



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

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

FIRE SAFETY NEWS



May 2015

VHMRT RECEIVES PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

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The Vermont Hazardous Material Response Team will be receiving a Public Service Recognition Award on May 5, 2015, for outstanding service. The Hazardous Material Response Team was established in 1994, with instrumental support from the Vermont Fire Service, to assist them in preparing for and mitigating emergency situations involving the release of hazardous materials. Their mission is to provide the highest possible technical support in a timely fashion to every fire department in Vermont.

The team started out with surplus blazers equipped with a multi-gas meter and a bag phone. Today we have three response command vehicles strategically located throughout Vermont with enough technical equipment and personal protective clothing to respond to any hazardous material incident. The team also has available (24/7) - 20 trailers equipped with emergency response supplies operated and maintained by local fire departments. This has enhanced the ability of local fire departments to respond quickly in their areas with supplies thus reducing the impact to life, property, and the environment.

Hazardous materials response today is more demanding than ever. In addition to the thousands of chemicals, the world of HAZMAT has grown to include biologicals as well as weapons of mass destruction. The role of Vermont Hazardous Material Response Team has grown considerably over the years with an emphasis on training, establishing new partnerships, and staying in front of the new trends.

Upcoming Board meetings

Plumbing Board Meeting:
May 12, 2015, 9AM

Electrical Board Meeting:
June 2, 2015, 9AM

Elevator Board Meeting:
June 9, 2015 9AM

Access Board:
May 18, 2015, 1:30PM
June 29, 2015, 1:30PM

Safe Grilling



With Summer Just around the corner
Don't forget to Use your Grill Safely!



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Through hard work and dedication of its technicians the team has evolved and has met every new challenge with confidence, skill, and professionalism. The Team has responded to suspicious packages, unknown substances, white powder, meth labs, petroleum spills, ammonia leaks, chlorine leaks, train derailments and many other incidents. In addition to responding for emergencies the team has spent considerable time working with first responders on a number of training initiatives including decontamination, air-monitoring, meth lab awareness, compressed natural gas, and hazmat refresher.



The VHMRT was created to serve and assist the Vermont Fire Service when requested offering technical assistance to mitigate hazards. The team continues to be a valuable resource to the fire service on a 24/7 365 day basis. I want to personally thank the VHMRT for the personal sacrifices made every day so Vermont can be a safer place. I am proud of the advancements the team has made over the past 20 years and you should be too. I also would like to thank the entire Vermont Fire Service for the continued support on making it possible for the team to serve you in this capacity.

Outdoor Brush & Debris Burning

Tips for Safe Outdoor Brush & Debris Burning

- **Comply with Local Regulations:** Contact your local fire department in advance to confirm that burning is allowed and to find out whether a permit is required to burn debris.
- **Check the Weather Forecast** Weather fluctuations, such as sudden gusts of wind, could make debris burning spark a wildfire. Call your local fire department the day you plan to burn debris to finalize that the weather is safe enough to burn.
- **Choose a Safe Burning Site** A safe site will be far away from power lines, overhanging limbs, buildings, automobiles, and equipment. It will have vertical clearance at least three times the height of the pile, as heat from the fire extends far past the actual flames that you see. It will have horizontal clearance twice the height of the debris pile.
- **Prepare the Site Correctly:** The ground around the burn site should be surrounded by gravel or mineral soil (dirt) for at least ten feet in all directions. Keep the surrounding area watered down during the burn.
- **If using a Burn Barrel, Make Sure it is Equipped with the Proper Features** Burn Barrels must be made of all-metal construction in good condition (no rust on the sides or bottom) and properly ventilated with three evenly-spaced, three-inch square vents spaced evenly around the rim near ground level. Each vent must be backed by a metal screen. A Burn Barrel must have a metal top screen with mesh size of one-fourth inch or finer to keep sparks from escaping and potentially sparking a wildfire. When burning, layer the different types of debris and stir often. Be careful of sparks escaping the barrel when you stir it.
- **Remain With your Fire** Stay with your fire until it is completely out. To ensure the fire has been completely extinguished, drown the fire with water, turn over the ashes with a shovel and drown it again. Repeat several times. Check the burn area regularly over the next several days and up to several weeks following the burn, especially if the weather is warm, dry, and windy.

Keep it Legal

It is illegal to burn plastic, tires, and most other waste products not from a tree or shrub.



PETER WELCH
AT-LARGE, VERMONT

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

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BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

May 1, 2015

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the start of Building Safety Month, to recognize the importance of building safety and to recognize the leadership of the International Code Council (ICC) that develops and publishes the model building safety and energy efficiency model codes used in my home state of Vermont, and each of the other 49 states. Increasingly, these codes, developed in the United States, are being adopted in other nations where safety in construction is desired.

Over the past few years, we have had several sobering reminders about the importance of building codes. In other nations, much like the case in the U.S. before the codes were widely adopted, natural events and poor construction practices still cause catastrophic loss of life. Every year, deadly fires, tornados, windstorms, floods, earthquakes and other events remind us of the critical need for strong buildings. As Congress discusses the need for resilience and greater energy efficiency in our communities, Building Safety Month reminds us that key elements of resilience and energy efficiency are properly enforced building and energy codes.

The theme of this year's Building Safety Month is "Resilient Communities start with Building Codes." I want to congratulate the leaders of the ICC, which has sponsored Building Safety Month in May every year for over 30 years. The leaders of ICC, including President Guy Tomberlin, Branch Chief Residential/Light Commercial Inspections for Fairfax County, Virginia; Vice-President Alex Olszowy III, Building Inspection Supervisor, Lexington/Fayette Urban County Government, Kentucky; Secretary/Treasurer M. Dwayne Garriss, State Fire Marshal, State of Georgia; Past President of the Board of Directors, Stephen Jones, Construction Official, Millburn Township/Short Hills, New Jersey will join ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims in Washington the week of May 25th to discuss the critical need to support the adoption and enforcement of current building codes, to make sure Americans are safe at home, at work, at school and at play.

I also want to congratulate the leaders of the Building Safety Association of Vermont ICC, including President Glenn Moore and the other leaders of the Vermont ICC Chapter.

I would also like to thank the thousands of men and women who work every day to make sure our buildings comply with building and fire codes. Their work, largely unseen and often unnoticed, is critical to keeping Americans safe. The model building codes, developed by ICC members from all 50 states, allow every community to share the advantage of adopting building codes that are adaptable to local conditions, but at the same time incorporate the very latest



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.





U.S. Fire Administration

Accelerant Detection Canines — Sniffing Out Arson

National Arson Awareness Week

May 3-9, 2015

www.usfa.fema.gov/aaw



FEMA





State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

www.firesafety.vermont.gov

CALENDAR OF

FIRE EVENTS

May 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

Date	Event	Location
12	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
18	Access Board	BERLIN
25	Memorial Day ~ State Offices Closed	ALL



~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)

~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

May 10, 2015 ~ Mother's Day
 May 16, 2015 ~ Armed Forces Day
 May 18, 2015 ~ Victoria Day
 May 25, 2015 ~ Memorial Day

June 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				

Date	Event	Location
2	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
9	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
17	Division Training	BERLIN
29	Access Board Meeting	

~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

June 14, 2015 ~ Flag Day
 June 21, 2015 ~ Father's Day
 June 21, 2015 ~ Summer Begins





State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety

MAY 2015

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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

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DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION

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