



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

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

FIRE SAFETY NEWS



January 2016

Inside this issue:

Directors Message	1
NFIRS Reporting	2
2016 Calendar Project	3
Carbon Monoxide Safety	4
Calendar of Fire Events	6
Contact Information	7

Upcoming Board meetings

Plumbing Board Meeting:
January 12, 2016, 9AM

Electrical Board Meeting:
February 2, 2016 9AM

Elevator Board Meeting:
February 9, 2016 9AM

Access Board Meeting:
January 25, 2016 1:30PM

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

Directors Message

The Division of Fire Safety will be compiling and evaluating data from NFIRS reported in 2015 in order to complete the 2015 Annual Report of the State Fire Marshal which is due Mid-March of 2016. Information reported through NFIRS is very valuable to for planning, resource allocation, and rule making. One trend we have identified is the high percentage of fire fatalities occurring in our elderly population.

In calendar year 2015 the Division of Fire Safety was able to create temp positions allowing us to hire Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Technicians to complement our emergency response capability. The Division created 90 temp USAR Technician positions which we are currently filling. Mike Cannon is the USAR Program Manager and has been instrumental in coordinating this initiative. Once the initial wave of team members have been hired we will be in position to implement monthly training very similar to how the Haz-Mat Team trains. Funding for the USAR Team is possible through Homeland Security funding.

The legislative session for Fire Safety will be very active as I have introduced a fee bill requesting a construction permit fee increase, additional fees in our Tier 2 reporting to support our Haz Mat Team, and additional insurance fees to support the fire academy. The fee bill is very important and necessary in order to offset a decrease in plan review revenue projections, loss of general fund revenue, and continued cost hikes in worker's comp, employee benefits, healthcare cost, salary, and indirect charges.

Rulemaking is an immediate priority for the Division of Fire Safety in 2016. The plan will be to adopt the 2015 codes with an effective date sometime around October 1, 2016. The process is time consuming and requires an extensive amount of networking with all our stakeholder groups including; fire service, municipalities, architects, engineers, contractors, electricians, plumbers, solar industry, multiple State agencies, NFPA, ICC, building owners, legislators, developers, and non-profits to name a few. This adoption cycle is especially challenging because we have a lot of clean-up to do on our amendments and the model codes (Life Safety Code, NFPA 1, and ICC) have significant complex changes requiring a detailed review of all the standards. I look forward to working with everyone this year.

2015 NFIRS SUBMITTED AND MISSING INCIDENT REPORTS - UPDATE

**N
F
I
R
S**

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 2015 reports is
January 19, 2016!**

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.

NFIRS RESETS

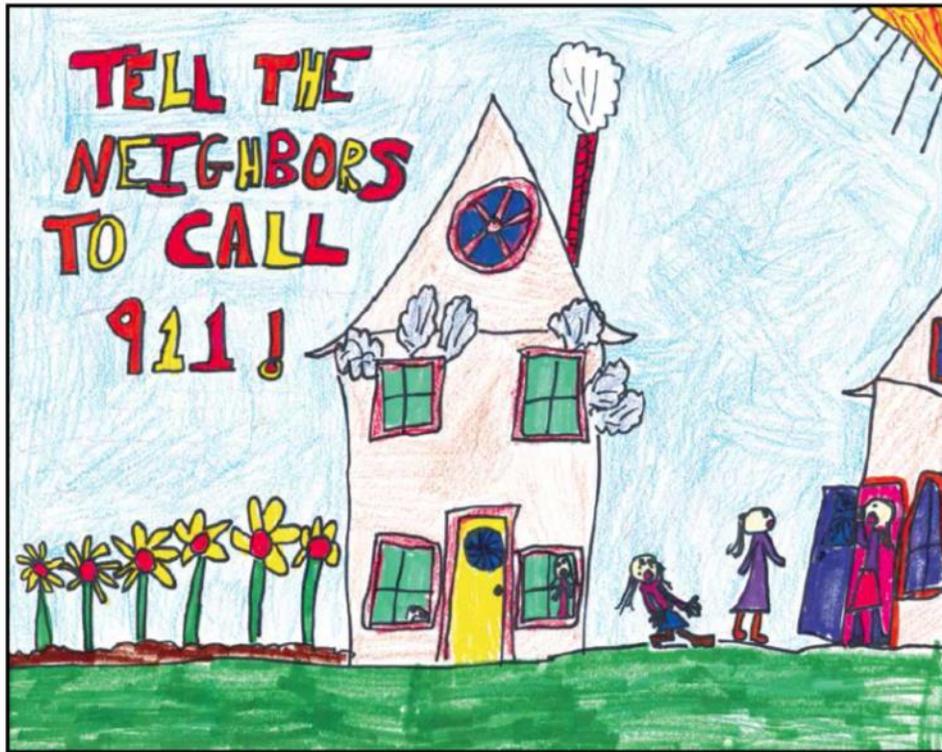
In an effort to better support Vermont's departments and to increase the timely resets of NFIRS accounts,

All reset inquiries should now be sent to dps.vfirs@vermont.gov

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

The 2016 Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendar

The 2016 Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendars are done and currently being delivered to third graders around the state. Featured below is the poster for January 2016 created by Esme Visco-Lyons from Bristol Elementary School for the topic of "How and When to call 911".



One of our own Honored for his service

The Wilmington Vermont FD honored two long time members recently. Assistant Chief Richard Covey (left) and past chief (still on the department as a firefighter) Brian Johnson have been members for 45 years. They both joined in 1970 as part of the junior firefighter program. Please help us to thank both and congratulate both of them for their continued dedication to the fire service and their community.



Congratulations and Thank you!



Vermont Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

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



Updated November 2012

www.firesafety.vermont.gov

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

CODE INFORMATION SHEET

2012

Unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning sends an estimated 10,000 people to the hospital emergency rooms for treatment each year nationwide, and claims more than 200 lives. Heating appliances that are not working properly are the major cause of unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning in Vermont. Other common sources include emergency generators or space heaters and motor vehicles left running in attached garages. Over the last five years there were over 800 CO incidents reported by fire departments in Vermont including 6 unintentional deaths from CO poisoning.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms (Detectors)

CO alarms are very reliable and provide excellent protection from CO. The installation of CO alarm gives a warning to people in a building of unhealthy or dangerous levels of CO before the symptoms of CO poisoning occur.

A CO alarm should be centrally located outside of each sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.

Each CO alarm should be located on the wall, ceiling, or other location as specified in the manufacturer's installation instructions that accompany the unit.

A CO detector is not designed to detect smoke or heat.

A CO detector is not a substitute for a properly installed smoke detector. Combination smoke detector and CO detectors are available and should also be installed in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

It is very important to be aware of the early signs of CO poisoning. Exposure to CO can mimic flu systems - headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. Higher levels of exposure will result in disorientation and drowsiness, leading to unconsciousness and death. Often the symptoms will be less when the person exposed to carbon monoxide leaves the building, only to have the symptoms reoccur when the person re-enters the building.



RULES REGARDING CO DETECTION AND PREVENTION

Act 19 of the 2005 Legislative Session established requirements for CO detection and prevention for both single-family dwellings and public buildings.

The law specifies that beginning July 1, 2005 new owner occupied single-family dwellings, and dwellings that are sold or transferred, must have a CO alarm installed in the immediate vicinity of any bedrooms. New construction must have CO alarms that are electrically wired in with battery back up.

Any residential buildings in which people sleep, including hotels, motels, and tourist homes, apartments and condos whether the units are owned or leased or rented, require CO alarms.

The National Fire Protection Association standard (NFPA 720) provides guidance on required locations for CO alarms CO detectors must be centrally located outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. If a hall is more than 40 feet (12 meters) long,

Additional information on back

DFS CODE INFORMATION SHEET**CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS****Combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors -**

The law and the codes allow the use of photoelectric and carbon monoxide combination alarms.

Detectors that do not work cannot provide early warning and save you from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. Keep alarms clean, and test them weekly. Replace detectors immediately if they are not working properly.

How long will my CO alarm last?

Like most electrical devices, CO alarms wear out. The life span for a CO Alarm is about five (5) years, after which it should be replaced.

You may want to write the purchase date with a marker on the back of your unit. That way, you'll know when to replace it. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for replacement.

The dangers of carbon monoxide exposure depend on a number of variables, such as the occupant's health, activity level, time of exposure, and initial carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) level. Experience has shown that hazardous concentrations of carbon monoxide can accumulate in a residence, generally from improperly operating heating appliances, insufficient make-up air into the residence or space, or blocked chimneys or vents. However, there are many other potential sources of carbon monoxide within a home, including the following:

- (1) Malfunctioning fossil fuel appliances
- (2) Wood stoves
- (3) Fireplaces
- (4) Idling automobiles in attached garages
- (5) Portable equipment such as gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment
- (6) Barbecues

Carbon monoxide is odorless, tasteless, and colorless; therefore, its presence is undetectable by smell, taste, or sight. Carbon monoxide alarms meeting the requirements of ANSI/UL 2034, and installed in accordance with the standards provide a significant level of protection against fatal carbon monoxide exposure.

Although carbon monoxide warning equipment might respond to gases produced by unwanted fires, CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms and vice versa. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and the sound of CO alarms.

**Requirements of the
Vermont Fire and Building Safety Codes & Vermont Law**
NFPA 101

101:9.8- **Carbon Monoxide Detection:** shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 720, Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide Warning (CO) Equipment in Dwelling Units,

101:9.8.1 **-Power for Carbon Monoxide Alarms:** All newly installed carbon monoxide alarms (detectors) in multiple unit dwellings, lodging or rooming houses, hotels and dormitories, or other buildings in which people sleep, shall be directly wired to a non-dedicated electrical branch circuit for the building and by battery. Carbon monoxide detectors in one-two family dwellings that existed on October 22, 2005, shall be permitted to be powered by any approved source (Plug in style) .

NFPA 720 covers the selection, application, installation, location, testing and maintenance of carbon monoxide warning equipment in all buildings in which people sleep.

720: 9.4.1.1 A carbon monoxide alarm or detector shall be centrally located outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms.

720: 9.4.1.2 Each alarm or detector shall be located on the wall, ceiling, or other location as specified in the installation instructions that accompany the unit.

Vermont Statutes**Title 9: Commerce and Trade Chapter 77: SMOKE DETECTORS AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS § 2882. Installation**

(a) A person who constructs a single-family dwelling shall install one or more smoke detectors, and one or more carbon monoxide detectors in the vicinity of any bedrooms in the dwelling in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In a dwelling provided with electrical power, detectors shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(b) A single-family dwelling transferred by sale or exchange shall contain one or more smoke detectors and one or more carbon monoxide detectors powered by the electrical service in the building or by battery, or by a combination of both, and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

www.firesafety.vermont.gov

CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

January 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						



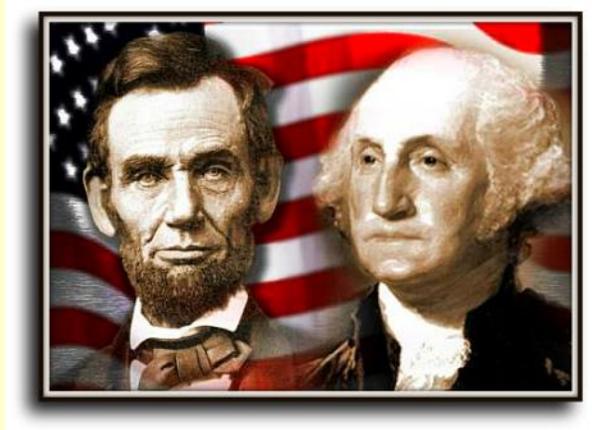
Date	Event	Location
1	New Year's Day ~ State Offices Closed	ALL
12	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
18	MLK Day ~ State Offices Closed	ALL
20	Division Training	BERLIN
25	Access Board	BERLIN

~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)

February 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					



Date	Event	Location
2	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
9	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
15	President's Day ~ State Offices Closed	BERLIN
17	Division Training for STAFF	BERLIN
29	Access Board Meeting	ALL





State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety

JANUARY 2016

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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

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HAZMAT Response Team

Phone (802) 479-7586
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Vermont Fire Academy

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

Regional Offices:

Williston

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Barre

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Springfield

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Springfield VT 05156-3168
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Toll Free (866) 404-8883

DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION

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