



# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

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

# FIRE SAFETY NEWS



## July 2015

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July 1, 2015 starts the new 2016 fiscal year (FY2016) which runs from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. This past year has been challenging from a budgetary and program perspective. We had a rescission cut to our special funds, we absorbed increase cost in health care premiums, increase in benefit cost, and indirect charges. We continue to face real challenges requiring us to evaluate all our programs, making sure we're prioritizing and using our limited resources effectively and efficiently. Times are changing and we just do not have the luxury of adding much more to our plate unless we can eliminate or make adjustments to our existing programs. All of us in Fire Safety have the drive to make things better we need to make sure what we add is a priority so we can continue to meet our mission.

Our primary mission is to protect lives and property with a coordinated effort in code enforcement, fire service training, public education, and hazardous materials response. Below are a few common challenges we share;

- Retention and Recruitment of Our Fire Fighters and Fire Instructors
- Identifying Future Trends in Haz Mat and Fire Fighting- What's Next?
- Reduction in Budgets and Staffing
- Unfunded Mandates
- Doing More With Less
- Establishing Meaningful Partnerships
- Information Technology
- Identifying New Threats
- Social Media
- Energy Efficiency- How Does This Impact the Fire Service and Our Division?

We have been successful in working together however, there remains a lot of work to be done if we are going to address these issues and concerns moving forward. I encourage and welcome your suggestions and I thank all of you for helping and supporting me over the years. We will continue to work hard to meet our mission.

### Upcoming Board meetings

**Plumbing Board Meeting:**  
July 14, 2015, 9AM

**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



Picture by: NASHITA YUSUF.

Rick Marcotte Central School, So. Burlington, VT as displayed for the month of July in our Fire Safety Calendar.



Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to fireworks and outdoor cooking. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer. More information on page 2

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

# FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY

## Summer Fire Safety

Follow these simple outdoor tips to help you and those you love stay fire safe this summer season!



- Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.



- Enjoy outdoor celebrations and cookouts but remember to keep a 3-foot "safe zone" around grills and campfires.

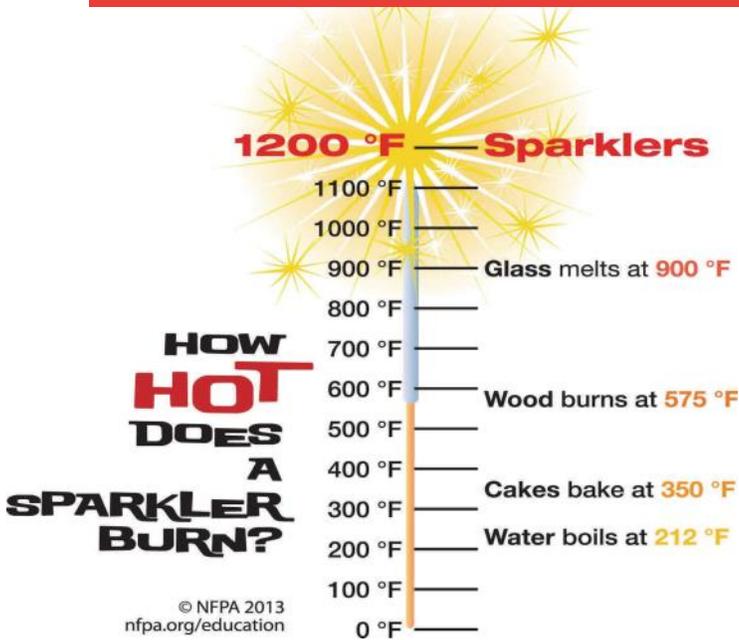


- Build campfires at least 15 feet away from tent walls, shrubs or other materials that burn.

For information and resources on this subject, visit: [www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus)



FEMA



A report from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says that there are about 200 fireworks injuries a day during the month surrounding the Fourth of July holiday.

Learn more about firework safety here: [www.nfpa.org/fireworks](http://www.nfpa.org/fireworks)

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**VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES**

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**Chris Herrick, Chief****HAZMAT HOTLINE 1-800-641-5005****What You Need to Know about “Community Right to Know”**

Every spring you start getting Tier II reports from some of the businesses in your response area and you may have asked yourself, “What am I supposed to do with these?”. Good question!

To answer the question you should have a little history. On December 2, 1984 Union Carbide had a release of methyl isocyanate which injured 558,000 and killed at least 2300 people. In response to this the United States in 1986 updated the Superfund with the passage of the Superfund Authorization Act or SARA.

One of the largest portions of the updated regulations was the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act or EPCRA. There are 4 major components of SARA III and they are

- Emergency Planning
- Emergency Release Notification
- Hazardous Chemical Storage Reporting Requirements
- Toxic Chemical Release Inventory

**Hazardous Chemical Storage Reporting Requirements** is the section which mandates that industries storing hazardous materials above a certain threshold to be reported to the State. IN Vermont that threshold is 100lbs. with exceptions for gasoline, diesel fuel & propane which has the threshold of 10,000 lbs. The requirements also states that this information is sent to the local FD and the LEPC for planning purposes.

As a fire department it is expected that this information is shared among the department members and used for planning purposes. The goal is that as responders you are aware of what special hazards exist not only in your town but specific to facilities.

Some departments make a list of all the chemicals found in the reports (there will likely be many reporting the same) and print of information about each one ahead of time. In many cases specific tours and joint training with the industry involved will be part of a pre-plan.

In any event the information is provided to you for the safety of your department personnel and should be reviewed for risks in your area. if there are businesses in your area you believe should report and are not please inform me.

Lastly, if you find there are chemicals for which you need more information please feel free to contact me!

**Thanks and Be Safe!**



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! 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)



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

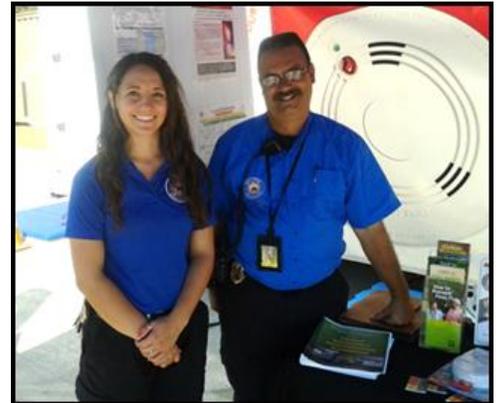
## About the DFS Public Education & Information Section

One of the essential areas of prevention is education and awareness. Fire safety public education is designed to increase knowledge and to develop or change the attitudes and behaviors of men, women, and children toward fire. It encompasses a wide spectrum of program activities that are presented to diverse audiences.

The division's Public Education & Information Section works hard to provide free technical assistance and fire safety teaching resources to local fire departments, educators, public health professionals, elder service providers, community and service organizations and others interested in fire safety education.

We use programs, campaigns, national initiatives, and other shared resources and props to teach Vermonters of all ages how to diminish risks that endanger lives, health, or property.

We rely heavily on local partnerships and the participation of volunteers from local emergency organizations, as well as other partners who help us attain our goals of preventing fire through education statewide.



If you have any questions about the program or to request equipment for your event contact:

**Micheal D. Greenia**  
 Section Chief—DFS Public Education & Information

1311 U.S. Route 302, Suite 600  
 Barre, VT 05641-2351  
 Phone: 800-640-2106 or 802-479-7587  
 E-Mail: [Micheal.Greenia@state.vt.us](mailto:Micheal.Greenia@state.vt.us)

Or visit our web page  
[firesafety.vermont.gov/public\\_education](http://firesafety.vermont.gov/public_education)

# Code Corner: Charcoal and Gas Grills

NFPA 1 2012

**10.11.7 For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose, shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within 10 ft (3 m) of any structure. Listed electric ranges, grills, or similar electrical apparatus shall be permitted.**

**GRILL SAFETY:** Every year, people are killed or injured in fires and explosions caused by the malfunction or careless use of grills.

Location is everything when it comes to placing your grill. Every year hundreds of people cause fires in their house, garage and patios because they didn't put their grill in the correct location.

## **Charcoal Grills:**

Never use Gasoline or kerosene to start the fire.

- Always use charcoal grills in a well-ventilated area. Charcoal briquettes give off the deadly gas carbon monoxide.
- Allow coals to burn out completely and let ashes cool for 48 hours, when finished cooking.

If you must dispose of the ashes before fully cooled, soak them completely in water before putting them in a non-combustible container.

## **Gas Grills:**

Gas barbecue grills are designed for outdoor use only. Grills are not designed to be used in garages, tents or other enclosed spaces, even if they are well ventilated.

Grill hoses should be checked for cracks, holes and other leaks before barbecuing. This is especially important during the grill's first use after winter storage.

## **Other Safety Tips:**

- It's a good idea to keep a fire extinguisher within handy reach.
  - Use long handle barbecue tools and flame retardant mitts.
  - Do not wear loose clothing and watch for dangling apron strings and shirt tails.
- Never leave children or pets unattended near a hot grill.

Gas grills are safe and convenient appliances when assembled and used properly.

## **Liquid Propane:**

- Never store a spare LP cylinder under or near a barbecue, heat source or open flame.
- Never ignite a gas grill with the lid closed. The propane may accumulate inside, and when ignited, the lid could blow off.
- Store extra cylinders outdoors in a shaded area. When finished with the grill, turn off the barbecue burners and the propane cylinder.

## **Transporting LP cylinders:**

- Close the valve tightly, even if empty.
- Insert the POL plug securely into the valve.
- Place the LP cylinder on the floor, in back of the passenger's seat.
- Make sure it is secured and that the windows are rolled down for ventilation.
- LP cylinders should not be transported in the trunk.
- Cylinders must always be upright.





State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

# Division of Fire Safety

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

# CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

## July 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
3	Independence Day observed ~ State Offices Closed	ALL
4	Independence Day	ALL
14	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
27	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)

## The Battle of Bennington Monument



## 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



State of Vermont      Division of Fire Safety

JULY 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