



**PUBLIC EDUCATION
SECTION**



HOT TOPICS
FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

Hotel/Motel/Lodging Safety

With an increase of people being housed in Hotel/Motel and Lodging facilities, on a long-term basis presents a unique set of safety concerns. Under the provisions of 20 V.S.A. Chapter 173, the Division of Fire Safety regulates safety compliance in all public buildings. The Division is tasked with preventing fires, electrocutions, carbon monoxide poisonings and we also ensure a healthy and sanitized environment for residents.



Smoke & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms



Smoke alarms are provided in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level in those rooms or suites consisting of more than one floor level. It is a violation of the Vermont Fire Prevention and Building Safety Code to remove, tamper or disable a smoke alarm.



Carbon Monoxide alarms are provided and required in every sleeping room containing a fuel fired heating system or solid fuel burning appliance (fireplace). Carbon Monoxide is a poisonous, colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is a by-product of incomplete combustion, and can only be detected by carbon monoxide alarms. It is a violation of the Vermont Fire Prevention and Building Safety Code to remove, tamper or disable a carbon monoxide alarm.

Cooking

Guestrooms are not designed for use of alternative cooking appliances such as; electric hot plates or an open flame burning appliance. Hot plates and open flame cooking appliances create a fire hazard and shall not be utilized. In small rooms, hot plates and or open flame burners cause nuisance alarms leading to disconnection of critical life saving devices.



If an alternative cooking appliance are allowed, it's important to follow these safety tips;

- Always plug the appliance into a GFI Outlet
- Keep appliance away from water (sinks)
- Use only listed and approved appliances
- Keep any combustible material 3 feet from the appliance

Heating



Occupiable rooms are required to be provided with an approved, safe permanent heating source reducing the need for occupants to use alternative heating systems increasing the risk of fires.

- Unvented heating appliances are strictly prohibited. This includes unvented kerosene fuel fired units and any unvented propane fired units.
- Propane cylinders, gasoline, kerosene and or diesel fuel is not permitted to be stored or dispensed inside.

Electrical Safety



- Only use appliances provided by the hotel/motel or lodging facility (coffee makers and microwave)
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets.
- Extension cords are only approved for temporary use, not a permanent substitute for wiring.

Other Safety

Candles should not be used in hotel/motel or lodging guest rooms and certainly should not be left unattended at any time. Each year in the United States, there are roughly 7500 reported fires from candles resulting in an estimated 80 fatalities per year causing 275 million dollars in property loss.