



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL & STATE FIRE ACADEMY

Central Office Berlin 802-479-7561 State Fire Academy Office Pittsford 802-483-2755

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

www.vtfiresafety.org

FIRE SAFETY NEWS

April 2009

Wildland Fire Season

Lars Lund – Forester

VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation



Here's Looking at You!

Sparky sure has come a long way since 1951. Take a look at how he's changed over the years! (He's gotten cuter with age, don't you think?)



1950's 1960's 1970's



1980's 2000 Now!!

Wildland fire season has arrived or will soon arrive with the melting of the snow. Historically, spring fire season in April and May is the most active time for wildland fires. Fine dead fuels in the form of dead grass, dead brush, and small branches and limbs ignite easily and spread quickly. This is also the time of year when folks are cleaning up their yards and making burn piles.



While many folks call their Town Forest Fire Wardens for Permits to Kindle Fire (burning permits), still more will burn without them. As a result, April and May are the busy time for "brush calls", and usually on days with significant fire danger.

Please remember the priorities of human life, then property or structures and then undeveloped land when fighting wildland fires. A thorough and ongoing size-up of the whole fire scene can save time, energy and resource use, and maintains firefighter safety.

Members of the Forest Resource Protection section are available for assistance on wildland fire and can be reached by contacting Vermont Emergency Management at (1-800-347-0488).

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2008 State Fire Marshals Report On-line



This yearly report contains statistical information on fire incidents, reports on division programs and information on changes during 2008 that affected the division and fire service. This report represents the best information available, from the Division of Fire Safety, the Vermont State Police, Vermont fire departments using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), Insurance Companies, the Department of Health, the Department of Forest Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Labor.

www.vtfiresafety.org

The Division of Fire Safety continue to strive to make Vermont a safer place to live, work, and play through proactive code enforcement, firefighter training, fire safety education, hazardous material response and incident investigation.



VFIRS – Vermont Fire Incident Reporting System

Current statistics 2008: (as of January 21, 2009)

Total incidents reported: 40,808

Fires: 3348 -- EMS: 20,017 -- NonFire/NonEMS: 17,395 -- No Activity: 27

Fire Departments reporting: 164

- ◆ NFIRS Version 5.6.0 --- In January 2009, the USFA released an updated version of the NFIRS software. When prompted, while logging into version 5.5.0, follow the instructions for downloading the update. Departments using vendor software should be contacted by their vendor with any software updates associated with this release. **[January 29th State Program managers were notified of an emergency release of Version 5.7.0 to correct a bug found in 5.6.0; Version 5.7.0 is currently in testing and will be released shortly]**
- ◆ 2008 and all future submitted data submittals must be NFIRS 5.0 format, and be submitted electronically via the bulk import tool or the USFA data entry tool. 2008 data that was submitted on paper forms or submitted via email was not processed.
- ◆ The Division of Fire Safety thanks all departments that submitted valid incident reports in a timely manor throughout the year. The counts for 2008 are about the same as 2007, with almost 41,000 incidents reported.
- ◆ Those departments that have not submitted incident reports for 2008 must still do so even though the deadline for reporting has passed. The deadline was only to provide a cut off for beginning the data analysis for the Report of the Fire Marshal. The deadline has no effect on the requirements in grants or statute to report incidents.

**VFIRS contact information: Micheal Greenia at (802) 479-7587 or mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us
Stanley Baranowski at (802) 479-7575 or sbaranow@dps.state.vt.us.**

Code Highlights *Technical Assistance*

Death and Injury Caused by Falls

The Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code contains standards that are designed to prevent falls from balconies, platforms or decks, and also standards for handrails intended to limit falls on stairs. There are also requirements for the design of stair treads and risers. The details make the difference when designing and building stairs, guardrails and handrails.

Why is there such a focus on safety for stairs, guardrails and handrails? The Vermont Department of Health has provided information that falls account for 20% of all injury related deaths and are second only to motor vehicles as a cause of injury related death in Vermont. Fall death rates are higher in older Vermonters. In 2005, there were 88 deaths attributed to falls with 15 deaths for persons younger than 65. Vermont has a statistically higher rate of falls deaths (11.3 per 100,000 compared to 6.3 per 100,000 in the U.S.).

During 2001 through 2005, half of all fall-related deaths occur 'on the same level' which means a person tripped, slipped or stumbled. One in ten fall-related deaths occur on stairs with 5 % falling from one level to another. Few of the fall-related deaths are due to falling from a building or off a ladder (2% each). As with fire statistics, the statistics for fall-related deaths do not always specify the nature of the fall (25%). Most deaths from falls for the period 2001-2006 occurred in the home (52.6%) or in residential institutional settings (29%).

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related emergency department visits, accounting for more than one-quarter of all injury-related visits. Vermont's rate of emergency department visits for falls is also statistically higher than the rate across the nation (3,141.5 per 100,000 in Vermont, as compared to 2,457.9 per 100,000 in the U.S.).

Between 2003 and 2005, there were a total of 58,543 fall-related emergency department visits in Vermont for an average of nearly 19,500 per year. Unlike the pattern for hospitalizations and deaths from falls, where the oldest age groups are the most heavily affected, emergency department visits for falls are common in all age groups. In national emergency room data, falls are consistently highest in the youngest (under the age of 5) and oldest (over 75) age groups. This trend is also reflected in Vermont's data.

Know your facts on falls and what you can do. Know the code requirements for stairs and railings. Know the points to emphasize for fall prevention education:

- Have railings that can be easily grasped
- Have good lighting for stairs and areas that have steps or any change in elevation
- Use solid contrasting colors for steps or a change in elevation
- Keep clutter and toys away from stairs and steps
- Limit the use of small rugs, or if used tape them down
- Exercise to improve balance and strength
- Know the side effects of prescription and over the counter medication

Robert Howe, Assist State Fire Marshal, [phone] (802) 479-7566 [email] rhowe@dps.state.vt.us

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

Citations paid February 2009 to March 2009

SITE ADDRESS	\$ PAID	PAID BY
MCDONALDS (#12751), 478 SOUTH BARRE ROAD, S BARRE	\$250.00	JOHN LORANDEAU
BROMLEY VILLAGE-UPPER SPRUCES, PERU	\$100.00	KEVIN ROBINSON
72 SAN REMO DRIVE - PIZZAGALLI WAREHOUSE, S BURLINGTON	\$500.00	PIZZAGALLI CONSTRUCTION CO
WOODBIDGE INN COFFEE HOUSE & INTERNET CAFÉ	\$100.00	SIMPLEXGRINNELL
TRAVEL LODGE / SUPER 8, SHELBURNE	\$500.00	OHM LLC DBA TRAVELODGE
NEWPORT CITY SENIOR HOUSING, NEWPORT	\$100.00	CONRAD CONSTRUCTION
SMUGGLERS NOTCH - KESTRELS @ N HILL (7-12), JEFFERSONVILLE	\$50.00	SMUGGLERS NOTCH
SMUGGLERS NOTCH-SYCAMORES-W HILL COMPLEX-BLDG C	\$50.00	SMUGGLERS NOTCH
NORTHGATE PLAZA, MORRISVILLE	\$50.00	H.A. MANOSH CORP
MILLER'S MAIN ST CONDOMINIUMS, 235/237/239 MAIN ST, WINOOSKI	\$500.00	NORTHEASTERN SEC & ALARM
ECONOLODGE, 91 BALLARDAVALE DR, WHITE RIVER JCT	\$500.00	HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, WRJ
49 BIRCH LANE, W WESTMINSTER	\$50.00	JEREMY BIRCH
COUNTRYSIDE GLASS SHOP, 450 SHUNPIKE ROAD, WILLISTON	\$300.00	CHAD BROUSSEAU
WOOD'S CRW CORP, 795 MARSHALL AVE, WILLISTON	\$50.00	C R WOODS
WOODBURY TOWN OFFICE, 1672 RTE 14, WOODBURY	\$100.00	TUCKER BUILDING CO
DOVERHOF, ROUTE 100, WEST DOVER	\$200 OF \$1900.00	CHARLES MICHAUD
EDELWEISS MOTEL, 119 US RTE 4, MENDON	\$100.00	EDELWEISS MOTEL
31 WEST MAIN STREET, WILMINGTON	\$150.00	SUPER MAIN STRUCTURES
BROMLEY VILLAGE-LOWER SPRUCES, 157 SAP BUCKET CIR, PERU	\$75.00	DARREL CROOT
2806 NORTH MAIN STREET APARTMENTS, DERBY	\$100.00	GARY WHITING PLUMBING
INN ON COVERED BRIDGE GREEN, W ARLINGTON	\$100.00	INN ON COVERED BRIDGE GREEN
GREY FOX INN, 990 MOUNTAIN ROAD, STOWE	\$100.00	ALAN HAYES - HAYES HOSPITALITY
HILLTOP INN OF VERMONT(FMR LAGUE INN), BERLIN	\$500.00 OF \$5000.00	DURGA ENTERPRISES, INC
JUNIPER'S FARE, 23 COMMERCIAL DRIVE, MORETOWN	\$100.00	S & J MECHANICAL INC
3898 RIVER RD-SINGLE FAMILY RENTAL, KILLINGTON	\$100.00	KAREN HOFFMAN
NORTHGATE PLAZA, 120 NORTHGATE PLAZA, MORRISVILLE	\$50.00	H.A. MANOSH, CORP
12 COURT STREET, NEWFANE	\$150.00	LARS LIEBELER CO
ASIAN CUISINE, 120 PEARL STREET, ESSEX JCT	\$100.00	ROBERT MESSIER
ASIAN CUISINE, 120 PEARL STREET, ESSEX JCT	\$200.00	DAVID FORNIER
15-17 ELM ST (WAS 10-12 ELM), BRATTLEBORO	\$500.00	STEVE LAWRENCE
232-236 CHELSEA STREET, S ROYALTON	\$400.00	YOUNGS PROPANE
60 SCHOOL STREET DUPLEX, PLAINFIELD	\$100.00	PETER BRAUN, DMD
16 WATER STREET DUPLEX, ORLEANS	\$50.00	KAREN WARD
UNIVERSITY WHOLESALERS TIRE, 1945 MAIN ST, COLCHESTER	\$100.00	RYCANDON MECHANICAL
2219 ROUTE 110 APARTMENT BUILDING, S ROYALTON	\$300.00	CHRIS CROSSETT
3060 WILLISTON RD - THIRTY SIXTY ASSOCIATES, S BURLINGTON	\$100.00	RAY PICHE
WELDEN THEATRE, 104 NORTH MAIN STREET, ST. ALBANS	\$500.00	WELDEN THEATRE
264 CHIPMAN PARK, MIDDLEBURY	\$100.00	LARRY HAMBERLIN
28 SOUTH STREET APARTMENTS, ORLEANS	\$50.00	RICHARD KUPPER
VILLAS AT TRAPP FAMILY LODGE, 42 TRAPP HILL ROAD, STOWE	\$100.00	DAVID P. RUSSELL, II
CENTRAL VT MEDICAL CENTER, BERLIN	\$100.00	CENTRAL VT MEDICAL CENTER
KILLINGTON SKI CLUB, KILLINGTON	\$500.00	CHRIS JOHNSON
GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB - SOUTH BARN, 4711 WATERBURY STOWE RD, WATERBURY CENTER	\$1,000.00	MOUNTAIN VALLEY SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety



Division of Fire Safety

www.vtfiresafety.org

CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

APRIL 2009

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		

Apr 16, 2009 ~ VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ DFS Office Berlin

~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

- Apr 1, 2009 ~ April Fool's Day
- Apr 5, 2009 ~ Palm Sunday
- Apr 9, 2009 ~ First day of Passover
- Apr 10, 2009 ~ Good Friday
- Apr 12, 2009 ~ Easter Sunday
- Apr 22, 2009 ~ Earth Day
- Apr 24, 2009 ~ Arbor Day

Date	Event	Location
1, 18	Wildland Fire Control	Plymouth FD
7, 11	Wildland Fire Control	VT Tech College
18, 19	North East International Mutual Aid Fire School	Newport
18, 19	PPE/SCBA With Drager	NEIMA - Newport
18, 19	Arson Detection for the First Responder	NEIMA - Newport
25, 26	Confined Space Rescue Technician	Brattleboro FD
25, 26	Vermont/New Hampshire Two State Weekend	National Fire Academy Emmitsburg Maryland
25, 26	Addison County Regional Fire School	A.C.R.F.S - Bristol
25	Advanced Fire Behavior - Flashover Training	A.C.R.F.S - Bristol
25, 26	Preparations for the Intial Company Operations - (PICO)	A.C.R.F.S - Bristol
25, 26	Vehicle Extrication	A.C.R.F.S - Bristol
25, 26	Highway Safety	A.C.R.F.S - Bristol
26	First Five Minutes	A.C.R.F.S - Bristol

MAY 2009

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						

May 21, 2009 ~ VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ DFS Office Berlin

~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

- May 5, 2009 ~ Cinco de Mayo
- May 10, 2009 ~ Mothers' Day
- May 16, 2009 ~ Armed Forces Day
- May 25, 2009 ~ Memorial Day

Date	Event	Location
4	Fire Act Grant Workshop	Barre City Public Safety Bldg
5	Fire Act Grant Workshop	Manchester Public Safety Bldg
13	Fire Officer I & II - Orientation	Burlington FD
14, 15	Leadership III - NFA Direct Delivery	Brattleboro FD
14	Fire Modeling in a Single Family Home - NFA Direct Delivery	St. Albans - NW Med Conf Ctr
15	Fire Behavior in a Single Family Residence - NFA Direct Delivery	St. Albans - NW Med Conf Ctr
28	Fire Behavior in a Single Family Residence - NFA Direct Delivery	Hartford FD
29	Fire Modeling in a Single Family Home - NFA Direct Delivery	Hartford FD

VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES



Chris Herrick, Chief, VHMRT

Are you thinking Scene Safety First?

“Recently a new way to commit suicide has been discovered by mixing two chemicals that can be bought over the counter at local stores. They are Bonide - a sulfur spray used as an insecticide for fruit trees and hydrochloric (muriatic) acid. Once mixed, the chemicals produce heat and a flammable, noxious gas that causes the subject to pass out and the heart stop within minutes. The process appears to be quick and painless. Two recent cases, one in Pasadena, California and the other at Lake Allatoona in Bartow County, Georgia, involved young men in their early 20's. Both were found locked inside their cars with the chemicals. Each left a note on the car warning anyone around of danger. The car at Lake Allatoona had been taped to prevent gas from escaping. “ – Police Link

If all first responders are truly thinking and acting with the concept of scene safety this type of an incident will not be one which will hurt us. If, however, we are responding by simply saying the scene is safe like we do in training or at the exam then the potential to get hurt or worse is very real. Let's take this, so far rare event as a solid reminder to consider the potential for HAZMAT at incidents and rule it out if possible before proceeding.

This example requires taking the extra 30 seconds to do a 360 degree size-up. The same can be said for any incident with little information and a person unconscious or with diminished capacity absent a clear mechanism of injury. While deliberate use of chemicals is a potential, so is the accidental exposure such as carbon monoxide.

While it is likely those reading this article will not be called to a suicide of the nature described above it is more than likely you will be called to an incident where there are toxic vapors present. Make sure you do not become an additional victim.

- Do not become complacent! Your response should be similar on every call.
- Start your size-up from the time a call is dispatched.
- Establish a strong command and control the scene. ICS
- Don't go rushing in.
- Size-up.
- Note anything unusual? (Example: A note on the window, containers inside the vehicle and taped windows or vents).
- Wear the appropriate PPE.
- Establish a Hot Zone.
- Call for additional resources. (Hazmat Team, PD, etc.)

When considering whether you need additional HAZMAT assistance it is important to call the **HAZMAT Hotline at 1-800-641-5005.**

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at 1-802-479-7586 or cherrick@dps.state.vt.us



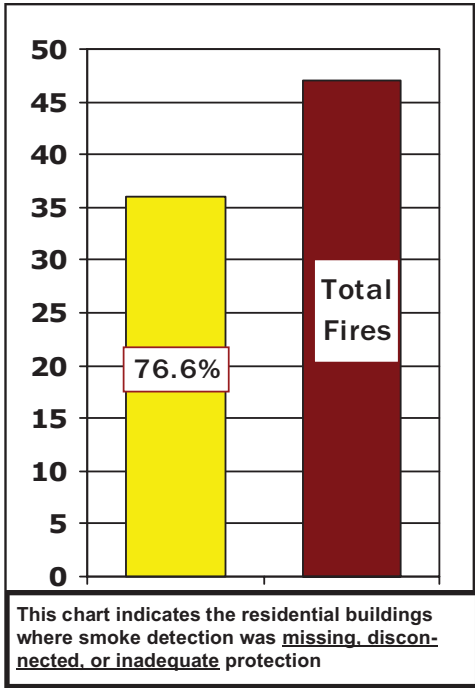
Bob Patterson ~ Regional Manager, Fire Safety Williston Office

Fire Investigation Unit

It's been a little over two years now that the Division of Fire Safety and the State Police formed a single fire investigation unit. The results have been positive and eye opening. Arson arrests are up and we have known for a long time that smoke detectors present issues in many residential fires. Here is a break down of the information we collected in 2008.

Requests for 270 fire investigations were conducted. Of those investigations, 124 were confirmed as arson, and in addition to those some of the undetermined fires are likely arsons. There were 36 arrests, giving an arrest rate of 29%, much higher than the national average of 17% based on 2004 FBI statistics.

We tracked smoke detector operation in 47 residential fires. We only documented fires where we could confirm the operation or the lack of smoke detectors. In time I firmly believe photoelectric smoke detectors will have a positive impact due to less false alarms, therefore less intentional disconnected detectors, which accounted for 29.8% of all fires investigated.



- 25.5% (12) had no smoke detectors
- 29.8% (14) detectors didn't work
- 21.3% (10) had insufficient detection
36 fires or 76.6%
- 23.4% (11 fires) had adequate detection



1-800-32-ARSON (1-800-322-7766)

Proposed Ban on the Sale of Consumer Products Containing Brominated Flame Retardants (Senate Bill 109)

Senate bill S 109, introduced by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, proposes to ban the sale of certain consumer products that contain Brominated Flame Retardants. The bill is designed to protect public health and reduce a firefighter's exposure to toxic byproducts of combustion after a fire. As of March 27, 2009, the bill was still being reviewed in the Senate. This bill is supported by the Vermont Coalition of Fire and Rescue Services on behalf of the Vermont State Fire Fighters Association, the Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont, the Vermont Career Chiefs and the Vermont Chiefs. The bill has also been supported by the Division of Fire Safety.

If any member of the fire service have questions as to the content or purpose of this bill please contact Steve Revell – Coalition chairperson, Matt Vinci - PFFV or Robert Howe – Division of Fire Safety.



FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION TOPICS

Micheal D. Greenia

Asst State Fire Marshal Fire Safety Education Coordinator



Spring has sprung and people all across the state will soon be performing their spring-cleaning. While working around the house can be very rewarding, thousands of injuries and damaging fires occur each year as a result of mishaps related to electric tools, ladders, lawn mowers and burning lawn debris.

TIPS YOU CAN GIVE TO OTHERS

It is the time to clean out and dispose of those old cans of paint and thinners and accumulated newspapers and magazines. Check your local newspapers for times and locations to drop off household hazardous materials.

- Clean your smoke detectors using a vacuum cleaner without removing the detector's cover. Never paint a smoke detector. And Remember, smoke detectors don't last forever. Replace any smoke detector that is more than 10 years old with a new photoelectric type.
- When you clean windows check them for ease of opening, you may need them as your 2nd way out in case of fire.
- Review and practice your home escape plan.
- When using ladders, check for safe and proper placement. Be aware of any obstructions, overhead wires, electrical, cable, phone and tree branches.
- Check cords and outlets for fraying or exposed wiring on all electrically operated equipment.
- On gas operated equipment, check fuel lines and connectors for leaking fuel.
- Never use or store gasoline indoors.

IF YOU BURN – DO IT SAFELY

Get a burn permit from your local town forest fire warden.

Clear the ground of all flammable material for at least 10 feet around the burn pile.

Do not locate a fire closer than 50' to any structure.

Have fire tools and a water supply available.

Don't burn on dry, windy days.

Don't burn trash. Burning trash is it's illegal.

Have an adult attend the fire at all times.

Make sure fire is 100% out and the coals are cool to the touch, place coals in covered metal container.

Helpful local Sites for Additional Information

www.vtiresafety.org

VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation [Forest Fire Control](#)

www.vtfpr.org/protection/for_protect_firecont.cfm

Northeast Fire Compact

www.nffpc.org/html/eng/index.html

Northeast Fire Weather - Situational Awareness page

www.erh.noaa.gov/btv/html/firewx/compact.php

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/rc&d/NoVT/Projects/Rural_Fire_Protection/RuralFireTaskForce.html

www.dontburnvt.org

Now Is The Time To Book Fire Safety House Events!



Now is the time to schedule the Division's Fire Safety House for your community event or open house.

This year we will have only one trailer on the road because trailer # 1 needs major repairs and will be out of service. So pre-booking will be imperative.

For additional information or assistance contact Micheal D. Greenia at 802-479-7587. Or visit www.vtiresafety.org and download a sign out form. Open Dates are filled on a first come first served basis



State of Vermont
Division of Fire Safety
1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600
Barre, VT 05641-2351

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 and the STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM

Central Office

1311 US Route 302— Suite 600
Barre, VT 05641-2351
Phone (802) 479-7561 Fax (802) 479-7562
Toll Free (800) 640-2106

HAZMAT Response Team

Phone (802) 479-7586 Fax
(802) 479-7562 Toll Free
(800) 641-5005

Vermont Fire Academy

317 Academy Road
Pittsford, VT 05763
Phone (802) 483-2755 Fax (802) 483-2464
Toll Free (800) 615-3473

Regional Offices:

Barre

1311 US Route 302— Suite 500
Barre, VT 05641-7301
Phone (802) 479-4434 Fax (802) 479-4446
Toll Free 1-888-870-7888

Rutland

56 Howe Street, Building A-Suite 200
Rutland, VT 05701
Phone (802) 786-5867 Fax (802) 786-5872
Toll Free (888) 370-4834

Springfield

100 Mineral Street, Suite 307
Springfield VT 05156-3168
Phone (802) 885-8883 Fax (802) 885-8885
Toll Free 1-866-404-8883

Williston

372 Hurricane Lane, Suite 102
Williston, VT 05495-7151
Phone (802) 879-2300 Fax (802) 879-2312
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