



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL & STATE FIRE ACADEMY

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Regional Offices Barre 802-479-4434 * Rutland 802-786-5867 * Springfield 802-885-8883 * Williston 802-879-2300

www.vtfiresafety.org

Director's Message

John G. Wood, Director

As most of you know last year the State Legislators passed a law that would combine the operations of the fire service training council and the assistant fire marshals who enforce the fire prevention and building codes under one division within the department of public safety. After 33 years in the fire service, the last 19 year as the fire chief in Hartford, VT I decided to retire, and take the position of the director. On the first of December I started working as the new director of the division.

My first priority, by law, was to chair a 16-person transition task force. This task force was a combination of special interest groups that had concerns about putting the fire and building codes under the department of public safety. After four meetings a final report went to the legislators for their review and feedback. The transition was official on April 1, 2005. The first five months have been very busy learning a new system, getting to know staff, transitioning people from one department to another, equipment, computer programs, and IT issues, testifying at the State House, and traveling the state to meet with fire service groups, associations, and fire departments.

Some issues I have worked on with staff are being resolved. One issue was whether a fire chief has the right to close a highway during an emergency the fire chief is in charge of. The department of transportation had taken a position that the fire chief did not have the authority to close a highway. After several meetings and discussion about Title 20 the attorney for the department of transportation agreed with our staff attorney that in fact the fire chief does have the authority to close a highway.

After much debate with state buildings the fire academy will be getting indoor bathrooms for the firehouse at the training grounds in Pittsford. The fire academy has taken delivery of two, 3/4 quarter ton pick up trucks for pulling the props to your location for training. The division just received a \$391,000.00 homeland security grant that the fire academy will administrator. The money will be used for developing and delivery of training programs, purchasing of equipment for tactical rescue training, and a position to coordinate instructors and training. We are in the process of hiring a replacement for the site coordinator who resigned to take another job. We hope to have a person hired by the time you are reading this article.

We are in the process of updating the fire prevention, building, and boiler codes. This will be done by the State rule process, which will include public meetings and input from the fire service, builders, developer, and local code officials. We hope to have this process completed and a new code adopted no later than November 1, 2005. At this time we are planning on adopting NFPA 1 and 101 for the fire prevention code for new and used properties, and the International Building Code (IBC) for new and major renovations of buildings.

I mentioned earlier that we have been testifying at the state house. We have been actively following legislation and working with legislators on many bills, however, the two I will speak about are the Fire Safe Cigarettes and the Carbon Monoxide (CO) bills. Both of these have a direct relationship on our ability to save lives from fire and poisonous gases. This is the proactive part of our job. The leading cause of fire deaths in this State and our Country is smoking materials. There is no better way to save lives then

to prevent the fire from happening. This fire safe cigarette has no negative impact on anyone, it costs the same to make and purchase, the tobacco industry is already making them, there are no more negative impacts to the user because of poisonous chemicals then there already are. It is a win/win program for everyone involved. As for the carbon monoxide bill you probably have heard about what happened at UVM; one death and eight injured, and the death in Hartford. The cause of these deaths were failure of a heating system in one case, the other case a person accidentally leaving the vehicle running in the garage. Had there been CO detectors in place these people could still be alive. The CO detectors will be installed in all public buildings were people sleep. I realize this may mean additional calls for the fire department. There will be a learning curve for everyone involved and we will need to get a training program together for this program. It will mean that most fire departments will need a procedure for responding to these types of incidents. Information on CO and a link to guidelines for fire personnel on "Responding to Residential CO Incidents," prepared by CPSC, is available on our website under carbon monoxide

Finally, the main office for the Division of Fire Safety will be located in Berlin on Rt. 302; most people know the building as Harry's discount store. It is at the bottom of Exit 7 off I-89.

I want to thank every one of the fire service organizations for their support, and the programs that the fire service has been working on throughout the years. United we stand, divided we fall, keep the brotherhood and sisterhood together for a better Vermont Fire Service.

Division of Fire Safety

Robert Howe, Chief Fire Prevention Officer

As of April 1, 2005 a new Division of Fire Safety has been created under the Department of Public Safety that combines together the staff and programs of the former Fire Prevention Division, Department of Labor & Industry with the staff and programs formerly under the Fire Service Training Council. The new division covers all aspects of fire safety including fire, building, electrical, boiler, plumbing and access code enforcement, incident investigation, fire service training, promotion of public fire safety education and training for related professionals.

The Division of Fire Safety has four regional offices located in Barre, Rutland, Springfield and Williston, the

Vermont Fire Academy and training site located in Pittsford, with the main office located in Berlin effective in June. Each regional office provides review of construction documents, permitting, inspections, safety education and training, data management, product or site investigation and response to emergencies. The fire academy provides training, certification, data management and training recourses for the fire service, and support of the Fire Service Training Council. The main office provides support for the regional offices and fire academy, data management for the National Fire Incident Reporting System, licensing and certification of technically qualified people for specialty trades, technical assistance, appeals, administrative orders and penalties, safety education and training, and support for the various boards attached to the division.

NFIRS

Robert Howe, Chief Fire Prevention Officer

The 2004 – Report of the Fire Marshal has been sent to all fire departments. It contains data on over 30,000 incidents reported by fire departments and fire prevention programs, investigations and fire service training activities. There is more detailed information on both civilian and firefighter injuries as well as emerging issues for the fire service such as carbon monoxide incidents. Details are provided on incidents for each of the 155 fire departments that are currently reporting.

We plan to make information on fire data reporting in Vermont a part of every newsletter from the division of fire safety. Some information will connect fire cause and fire codes, some information will give you statistics on important fires and some information will help you with reporting incidents from your department. If you need additional copies of the Report of the Fire Marshal, have specific fire data requests or need assistance with fire data reporting contact assistant state fire marshal Stan Baranowski at 479-7575.

Fire Safety House

Robert Howe, Chief Fire Prevention Officer

The Division of Fire Safety has two Fire Safety Houses that provide hands on, realistic, fire safety education aimed at children but equally effective for adults as well. Division of Fire Safety staff will deliver the Fire Safety House, set it up for use and provide training for firefighters to give effective fire safety education programs in their community.

Over the last 10 years over 10,000 people each year have benefited from fire safety programs using one of the Fire Safety Houses. If your community or school has not had

one of the Fire Safety Houses over the last few years it's time to bring this program to your community. Reservations for the Fire Safety Houses come in early for October, and fire prevention week, but there are still plenty of other opportunities available now through September. To reserve either unit, or for more information, contact Chief Fire Prevention Officer Robert Howe at 828-2747 or on the web at vtfiresafety.org. In addition to the Fire Safety Houses, additional resources for public education including programs on DVD, audio visual equipment, a classroom sized hazard house, mascots, etc. are also available by contacting assistant fire marshal Micheal Greenia at (802) 879-2305.

OUTREACH TO TOWN OFFICIALS

Submitted by Bruce Martin, Springfield Regional Manager

The Division of Fire Safety participated in the 60th annual Town Officer Educational Conference for the first time this year. The TOEC sessions are sponsored by the UVM Extension Service and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and offer town officials four regional opportunities to attend workshops on subjects of interest to elected and appointed officials. Town clerks, zoning, and planning officials were offered sessions on legislative changes, policy updates, conflict resolution, municipal law and state government operations.

The four regional managers with the Division of Fire Safety presented a program on the construction permit process, along with recent changes in the division. The TOEC sessions were offered at Lyndon State College on April 7, Fairlee on April 13, Burlington on April 21 and Rutland on April 27. The Division looks forward to increased attendance by town officials in future conferences.

Vermont Fire Academy Training Schedule for May—June 2005

Course	Location	Date
FFII Challenge Exam	Hartford ES	5/18
Firefighter 1 Certification Exam	Springfield FF1 Program	5/21
Local Emergency Planning Committee - Drill	Grand Isle County Mutual Aid/LEPC 13	5/21/2005
Firefighter 1 Practical Activities @ Vermont Fire Academy	Chittenden Cnty FF1 Program	5/21
Firefighter 1 Practical Activities @ Vermont Fire Academy	St. Albans Town & W. Burke FF1 Programs	5/22
NIMS Incident Command System for Fire Service	Saxtons River	5/21 & 22
Hazardous Materials Awareness	Townsend	5/23 & 24
Firefighter 1 Certification Exam	West Burke FF1 Program	5/23 & 24
Firefighter 1 Certification Exam	River Bend C&TC	5/25
Introduction to Flammable Gases	Beechers Falls	5/31-6/2-6/5
Firefighter 1 Certification Exam	Rutland County FF1 Program	6/1 & 2
Firefighter 1 Practical Activities @ Vermont Fire Academy	Windham Regional Career Education Center	6/2
Firefighter 1 Certification Exam	Chittenden Cnty FF1 Program	1st week June?
Wildland Fire Program - S130 / S190 - 1st Session	Vermont Fire Academy	6/4 & 5
Hazardous Material Operations - Part A	North County International Fire School - Alburg	6/4 & 5
NIMS Incident Command System for Fire Service	North County International Fire School - Alburg	6/4 & 5
Firefighter 1 Module - Personal Protective Equipment / SCBA	North County International Fire School - Alburg	6/4 & 5
Training Operations for Small Departments	North County International Fire School - Alburg	6/4 & 6/5
Advanced Fire Behavior - Flashover Recognition	North County International Fire School - Alburg	6/4 repeat 6/5
Firefighter 1 Practical Activities @ Vermont Fire Academy	Bradford FF1 Program	6/5
Hazardous Material Operations	Craftsbury Academy	6/6,7,18,20 & 21
Firefighter 1 Certification Exam	St. Albans Town FF1 Program	6/7 & 14
Firefighter 1 Certification Exam	Bennington Rural FF1 Program	6/8 & 15
Firefighter 1 Certification Exam	Bradford FF1 Program	6/9
NIMS Incident Command System for Fire Service	City of Vergennes Fire Department	6/11&12
Wildland Fire Program - S130 / S190 - 2nd Session	Vermont Fire Academy	6/11 & 12
Hazardous Materials Operations	Milton Fire Department	6/11-12-18
Hazardous Materials Operations	Vergennes Area Rescue Squad	6/16 & 23
Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	East Montpelier Fire Department	6/18 & 19
Highway Safety for Emergency Service Personnel	Ascutney Fire Department	6/21
Firefighter 1 Certification Exam	Morrisville FF1 Program	6/25
Advanced Fire Behavior - Flashover Recognition	Milton Fire Department	6/25
VT Hazardous Materials Response Team - In-service	Vermont Fire Academy	6/25 & 26

Department of Public Safety
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Vermont Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Safety

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