



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

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

FIRE SAFETY NEWS



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Upcoming Board meetings

Electrical Board Meeting:
October 6, 2015, 9AM

Elevator Board Meeting:
October 13, 2015 9AM

Access Board: 1:30PM
October 26, 2015,

Plumbing Board Meeting:
November 10, 2015, 9AM



Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Home Heating Safety

Picture by: Carsyn Jennings
Bristol Elementary School, Bristol, VT as displayed for the month of October in our 2015 Fire Safety Calendar.

October 2015

Directors Message

Michael Desrochers

The Vermont Emergency Service Memorial, now nearly completed, is carved with the bust of four emergency responders.

On Sept. 13, 2015, a rededication ceremony was conducted at the Robert H. Wood, Jr. Emergency Service Training Facility campus in Pittsford.



Bill Lovett, Secretary of the memorial committee, said the Pittsford memorial honors Vermont's fallen firefighters, police, game wardens, correctional officers and emergency medical technicians dating back to the 1880s. The names of the fallen are depicted in the body of the memorial.

The entire memorial monument cost about \$225,000 to construct, said Ronald Morell, retired Director of the Vermont Police Academy. Much of the cost was donated material and labor. "Many, many thanks to all of the people who have given their time and money," he said.



Morell and Lovett said the desire to construct a memorial was first broached in the late 1980s by Alan Mattson, a local granite sculptor, who carried out his mission's early stages often from his own pocketbook before passing several years ago.

"He was a stone artist, granite in particular, and he started the monument without anybody really being interested in carrying it forward," Lovett said. "Eventually he brought it to the Vermont Police and Fire Academy, and here we are 20 years later."

About 500 granite "pavers," or blocks, were purchased and engraved with the owners' names, he said, which helped finance the project. The pavers' have been installed around the memorial.

"They came in \$100, \$500 and \$1,000 denominations based on size and amount of characters spelled out on them," Lovett said.

Organizers said the memorial monument's time has come after a dozen long years of hard work by many supporters.

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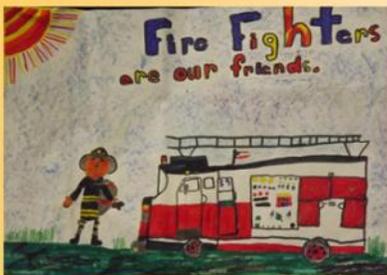
“In the early days there wasn’t much to look at, just a concrete foundation,” Lovett said. “I think it’s time for people to know it’s there.”

Eileen McGee, office manager at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford, compiled the names, reports and stories of the fallen Vermont responders. The stories collected are organized alphabetically in a binder and will be on display at the Pittsford training grounds; stories like that of Dana Lee Thompson, the 61-year-old Manchester Chief of Police who was shot and killed in a gunfight on Dec. 12, 1972, with drugstore burglars; or Robert Burke, who was fighting a bridge fire in 1885 when it collapsed, killing him.

For those that would like to donate to the Vermont Emergency Service Memorial, pavers are available. Please contact the Vermont Fire Academy at 1-800-371-4503 for further information and an order form.

Division of Fire Safety— 25th Calendar anniversary

[HTTP://FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.ORG](http://FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.ORG)



In August the Division of Fire Safety Sent out reminders to schools of 3rd grade students all over the state of Vermont about the 2016 Calendar poster contest. This year is special as it marks our 25th anniversary. Please contact your local school if you can help support them in any way.



FOR QUESTIONS ON THE CONTEST PLEASE CONTACT NIKKI @ 802-479-7570

The Division of Fire Safety would like to welcome Vincent Bent.

Vincent is our newest employee and will be assigned to the Williston Office as a State Electrical Inspector. Vincent brings to the Division an extensive background in the electrical field. Vincent has run his own business, worked as a union electrician and has held several supervisory positions throughout his 43 years of experience. A native Vermonter, Vincent has lived in Monkton for the past 38 years with his wife of 39 years. The Bents have 3 children and 6 grandchildren with another on the way.

Please join us in welcoming Vincent Bent to the staff of the Division of Fire Safety.





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

Get ready for Fire Prevention Week™

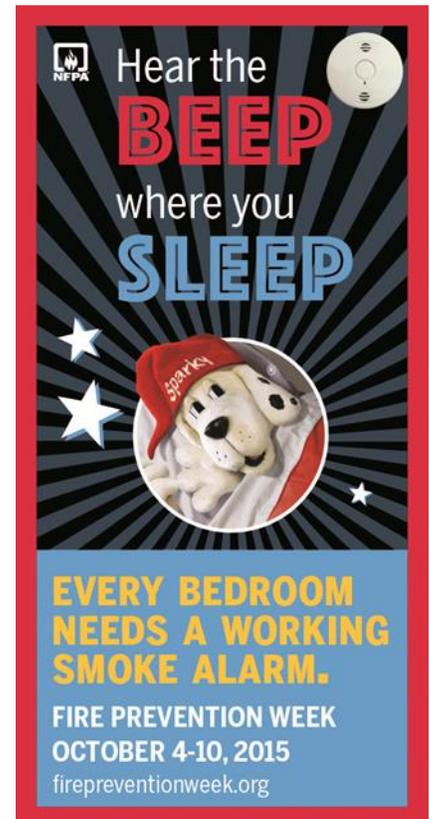
Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm

"Hear the Beep Where You Sleep" is the theme for this year's [Fire Prevention Week](#). Keep your family safe with a working smoke alarm in every bedroom. Go nfpa.org for Information designed for the [fire service](#), [educators](#), and [families](#).

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/fire-prevention-week>

Did you Know?

- In VERMONT heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires, followed by Cooking fires.
- Falling asleep is a factor in almost one in five of cooking fire deaths.
- Only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- One-third (32%) of survey respondents thought that they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often less.
- In half of the fires in which smoke alarms did not operate, the batteries had been removed or disconnected.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.



firesafety.vermont.gov



PARENTS,

Every year during Fire Prevention Week (FPW), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sounds the alarm about keeping our homes and our kids safe from fire. FPW 2015 — October 4–10 — teaches kids the importance of having working smoke alarms in the bedroom.

Location matters when it comes to your smoke alarm. Did you know that roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep? That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!"

As a family, complete the Fire Prevention Week Checklist. If all boxes are checked, CONGRATULATIONS. If there are some boxes not checked, work together to help fix the problem.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK CHECKLIST

- Do you have working smoke alarm on every level of your home?
- Do you have working smoke alarms inside every bedroom?
- Does a grown-up test your smoke alarms at least once a month?
- Do you know the sound of your smoke alarms?
- Are your smoke alarms less than 10 years old? (Look on the back of smoke alarms for the date. If they are more than 10 years old, you need new ones.)
- Does your family have a home fire escape plan?
- Do you know two ways out of every room?
- Does your plan have an outside meeting place?
- Does your family have a fire drill at least twice a year?
- Does everyone at home know how to call the fire department once they are outside?
- Do you get outside and stay outside if the smoke alarm sounds?

Check out sparky.org for more fun!

Sparky is a trademark of the NFPA.

Hear the **BEEP** where you **SLEEP**

Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Fire Prevention Week Oct. 4-10, 2015

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.

For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one sounds, they all sound.



Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.



Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.



When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit www.usfa.fema.gov and www.firepreventionweek.org.

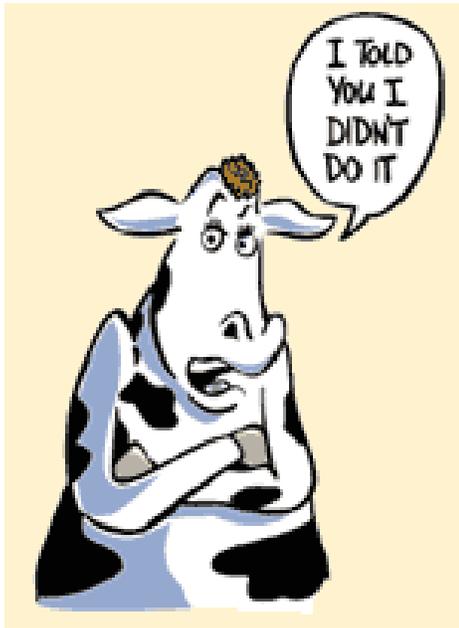


ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

Commemorating a conflagration

According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. But recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.



The 'Moo' myth

Like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening.

But if a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, what was? Over the years, journalists and historians have offered plenty of theories. Some blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Leary's may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago.

The biggest blaze that week

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, and roared through Northeast Wis-

consin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

Nine decades of fire prevention

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925



Dear Vermont Emergency First Responder,

September is National Preparedness Month and this year FEMA’s emergency preparedness theme is “Make a Plan”. Through this initiative, we are being asked to take action now and “***Plan how to stay safe and communicate during the disasters that can affect your communities***”.

In keeping with this theme, Vermont’s Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety have partnered to announce a new school emergency preparedness initiative. During the month of September, we are asking all first response organizations to call each school in their area of responsibility to set up an appointment with the school Principal or their school security designee to coordinate a meeting during the months of September or October to discuss the following:

- A. Ensure each first response agency is updated on existing and future school emergency preparedness efforts.
- B. Ensure each first response agency is aware of the school’s evacuation routes and relocation sites.
- C. Explore the possibility of developing local or regional school Public Safety Teams to assist Principals or their designees with their emergency preparedness efforts (see the Vermont School Crisis Guide at http://vem.vermont.gov/preparedness/school_crisis).
- D. Discuss the possibility of future school safety/security training and exercising opportunities.
- E. Ensure all schools and first responders are aware of the local, regional and state mental health resources that can be called upon to assist students, parents, faculty and staff after a traumatic event. Please see these resources linked below:

<http://www.vermont211.org>.

<http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/DAlist>

<https://www.investeap.org>

In the case of single school districts (Burlington, Colchester, Essex Town, Hartford, Milton, Montpelier, Rutland City, Springfield, St. Johnsbury, South Burlington and Winooski), first response organizations may want to contact the superintendents office to help coordinate these meetings.

Knowing that the safety and security of our children, teachers and school administrative staff is our collective responsibility, the Secretary of Education has asked that each school take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet with the emergency first responders who may be called to respond to schools during an emergency.

As these visits are being conducted, please take a moment to complete this short survey so we can determine the number of schools that have been contacted as a result of this initiative: [School Emergency Preparedness Survey](#).

If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact Mr. Rob Evans, the School Security Liaison Officer for the Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety, by email at revans@margolishealy.com.

VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES



Todd Cosgrove, Chief

HAZMAT HOTLINE 1-800-641-5005

New Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Christopher Herrick was appointed by Governor Shumlin as the new Director for DEMHS replacing Joe Flynn who is now the Deputy Commissioner for Public Safety. Chris was the first Chief of the Hazardous Material Response Team and he worked in this capacity for over 20 years. Chris Herrick's devotion, compassion, and leadership transformed a vision into reality. The Haz Mat team is a success story and this has not been an easy ride. Many States look at our program as a model and we are extremely proud of the team. I would be remiss not to thank all the team members who make great personal sacrifices every day to keep the team moving forward. The team has been faced with countless challenges over the years and Chris has always approached each challenge with precision focusing on how best to serve Incident Commanders on the ground. Chris accomplished the goal of providing Vermont with a professional, skillful and able response team which is now embedded in the Vermont Fire Service. Chris deserves a huge thank you for his years of service and congratulations in his new role as Director of DEMHS, Chris will certainly face new challenges with the same precision and dedication.

New Hazardous Material Response Team Chief



Todd Cosgrove has been hired to be the new Chief of the Vermont Hazardous Material Response Team, effective October 4, 2015. Todd has tremendous experience and knowledge in emergency response, with a distinguished career in emergency services spanning over 30 years. Todd has been on the State Haz Mat Response Team since its creation in 1994, serving in the capacity of Crew Chief and Deputy Chief assisting Director Herrick. Todd retired from the Army National Guard in 2011 after 26 years of military service and has been a lead instructor at the Fire Academy since 1992. Todd is currently the Fire Chief in Bakersfield where he has held the position for 23 years and has been an EMT for 30 years. Todd served 3 years as a Homeland Security Training Coordinator at the Fire Academy and has been an Assistant State Fire Marshal for the past 5 years.

Between 1977 and 2008 (31 years), Todd worked at IBM in Essex as an emergency responder where he gained firsthand knowledge and expertise in handling hazardous materials. Todd currently resides in Bakersfield with his wife Laurie. Todd has a daughter Lynne and a son Chad and three grandchildren.



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

www.firesafety.vermont.gov

CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

October 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fire Prevention Week						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Date	Event	Location
6	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
4-10	Fire Prevention Week	ALL
13	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
21	Division Training	BERLIN
26	Access Board Meeting	BERLIN



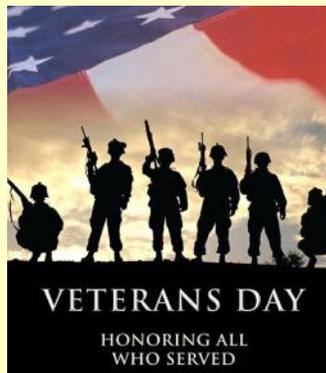
Halloween is coming soon.

Remember to start thinking safety when you are looking to buy those Halloween costumes. Halloween Safety tips can be found on the NFPA website at <http://www.nfpa.org/education>



November 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					



~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
10	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
11	Veterans Day ~ State Offices Closed	ALL
26	Thanksgiving Day ~ State Offices Closed	ALL



State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety

OCTOBER 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:

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