



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

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

FIRE SAFETY NEWS



June 2016

Directors Message

Michael Desrochers

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The fire academy recently received an AFG award of \$500,000 to construct a new burn building at the training facility in Pittsford. Last year we secured an additional \$300,000 in Capital Funds to pay for the site and foundation work not covered by the AFG award. The total estimated cost of the burn building is \$800,000. Securing the \$300,000 in Capital funds was made possible with support from Public Safety Commissioner, Keith Flynn, and the Vermont Legislature. We also appreciate and thank our Washington Delegation for all the support allowing our first responders to receive critical equipment and training to make Vermont a safer place.

The old burn building was erected in 1999 with a 10 year life expectancy based on repetitive heating and cooling of the concrete. Since approximately 2009, Building and General Services (BGS) and the Academy have provided heat shielding panels to the burn building reducing heat impingement of the concrete. Additionally core samples have been taken and evaluated by a structural engineer. Academy staff worked hard on this initiative and we are certain the new burn building will be designed to meet the training needs of the future. The new building will have a 3 story tower, a residential section with attic space and an annex- 1 story. There will be 2 roof chop out sections for ventilation training and a tower configured for rope rescue and rappelling training. There will be a standpipe system in the tower, a smoke distribution system and exhaust fan for clearing the building of smoke. The new building will be more than double the square footage of the old building and will offer fire fighters new training options. The life expectancy of the new burn building will be 25 years as compared to 10 years on the old building.

The Fire Academy in partnership with the Clean-Energy States Alliance and the Department of Public Service hosted a work shop (train the trainer) on rooftop solar photovoltaics installations for Vermont Fire Academy Instructors. Information learned from the work shop will enable fire safety instructors to deliver solar training to fire fighters across the State at no cost. Solar systems mounted on rooftops pose inherent hazards including possible accidental electrocution while posing challenges in roof venting operations. There remains work to be done on the course material and the intent is to deliver the class in every county. We do not know exactly how long the instruction will be but best estimates range from 3-4 hours. There will be no testing and a certificate of attendance will be provided. There will be more to follow on this in the near future but we plan on delivering this to every county.

Upcoming Board meetings

Electrical Board Meeting:
June 7, 2016 9AM

Elevator Board Meeting:
June 14, 2016 9AM

Access Board Meeting:
June 27, 2016 1:30PM

Plumbing Board Meeting:
July 12, 2016, 9AM

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

GRILLING STATISTICS

from **NFPA**

8,900 home fires are started by grills each year, on average

July is the peak month for grill fires, followed by May, June and August

In 2014, **16,600** patients went to the ER because of injuries involving grills, including **8,700** thermal burns

75% of U.S. households own at least one outdoor BBQ, grill or smoker

Gas grills contribute to a higher numbers of fires than charcoal grills.

62% of households own a gas grill

GRILLING FIRE SAFETY

KNOWING A FEW FIRE SAFETY GRILLING TIPS WILL HELP EVERYONE HAVE A SAFE SUMMER.

- Only use your grill outside.** Keep it away from siding and deck rails.
- Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill and campfire. This will keep kids and pets safe.
- Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.
- Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.
- Open your gas grill before lighting.
- Keep an eye on your grill, fire pit or patio torches. Never leave any of them unattended.

STAY FIRE-SAFE THIS SUMMER!

For more information and resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.



Be Carbon Monoxide Aware!

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is potentially fatal and even low-levels of the poison can cause lasting damage to your health. You can't see it, taste it or smell it but CO can kill quickly without warning.

- **NEVER** take a portable / disposable barbecue into an enclosed tented area or caravan for cooking or heating purposes. Lethal levels of CO can be produced in poorly ventilated areas.
- Make sure your gas light or stove is clean and well maintained, especially if using them in enclosed spaces.
- Be aware of the following symptoms:
Headaches, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness and fatigue



For more information about staying safe, contact your site office.

www.COvictim.org





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



FEMA





Is Your Department Aware of the Clandestine Labs?

Clandestine, or illegal, drug laboratories are a new hazard to the response community and we are seeing an increase in incidents in Vermont and with our neighboring States. Clandestine labs pose inherent hazards to building occupants and first responders. Awareness of what to look for, identifying available resources and recognizing the potential hazards will provide first responders with valuable information so informed decisions can be made.

The Vermont State Police Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team (CLET) is the lead agency for this type of incident.

The CLET works closely with DEA, VHMRT, and the Vermont National Guard 15th Civil Support Team. The team also assists Vermont law enforcement agencies with clandestine laboratories, assessments, and training.

The CLET team responds to multiple clandestine laboratories per year. The most common responses are for one pot methamphetamine manufacturing (METH) and hash oil extraction (BHO) labs.

A clandestine laboratory is any laboratory that manufactures illegal, controlled drugs or substances. These labs have been found in single and multiple family dwellings, motel rooms, campgrounds, mini-storage buildings, and motor vehicles, especially rental trucks. Commonly, they are found in remote areas because the odors that emanate from these labs reveal their operation.

Many of the hazards associated with making illegal drugs are derived from the ingredients, many of which are hazardous substances. Some are raw products or pure chemicals but many ingredients come from over-the-counter products such as cold medicine, dietary supplements, and even Drano. When these products are released they can harm responders through inhalation or skin contact.

Common chemicals used to manufacture meth include;

- Toluene found in paint thinner
- Methanol found in gas tank anti-freeze "Heet"
- Ethyl Ether found in starting fluid
- Anhydrous ammonia found at farmer's co-ops
- Hydrochloric acid found in hardware stores

Common chemicals used to manufacture meth include (*Continued*)

- Ephedrine found in cold medicine or dietary supplements
- Sodium hydroxide found in "Drano" or Red Devil Lye
- Sulfuric acid found in battery acid or drain cleaners
- Iodine crystals found in iodine crystals or tincture of iodine
- Red phosphorous found in striker plates
- Lithium found in camera batteries

As you can see substances that are used in meth labs are corrosive, flammable, or toxic. Equipment used to make these drugs include jars, chemical bottles, propane tanks with green fittings (from ammonia reaction with brass fitting), cans of Coleman Fuel, glass cookware, heating plates, coffee filters, and glass or plastic tubing.

As First Responders, if you note larger than normal amounts of the above chemicals or any of the equipment noted above and you suspect a "meth" lab, take the following actions;

Leave the area and do not touch anything

Do not open any coolers, containers, boxes, bottles, or doors

Do not turn on, or off, any electrical devices

Report it immediately to local or State Police agency

Local Responders (Fire and EMS) are called upon to support the teams when activation is required to deal with a Clandestine or illegal, drug laboratories. These resources are required to be present whenever any operations are being completed.

The VHMRT in an effort to be better prepared to respond to incidents, has ordered a new Response Vehicle, which will allow us to have a response vehicle placed in the northeastern area of the state, which puts a vehicle in each Public Safety District. This vehicle will be a rapid response vehicle used to support our team and the USAR team's activities.

One last reminder: Any spill should be reported through the HAZMAT HOTLINE – 800-641-5005

If you have any non-emergency HAZMAT questions or suggestions please contact me.

Todd J. Cosgrove, Chief

VHMRT

802-479-7586





Vermont Department of Public Safety
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

1311 US Route 302, Suite 600, Barre, VT 05641-2351 * 800-640-2106

www.firesafety.vermont.gov



Updated: 2016

Fire Safety Sheet

HOT TOPICS

**VERMONT
STATE
FIRE MARSHAL**

Fireworks Safety

Fireworks are dangerous and unpredictable, especially in the hands of amateurs. Public fireworks displays conducted by trained professionals and supervised by local fire departments are a good alternative to personal fireworks use. These displays are the smartest and safest way to enjoy fireworks.

In Vermont all fireworks (not including Sparklers and other novelty smoke devices) are illegal except for permitted, supervised public fireworks displays.



Vermont Explosives and Fireworks Law

Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety Chapter 177: Explosives And Fireworks
 Subchapter 3: Fireworks § 3132. Prohibitions; permits

(a) Except as provided in this section, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, co-partnership, or corporation to do any of the following:

- (1) Offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail or wholesale, or possess fireworks unless the person has been issued a permit by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in addition to the municipality in which the person offers for sale and stores the fireworks.
- (2) Use, possess, or explode any fireworks unless the person has been issued a permit to display fireworks pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.
- (3) Transport fireworks except in interstate commerce.
- (4) Offer for sale or sell hand-held sparklers as described in subdivision 3131(1) of this title to a minor.
- (5) Offer for sale or sell sparklers that are not in compliance with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission regulations.

Under Vermont law, officials can seize illegal fireworks and you can be fined up to \$100.00 per violation and/or arrested.

It's also important to remember that you can be held civilly liable for damages resulting from improper use of any fireworks - legal or illegal.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMITS

Title 20: Chapter 177: Subchapter 3: § 3132.

(c) Any display for which a permit is issued shall be handled by a competent operator to be approved by the chiefs of police and fire departments of the municipality in which the display is to be held and shall be of a character, and so located, discharged or fired as, in the opinion of the chief of the fire department, or in a municipality with no fire department, the selectboard, after proper inspection, shall not be hazardous to property or endanger any person or persons.

(d) Application for permits shall be made to the chief of the fire department, or in municipalities with no fire department, the selectboard, in writing, at least 15 days in advance of the date of the display. After the permit has been granted, sales, possessions, use and distribution of fireworks for the display shall be lawful for that purpose only. No permit granted shall be transferable.

Illegal fireworks include "bottle rockets," Roman candles, rockets with sticks, mines and shells, helicopter-type rockets, missile-type rockets, revolving wheels, fountains and firecrackers.

SPARKLER SAFETY TIPS

To help ensure that everyone enjoys a safe summer, the Vermont Division of Fire Safety, the National Council on Fireworks Safety, NFPA and your local Fire Department offer the following safety tips:

- Obey the local laws and use common sense.
- Always read and follow instructions. Always have an adult present.
- Keep burning sparklers away from clothing and flammable objects.
- Only use sparklers outdoors, away from buildings and vehicles.
- Light only one sparkler at a time.
- Alcohol, fireworks and sparklers do not mix. Be responsible.
- Do not point or throw sparklers at another person
- Children under the age of 12 should not handle sparklers.
- When finished, place used sparklers in a bucket of water.

Despite efforts to educate people about the hazards of fireworks, problems with personal use still continue. Some people still conduct backyard fireworks displays despite laws against their use and the great danger to themselves and others.

Individuals concerned about neighbors using fireworks are reminded that Fourth of July festivities result in increased activity for all public safety agencies, i.e., crowd control, fires, traffic issues, etc. Because resources are limited, priority must be given to truly hazardous situations.

Individuals with a fire or medical emergency should call 9-1-1; other situations should be reported via the non-emergency number.

Additional information and fire safety education material on back

This sheet is designed to provide information to enhance the public safety of all Vermonters. This fire safety sheet is not an all-inclusive list of state laws or additional code requirements that may apply. This educational resource sheet does not carry the force of legal opinion and was developed by the Vermont Division of Fire Safety Public Education and Information Section, with information provided by: The U.S. Fire Administration, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. For additional information or additional fire safety information sheets please visit www.firesafety.vermont.gov



For Vermont Public Fireworks Display Checklist, Sample Municipal Fireworks Display Permit and additional fireworks safety resources go to <http://firesafety.vermont.gov/pubed/media/sparklers>

Consumers who decide to purchase legal fireworks are urged to take these safety steps.

- Make sure the fireworks you want to buy are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers. Parents may not realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees — hot enough to melt some metals.
- Always have an adult closely supervise fireworks activities if older children are allowed to handle devices.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding the device to prevent a trash fire.
- ATF encourages the public to report the manufacture or sale of illegal fireworks to your local law enforcement agencies or to the ATF hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB (1-888-283-2662).

Fireworks Injuries

Fireworks. They are synonymous with our celebration of Independence Day. Yet, the thrill of fireworks can also bring pain, and even death. In 2014, CPSC staff conducted a study of fireworks injuries from June 20 through July 20. Here's what we learned.

- ★ **230** people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.
- ★ **67%** of these fireworks injuries in 2014 occurred during the month surrounding July 4th.
- ★ **9** people died due to **8** fireworks-related incidents. In at least **2** incidents, the victims **WERE NOT THE USERS.**

Most Injured Body Parts

36% Hands and fingers	19% Eyes	19% Heads, faces and ears
11% Trunks & Other	5% Arms	10% Legs

More than **50%** of the injuries were burns.

Injuries by Fireworks Type*

19% Sparklers	9% Reloadable Shells	20% Firecrackers
4% Roman Candles	2% Bottle Rockets	6% Novelties
2% Multiple Tubes	1% Fountains	31% Unspecified
4% Public Display		

*These percentages do not account for how many products are used.

Injuries by Age

9% 0-4	11% 10-14	11% 20-24	9% 45-64
15% 5-9	12% 15-19	34% 25-44	

Fireworks Safety Tips

- ★ Never allow **children** to play with or ignite fireworks.
- ★ **Never** try to **re-light** or **pick up** fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ★ Keep a **bucket of water** or a **garden hose** handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- ★ Make sure fireworks are **legal** in your area before buying or using them.
- ★ Light fireworks **one at a time**, then **move back** quickly.
- ★ More Fireworks Safety Tips – www.cpsc.gov/fireworks

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 2013 Fireworks Annual Report

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772
www.cpsc.gov



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

www.firesafety.vermont.gov

CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

June 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
7	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
14	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
15	Division Training	BERLIN
27	Access Board Meeting	BERLIN



July 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						



~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)

Date	Event	Location
4	Independence Day ~ State Offices Closed	ALL
12	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
25	Access Board	BERLIN



State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety

JUNE 2016

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:

Williston

380 Hurricane Lane— Suite 101
Williston, VT 05495-2080
Phone (802) 879-2300 Fax (802) 879-2312
Toll Free (800) 366-8325

Barre

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

Rutland

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

Springfield

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

DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION

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