State of Vermont Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

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

FIRE SAFETY NEWS

VERMONT

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Upcoming Board meetings

Electrical Board Meeting:
August 2, 2016 9AM

Elevator Board Meeting:
August 9, 2016 9AM

Access Board Meeting:
August 29, 2016 1:30PM

Plumbing Board Meeting:
September 13, 2016, 9AM

~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 2016

Directors Message

Michael Desrochers

Currently, the following municipalities have committed to using this testing process for hiring. If you are interested in applying for employment with any of the following fire departments, you must contact them directly for application information.

- Brattleboro
- Burlington
- Hartford
- Saint Johnsbury
- South Burlington
- Williston

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) was developed by a joint labor management initiative between the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to address the need to develop a physical ability test for consistent pre-employment testing for the hiring of candidate fire fighters. A survey of tools and equipment, protective equipment, and job descriptions, as well as the demographics of both the fire fighters and the citizens they serve was conducted. From the results of this survey, fire ground tasks were studied and certain tasks were determined to be a fair and valid evaluation tool in the selection of entry level fire fighters.

Continued on next page

Division of Fire Safety— 26th Annual Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendar Project

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 2017 Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendar poster contest. This year is special as it marks our 26th anniversary. Please contact your local school if you can help support them in any way.

FOR QUESTIONS ON THE CONTEST PLEASE CONTACT BRIDGETTE @ 802-479-7561

In 2008, a working group was developed in Vermont to determine the need for, and implement the CPAT process. The working group, much like the original IAFF / IAFC task force, is a joint labor / management initiative, consisting of representatives from the Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont, the VT Career Fire Chiefs, the Vermont Division of Fire Safety, and the Vermont Fire Academy. Before CPAT in Vermont, career fire departments had varied physical agility testing requirements for entry-level firefighters. This results in a lack of standardization. CPAT is a licensed process that requires a study to be performed that ensures all firefighters within the jurisdiction, in this case Vermont, perform similar tasks with similar equipment during similar time frames. In turn, the study ensures that the CPAT test is valid and fair for all entry-level firefighters throughout Vermont. Currently the municipalities of Burlington, South Burlington, Williston, Hartford, Saint Johnsbury, Springfield, and Brattleboro have committed to using this testing process.

A test that is proven safe and is standard with job specifications results in a test that cannot be challenged by a candidate as discriminatory in any manner. The IAFF and IAFC have worked with the Department of Justice to ensure the test is fair and legal.

Just as this test is fair for all candidates, CPAT also ensures a high level of professionalism within the fire service in Vermont. Along with education and training, fitness and health are essential for an individual to succeed in today's fire service. A fire fighter that is healthier and more physically fit is a fire fighter that will be able to provide the best possible fire protection and emergency medical services to the community they serve. Health and fitness also contribute to a fire fighter's enjoyment of a fulfilled, and hopefully injury-free career, placing less of a burden on communities and coworkers.

For information or questions on our Candidate Physical Ability Testing program, you may e-mail Program Coordinator Christopher Corbin at christopher.corbin@vermont.gov. Full information and an application are also available on our website at http://firesafety.vermont.gov/academy/cpat.

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT)

For Entry-Level Career Fire Fighters in Vermont

2016 CPAT Testing Information

CPAT Orientation: August 9, 10, and 11, 2016
CPAT Exam: October 11, 12, and 13, 2016
Application & Physician Authorization Deadline: August 1, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
Orientation and Exam Location: Champlain Valley Exposition - Robert E. Miller Expo Centre, 105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction, VT 05453

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 2016

Contact: Jim Narva, Executive Director

Phone: 202-737-1226

State Fire Marshals Urge Amazon and Other Retailers to Remove Potentially Unsafe Fire Safety Products

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), an association whose principal membership comprises the senior fire officials in the United States and their top deputies, is asking the country's largest online retailer to stop the sale of smoke alarms that are not tested to nationally-recognized standards and which may not comply with applicable building codes in many states and municipalities. NASFM is also asking the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to take action to ensure consumers are protected and purchasing safe products.

In question are smoke alarms that do not carry the testing labels from a Nationally Recognized Third Party Testing Laboratory such as Underwriter Laboratories (UL) or Intertek/ETL – the two largest independent safety testing companies for electrical products. Products with these marks are evidence that the smoke alarm has been independently tested and complies with UL 217, *Standard for Smoke Alarms*, the industry-accepted standard for smoke alarms.

"Perhaps no other items sold to consumers today play a more critical role in protecting their families against fire than smoke alarms," said NASFM President Butch Browning, who also serves as the Louisiana State Fire Marshal. "Consumers can buy products bearing trusted third party laboratory marks with confidence, knowing that they have been subjected to the prescribed review process and can expect their smoke alarms to perform as promised when needed. Often, that performance can mean the difference between life and death.

"We are asking the CPSC to investigate this matter and urge Amazon and other online retailers to stop selling smoke alarms and other fire safety products that do not carry the UL or ETL marks, or marks from another third party that has tested the alarms to the UL 217 standard," he added. "We are also asking that retailers review their smoke alarm products and remove any non-listed products from their websites immediately."

NASFM identified several smoke alarm brands lacking third party testing laboratory marks on Amazon including: X-Sense, Arikon and Bovon.

Browning explained that smoke alarms sold in the United States are sent to UL or Intertek/ETL for testing and review. The two testing companies test smoke alarms in accordance to the UL 217 standard, the industry-accepted standard. Products not tested to this standard may not accurately detect fire, alarm the consumer in a timely fashion, and operate for the desired time period or other critical functions. Browning noted that the third-party listing also protects the consumer from potential legal penalties.

"Additionally, many states, including Louisiana, require alarms that are to be installed in residential or commercial occupancies to be listed by approved third-party testing agencies and bear the mark of that agency showing the product is tested and listed to the UL 217 standard. And as such any products that are installed by a consumer not meeting the listing and testing requirements is in violation of the law and subject to the prescribed penalties," Browning said.

About NASFM, "50 States – One Strong Voice for Fire Prevention"
The principal membership of NASFM comprises the senior fire officials in the United States and their top deputies. The primary mission of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) is to protect human life, property and the environment from fire and related hazards. A secondary mission of NASFM is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State Fire Marshals' operations. In addition to its principal membership, NASFM has several categories of membership to allow companies, associations, academic and research institutions, and individuals who support NASFM's mission to contribute in meaningful ways. Learn more about NASFM and its issues at www.firemarshals.org.

Although this article is designed for the emergency responder the "Nine questions you should ask" can relate to your workplace environment or your everyday life if confronted with a violent incident. Please take the time and reflect on each question as it relates to your situation as we all need to be aware of our own safety.

Additional information can be found at http://www.everyonegoeshome.com

Nine Questions You Should Ask

Response to Violent Incidents: Helping Keep Firefighters Out of Harm's Way

January 29, 2013

Do you know the nine questions you should ask that could help keep you and your firefighters out of harm's way in a potentially violent situation? As the tragic events in Webster, NY showed, not every violent incident can be anticipated. But fire, EMS, and law enforcement experts agree that being prepared can often make a difference.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is joined by the IAFC, CFSI, NFPA, and NVFC in this new effort to get fire chiefs, company officers and firefighters to ask critical questions that will help evaluate a department's ability to effectively deal with a violent situation. Nine Questions You Should Ask is the work of Chief John Oates of East Hartford, CT, based on the report from a focus group of fire, EMS and law enforcement leaders held last year in Baltimore. That report has identified 14 National Recommendations to identify potential risks and stay safe. The full report is available at http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/2013/01/29/nine-questions-ask/ .

Chief Oates has also has written an article summarizing the efforts of these fire service organizations and leaders to develop tools for firefighters as part of Firefighter Life Safety Initiative #12, Violent Incident Response.
Below is a summary of Nine Questions You Should Ask. Detailed information on the questions and resource material, including the final report, are available at Nine Questions You Should Ask.

Nine Questions You Should Ask:

Continued on next page:

Are you ready to respond to a violent incident?

These nine questions can help you prepare for your department's response to a Violent incident.

1. Do you use risk/benefit for every call? *"With incidents where there is a threat of, or actual violence, it must be remembered that a judgment is required to ensure that risks to personnel are not out of proportion to the benefits to be gained from achieving a given task" (Labour Research Department, 2005). Risk Management is not new to the fire service. The balance of perhaps limited potential benefit in light of substantial risk should be foremost in every responder's mind.*

2. Do you have an effective relationship (both at the 'boss' level and 'street' level) with the law enforcement agencies in your community? *As noted by the Columbine Review Commission (2001), familiarity of personnel and roles prior to an incident through training and planning exercises provides for better communication and operation during the event. Fire Department personnel should have access to, and use, law enforcement intelligence information in order to preplan response to incidents. This may include information regarding domestic terrorism, gang violence, known or suspected drug factories and/or houses.*

3. How good is the information you get from your Dispatcher? *Response to an incident of violence carries significant uncertainties. The ability of the dispatch staff to reduce the uncertainty while increasing the level of information provided is critical. It is also helpful for responders to have the ability to communicte on a specific, shared, common, radio frequency to remove the potential for message corruption as it is passed through another person. Dispatch staff should critically and carefully monitor the operations radio channel of personnel responding to and operating at incidents of violence and perform Personnel Accountability Report (PAR) checks on a prescribed interval.*

4. Do you allow members to 'first respond' directly to the scene? *Many jurisdictions have response and deployment plans that include the dispatch of individual first responders and/or a single person in a response vehicle. This should be prohibited or at least limited to the extent possible. The ability of a single person to react to an act of violence is limited. It may not even be possible to retreat. Responding and deploying in a group provides added protection, awareness, and visibility.*

5. Does your law enforcement agency use an incident management system? *Each agency should strive to ensure that the IMS used in that community is applied as uniformly as possible. Fire departments should take a leadership role in assisting their law enforcement compatriots, particularly at the street or service delivery level, to understand and apply the IMS.*

6. When responding to a potential violent incident, do you seek out a law enforcement officer when you arrive? *Fire department personnel should communicate, face to face, directly with the law enforcement component on scene. Direct face-to-face communication, with clear understanding of the hazards, risks associated, potential outcomes, and planned actions on the part of each agency should precede any fire department response into a hazard area.*

7. Have you told your fire officers/personnel that it is OK to leave the scene if things go ugly? *If fire department operations have commenced and violence erupts, fire service personnel should consider leaving the scene until the law enforcement component has stabilized the situation.*

8. Is there a point where we don't respond or limit our response to violent incidents? *Fire department personnel may not respond into a hazard area due to the potential for additional violence or because the situation is not yet under control. Some responders and organizations fear their community will view this in a negative light. A 2005 Labour Research Department report stated 'the key issue here is the extent to which fire crews can make decisions when dealing with an incident and with the confidence that they will be backed up by senior management if criticized by the local community or in the press for leaving a fire to burn or holding back from attending (responding to) an incident." It is imperative for the department leadership to establish relationships with key stakeholders in the community to ensure they understand and support the response protocol.*

9. What does your uniform look like? *Uniform insignia, style, and color should be of sufficient difference that fire department personnel would not be mistaken for police officers.*

93 Davison Drive
Pittsford, Vermont 05763
TEL: 802-483-2755 FAX: 802-483-2464
Toll Free: 1-800-615-3473
www.vtfireacademy.org

Vermont Fire Department Members,

The Firefighter I and Firefighter II course locations for this year are as follows:

Firefighter I

Location	Application Deadline	Orientation	Time	Class Meeting
Barton at Glover	September 1, 2016	September 14, 2016	1800	Wednesday with some weekend
Bran-don/Middlebury at Brandon	August 25, 2016	September 8, 2016	1830	Thursday with some weekend days
Chester	August 8, 2016	August 22, 2016	1830	Monday and Thursday with some weekend days
South Hero	August 23, 2016	September 6, 2016	1800	Thursday with some weekend
Swanton	August 26, 2016	September 9, 2016	1800	Tuesday with some weekend
Windham County	August 9, 2016	August 23, 2016	1800	Tuesday with some weekend days

*** If you currently have CPR/1stAid/AED and/or ICS 100 certification, please forward copies of your certificates because they are required for Firefighter I certification.

Firefighter II

Location	Application Deadline	Orientation	Time	Class Meeting
Bristol	August 16, 2016	August 30, 2016	1830	Monday with some
Newark/Orleans at Orleans	August 25, 2016	September 8, 2016	1800	Thursday with some weekend
Rutland Town	August 11, 2016	August 25, 2016	1800	Thursday with some weekend days

*** If you currently have ICS 200 certification, please forward a copy of your certificate because it is required for Firefighter II certification

Firefighter I/II Combined

Vermont Fire Academy Announces Photovoltaic Safety Course

Rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems present special considerations for firefighters. A new course offered by the Vermont Fire Academy provides information that firefighters can use to teach local firefighters across the state about how to deal with fires on buildings equipped with solar PV systems. This course is the result of a partnership between the Clean Energy States Alliance, the Vermont Public Service Department, and the Vermont Fire Academy.

Just like any new residential technology, solar PV offers unique challenges to firefighters. As rooftop PV becomes more common, firefighters need to be prepared for the challenges that this technology presents. Since PV panels can present electrical hazards for firefighters, de-energizing rooftop PV systems represents one such issue. Firefighters will learn how to recognize the difference between solar PV modules and solar thermal panels, how solar PV modules work, and how to handle them during a fire. Over the next several months, the Vermont Fire Academy will deliver training on this topic to local fire departments across the state.

"With the huge boosts in rooftop PV deployment over the past few years, it's important for firefighters to know how to recognize and treat PV systems in the event of a fire," said Nate Hausman, a Project Manager for the Clean Energy States Alliance, one of the organizations that developed this workshop. "We're glad to help bring these PV fire safety trainings to Vermont."

The information that will be shared will increase firefighter knowledge of solar equipment and outline safety measures when operating around solar installations. This knowledge will also aid the fire officer's decision making process when directing fire suppression activities that involve structures with PV installations.

"As solar becomes more integrated into our buildings and landscape, our Department is committed to working with the Fire Academy and others to ensure the projects are constructed with fire safety in mind, and that the training necessary for public safety is made available," said Christopher Recchia, Commissioner of the Public Service Department.

The Vermont Fire Academy will begin offering PV fire training to firefighters across the state in the upcoming months, with financial support from the Public Service Department's Clean Energy Development Fund. Those courses will be announced and more information will be available on the Vermont Fire Academy website at www.firesafety.vermont.gov/academy.

This PV fire safety course was developed and funded through the New England Solar Cost-Reduction Partnership, a project under the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge II program. The New England Solar Cost-Reduction Partnership is working to build the regional solar market by targeting non-hardware "soft" costs for PV systems and increasing coordination across Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. You can learn more about the New England Solar Cost-Reduction Partnership at http://www.cesa.org/projects/new-england-solar-cost-reduction-partnership.

NEW COURSE
Coming soon!

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SAFETY FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Watch our website for date and venue announcements across the state!

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems are becoming more common on homes and businesses across Vermont. Building mounted PV systems present special considerations for firefighters when handling emergencies within these buildings and around these systems.

This course will provide the participants with information about what firefighters need to know to safely deal with fires in buildings equipped with PV systems and other emergencies that occur around ground mounted PV equipment.

Topics include an introduction to photovoltaics and electrical theory, recognition of PV systems and components, general PV system operation, common safety labeling, tactical considerations, disconnecting means, fire suppression and ventilation issues, and the hazards associated with fire service operations in the area of a PV system.

Course Type: Classroom
Course Length: 4 hours (approximate)
Prerequisites: None
Certificate: Certificate of Attendance
Student Min/Max: 15 / maximum number limited by venue capacity

Phone: 802-483-2755
Toll free: 800-615-3473
Fax: 802-483-2464

http://firesafety.vermont.gov/academy

Vermont Fire Academy
93 Davison Drive
Pittsford, VT 05763

VFA Fire Officer Course Held in Hartford

The Vermont Fire Academy recently held a Fire Officer I/II course in Hartford where 17 firefighters from nine different departments achieved Fire Officer II Certification. This course is academically demanding and complies with National Fire Protection Association 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications.

This program provides current and aspiring Fire Officers timely information that aids in their performance as a company officer. Topics covered included developing the proper mind set, accountability and responsibility, cultural diversity, safety and wellness, crew resource management, public relations, functional leadership, incident command, affirmative action issues, budgeting process, strategic planning, and strategy and tactics. The course also included a research component where the participants complete 12 research projects on assigned topics based on their own fire departments protocol, policies and practices.

Congratulations to the 2016 Fire Officer I/II Class and Lead Instructors Chris Corbin (South Burlington FD) and Troy Ruggles (St Johnsbury FD) for a job well-done! You will go on to serve your local communities well.

When a hazardous materials incident occurs, prompt action by well trained and properly equipped emergency responders is essential for a successful outcome. Vermont fire departments are well prepared to handle hazmat incidents. Our fire service is heavily dependent on lesser trained police personnel to evacuate civilians from affected areas as well as protect bystanders from harm by establishing and maintaining an incident perimeter. In some occasions, police personnel have rescued victims prior to the arrival of fire and emergency services personnel. Although commendable, these courageous acts must always be considered in terms of the risk for personal injury or death.

As a result, police personnel are sometimes at risk for being injured or killed when responding to hazmat incidents. This threat can often be minimized by following some basic guidelines. The following is a list of hazmat related safety and scene management considerations that can be used by police personnel:

Responding to the Area

- Do evaluate dispatch information or how the call was received.
- Do avoid the urge to rush in. By rushing in you could become part of the problem.
- Do approach with caution. A hazardous materials incident should be approached upwind and upgrade. Stop and check wind direction prior to getting close to the incident site.
- Do position yourself (and your vehicle) at least 300 feet from the scene of the incident for most cases. This distance can be increased further depending on the incident situation, chemical exposure hazards, etc.
- Don't respond to the hazardous incident site if you have any doubts as to the nature or type of material that is present or involved.
- Do stay back at least 2,000 feet when encountering gas clouds, explosives, and other extremely dangerous situations.
- Do look for placards/labels, container types, and ask driver/owner for waybill (train), bill of lading (transportation on roadways), air bill (airplanes), dangerous cargo manifest (ships), Safety Data Sheets (SDS), any clerical paperwork that may be available, etc.
- Do call for the fire department and emergency medical services (EMS). The fire department may call upon the Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team for assistance with the incident.
- Do advise responding agencies of the situation (if possible, do this even before they arrive).
- Do give other responding agencies all the details regarding your observations as well as witness accounts.
- Do become familiar with and use the latest edition of the North American Emergency Response Guidebook. It contains valuable information and procedures that can be used by first responders at a hazmat incident.

Upon Arrival in the Area

- Do stay back from the immediate area. In addition, remove those in the immediate area as well as the general area. If individuals are contaminated, move to an area of safe refuge, until they can be properly deconned.
- Do approach vehicle crashes cautiously. Look for leaking fluids, hazardous materials placards, cylinders, containers, etc.
- Do look for placards/labels, container types, Safety Data Sheets (SDS), and ask driver/owner for the appropriate shipping documents.
- Don't drop flares to mark the area.
- Do stay away from vapor clouds, fire, leaks, spills, etc. Also, remember that some vapors are not visible, have no odor, and are extremely dangerous.

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- Do control access to the hazmat scene by the public, media, and other curious security personnel.
- Do direct other individuals to a staging area located a safe distance away from the immediate hazard area.
- Don't allow persons that may have been exposed to a hazardous substance to leave the area or to make contact with persons that have not been exposed. Exposed individuals should be segregated upwind and at a safe distance from the incident, placed in an area of safe refuge, until deconned before they are moved for treatment and to limit the spread of the contamination.
- Do cooperate with other agencies to resolve the problem.

If you should find yourself at the hazmat site before realizing there is a problem:

- Don't take deep breaths to see what it smells like. This seems easy enough, but it is difficult even for trained personnel since it is a natural reaction.
- Do be cautious where you step. You could be walking into a hazardous substance.
- Don't take action unless you have been specifically trained in the area of hazardous materials, are properly equipped, have sufficient backup, are authorized to act, and are sure what to do. Improper action can have devastating effects. Remember, as a first responder, you are to operate in a defensive mode.
- Don't assume that what is marked on a label, drum, or container is what is actually inside. Many individuals that are involved in the illegal handling, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials often mix, or "cocktail", these substances.
- Do note any information that is marked on a drum or container. The information may assist responding hazmat personnel.
- Don't disturb or move any container or drums. They may have deteriorated from the inside out as a result of reacting with the substance inside. Any movement of a drum or container could cause container failure with the release of product.
- Do look for danger signs such as drums or containers that are leaking, bulging, or emitting a vapor. If you have any doubts about whether what you are seeing is dangerous, leave the scene immediately.

After the Incident:

- Don't leave a hazardous materials incident scene without notification to the Incident Commander, so he/she can do a debrief with you. This debrief should provide information, such as the known chemicals found, the signs/symptoms of exposure and when you may need to seek medical support, if signs/symptoms occur after leaving the scene.
- Do remember that hazardous substances retained by uniforms, including shoes, can be toxic to others who may come in contact with them (children are particularly susceptible, so be careful what you bring home). Clothing should be washed separately from any other laundry.
- Do document all details concerning the incident, your response, and the actions of other professionals on the scene for future reference.

As outlined, responding to a hazmat incident requires prompt action by individuals who are properly trained and well-equipped. Although certainly not all-inclusive, the recommendations presented here can assist police personnel to maintain a safer posture at the scene of a hazmat incident. Many of the guidelines will also serve to assist responding emergency services personnel, including the hazmat specialists.

VERMONT FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT UPDATE

This is a summary of the fire investigations that the Division of Fire Safety Fire Investigators have been involved in. There have been 68 fire investigations since January 1, to July 14, 2016. This includes 43 Undetermined Fires, 14 Accidental Fires and 11 Incendiary Fires. Injuries and fatalities include 6 fatalities and 5 injuries so far this year.

Five of the Incendiary fires occurred between July 11 and July 14, 2016.

July 11, 2016, garage fire at 99 Smith Street in Barre, VT.
July 11, 2016, outbuilding fire at 3436 Roosevelt Highway, Colchester, VT
July 12, 2016, mobile home fire at 109 4th Street, Colchester, VT
July 13, 2016, storage shed fire at Stowe Elementary School, 132 School Street, Stowe, VT
July 14, 2016, 3 story commercial/residential building fire, 109 Main Street, Stowe, VT

These fires are under active investigation.

Reminder, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms save lives. Be sure to test your alarms regularly.

If you have any questions in regards to the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, please visit our web site at www.firesafety.vermont.gov.

Joseph Benard
Deputy Director

School will be starting soon, it's time to get your School involved in this great Project!

The 26th Annual Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendar needs entries from all of Vermont's 3rd Graders!

Each month in 2017 has a different fire safety message, and we depend on our state's third graders to help us to get those messages out to the public through the Fire Safety Calendar.

After the calendars are printed they are distributed to every Elementary School and Fire Department in our state. So help your students become statewide stars!

If you are interested in supporting the 2017 calendar project, please send your donations to

L. Brown & Sons Printing Inc.

14-20 Jefferson Street

Barre, VT 05641

All money collected will be used for the printing costs of the calendar.

Distribution of the Calendars is paid for by Vermont Division of Fire Safety.

We ask that all contributions be submitted by November 16th.

And please make your checks payable to L. Brown & Sons Printing Inc.

and include Fire Safety Calendar on the memo line of the check.

Vermont Division of Fire Safety

Public Education & Information Section

Fire Prevention Through Education

Micheal D. Greenia Section Chief 1311 US Route 302 Barre VT 802.479.7587 micheal.greenia@vermont.gov

Severe Weather Can Threaten Summer Fun, Safety and Health

Extreme weather in the summer can include soaring temperatures, thunderstorms, and dry conditions. Extreme weather poses serious health risks, causing illnesses, injuries and sometimes death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state of Vermont Division of fire safety works to reduce these risks and protect the public's safety.

Extreme Heat

People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. Older adults, young children, and people with chronic medical conditions are at high risk for heat-related illness and death. From 1999 to 2010, a total of 7,415 people died of heat-related deaths in the United States, an average of about 618 deaths a year. When temperatures are extremely high, take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones:

- Stay cool, stay hydrated, and stay informed.
- If you do not have air conditioning, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours or call your local health department to find any heat-relief shelters in your area.
- Drink plenty of fluids (nonalcoholic), regardless of your activity level.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- NEVER leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.
- Visit older adults or others at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Summer Storms

Thunderstorms, tropical storms, and hurricanes pose health hazards including downed trees, power outages, tornadoes, and flooding. Be safe and plan ahead. Take steps to protect yourself and your family.

- If you're under a storm or hurricane watch or warning, prepare for the storm.
- Follow lightning safety tips. The risk of being struck is low but the consequences of lightning strike injuries are serious.
- Be ready for flash flooding that comes with summer storms, and never walk or drive through floodwater.
- Protect your family from high winds or tornadoes.
- Stay safe after a storm by preventing injuries and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Sudden Loss of Power

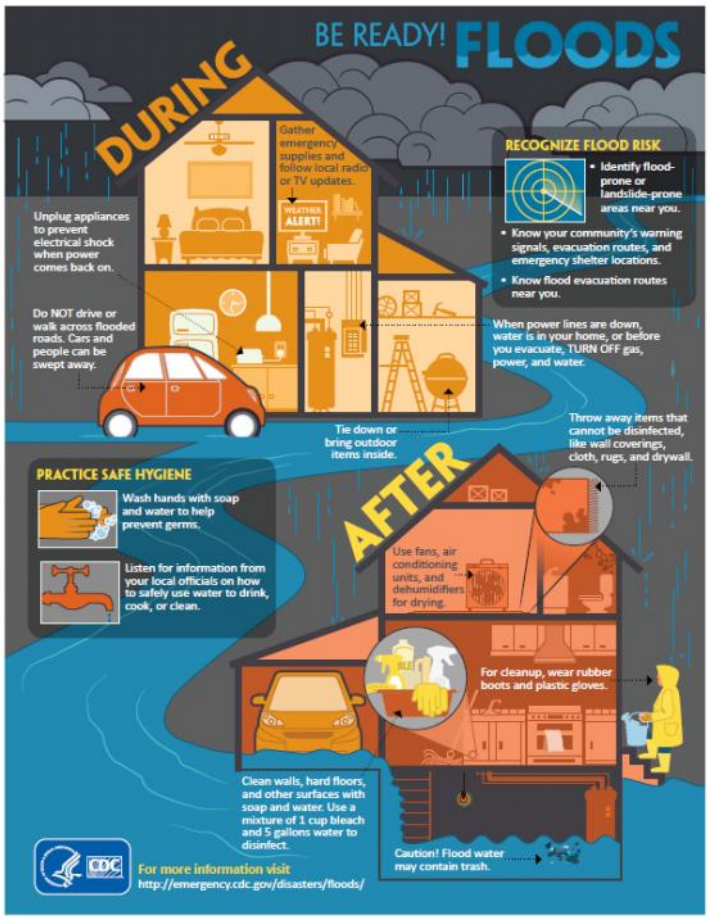
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, use generators, pressure washers, grills, and similar items outdoors only.
- If the power is out longer than two hours, throw away food that has a temperature higher than 40°F.
- Check with local authorities to be sure your water is safe.
- In hot weather, stay cool and drink plenty of fluids to prevent heat-related illness.
- In cold weather, wear layers of clothing, which help to keep in body heat.
- Avoid downed power lines, if a power line falls on a car, you should stay inside the vehicle.

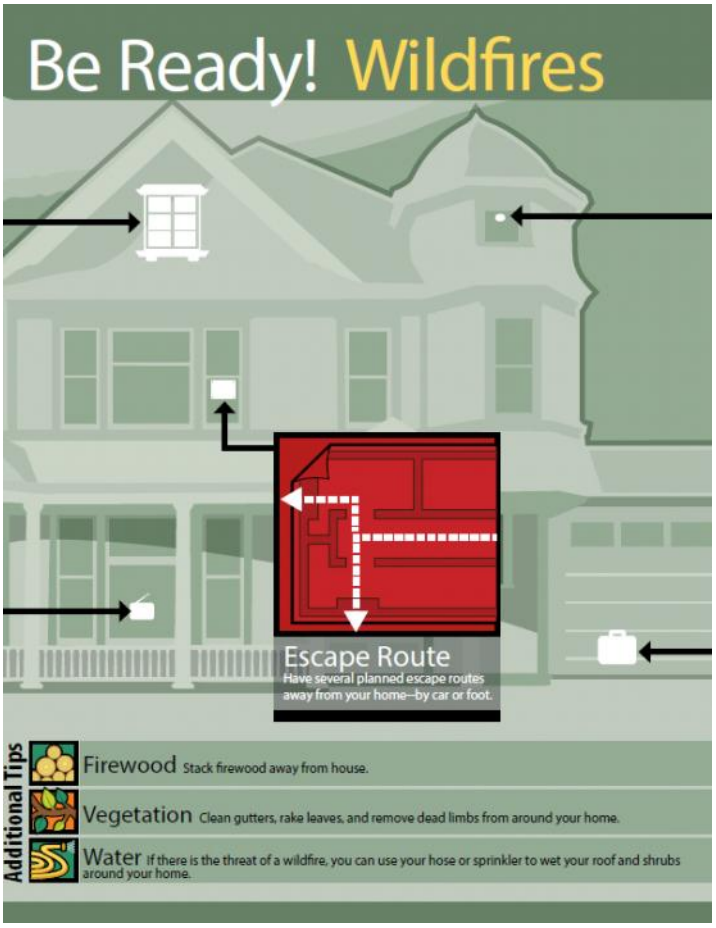
Wildfires

Smoke from wildfires is a mixture of gases and fine particles from burning trees and other plant materials. Smoke can hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system, and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases.

If wildfires are burning in your area, or if winds blow wildfire smoke into your area, limit your exposure to the smoke. Take simple precautions to protect your health:

- Listen for advice from local authorities and follow their instructions.
- Limit indoor air pollution--avoid burning candles, using gas stoves or vacuuming.
- Do not rely solely on face masks. These masks will not protect your lungs from smoke.
- If you have asthma or other lung conditions, follow your respiratory management plan.
- See a doctor if you have a hard time breathing.





CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Visit CDC's website for more information about preparing for, responding to, and recovering from potential hurricanes, extreme heat, wildfires, and other natural disasters and severe weather this summer.

Visit http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp

Highlighted Public Education Resources

Vision 20/20 Fire Safety Materials Generator

Using this new tool, you can generate customized door hangers, fliers and activity guides using proven fire safety messages with your logo and information that you can then download and print out.

***Vision 20/20* Home Safety Visit Resources**

Home safety visits are a proven way of improving the level of fire safety in the community. It is an opportunity to reach out to the residents, teach them about fire-safe practices, test and install smoke alarms.

Guide to Home Safety Visits and a companion video demonstrate best practices for home safety visits.

http://strategicfire.org/

U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) Fire Prevention and Public Education

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) develops and delivers fire prevention and safety education programs in partnership with other federal agencies, the fire and emergency response community, the media, and safety interest groups. Help your fire department increase community awareness about preventing home fires through Fire is Everyone's Fight™ and with these free fire safety and prevention outreach materials and educational programs.

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/education_programs.html

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National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

As part of NFPA's commitment to eliminate fire deaths and injuries through effective public education programs and information, NFPA strives to be the source for fire and life safety information. With help from our official mascot, Sparky the Fire Dog®, and our national outreach efforts, like our public education advisors, public education network, Safety Source e-newsletter, Remembering When™ program, Learn Not to Burn® programs, and our annual Fire Prevention Week campaign, NFPA is helping to make the world a safer place. Strategies are integrated throughout our programs to reach those at highest risk including young children, older adults, people in low-income communities and people with disabilities.

http://www.nfpa.org/public-education

The Division of Fire Safety Public Education and Information Section provides technical assistance, customized fire safety education programs and fire prevention training and equipment . We assist local fire departments, health educators, medical and public health professionals, classroom teachers, elder service providers, community and service organizations, parents, caregivers, and anyone else interested in collaborating on fire and life safety education. **Contact the DFS Public Education and Information Section to Request Assistance**

http://firesafety.vermont.gov/pubed

State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

www.firesafety.vermont.gov

CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

August 2016

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*
2	**Electrical Board Meeting**	BERLIN
9	**Elevator Board Meeting**	BERLIN
16	**Battle of Bennington Day~ State Offices Closed**	ALL
17	**Division Training**	BERLIN
29	**Access Board Meeting**	BERLIN

Battle of Bennington Day – August 16
Vermont State Holiday

In the late summer of 1777, the Continental Army beat a hasty retreat toward Bennington. British and Hessians pursued, but were badly in need of supplies.

The Americans, carrying what is believed to be the first American flag into battle, defeated them before they could reach the supply depot at Bennington.

The British were forced to proceed to Saratoga without the supplies, where they met a stunning defeat that turned the tide of the Revolutionary War.

Where did Labor Day come from?

Labor Day was created as a way to acknowledge and pay tribute to the workforce for all that they have done to make our country prosperous and strong.

The first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City, and other cities followed this example in the following years. It was in 1894 that Congress passed a law making the first Monday of September a legal holiday.

Now that you know... have a great Labor Day!

September 2016

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*
5	**Labor Day ~ State Offices Closed**	ALL
13	**Plumbing Board**	BERLIN
21	**Division Training**	BERLIN
26	**Access Board**	BERLIN

State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety

1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600

Barre, VT 05641-2351

FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.GOV

AUGUST 2016

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

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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:

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Toll Free (800) 366-8325

Barre

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Springfield VT 05156-3168
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DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION

Waterbury—45 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-1300— (802) 244-8781—Fax (802) 241-5371