



# 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

# FIRE SAFETY NEWS

November 2008



## Director's Message

John G. Wood



**November is here** and with it comes heating season, hunting season and many challenges for emergency responders. Heating season will bring an increase in emergency incidents and fires. We have been gearing up for the heating season for 4 months and have many workshops scheduled with fire departments around the State to discuss what they can do to make their communities safe. There have been mailings with safety brochures to the general public. The division has been working with other State agencies and departments to get the word out as well. The web site has the schedule for the fire safe public meetings, as well as information about safety in the home. I want to thank all the fire departments that responded to host a fire safety program.

Hunting season is a time when many people get away from the daily routine to venture into the forest and hear only the sounds of nature while hunting the whitetail deer. A time to forget about work, the daily hassles and spend time with friends and family in a different environment. It also brings challenges for emergency responders. It seems each year someone is shot, lost, or injured in the woods while hunting. There are a few things to remember before heading out into the woods. Getting in shape for the hike by walking a few weeks prior to the season, have a good compass or GPS with you, I for one carry both in case the GPS does not work or the batteries go dead. Knowing your target before shooting and what is beyond your target. Wearing reflective orange clothing is important and will make you more visible while in the woods. There is no law that I am aware of that requires orange when hunting like other State have, but it is recommended.

Which brings me to a new law coming into place that will affect emergency responders as reported by the International Association of Fire Chiefs. As reported by Steve Austin in the "On Scene" newsletter, November 24, 2008, ushers in a new era for workers on federal-aid highways. Rule 23 CFR 634, issued by the Federal Highway Administration, requires emergency responders and others to wear high-visibility garments while on or about the roadway. The rule is designed to help protect workers from moving traffic. Fire gear with reflective strips does not meet the rule. Garments must meet the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) standard. The rule specifically mentions ANSI 107-2004 Class II or III, FHA interpretation-ANSI 207-2006 public safety vest. Before purchase check the label in the garment. If there is no label or if it lists an earlier standard it does not meet the rule. The latest NFPA turnout gear does not meet the standard because the background is not fluorescent. Background colors of compliant garments may be fluorescent orange, red or lime/yellow. Optional 5-point breakaway features are important components of the high visibility vests. Should the garment get caught on a vehicle passing by it will pull apart and not entangle or drag the firefighter or emergency responders. Mr. Austin reports that the best practices recommendation is that firefighters involved in suppression or extrication should not wear these garments when they're performing these duties. When their work is completed they should immediately put a vest on. The IAFC and other public safety groups have filed comments to include these practices in the next edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. This new rule will make it safer for the emergency worker. So while hunting this season wear orange for safety sake.



### Inside this issue:

Director's Message	1
Vermont Fire Incident Reporting System	2
Administrative Penalties	2
Vermont Fire Incident Reporting System (cont)	3
Building Safety Association of Vermont	4
Code Highlights	4
Fire Events Calendar	5
Heating Safety Seminar	6
Firefighters' Second Best Friend	7



**So, Happy Thanksgiving and good luck this fall - stay safe.**

# VFIRS – Vermont Fire Incident Reporting System

**Current statistics 2008: (as of October 18, 2008 )**

**Total incidents reported: 23,850**

**Fires: 1859**

**EMS: 12,202**

**NonFire/NonEMS: 9759**

**No Activity: 18**

**Fire Departments reporting: 138**

**2008 FIRE INCIDENT REPORTS DUE JANUARY 16, 2009**

Last month, this office produced a list of reporting status for all fire departments in the state. Nearly 100 departments were on the list as not reporting any incidents thus far in 2008. As seen above the number of reporting departments only increased by 5 (five) over last month. Why only 5 additional reporting departments??? Why are the other 95 not reporting???

Each Fire Chief should ask themselves these questions?

1. Which list is my department on?? If my department is not on the Current List, why not??
2. Do I, as the Chief, understand and know the importance of timely and accurate reporting??
3. Is someone in my department assigned as the Reporting Officer, and do they submit reports to the State on a regular schedule or just keep them local?? Have they stopped submitting??
4. Does my department have technology challenges that need to be overcome?? Nationwide, large and small departments have used creative options for overcoming these challenges.
5. Does my department need help and guidance to be come current with reporting?? Should I be calling the State?? Do we need training?? Do we need to update our software??

**Fire Incident Reporting is required by law.** Title 20 Section 2833, requires that within 5 days of the occurrence, that all fires in excess of \$200 damage or causes serious injury be reported; and does provide for the issuance of fines for neglecting to do so.

Departments should be checking each month to verify that their 2008 fire data submittals are current and accurate. Departments should check the Division website for their monthly reporting status and counts. <http://www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/vfirs/index.html>

The enclosed chart lists all fire departments according to their submittal status, updated as of October 18, 2008, looking at data from January to September (first 3 quarters).

- CURRENT - the department has reports entered for each month;
- PARTIAL - the department has blank months.
- NONE - no reports in the database for those months in 2008.

For small departments other months and years were looked at determine which list to assign.

The lists have been made available to both the Vermont and Federal Homeland Security grant programs, for use in determining compliance with grant requirements for reporting.

The Division of Fire Safety continues to thank those departments that report valid incident reports on a timely base.

*(continued on page 3)*

## ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

### **Final Orders for Administrative Penalties**

- § **Heindel & Noyes**, working at Latham's IGA, Hinesburg, June 17, 2008. Electrical permit, code and licensing violations. \$1,100. Paid.
- § **Thomas Mechanical, Inc.**, doing work in Cascade Condominiums, Winooski. August 4, 2008. Certification violation. \$1000. Paid.
- § **Kampersville Campground**, Salisbury. August 25, 2008. Electrical permitting, code and licensing violations. \$2950. Paid.
- § **Stowe Mountain Lodge**. September 12, 2008. Fire code violations. \$2500.
- § **E & M Mechanical, Inc.**, working at Whitcomb Heights Building, Essex Junction. September 17, 2008. Plumbing permitting and licensing violations. \$600.00.
- § **Omega Electric**, working at Schenck Chiropractic, Williston. September 17, 2008. Electricql licensing violation. \$500.
- § **Larry Blair**, 106 Mountain Ave., St. Johnsbury. September 22, 2008. Fire code violation \$50. Paid.

### **Citations paid September 22 to October 20, 2008**

- § **Mark Jewett**, working at single family rental, Bennington. \$200.
- § **LeClair Bros., Inc.**, working at Harvest Equipment, Williston. \$350.
- § **Barrett Gregoire**, 165 Wood Rd., Middlesex. \$1625.
- § Ramada Inn, Rutland. \$2000.

## VFIRS – Vermont Fire Incident Reporting System (cont.)

<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>CURRENT2</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>PARTIAL</b>	<b>PARTIAL2</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE2</b>
ALBANY	STAMFORD	X	ALBURG	ST.ALBANS	X	ADDISON	POWNAVAL VALLEY
ASCUTNEY	STARKSBORO	X	ARLINGTON	ST.ALBANS TOWN	X	BAKERSFIELD	PROCTORSVILLE
BARRE CITY	STRAFFORD	X	BARNARD	THETFORD	X	BARNET	RANDOLPH CTR
BARRE TOWN	SWANTON	X	BEECHER FALLS	TINMOUTH	X	BERLIN	READING
BARTON	TROY	X	BERKSHIRE	TRI-VILLAGE	X	BOLTON	RICHMOND
				UNDERHILL-			
BELLOWS FALLS	VERGENNES	X	BETHEL	JERICO	X	BRADFORD	RIPTON
BENNINGTON	VT HAZMAT	X	BRISTOL	VERSHIRE	X	BRANDON	ROCHESTER
BENNINGTON							
RURAL	WAITSFIELD	X	CABOT	WASHINGTON	X	BRIDGEWATER	ROCKINGHAM
BENSON	WALLINGFORD	X	CAMBRIDGE	WATERBURY CTR	X	BRIDPORT	RYEGATE
BRATTLEBORO	WARREN	X	CHARLOTTE	W DUMMERSTON	X	CHARLESTON	SALISBURY
BRIGHTON	WATERFORD	X	CHELSEA	W HAVEN	X	CHITTENDEN	SHARON
BROOKFIELD	WELLS RIVER	X	CORNWALL	W PAWLET	X	CLARENDON	SHOREHAM
BURLINGTON	W BURKE	X	E BARNARD	W RUTLAND	X	COLCHESTER	SHREWSBURY
CASTLETON	W DOVER	X	E DORSET	W WEATHERSFIELD	X	CRAFTSBURY	SOUTH HERO
CAVENDISH	W NEWBURY	X	E DOVER	W WINDSOR	X	E FAIRFIELD	SPRINGFIELD
CHESTER	WHITINGHAM	X	E MONTPELIER	WON	X	E HAVEN	STOCKBRIDGE
			ENOSBURG				
CONCORD	WILLISTON	X	FALLS	WILLIAMSTOWN	X	E RANDOLPH	STOWE
DANBY		X	ESSEX JCT	WINDSOR	X	E WALLINGFORD	STRATTON MTN
DANVILLE		X	FAIR HAVEN	WOODBURY	X	ELMORE	SUTTON
DERBY		X	GEORGIA	WOODSTOCK	X	ESSEX	TUNBRIDGE
DORSET		X	GUILFORD		X	FAIRFIELD	VERNON
E BURKE		X	HUBBARDTON		X	FAIRLEE	WALDEN
FAIRFAX		X	HUNTINGTON		X	FRANKLIN	WARDSBORO
FERRISBURG		X	HYDE PARK		X	GILMAN	WATERBURY VLG
GRAFTON		X	IRA		X	GLOVER	WELLS
GRAND ISLE		X	JAMAICA		X	GREENSBORO	W FAIRLEE
GRANVILLE		X	KILLINGTON		X	GROTON	WFORD
HALIFAX		X	LINCOLN		X	HANCOCK	WMINSTER
HARDWICK		X	LYNDONVILLE		X	HIGHGATE	WMORE
HARTFORD		X	MANCHESTER		X	IRASBURG	WEYBRIDGE
HARTLAND		X	MARSHFIELD		X	ISLE LA MOTTE	WHITING
HINESBURG		X	MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS		X	LOWELL	WILMINGTON
IBM		X	MONTPELIER		X	LUNENBURG	WINDHAM
JAY		X	MT HOLLY		X	MIDDLESEX	WINHALL
JOHNSON		X	NEWBURY		X	MONTGOMERY	WINOOSKI
LUDLOW		X	N HYDE PRK		X	MORETOWN	WORCESTER
MALLETTS BAY		X	ORLEANS		X	MORRISTOWN	
MARLBORO		X	PITTSFORD		X	NEW HAVEN	
MIDDLEBURY		X	PLAINFIELD		X	NEWPORT	
MILTON		X	PUTNEY		X	NEWPORT CTR	
MONKTON		X	RANDOLPH		X	NORTH HERO	
NEWARK		X	ROXBURY		X	NORTH TROY	
NEWBROOK		X	RUPERT		X	NORTHFIELD	
N BENNINGTON		X	RUTLAND CITY		X	NORWICH	
PLYMOUTH		X	SAXTONS RIVER		X	ORWELL	
PROCTOR		X	SHEFFIELD / WHEELLOCK		X	PAWLET	
RICHFORD		X	SHELBURNE		X	PEACHAM	
RUTLAND TOWN		X	S BURLINGTON		X	PHOENIX	
SHAFTSBURY		X	S LONDONDERRY		X	PITTSFIELD	
SHELDON		X	S NEWFANE		X	POULTNEY	
ST.JOHSNBURY		X	S ROYALTON		X	POWNAVAL	

10/18/2008

**VFIRS contact information:**

**Micheal Greenia at (802) 479-7587 or [mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us)**  
**Stanley Baranowski at (802) 479-7575 or [sbaranow@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:sbaranow@dps.state.vt.us)**

## Building Safety Association of Vermont

The ICC Building Safety Association of Vermont (BSA-VT) invites all building professionals in Vermont to become a member and join our efforts to become a chapter of the ICC (International Codes Council, Inc.). Our Executive Committee has been working hard to complete the steps necessary for the organization to grow, and we are looking for more help from members to develop our committee goals. The newly approved BSA-VT Bylaws establish four committees dedicated to furthering our mission – the committees are Finance, Membership, Education, and ICC Code Review. Our mission is to advance the professionalism of and provide assistance to code officials, design professionals, builders, manufacturers and others involved in the construction process to help improve public health and safety throughout the State of Vermont.

Please join us on November 13 at the Home Builders and Remodelers of Vermont conference room in Williston at 10:30am and complete your membership application. We need your help!

If you cannot attend the meeting, but you would like to join and participate in future events, please contact Rob Pickett ([robpickett@vermontel.net](mailto:robpickett@vermontel.net)) or Ward Smyth ([wsmyth@turtlecreekbuilders.com](mailto:wsmyth@turtlecreekbuilders.com)) for a copy of the Membership Application and Bylaws.

We are also holding a competition for a logo design for the Association. The logo design should incorporate a proposed acronym for the Association (BSA-VT is not formally adopted). Please submit your design no later than 11-12-08 to Rob Pickett. All submitted designs will be revealed at the Nov. 13 meeting. The winner will receive their first year membership FREE – a \$30 value!

**For questions contact: Rob of RobPickett & Associates [Phone & Fax] (802) 436-1325 [Mobile] (802) 738-9230 or Robert Howe [phone] (802) 479-7566 [email] [rhowe@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:rhowe@dps.state.vt.us) [fax] (802) 479-7562**

## Code Highlights *Technical Assistance*

**Rubbish Removal** - Combustible waste and rubbish is a common fire problem, as a material easily ignited and a material that contributes to the spread of a fire. Combustible waste and rubbish provides an easily target for an arson fire. To prevent rubbish fires:

- Place dumpsters and similar rubbish containers at least 10 feet away from a building that is built of combustible construction such as wood. Measure from the roof overhang, porch or whatever is closest to the dumpster.
- Place dumpsters and similar rubbish containers at least 10 feet away from any building opening such as windows or doors for a building that is built of noncombustible construction such as steel or concrete.
- Place permanent barriers to keep a dumpster away from a building so the dumpster is not inadvertently left within 10 feet of the building.
- Remove combustible waste and rubbish from buildings at least once each working day.
- Use metal containers for combustible waste and rubbish, or nonmetallic containers that have been tested and labeled for meeting fire standards.
- Use lids on containers that are greater than 40 gallon capacity.

For additional details on code requirements see the Uniform Fire Code, NFPA 1, section 19.2.

**Noncombustible Building Materials** – Noncombustible materials are defined as materials that do not ignite, burn, support combustion or release flammable vapors when subjected to fire or heat. Materials that pass ASTM E 136 are considered noncombustible materials. ASTM E 136 describes a test method that measures any flaming of the material sample or if any of the material is consumed by fire.

**Robert Howe, Assistant State Fire Marshal**  
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State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety



# Division of Fire Safety

[www.vtfiresafety.org](http://www.vtfiresafety.org)

# CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

## NOVEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Date	Event	Location
1	Hazardous Materials Operations	Killington FD
8	Hazardous Materials Awareness	Hartford FD
8	Hazardous Materials Awareness	Colchester Rescue
21 & 25	Hazardous Materials Awareness	VT Criminal Justice TC



Nov 20, 2008 ~ VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ DFS Office Berlin

~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

Nov 2, 2008 ~ Daylight Savings Time  
 Nov 11, 2008 ~ Veterans Day  
 Nov 27, 2008 ~ Thanksgiving Day

## DECEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Date	Event	Location
6	Firefighter I Make-up Evaluation (Final IFSTA 4th Edition)	VT Fire Academy Pittsford

### 2008 National Electrical Code now adopted - effective December 1, 2008

The new Vermont Electrical Safety Rules go into effect December 1, 2008. The rules include the adoption of:

- NFPA 70, the National Electrical Code, 2008 edition
- NFPA 73, the Residential Electrical Safety Code, 2006 edition
- NFPA 780, the Lightning Protection Code, 2004 edition
- ANSI C2, National Electrical Safety Code, 2007 edition

In addition to updating these nationally recognized safety standards used in the industry, the rules clarify certain details of the licensing process for electricians. A copy of the rules can be obtained at any office of the division or on line at <http://www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/licensing/Electrical.htm>

Dec 18, 2008 ~ VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ DFS Office Berlin

~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

Dec 21, 2008 ~ First Day of Winter  
 Dec 21, 2008 ~ Hanukkah Begins  
 Dec 24, 2008 ~ Christmas Eve  
 Dec 25, 2008 ~ Christmas Day  
 Dec 31, 2008 ~ New Years Eve

## VERMONT DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

# Heating Safety Seminars

For Emergency Responders & Safety Teams



In light of the high cost of heating fuels this year, it is projected that many Vermonters will use alternative heating sources for all or part of their heating needs. Fire safety officials and emergency responders from around the state are concerned that we will see a repeat of what happened in the early 80s and that we will experience an enormous increase in fires and fire deaths.

To assist, the Division of Fire Safety will be hosting special regional heating safety seminars for Emergency responders and local safety teams around the state. These seminars will cover many of the safety issues surrounding the use of alternative heating and wood stoves. The seminar will also cover how fire departments and community groups can set up a home safety survey program and a smoke alarm program to help keep people in their community safe.



[www.vtfiresafety.org](http://www.vtfiresafety.org)

For additional information on this or other DFS programs please contact Micheal D. Greenia -Fire Safety Education Coordinator at 802-479-7587 or [mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us)

## UP COMING HEATING SAFETY SEMINARS

<b>October 28, 2008</b>	Caledonia / Essex County St Johnsbury Fire Dept. - at the CCV offices - 1197 Main Street St Johnsbury VT	6:30pm – 8:30pm
<b>October 29, 2008</b>	Orleans / Essex county Newport Center Fire Dept. – Cross Road, Newport Center, VT	7pm - 9pm
<b>October 30, 2008</b>	Addison / Rutland County Brandon Fire Dept – 61 Franklin St , Brandon VT	7pm - 9pm
<b>November 7, 2008</b>	Franklin County St Albans City Fire Dept — Northwest Medical Center St Albans VT	7pm - 9pm
<b>November 17, 2008</b>	Windsor / Windham Tri-Mountain Mutual Aid - Champion #5 fire house, Rte 100, So. Londonderry	7pm - 9pm

ADDITIONAL DATES AND LOCATION ARE ALSO BEING EXPLORED

**If your group would like to host an event please Contact the  
Division of Fire Safety Educational Coordinator, Micheal Greenia  
at 802.479.7587 or [mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us)**

# **FIREFIGHTERS' SECOND BEST FRIEND**



# **FIREFIGHTERS' BEST FRIEND**



# **HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS**

***Your Best Friend when fire strikes your home.***



**FEMA**

Home fire sprinklers save your life,  
your loved ones, and your property.

Ask your home builder to install fire sprinklers and protect what you value most.  
And visit the U. S. Fire Administration's Web site at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) to learn more about home fire sprinklers.





State of Vermont  
Division of Fire Safety  
1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600  
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REMEMBER .... Smoke Detectors, Fire Sprinklers and Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives

Vermont Department of Public Safety  
*Division of Fire Safety*

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL & STATE FIRE ACADEMY

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**Vermont Fire Academy**

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Pittsford, VT 05763  
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Regional Offices:

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1311 US Route 302— Suite 500  
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**Rutland**

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**Williston**

372 Hurricane Lane, Suite 102  
Williston, VT 05495-7151  
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Toll Free (800) 366-8325

DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION

Waterbury—103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-2101— (802) 244-8781—Fax (802) 241-5371