



Vermont Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

Public Education & Community Risk Reduction Section



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HOT TOPICS

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET



General Fire Safety for the Solar Eclipse

Fire Safety During Your Visit

Whether you live in Vermont or are visiting to witness this generational spectacle, ensuring everyone can take in this year's eclipse safely is our top priority. Some Vermont residents are renting out their properties or camping areas with no hook ups. Visitors should keep in mind that many of these locations are not regulated like hotels and motels and may not have the same fire safety features.



You should practice home safety just like you do at home. Here are some safety reminders for your Home Away from Home

Be sure:

- Everyone knows the address of the rental.
- You have a way to call emergency services without the use of your cell phone. Vermont's mountainous landscape and rural areas mean cell service may be limited.
- Everyone knows two ways, out of every room and out of the rental if there is an emergency.
- There are working smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the rental.
- There are working carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the rental.
- You can open all doors and windows that lead outside.
- If you hear an alarm react immediately. Once you have evacuated from a building, never go back inside for any reason. Wait for the "All Clear" has been given from the Fire Department.
- You choose an outside meeting place a safe distance from the rental.
- Everyone knows where to find a first-aid kit and a Portable fire extinguisher.
- If smoking is allowed, a smoking area has been designated outside and is well away from the structure.

Fire Safety at Your Camp Site

Due to the confined spaces and presence of flammable materials, in rustic areas or areas with no utility hook ups is crucial to take added proactive measures to minimize fire risks.

You Got Alarms?

Install working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors inside your RV. Place them strategically near sleeping areas and test them regularly to ensure they are functioning properly.

If Running a Generator

- A generator should never run in an enclosed area or under any shelter where it cannot be ventilated efficiently.
- Do not run or store your generator inside your tent. Not only do you risk carbon monoxide poisoning, but it is also a fire risk.
- Generator exhaust should be directed to safe areas away from windows and other nearby RVs or tents to avoid fumes from entering the living areas.
- Fire Officials recommend that your generator should be kept at least 20 feet from your unit during usage.

- Additionally, because of the close proximity to other campers it's recommended that units be equipped with an exhaust extender flow pipe that vents the harmful exhaust above the highest windows of RVs.
- Never refuel when the generator is running and allow the generator to cool before refueling.



Eclipse Viewing tips

The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” or handheld solar viewers. Ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the Sun; they transmit far more sunlight than is safe for our eyes.

- Read and follow any instructions printed on or packaged with the filter.
- Always supervise children using solar filters.
- If you normally wear eyeglasses, keep them on. Put your eclipse glasses on over them or hold your handheld viewer in front of them.
- Stand still and cover your eyes with your eclipse glasses or solar viewer before looking up at the bright Sun. After looking at the Sun, turn away and remove your filter — do not remove it while looking at the Sun.
- Do not look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device.
- Similarly, do not look at the Sun through an unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device while using your eclipse glasses or handheld solar viewer in front of your eyes — the concentrated solar rays could damage the filter and enter your eyes, causing serious injury.
- Seek expert advice from an astronomer before using a solar filter with a camera, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device; note that solar filters must be attached to the front of any telescope, binoculars, camera lens, or other optics.

*Excerpt from <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety>.

Fire Extinguishers

- Equip your RV with fire extinguishers rated for RV use. Consider having multiple extinguishers strategically placed in accessible locations, such as near the kitchen and sleeping areas.

Escape Path

- Keep a clear and unobstructed path to the exits in case of an emergency. Ensure that doors and windows open smoothly and are easily accessible.

Maintain Systems

- Regularly inspect and maintain the propane system to detect any leaks or malfunctions.
- Regularly inspect and clean your RV's heating system, including vents, furnaces, and space heaters. Remove any debris or flammable materials that may accumulate.

If Small Campfires are Allowed

- Clear a 10-foot area around the pit, removing anything that could catch on fire.
- Never leave a campfire unattended; an adult should supervise the campfire at all times.
- Keep a bucket of water and shovel nearby.
- Never put anything but wood into the fire.
- When it's time to put the fire out, dump lots of water on it, stir it with a shovel, then dump more water on it. Make sure it is COLD before leaving the campsite.

For additional information visit:
vermont.gov/eclipse

This sheet is designed to provide fire safety information to enhance the safety of Vermonters. This information sheet is an overview and is not an all-inclusive list of state laws or additional code requirements that may apply. This educational resource sheet does not carry the force of legal opinion and was developed by the Vermont Division of Fire Safety- Public Education & CRR Section with information from our fire safety partners including the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) the US Fire Administration and the state of Vermont eclipse page.

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