



## CODE INFORMATION SHEET

Based on the 2015 edition of the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code, NFPA 101 NFPA 1 and Other Codes and Standards

# FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR THROUGH THE WALL VENTS FOR FUEL FIRED HEATING APPLIANCES

### Fire Protection Marking for Vents

All through the wall vents for fuel fired heating appliances, located less than 7 feet aboveground level, shall be provided with signage permanently affixed at a height of 7 feet, mounted directly above the through the wall vent.

The sign shall be a “V” shape, not less than 4 ½ inches in height, with the principal stroke of the letter “V” not less than ¾ inch in width, colored black on a white background. The sign shall contain the wording “Heating Vent” using plainly legible letters



### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

CO alarms are required to be installed in areas adjacent to fuel fired heating appliances that use through the wall vents that terminate less than 7 feet above the ground. In buildings that have CO alarms in the areas where people sleep, the additional CO alarms adjacent to fuel fired heating appliances are not required. CO alarms shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions

### Keep Sidewall Vents Clear

Sidewall vents are common in new heating and water heating systems, especially high efficiency units. These vents act as a breathing device for these systems. They take in fresh air and mix it with fuel to produce heat, while discharging exhaust fumes that can include carbon monoxide (CO).

If a vent becomes buried in snow or obstructed by a shrub, this may shut down the heating appliance – or draw exhaust fumes into the building, which can produce high levels of CO inside the building.

To prevent these problems, it’s important to remove snow from around the vent approximately 48 inches in all directions, and trim any shrubs around the vent, so that the vent is not blocked.

Install vents at the highest possible level, per manufacturer’s instructions, but no less than 12 inches above the ground.

