous?**

- ◆ Excessive storage burdens structural components, which may cause them to weaken, fail, or collapse;
- ◆ Lack of sanitation/maintenance may cause health risks to occupants and attract pests;
- ◆ Collections of combustible materials, like newspapers and magazines, and the lack of clearance around electrical devices/mechanical appliances are fire hazards;
- ◆ Blocked bedroom windows, hallways, stairwells, and aisles drastically decreases an occupant's ability to escape in the event of a fire and can interfere with and endanger an emergency response.

**To report a possible violation OR for more information contact:**



**Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance**  
**12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035**  
**Phone: 703-324-1300, TTY 711**



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.

*This Fairfax County, Va. publication (October 2018) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.*