



# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND THE STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM

# FIRE SAFETY NEWS



## August 2015

### Directors Message

The Division of Fire Safety recently hired two new employees. (1) Assistant State Fire Marshal, Maurice VanDemark. Maurice earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Western New England University and earned his Master's Degree in Fire Science from the University of New Haven in Connecticut. (2) Robyn Lambert has been hired to fill the licensing position vacancy in our Berlin office. Robyn comes from the Treasure's Office and will be learning all aspects of licensing.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Cadet program was held at the Fire Academy in Pittsford during the week of July 12-19, 2015. This year there were 32 cadets participating in the week long program where students are introduced to the basics of firefighting and fire service culture. During the week cadets participate in the raising of the flag ceremony and learned about the fundamentals of; wild land firefighting, electrical safety, search and rescue, water supply, ladders, ICS accountability, EMS, ropes and knots, dragger trailer, fire behavior, SCBA, personal protection, low angle rescue, mock motor vehicle crash, LP Gas demo, and hazardous material. The week long program teaches the cadets discipline and respect while exposing them to many aspects of the fire service.

The new 2015 Plumbing Rules are posted on our web page with an effective date of August 1, 2015. During the rule making process there was virtually no opposition to the rules. Starting in August, the Division will be reaching out to stakeholder groups to engage in our rule making process as we move forward with the adoption of the 2015 codes. There is a tremendous amount of work involved in reviewing the new codes as there are many changes we need to evaluate to determine the economic impact as well as the practicality.

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**Upcoming Board meetings**

**Electrical Board Meeting:**  
August 4, 2015, 9AM

**Elevator Board Meeting:**  
August 11, 2015 9AM

**Access Board:**  
July 27, 2015, 1:30PM  
August 31, 2015, 1:30PM

**Plumbing Board Meeting:**  
Sept. 1, 2015, 9AM



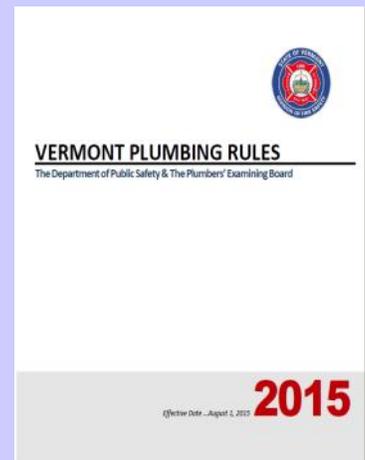
Picture by: Helen Kihm.

Bristol Elementary School, Bristol, VT as displayed for the month of August in our 2015 Fire Safety Calendar.

## The 2015 Vermont Plumbing Rules become effective on August 1st 2015

To Download a complete copy of the Vermont Plumbing Rules visit our web at:

[firesafety.vermont.gov](http://firesafety.vermont.gov)



Directors Message Continued:

The fire safety trailers are being hauled all over Vermont in an effort to teach our young children the importance of fire safety. The Division of Fire Safety houses many fire prevention education props and materials that are available to you and we highly encourage you to take advantage of the props we have. Please contact Micheal Greenia at 802-479-7587 or email Mike at [micheal.greenia@state.vt.us](mailto:micheal.greenia@state.vt.us).

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our successful fire safety calendar project. Every year schools are asked to participate in our fire safety poster contest whereas, third grade students submit a fire safety poster containing a fire safety message. The posters are judged and 13 winners are selected and their posters become part of our fire safety calendar. Each year 20,000 calendars are distribute to third grade students and other stakeholder groups so we can get the safety message out. The program would not be possible without the generous contributions from our safety partners including the Vermont Fire Service.

# Division of Fire Safety— 25th Calendar anniversary

[HTTP://FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.ORG](http://FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.ORG)

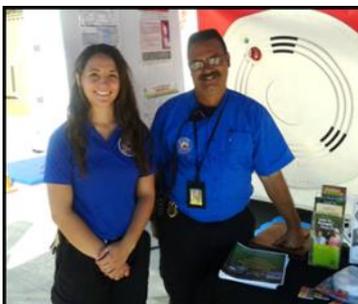


In August the Division of Fire Safety will be sending out reminders to schools of 3rd grade students all over the state of Vermont about the 2016 Calendar poster contest. This year is special as it marks our 25th anniversary. Please contact your local school if you can help support them in any way.



**FOR QUESTIONS ON THE CONTEST PLEASE CONTACT 802-479-7561**

## Fairs and Field-Days are in full swing in Vermont this time of year.



Come and see our education booths and trailers set up at many of the events around the state.





Vermont Division of Fire Safety

Public Education & Information Section



Micheal D. Greenia Section Chief 1311 US Route 302 Barre VT 802.479.7587 micheal.greenia@state.vt.us

Fire Prevention Week 2015

October 4th through the 10th

Get Ready!



NFPA is excited to announce the Fire Prevention Week (FPW) theme for 2015: "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm."

Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. We need your help during FPW, which runs from October 4 to 10, to spread the message about the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

This year's FPW campaign, "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke

Alarm," provides an ideal opportunity to educate the public about the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. NFPA has everything you need from ready-to-use news releases; safety tips sheets, printouts for open houses, info graphics and more. Make sure to check back throughout the summer for new materials.

To learn more about this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign and how to access free smoke alarm information for the fire service, educators, and families: visit NFPA's Web site at <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/fire-prevention-week> [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) and [www.sparky.org/fpw](http://www.sparky.org/fpw)

You can also contact the DFS public education and information section who can provide support for your local fire & life safety related activities, events, public education teaching tools and other in-state resources.



2015 FPW Infographic [www.nfpa.org/fpw](http://www.nfpa.org/fpw)

**firesafety.vermont.gov**

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**VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES**

Chris Herrick, Chief

**PROPERTIES OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS & GASES**

The majority of HAZMAT incidents both in Vermont and nationally have to do with spills or leaks of petroleum based products. These include LP-Gas, diesel fuel, gasoline, kerosene, methyl ethyl ketone and ethyl alcohol. It is very likely that your fire department will encounter some of these in the near future and having a basic understanding of the properties will assist you in managing the response safely. Below you will find the definitions of the physical and chemical properties that are associated with combustible and flammable liquids.

**Flash Point-**The minimum temperature that a liquid must be heated to produce a vapor will flash when an ignition source is present. Generally this number is used to give a relative idea how flammable it is. For instance gasoline has a flash point of  $-50^{\circ}\text{F}$ , so on a normal day in Vermont it is likely it will be warm enough to give off flammable vapors. Kerosene has a flash point of  $150^{\circ}\text{F}$  and we know Kerosene is much less likely to give off flammable vapors.

**Fire Point-** This is the temperature at which a liquid gives off enough vapor to sustain combustion when there is an ignition source present. This differs from flash point in that the combustion will continue. Often times this temperature is close to the flash point and the flash point is more useful to the responder.

**Flammable Range-** The flammable range is made up of the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) and the Upper Explosive Limit (UEL). The LEL is the lowest concentration of a vapor in air that is ignitable while the UEL is the highest concentration that is ignitable. For gasoline the range is from 1.3% to 7.1% in air. So if the concentration is .5% it is too lean and if it is 10% it is too rich to burn. Compare this to Acetylene which has a flammable range of 2% to 100%.

**Vapor Density-** This is the relative weight of the vapor as compared to air which is assigned the value of 1. So if the vapor density is greater than 1 the vapor will settle to the ground and if it is less than 1 it will rise. Propane has a vapor density of 1.5 so it will stay close to the ground and seek low areas, while methane has a vapor density of .55 so it will rise.

**Specific Gravity-** This has to do with liquids and not gases. Similar to vapor density specific gravity compares a liquid's proclivity to sink or float as compared to water which is given the value of 1. Gasoline has a specific gravity of .73 so it will float while chlorobenzene has a specific gravity of 1.1 indicating it will sink.

These are just a few of the important properties that help us understand how chemicals will react when they get out of containment. Please remember to use caution and to call the HAZMAT Team if you need any assistance.

Christopher Herrick, M.Ed. CFO  
Chief VHMRT  
Christopher.Herrick@vermont.gov  
802-479-7586

**HAZMAT HOTLINE 1-800-641-5005**

# Lightning Safety

**Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike!**

## Safety Tips

### Outdoor Safety

- » **If you can hear** thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away.
- » **Do not go under** trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.
- » **Wait at least 30 minutes** after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- » **Stay away** from windows and doors. Stay off porches.
- » **There is no safe place outside.** Places with only a roof on sports fields, golf courses, and picnic areas are not safe during a lightning storm. Small sheds should not be used.
- » **If a person is struck** by lightning, call **9-1-1**. Get medical help right away.

### Indoor Safety

Turn off computers. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. You **can use** a cell or cordless phone.

**Do not** wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes.



### FAST FACTS

Lightning may strike as far as 10 miles from any rain.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

# Division of Fire Safety

www.firesafety.vermont.gov

# CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

## The Battle of Bennington Monument



### ~BOARD DEADLINE REMINDER~

If you have a board agenda item, it needs to be received at the Central Office no later than 2 weeks prior to the board meeting. (for all boards – Access, Electrical, Elevator & Plumbing)

### August 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Date	Event	Location
4	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
11	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
16	Battle of Bennington Day	ALL
17	Battle of Bennington Day observed ~ State Offices Closed	ALL
19	Division Training	BERLIN
31	Access Board Meeting	BERLIN

### September 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Date	Event	Location
1	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
7	Labor Day ~ State Offices Closed	ALL
16	DFS- Training	BERLIN
28	Access Board	BERLIN



State of Vermont      Division of Fire Safety

AUGUST 2015

1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600

Barre, VT 05641-2351

FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.GOV

*To be added to the monthly newsletter email  
mailing list contact the Central Office  
(802) 479-7561*

**REMEMBER .... Smoke Detectors, Fire Sprinklers and Carbon  
Monoxide Detectors Save Lives**

Vermont Department of Public Safety

## ***Division of Fire Safety***

### **Central Office**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 600  
Barre, VT 05641-2351  
Phone (802) 479-7561 Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 640-2106

### **HAZMAT Response Team**

Phone (802) 479-7586  
Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 641-5005

### **Vermont Fire Academy**

93 Davison Drive  
Pittsford, VT 05763  
Phone (802) 483-2755 Fax (802) 483-2464  
Toll Free (800) 615-3473

## **Regional Offices:**

### **Barre**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 500  
Barre, VT 05641-7301  
Phone (802) 479-4434 Fax (802) 479-4446  
Toll Free 1-888-870-7888

### **Springfield**

100 Mineral Street, Suite 307  
Springfield VT 05156-3168  
Phone (802) 885-8883 Fax (802) 885-8885  
Toll Free 1-866-404-8883

### **Rutland**

56 Howe Street, Building A-Suite 200  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Phone (802) 786-5867 Fax (802) 786-5872  
Toll Free (888) 370-4834

### **Williston**

372 Hurricane Lane, Suite 102  
Williston, VT 05495-7151  
Phone (802) 879-2300 Fax (802) 879-2312  
Toll Free (800) 366-8325

## **DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION**

Waterbury—103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-2101— (802) 244-8781—Fax (802) 241-5371