

Vermont State Emergency Operations Center

October 31, 2017

8:00 a.m.

Contact: Berlin Central Office, VT Division of Fire Safety, 802.479.7561

Fire alarms in public buildings (update)

WATERBURY, VT – Businesses that have been without power for an extended period which have lost battery power to fire alarms are required to take alternate steps to ensure proper fire protection.

The Vermont Division of Fire Safety requires all public buildings to have 24-hours of backup battery power for fire alarm systems. When those batteries cease to work, building owners must provide a fire watcher at all times when the building is occupied by the public.

A fire watcher patrols a building and alerts occupants of a fire should one be detected.

If a building owner is unable to provide a fire watch, please contact the Vermont Division of Fire Safety at 802.479.7561. You can call the same number with any other questions.

The Division of Fire Safety is also urging homeowners to ensure their fire and carbon monoxide detectors are still operating properly during this power outage. Fire officials also stress that those who are using a generator must always run it outdoors and away from the home. Carbon monoxide from generator exhaust can be deadly if it enters the home or any indoor space, including the garage.

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