



# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

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

# FIRE SAFETY NEWS



### Inside this issue:

Directors Message	1
AFG Program	2
Saint Michaels College	3
Campus Safety	4
Public Education News	6
School Safety	7
Heating Safety	8
Calendar of Fire Events	9
Contact Information	10

### Upcoming Board meetings

**Plumbing Board Meeting:**  
Sept. 1, 2015, 9AM

**Electrical Board Meeting:**  
October 6, 2015, 9AM

**Elevator Board Meeting:**  
October 13, 2015 9AM

**Access Board: 1:30PM**  
September 28, 2015,



*Firefighters are Heroes,  
Don't Fear Firefighters in Gear*

Picture by: Julia Sanneborn

Bristol Elementary School, Bristol, VT as displayed for the month of September in our 2015 Fire Safety Calendar.

## September 2015

### Directors Message

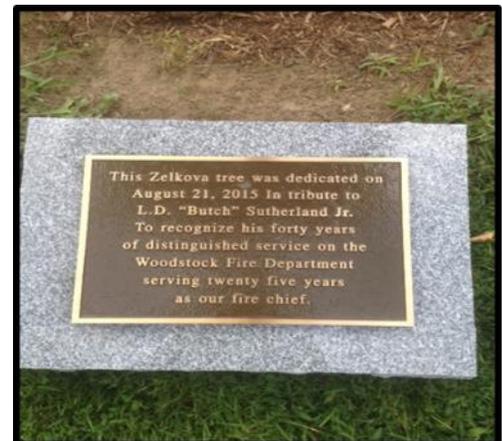
On Saturday August 8, 2015, the Vermont State Fire Fighters Association presented Butch Sutherland the prestigious award of "Fire Chief of the Year". For those of you that do not know Butch, he is the Rutland Regional Manager for the Division of Fire Safety as well as the Woodstock Fire Chief.

Butch has been an active member of the Woodstock Fire Department for 45 years and served in the capacity as Fire Chief for the past 25 years, a remarkable career. During the 25 years Butch served as Fire Chief, he fostered an excellent working relationship with all the neighboring communities enhancing response capabilities and building long lasting relationships with all emergency response entities. Butch was responsible for several renovation projects at the Fire Department, dramatically enhancing the work environment and operational readiness of the department. Additionally, the building was renamed "Emergency Services". Butch was instrumental in obtaining grants to assist in the deployment of dry hydrants throughout the community to provide needed supplemental water supply for firefighting. Butch was responsible for the 911 locatable address project requiring all buildings to be numbered which has not been an easy undertaking but Butch remains persistent. Butch instituted a fire cadet program in the school bringing high school students into the fire service. Chief Sutherland incorporated the Woodstock Ambulance Service to become part of the Woodstock Fire Department resulting in an efficient and effective delivery of emergency services to the entire community. Butch continues to mentor his firefighters and has improved the response capability of the department.

Butch announced his retirement from the Woodstock Fire Department effective December 2015. Butch is well deserving of this award and the fire service will be losing a valuable leader. Butch has been a devoted and trustworthy community servant putting service before self. Please join me in congratulating Butch for his many successful years in the fire service.



**2015 VSFA State Award**



**A Plaque placed at Woodstock Town Park in Honor of Butch's Service**

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

August 31, 2015

Dear Chief:

Thank you for your dedication to protecting the lives and property of Vermonters. We recognize your work requires access to quality training and resources, and because of this, we are pleased to co-sponsor upcoming FEMA workshops detailing the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program.

The AFG program is an excellent opportunity for Vermont fire departments to compete for federal funding to train firefighters and purchase vehicles, equipment, and turnout gear. This year, FEMA will hold five workshops about the AFG program in Vermont. These 2½-hour sessions allow applicants to ask questions and talk with grant specialists who will provide tips on writing a successful application. So far this year, eight Vermont fire departments have received AFG awards totaling nearly \$650,000.

If your department is considering an AFG application, we strongly recommend that you, or a department representative, attend one of the following presentations:

- **Monday, September 14, 2015, 6:00 PM**  
Rutland Fire Department, 104 Center Street, Rutland, VT 05701
- **Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 6:00 PM**  
Springfield Fire Department, 77 Hartness Avenue, Springfield, VT 05156
- **Monday, September 21, 2015, 6:00 PM**  
Montpelier Fire & Ambulance, 61 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602
- **Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 6:00 PM**  
Burlington Fire Department, Station #2, 132 North Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401
- **Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 7:00 PM**  
Newport Fire Department, 222 Main Street, Newport, VT 05855

Registration is not required to attend a workshop. Should your department proceed with a grant application, we are always proud to assist by submitting a letter of support on your behalf. Please contact one of our offices listed below to initiate the letter of support process, or if you need further assistance.

On behalf of all Vermonters, we thank you for the essential services you provide to our state.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator  
VT Office: 802-229-0569



BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator  
VT Office: (800) 339-9834



PETER WELCH  
United States Representative  
VT Office: (888) 605-7270

# FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS, ARE THEY WORTH IT?

Saint Michaels College in Colchester, VT has experienced two dorm fires in the last couple of years, although each having its own success story of no injuries they have completely different stories to tell. **Both buildings met the minimum requirements of the VT Fire and Safety Building Codes at the time of the fires.**



February 2014. College dorm with 22 occupants, The units had individual smoke detectors, with **NO** sprinkler or fire alarm systems.

Fire crews attempted an interior attack while the building was being evacuated by other fire crews. The firefighters had to abandon the interior attack because the stairway was ready to collapse. A crew was instructed to go to units next door on the second floor to open up the ceilings, spraying water into the attic to stop the fire from spreading through a void space extending down the entire length of the townhouses, basically the second floor of the fire-building was structurally compromised.

One unit was destroyed, the remaining six units sustained damage. The three occupants in the fire unit (unit 105) awoke to the detectors going off. Two students were able to use the stairs to exit through the doorway by the kitchen and one student had to jump from a second floor window. A fire alarm system has been added to this building.

Cost of Repair Approx. \$380,000



At 1442 Hours on Thursday May 7th 2015 Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company, St. Michael's Fire and Rescue, and Winooski Fire Department were called to Hodson Hall at St. Michael's college for a reported structure fire. Units arrived on scene to find smoke and fire visible from a window. Crews entered the structure to find a room and contents fire within a suite. The fire was held in check by the building's sprinkler system allowing crews to quickly extinguish the fire. The fire damage was contained to the room of origin, with water damage to additional units. All occupants of the building were alerted to the emergency by the building's fire alarm system and all evacuated immediately; no injuries were reported. The fire was determined by investigators to have been caused by an unattended candle igniting bedding and clothing.

Cost of Repair Approx. \$80,000

# COLLEGE CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY TIPS

August is upon us and with it many families are sending their sons or daughters off to college. For most, this will be the first time the students will be living on their own, with this independence comes a new level of responsibilities such as fire safety awareness. Although fire safety will be one of the furthest thoughts of our young adults students at this time we would like to provide some quick information and safety checks for them and their parents to help them stay safe in their new home. Additional information can be located at the National Fire academy's website at <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/publications/display.cfm?id=959>

## do you think about fire safety?

# you should

Each year, on- and off-campus college and university students experience hundreds of fire-related emergencies nationwide.

### smoking

Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.

After a party, check for cigarette butts, especially under cushions because chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast.

Be aware of how risky it is to smoke when you've been drinking or are drowsy.

### cooking

Cook only where it is permitted.

Keep your cooking area clean and uncluttered.

Never leave cooking unattended.

## and don't forget

Never disable or remove batteries from smoke alarms.

Have an escape plan that includes two ways out, no matter where you are.





## Fire Safe College Housing — What You Need to Look For!



Here are some good questions for college students and parents to ask before moving into a dormitory or signing an apartment lease.



- Are there working smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside of sleeping areas, and on each level of the building?
- Are there at least two ways out of each room and the building?
- Do the upper levels of the building have at least two sets of stairs inside and/or a fire escape?
- Are there exit signs in the hallways to show the way out?
- Are there enough electrical outlets for all appliances, computers, printers and electronics — without using an extension cord?
- Has the building's heating system been inspected recently (in the last year)?
- Does the building have a sprinkler system?
- Does the building have a fire alarm system?
- Does the sprinkler system or fire alarm system send a signal to the local fire department and/or campus security?
- Is the building address clearly posted so emergency services can find it quickly if they need to?

U.S. Fire Administration  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)



FEMA





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

October 4th through the 10th

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)

The Division of Fire Safety can support your local fire prevention educational activities and events by providing fire Safety educational props, handouts, learning materials and tools.

Please contact us for more information at 802-479-7587 or Visit our web.

**firesafety.vermont.gov**

# Division of Fire Safety— 25th Calendar anniversary

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



In August the Division of Fire Safety will be sending 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 802-479-7561**

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

As summer winds down and the school year starts, it is time to remind parents and students about back-to-school safety.

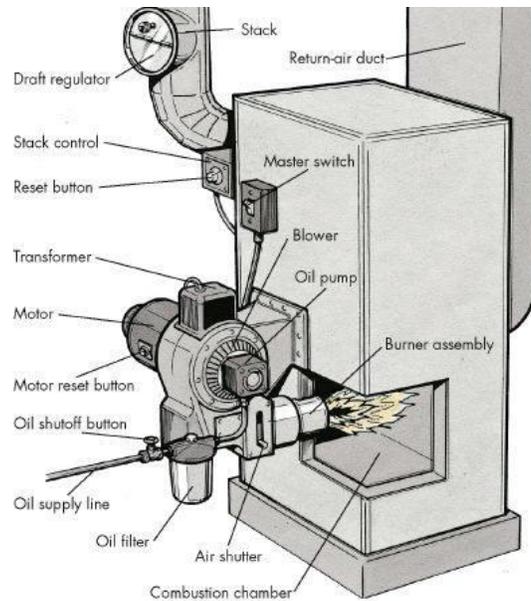
### Top 10 back-to-school safety lessons

Provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

- Always buckle-up when riding in the car; children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.
- Stay in your seat when riding on a bus and hold on to bus handrails when getting on and off a bus.
- When waiting for a bus, stay at least five giant steps (10 feet/3 meters) from the curb until the bus has completely stopped.
- Wear a helmet every time you ride your bicycle and make sure the helmet fits correctly.
- Always walk your bicycle when you need to cross a street.
- Use crosswalks for crossing streets and remember to look left, right, left before crossing. (Children under 10 should cross with the assistance of a grown-up.)
- No pushing or shoving anyone when lining up or playing on school grounds.
- At lunch time, stay seated while eating; no running or playing
- Never accept medicine, vitamins, candy or other food from anyone other than your parent or caregiver.
- When the fire alarm sounds, stop what you are doing and immediately exit the school. Once you are outside, go quickly to your meeting place for roll call.



## A New Heating Season Is Just Around The Corner



### **It's that time of year to take the necessary steps to have a safe and healthy winter heating season.**

Have all of your heating appliances cleaned and serviced by a Vermont Certified Fuel Technician.

Visually inspect your fuel supply tank(s) and lines to identify any leaks or potential equipment malfunctions.

Ensure that the venting of any direct vent appliance is protected from falling snow and ice from roofs and take the necessary steps to avoid any blockage to the vents from accumulating snows throughout the winter months.

Test and/or replace, when required by the manufacturer, all photoelectric smoke alarms throughout your home.

Test and/or replace, when required by the manufacturer, all carbon monoxide (CO) alarms.

When a heating appliance is installed in a bedroom a photoelectric smoke alarm and a carbon monoxide (CO) must be installed inside the bedroom.

Have the chimney and flue inspected by a qualified mason or chimney sweep prior to use. Cracks in the flue or mortar joints can allow flames, heated gases and carbon monoxide to extend into the structure.

All chimneys/vents for solid fuel appliances should be cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep.

Ashes need to be thoroughly dampened, cooled, and stored in metal cans that are used solely for ash storage, not in compost piles, cartons, boxes or anything else that is combustible.

It is recommended that you have a portable fire extinguisher having a minimum rating of 2-A:10-B:C, near the exit and installed in accordance with NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers.



**Prepare Now To Make Your Home A Safe Place To Live!**



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

# Division of Fire Safety

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

# CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

## September 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
1	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
7	Labor Day ~ State Offices Closed	ALL
16	DFS- Training	BERLIN
28	Access Board	BERLIN

## October 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Fire Prevention Week</b>						
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	<b>Fire Prevention Week</b>	ALL
13	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
21	Division Training	BERLIN
26	Access Board Meeting	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)



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>



State of Vermont      Division of Fire Safety

SEPTEMBER 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**

372 Hurricane Lane— Suite 102  
Williston, VT 05495-7151  
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