



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

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

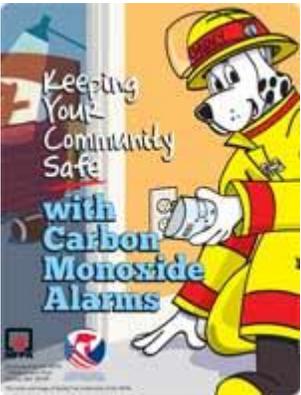
FIRE SAFETY NEWS

January 2015



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Director's Message

Happy New Year and thanks for the support over the past year. I spent considerable time working directly with all fire service groups and I have recognized we have many challenges in front of us but I am very optimistic if we continue to work together we can make Vermont a safer place. I am proud of the work the Division completed in 2014. The beginning of a new year is an excellent opportunity for all of us to reflect on our personal accomplishments and shortfalls at home and at work. Last year, the Division of Fire Safety experienced an extremely busy year across all our programs; fire service training, haz-mat response, code enforcement, and public education. In 2014, we also promoted Joe Benard to Deputy Director and Joe is now settled into his new office. The Division of Fire Safety annually publishes the Report of the State Fire Marshal which will be available by the middle of March 2015. The report is a statistical analysis capturing fire and emergency incidents, fire prevention efforts, fire investigation, fire service training, hazardous material response, and Urban Search and Rescue efforts. The report will be available on line at firesafety.vermont.gov.

The State budget deficit is forcing us to look closely at how we can deliver our services more efficiently and effectively with no added resources. All business sectors are faced with this reality and because our critical mission is to save lives, the decisions we make moving forward will always place safety first. There will be tough decisions to be made in 2015 if we are going to stay truthful to our mission. Below are just a few issues we are moving on;

- The Fire Academy has applied for a \$500,000 grant with a \$300,000 capital budget request to pay for the construction of a new burn building at the Academy in Pittsford.
- The Division of Fire Safety is actively working on a pro board Fire Inspector 1 certification class. Once the curriculum is completed we will present this to the Fire Service Training Council for approval. We anticipate completion by March 2015.
- Each of our 4 Regional Offices now have a certified fire investigator.
- The Division has been slowly working on a pilot program to review plans electronically.
- I established funding in FY15 for social media and I am optimistic we can move forward on delivering fire safety related messages across a wider range of audiences.
- We are in the process of starting the hard work of adopting the new 2015 Codes. This is a major undertaking and we will be reaching out to stakeholders in the near future to establish work as to review and offer input as we move through the process.

Upcoming Board meetings

Plumbing Board Meeting:
January 13, 2015, 10AM

Access:
January 26, 2015, 1:30PM
February 23, 2015, 1:30PM

Electrical Board Meeting:
February 3, 2015, 9AM

Elevator Board Meeting:
February 10, 2015 9AM



The deadline for submitting all 2014 Fire Incident reports is January 31, 2015 !

Proof of inspection stickers may be exchanged prior to February 1st of the following year, for up to 25 stickers.

Please plan accordingly when purchasing stickers toward the end of a calendar year, so that you do not extend over 25 stickers.

We look forward to working with you in the future and thank you for helping to keep fire protections systems operational for the protection of Vermonters.

Please contact any Regional Manager of the Division of Fire Safety if there are questions in regard to this program.

Farewell Monte Mason

Monte Mason, State Electrical Inspector for the Division of Fire Safety has decided to move on after 18 ½ years of devoted service to the State of Vermont. Monte was assigned to the Williston Regional Office. Monte was dependable, honest, devoted, knowledgeable and always put in 110% every day. We have been very fortunate to have worked with Monte over the years and his presence around the office will be missed. Monte has accepted employment with the University Of Vermont Medical Center where his experience with Public Safety will be beneficial. Monte took his responsibilities with Public Safety seriously and for that Vermont is a much safer place to be. Monte will have a place in our hearts here at Fire Safety- Good Luck Monte

Welcome Frank Small

I bring to my position with the State of Vermont my many skills. I am a third-generation Master Electrician, from a family that talks electrical-speak as if it were football. I've worn many hats in my work life: electrical contractor, construction supervisor, industrial and automation electrician, not to mention my time as a state instructor for third and fourth year electrical apprentices. I enjoy chess, collecting antique electrical items, hiking, and ocean vacations. For eleven months of the year, I am just a jolly fat guy, but in December – just look at me! I am Santa! I'm a rock star!

Addendum: This bio was written by my wife, Marie White Small, the novelist and author of *Stony Kill* (to be published by SelectBooks, Inc of NYC in 2015), and I approve this message.



FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT UPDATE

I wanted to update everyone on the status of the Vermont Fire Investigation Unit. There have been some personnel changes in the past year that enables us to better serve you.

The Division of Fire Safety brought two new fire investigators on-board. One is stationed in our Springfield office and the other in the Rutland Office. We also have two investigators out of the Barre Office and one out of the Williston Office.

The Vermont State Police have five fire investigators with one assigned to each of the following Barracks, Rutland, Rockingham, St. Johnsbury, Williston and St. Albans.

Acting Lt. Jeremy Hill supervises the State Police Investigators and I supervise the Division of Fire Safety Investigators.

The Fire Investigation Unit also provides a course on Arson Awareness and Spoliation for First Responders. This course is available to all fire departments. If you are interested in having this course presented to fire departments in your area, please call Acting Lt. Hill at 877-661-1100 Ext 2709.

Reminder: If you have a fire and want the assistance of the Vermont Fire Investigation Unit, please call the State Police Dispatcher for your town or city.

Thank you for all that you do.

Joseph Benard, Deputy Director

Older Zero Clearance Fireplace Safety issue.

Over the last 18 months the Division of Fire Safety has become aware that there are many zero clearance fireplaces installed in the 1970's that still currently in use. Some of these units have or are suspected of contributing to the starting structure fires. These units may be identified by their sheet metal construction with a fire brick panel on the back wall only. Newer units usually have fire brick panels on the three sides of the fire box. The units that raise the concern are made to be air-cooled. This is done by having openings above and below the fire box that allows air to flow between two layers of sheet metal. The free flow of cooling air may be blocked by aftermarket glass fronts being installed.

The Division has found that when these older fireplaces have aftermarket glass doors installed, they may overheat if the doors are closed when the fire is burning. This can result in the wood near the fireplace igniting.

If you suspect you have an older zero clearance fireplaces in your home, you should consult with a Vermont Licensed Chimney Sweep. The Chimney Sweep should be able to advise you if the unit is safe to use or needs replacing. Depending on the condition of the fireplace the Chimney Sweep may have to open up walls around the fireplace and chimney to look for problems.



Above; a typical zero clearance installation. Note the air vents above and below the fire box.



Above; an add on door assembly.



Above; a new zero clearance fireplace installation.



Above; a fireplace that the supporting wood underneath ignited.

Submitted by
Glenn Moore
Assistant State Fire Marshal



National Fire Incident Reporting System

Fighting Fire with Facts

It's Time to Get Your Reports Up-to-Date!



NFIRS is the fire service's tool to report its emergency responses. It is the largest incident-based database in the world. Incidents are reported every 1.5 seconds and a fire incident was reported every 25 seconds. The sheer size of this database with more than 35 years of incidents makes it a valuable tool at the local, state, and national levels.

The fire service should be reporting all of its emergency response incidents to NFIRS. The numbers tell the fire service's story, and only the fire service can best tell its story. In our ever-changing world, the fire service's first line of defense is timely accurate information that is shared, integrated, analyzed, and acted upon quickly and effectively. Since NFIRS is becoming more open and visible to its users, the fire service must make it count by caring about its data and sharing its data.

**The deadline for submitting all 2014 reports is
January 18, 2015 !**

Fire department reporting is required by state law. And each fire department is required to submit their emergency incident data reports to the Vermont State Fire Marshal's Office in accordance with Vermont Law 20 V.S.A. Section 2833.

The Division of Fire Safety continues to thank those departments that report valid incident reports on a timely bases. These reports are being used at the state and national level to make decisions that will affect public safety and the fire service for years to come.

On our website there will be a report listing the current data entry status of Vermont's fire departments -- if your department is behind please make every effort to get caught up as soon as possible.

For additional Incident Reporting Resources or information please visit:

http://firesafety.vermont.gov/fire_investigation/vfirs/

Please include: Your department name, FDID #, and the account user name. We will reset the account to the default password as soon as possible. Please note, due to the massive volume of phone calls we receive this time of year, we are not able to accept reset requests by phone. An email allows us to re-set you faster.

NEW IN-STATE NFIRS RESET HELP DESK.

In an effort to better support Vermont's departments and to increase the timely resets of NFIRS accounts, DFS is please to announce the implementation of new in-state NFIRS reset help desk.

All reset inquiries should now be sent to dps.vfirs@state.vt.us or requested by calling 800-640-2106 m-f 8-4.

In your e-mail be sure to include: Your department name, FDID #, and the account user name



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

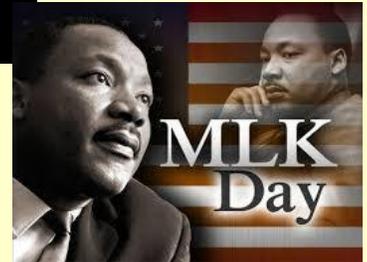
www.firesafety.vermont.gov

CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

January 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
HAPPY★NEW★YEAR				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
1	New Year's Day	ALL
13	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
19	Martin Luther King Day	ALL
26	Access Board	BERLIN



~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)

BOARD MEETING DATES

Plumbing Board Meeting: January 13, 2015, 10AM
 Access: January 26, 2015, 1:30PM

February 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

Date	Event	Location
3	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
10	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
12	Lincoln's Birthday	ALL
14	Valentines Day	ALL
16	Presidents' Day	ALL
22	Washington's Birthday	ALL
23	Access Board Meeting	BERLIN

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 Elevator Board Meeting: February 10, 2015 9AM
 Access: February 23, 2015, 1:30PM





State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety

JANUARY 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