

The Division of Fire Safety's mission is to protect the public and fire service through coordinated efforts in Code Enforcement, Fire Service Training, Public Education, Hazardous Materials Response, Fire Investigation and Urban Search and Rescue.

These efforts maximize life safety and property conservation and minimize environmental impacts due to fire, natural disasters and other emergencies in the State of Vermont.

Division Offices

Rutland Regional Office

56 Howe St, Bld. A Ste.200 Rutland, VT 05701-3449 (802) 786-5867

Springfield Regional Office

100 Mineral St. Suite 307 Springfield, VT 05156-3168 (802) 216-0500

Waterbury Regional Office

45 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671 (802) 479-4434

Williston Regional Office

380 Hurricane Lane, Suite 101 Williston, VT 05495 (802) 879-2300

www.firesafety.vermont.gov









DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Division of Fire Safety

Rental
Housing
Inspection

What you need to know

Tenant

May Invite Inspectors into their Dwelling Unit & Common Spaces they have use of, to investigate possible code violations, at any time

May request 48 hours' notice prior to allowing access to dwelling unit for the purpose of inspection, within standard hours of 9AM and 9PM (9 VSA § 4460)

48 hours' notice is not required when there is reasonable belief there is imminent damage to any person or property (access shall not be unreasonably withheld – 9 VSA § 4460)

May accompany Inspectors during the Inspection of their dwelling unit.

May request a copy of the Inspection report and ask clarifying questions of the Inspector

A tenant who has reported code violations to a Governmental Agency has protections against retaliatory actions by the landlord (9 VSA § 4465)

State Fire Marshals are tasked with enforcing Building and Safety Codes, not providing landlord/tenant legal advice

Withholding of rent payments should not occur, prior to seeking legal advice from the proper authorities, and completing the proper legal steps

The tenant shall not create or contribute to the noncompliance of the dwelling unit with applicable provisions of building, housing, and health regulations.

Applicable Rules, Codes, and Standards

VT Rental Housing Health & Safety Code

VT Fire & Building Safety Code

VT Electrical Safety Rules

VT Plumbing Rules

VT Elevator Safety Rules

VT Access Rules (ADA)

VT Environmental Protection Rules (Wastewater System & Potable Water Supply)

VT Lead Poisoning Prevention Law

9 V.S.A. Chapter 137 (Residential Rental Agreements)

18 V.S.A. Chapter 11 (Health)

20 V.S.A. Chapter 172 (Rental Housing Health & Safety)

https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/

https://firesafety.vermont.gov/

Municipal codes/regulations may also be applicable

Property Owner

May Invite Inspectors to investigate possible code violations of your property

Must provide 48 hours' notice to tenants of intent to access their dwelling unit for the purpose of inspection, within standard hours of 9AM and 9PM (9 VSA § 4460)

48 hours' notice is not required when there is reasonable belief there is imminent damage to any person or property (access shall not be unreasonably withheld – 9 VSA § 4460)

May accompany Inspectors during the Inspection of property

Shall receive a copy of the Inspection report and ask clarifying questions of the Inspector

A landlord may not take retaliatory actions against a tenant, who has reported code violations to a Governmental Agency (9 VSA § 4465)

State Fire Marshals are tasked with enforcing Building and Safety Codes, not providing landlord/tenant legal advice

Property Owner is responsible for addressing identified violations and maintain property in compliance with 9 VSA § 4457