



FIRE SAFE 802



COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS

Quick Reference Guide

Temporary Program Modifications During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In light of the COVID-19 situation, many departments have put their programs on hold. We have received several questions on what departments can do during the pandemic.

Despite the unique challenges, fire safety education is still essential in keeping our families safe from fire. In order to keep responders and residents safe we are recommending temporary changes to the program's operations.

This guidance should be used until we receive undated information from the Vermont agency of health and the Governor's office.

One of the major challenges related to the current pandemic is the temporary loss of the normally formalized, structured, and robust application of the home safety visits and the home alarm installations.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

In accordance with the Governor's directives and to limit person contact, in home visits and installations have been restricted. However;

- Respond to questions from residents regarding public health concerns, refer residents to the health dept web site for the most up to date information on COVID-19.
- Emergency home safety visits should only be considered after the occupant answers the triage questions over the phone.
- The visit forms including the occupants and the teams contact information must be maintained for 30 days in the event contact tracing is required by the Health Department.

FRONT PORCH MEETING

To reduce interactions and to maintain physical distancing "Front porch meetings" are allowed during this time.

When conducting a front porch meeting;

- Wear facial coverings and maintain physical distancing.
- Alarms may be given to the homeowner or resident to install.
- You should go over, in detail the installation instructions and how to maintain the alarm, also answer any questions the homeowner has.
- It should be stressed that the alarms must be installed, activated and tested immediately.
- You should also provide copies of educational materials and the quick reference guide instructions. And encourage the family to preform a safety survey and practice a home fire drill.
- The owner or resident must still sign the form and it should be noted that this was a front porch meeting and no home safety survey was conducted by the team also note the alarms were



For additional COVID-19 information for the fire service please visit firesafety.vermont.gov/

As we navigate the evolving situation with COVID-19, the Division of Fire Safety and Vermont's emergency services remain committed to delivering resources to help minimize risk and help prevent loss, injuries, and death from fire and other emergencies.

EMERGENCY VISITS & INSTALLS

When it discovered that there are no alarms installed or a person is unable to install them on their own. It may be considered an emergency visit and it may be necessary to enter the home. The same precautions we use on an emergency scene should be used at this type of visit .

Pre-Entry (size-up)	Entry:	Post Entry:
Ask the screening questions Look for clues	Limit personnel Look for clues Limit time inside	Isolate Decontaminate Document

Additionally;

- Masks and gloves shall always be worn in the home
- Social distancing will always be used .
- When working inside, open doors and windows to promote air flow to the greatest extent possible.
- Smoke alarm equipment and tools shall remain in the bag unless being used. equipment should not be set on any surfaces in the home except for the bag. Tools shall be Decontaminated after use.
- Any Gloves, shoe coverings and masks used should be placed in plastic bags before getting back into the vehicle.
- Any waste, boxes, or old alarms will be left in the home for the occupant to dispose of later. Nothing from the home will be brought back with the team.
- Before getting back into the vehicle, the team shall disinfect anything and use hand sanitizer before re-entering the vehicle.