



Vermont Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

Public Education & Community Risk Reduction Section

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firesafety.vermont.gov



HOT TOPICS

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET



Your Safety at the Fair or Public Events

Vermont has a variety of carnivals, fairs, festivals, field days and other large outdoor events that take place all year long. Event organizers and the Division of Fire Safety Fire Marshals take many precautions to keep you and your family safe during your visit.

Nonetheless every so often the unexpected happens, it is important to remember a few basic safety tips that will keep you and your family safe as you experience all the fun the event has to offer.



Inside Buildings, Tents, or Grandstands

Take a good look. Locate exits immediately. When you enter a building you should look for all available exits. Some exits may be in front and some in back of you. Be prepared to use your closest exit. You may not be able to use the main exit.

- **Check for clear exit paths.** Make sure aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture. Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked or chained. If there are not at least two exits or exit paths are blocked, report the violation to management and leave the building if it is not immediately addressed.
- **Have a plan and meeting place.** It is important to decide on a designated meeting place with everyone you are attending the fair with, decide on a designated meeting place in case someone gets separated from the group.
- **Do you feel safe?** Does the building appear to be overcrowded? Are there fire sources such as candles burning, cigarettes or cigars burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe? Are there safety systems in place such as alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms? Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe in the building, leave immediately.
- **React immediately.** If an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or some other unusual disturbance immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.

Basic Safety Tips

- **Stay hydrated and be mindful of what you eat** — Enjoy all the wonderful food and drink that the fair offers but be mindful and do so in moderation so you can enjoy your time as much as possible!
- **Wear comfortable, closed-toes shoes** — You'll be doing lots and lots of walking at the fairgrounds, so do your feet a favor and wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes.
- **Be sure to follow all ride restrictions and rules** — There's a reason you have to be a certain height to ride some of the rides at the fair. Ride operators post rules and instructions for rides. You should read them and review with your children. If they provide safety equipment, use it. If a ride temporarily stops because of a mechanical issue, stay seated and wait for instructions.



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Basic Safety Tips - continued

- **Secure all loose items while on rides** — Make sure that anything in your pockets or on your body will not fall off before getting on the ride. Additionally, be sure to have your hair pulled back so your hair is not caught in anything.

- **Wash your hands A LOT** — It's always been advisable to wash your hands frequently while at the fair, but now it is more important than ever. Maybe wash your hands whenever you are near a hand washing station, and definitely wash your hands after coming into contact with animals/livestock.

While 4-Hers and fair organizers keep these animals well-groomed, cows, pigs and goats still could have germs that are harmful if ingested. Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water and use hand sanitizers after petting them – especially before eating. Keep hand sanitizer with you also for when you're not near a hand-washing station.

- **Watch your children** - young ones are mesmerized by the bright lights of a fair. Remember, though, there are lots of moving equipment and people. Keep your kids close and hold their hands if they are very young. They could easily go where they shouldn't and be in danger.
- **Parents, know what your child is wearing** — In case you get separated from your child or something happens, having a photo will be helpful so others will know exactly what they look like and what they are wearing
- **Remember where you parked your car** — To safely get back to your vehicle after your day at the fair, remember where you parked your car. Taking a picture of the parking lot or parking space is helpful in case you can't remember!
- **Report anything that doesn't look right.** - If you notice a maintenance issue or an operator not following procedures, report it to a fair official or police officer. Also, if you notice people causing problems, report them instead of trying to handle the situation yourself.
- **Know where to find help** -Fair organizers provide maps of their grounds and have signage throughout the area. Before you go or when you first get there, know where to get help in case of an emergency (first aid station, fair office or police stand).



FIRE SAFETY PUBLIC EDUCATION

When it comes to protecting ourselves from a fire, we can never get too much information. The Division of Fire Safety attends many of the fairs with our fire safety house and education displays to bring visitors all kinds of information on how to avoid fires and what to do should a fire occur.

Fire officials are also on hand to answer fire safety questions. Sometimes even Sparky the Fire Dog will visit.



Scan to learn more!



VT DFS Public
Education Page

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) and the US Fire Administration.