



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL & STATE FIRE ACADEMY

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www.vtfiresafety.org

JULY 2005

Director's Message

John G. Wood, Director

More good news for the fire service this month; Governor James Douglas has signed S.40, the Fire Safe Cigarette legislation. The House of Representatives and the Senate voted to support the bill this past month. On Friday June 17, 2005 at the South Burlington Fire Department the governor signed the bill in front of a group representing the fire service and advocates for the bill. This legislation will help to save property and lives from fire in this state and make it safer for firefighters to do their job in the future. There will be fewer fires to respond to and those that we do respond to should be much smaller in size. If they go out, as reported, they will not smolder for long periods of time killing those in close proximity and they will not sustain combustion in turn saving property. Vermont is the second state in the nation to pass legislation that will require fire safe cigarettes. The Vermont Fire/Rescue Coalition and the Division of Fire Safety worked with both the House and Senate to get this legislation passed. The governor also signed H.325, the workers compensation bill for firefighters in the state. This will allow firefighters to be compensated should they have a heart attack within 72 hours of an emergency or leaving duty. This is good legislation for the firefighters and their families. A considerable amount of debate and hard work went into this bill. The Coalition

and the Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont worked together for consensus building on the bill.

On June 28, 2005, we are moving to our new location in Berlin, VT. The mailing address is 1311 US Route 302—Berlin, Suite 600, Barre, VT. The phone number will be 802-479-7561. Email addresses are staying the same for everyone; however, they all just changed to the Department of Public Safety a month ago. For more information on staff and the offices go to our web page at vtfiresafety.org.

The Fire Prevention Code update is progressing. Although few people attended the two public meetings already held, we did receive some very good suggestions. The proposed rules will be filed with the Secretary of State in June, and we will have one more public meeting for comments on August 17, 2005. The public comment period is ongoing, and will continue through August 26, 2005.

At the NFPA annual meeting in June the membership voted to include in the 2006 Life Safety Code a standard for sprinkler protection in one and two family homes. This is the way we will save lives and property in this State and the Country. It will also make it safer for our firefighters to respond to fires in these types of properties.

We have hired two new employees for the division. Peter Kopsco will be taking Dirk Anderson's position

as the staff attorney. The other position is new to the division. Michael Raycraft is the new IT computer person for the division. Please help in welcoming both these individual to our team. Peter has been in private practice in Burlington and Mike has worked for the state and has changed departments.

The fire academy has received approximately 35 requests for the flashover trailer, which is great news. However, as mentioned before, we currently have funding for only 20. We may have more money coming from HLS for training, and we might be able to use money from other programs to meet the demand in the future. But for now we have approved training requests for the trailer on a first come, first served bases. The demand for the trailer is good and we can show those who have the authority to grant funds to the fire academy that there is a need for additional funding.

Homeland security money will enable us to hire a training coordinator to help with the added training we will be able to provide. The technical rescue training is starting the third week of June in South Burlington and will be going on each month through the fall.

The new director of Emergency Management started on June 13, 2005; her name is Barbara Farr. She has been in private business and has worked with state, county and local government in disaster and mitigation planning.

VERMONT FIRE SAFETY HOUSES

Richard McGrath, Fire Safety Education Specialist

The Fire Safety House program is in its 10th year of providing fire safety messages to the communities of Vermont.

These programs included visits to schools, safety days, health fairs, summer camps, community celebrations and fire departments' open house, barbecues and "wet downs". We offer one-day training programs at regional fire schools that prepare firefighters to be more involved with fire safety education and the use of the Fire Safety House trailers.

The largest number of children exposed to Home Fire Safety is during the school season. At all the stops made at schools the same statement by teachers was heard, "***What a great program.***" Even those children who had experienced the trailers in prior years showed how effective the training has been by recounting the catch phrases used in the presentations, and are receptive to the new props.

Early in June there was a request by the Beecher Falls Fire Department for one of our Fire Safety House trailers to visit an elementary school just over the border into Colebrook, New Hampshire. The original trailer was utilized to present fire safety messages to 138 children and 24 adults. The program was well received and the local Fire Departments are looking forward to obtaining a similar trailer in the near future. This is another aspect of "mutual aid" by the sharing of non-emergency resources.

It is through the efforts of local fire departments that this program continues to grow. The fire prevention initiatives put forward by both small and large departments are in the forefront of face to face community contact. The use of the Fire Safety House is but another tool or prop that can be added as a resource for communicating fire safety to the local townspeople.

When scheduling for fire safety education projects for 2005, consider using one of the Fire Safety House trailers. For additional information contact Bob Howe at 1-800-640-2106 or Dick McGrath at (802) 879-2308.

FIRE SAFETY HOUSE SCHEDULE FOR 2005—(Tentative)

Programs for the month of July:

July 2 - Stowe -#2
July 3 - Stowe -#2, Pittsford #1
July 4 - Worcester - #2
July 6 - Hinesburg #1
July 8,9,10 - East Montpelier #1
July 12 - Burlington -#2
July 16 - Lyndonville - #1
July 19 - Fire Academy #1 & #2
July 20 - Fire Academy #1 & #2
July 21 - Camp Johnson -#1
July 23 - Northfield -#1
July 30 - Jamaica -#2

Programs for the month of August:

Aug. 2 - Austine Camp for Hearing Impaired #1
Aug. 3 - Hinesburg - #1
Aug. 4 - Camp Johnson #1
Aug. 6 - So. Barre - #2
Aug. 11 - Bennington - #2
Aug. 12 - Bennington - #2
Aug. 13 - Bennington - #2, St. Albans #1
Aug. 14 - Bennington - #2
Aug. 25 - Newport #1
Aug. 27 - Beecher Falls #1

Programs for the month of September:

Sept. 4 - Bakersfield -#2
Sept. 5 - Thetford #2
Sept. 10 - Bethel - #2, Whiting #1
Sept. 17 - Georgia - #1, Brattleboro - #2
Sept. 22 - Proctorsville - #1
Sept. 24 - Vergennes - #2, Colchester - #1
Sept. 25 - Berlin #1

Programs for the month of October:

Oct. 1 - Rutland - #1
Oct. 4 - Wells River - #1
Oct. 5 - Bristol - #1
Oct. 6 - Warren/Waitsfield - #2
Oct. 7 - Warren/Waitsfield - #2, Bethel - #1
Oct. 8 - South Hero - #2
Oct. 9 - Bristol - #2
Oct. 10 - Cabot - #1
Oct. 11 - South Royalton - #1, No. Bennington - #2
Oct. 12 - Rutland #1
Oct. 13 - Rutland #1
Oct. 14 - West Dummerston - #1
Oct. 15 - Essex - #2
Oct. 16 - Winooski #2

Rutland City Fire

*Submitted by Frank Cioffi, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Rutland Office*

On Friday May 13 at approximately 00:39 hours the Rutland City Fire Department responded to an abandoned car fire on Traverse Place in Rutland City. At 03:08 hours a call was received from the tenants at 37 Cottage Street stating that someone had started a fire under the fire escape, and it was out. An engine crew was dispatched to check out the incident. Upon arrival the fire department found an approximately 35 gallon plastic trash container partially burned near the fire escape. The tenants stated they extinguished the fire and removed the container from underneath the fire escape prior to calling the fire department.

At 03:17 while still at 37 Cottage Street a call was received reporting a structure fire at 69 ½ Pine Street. Upon fire department arrival a male occupant from the second floor

apartment was found lying on the front porch roof with flames showing from all visible 2nd floor windows. The victim on the front porch roof had exited the structure through an egress window located just above the porch roof; he had to be assisted to the ground by fire department personnel. At this time a large vacant structure directly across the street (68 Pine Street) was showing heavy fire from the first floor windows.

The victim that was removed from the roof of the structure sustained cuts and bruises but no major injuries; no other injuries were reported for any of the incidents. The structure at 69 ½ Pine Street sustained heavy fire and water damage to the roof and second floor, the structure at 68 Pine Street was totally destroyed. At this time a male subject has been charged with arson in the car fire. The remaining incidents have been classified as suspicious and are under investigation by the Vermont State Police Arson Investigation unit and the Rutland City Police Department

Division of Fire Safety Training Update—Summer 2005

Submitted by Bruce Martin, Springfield Regional Manager

As the adoption of updated codes and standards approaches, several training sessions have been planned to provide division staff, municipal inspectors and interested fire service personnel an opportunity to become familiar with these proposed codes.

The training dates and locations are:

August 24 & 25- NFPA 1(2003 Ed.), The Uniform Fire Code by James Dolan.

At the Old Dorm, V.T.C., Randolph Ctr., Vt.

August 30 & 31- NFPA 101(2003 Ed.), the Life Safety Code by Robert Solomon. At the Old Dorm, V.T.C., Randolph Ctr., Vt.

September - Date and place to be determined, the International Building Code (2003 Ed.) by ICC staff.

City of Burlington Fire

*Submitted by Burlington Fire Department
Office of the City Fire Marshal*

On Thursday, June 2nd, the Burlington Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at 20 Crowley Street, the Samuel D. Champlain Club. Apparatus began to arrive on the scene within a minute. When the department arrived, smoke was showing from one side of the structure around a window frame and from a kitchen vent. A hand line (hose) was deployed to the second floor where firefighters encountered a moderate smoke condition. Crews immediately began to pull the interior walls apart and remove the window and its framing directly above the kitchen; this is done to expose fire hidden in the walls of the building. A second hand line was pulled to the lower level into the kitchen and crews pulled down ceilings to expose the fire traveling through ceiling/floor assembly of the old club. The attic was checked for fire extension while crews worked on level one and two and the fire was quickly brought under control by the aggressive actions of the fire department.

Old Buildings like 20 Crowley Street pose a difficult scenario

to firefighters all over the country. They were constructed during an era when fire protection and fire behavior were not taken into consideration unlike today. As they are today, most two or three story buildings were made of wood construction around the turn of the century. However, builders were using old growth lumber to build these homes; therefore it was not uncommon for wall studs to be 30 feet in length. The individual floors are then tied into the wall studs and the exterior sheathing, siding, and interior finishes are put in place. This style of construction leaves a void space from foundation to attic and wall to wall in which fire can freely travel throughout the structure.

It is absolutely critical for fire departments to receive early notification, have a quick response time, and have intimate knowledge of how fire behaves in these and all other structures in order to effectively fight a fire. On Thursday and every day all of those elements were and are in place in the City of Burlington. The firefighters that responded did an outstanding job at keeping the fire from extending throughout the building and through their efforts an old and historic Burlington structure will once again be alive with activity.

VFIRS - Vermont Fire Incident Reporting System

*Submitted by Stan Baranowski, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Barre Office*

Current statistics (as of June 14, 2005)
Total incidents reported 8522
Fires 897 - EMS 4111 - Other 3501

Data Quality and Timely Reporting:

The proper coding and timely reporting of incidents will result in a better understanding of the magnitude the fire problem and other fire department activities in the State of Vermont.

- The above counts are a little over half of what was reported for the same time period in 2004. Records show that only 107 departments have submitted reports for 2005. Reports must be submitted as soon as possible after the incident. Vermont State Statute requires fire incidents to be submitted within 5 days. Realistically, incidents need to be submitted at least monthly. The sooner reports are submitted the sooner the information can be used at the local, state, and federal levels for such things as product recalls or tracking seasonal fire activity. Also submitting on a monthly (or shorter time period) will help identify and correct problems in the file transfer before many months or a year of data is effected.
- Those departments that have received a USFA or Vermont Home Land Security grant must report all incidents and these must be reported in an electronic format.
- Invalid incidents: Invalid incidents are reports that do not pass the NFIRS specification validation rules and are flagged for critical errors. This includes such things as blank required fields, missing modules, invalid code entries, and using outdated software. Invalid incidents cannot be released by the State for use by the USFA nor are they included in the web based reports on the NFIRS website. Invalid incidents are in most cases unusable by the State in our data analysis. Incidents that are invalid or contain errors must be corrected. Statewide about 2% of all incidents currently in the State database are invalid, while some departments have a many as 57% invalid (and few have all invalid incidents).
- Incomplete incidents: Incomplete incidents are reports where non-required fields are left blank. The report may be valid because the required fields were completed but the report may still be missing important information. All non-required fields must be filled in to give a more complete picture of the incident.
- Codes 0 and 9: Codes ending in 0 or 9 should be avoided for data entry. These are generally "other" within a category. The system has many code chooses for each field, so a more specific code usually can be used. The use of "other" codes hinders data analysis when the question is specific to a particular code or group of codes.
- No activity reporting: if a department has no activity during a month this should still be reported using the "No Activity" check box on the USFA software or appropriate box on vendor software. Reporting no activity is different than not reporting. Not reporting leaves the question if incidents are not being reported or was there no activity.
- 4.1 format: a reminder to all departments that the old 4.1 format is no longer acceptable for submitting reports as of January 2005.

Data quality is important at all levels to show a more complete and accurate picture of the incident. With complete valid reports the overall fire problem and department activities can be better understood.

The Division does want to thank those departments that submit timely and complete valid incident reports. The above information is intended to help all departments but especially to provide some guidance to those departments with data quality problems.

If you have any questions on fire incident reporting contact Asst. State Fire Marshal Stanley Baranowski at (802) 479-7575 or sbaranow@dps.state.vt.us

Fire Fact

*Submitted by Robert Patterson
Williston Regional Manager*

NFPA reports that fires caused by candles has tripled on an annual basis since the early 1990's. In 2003, candle fires alone in the U.S. were responsible for over 18,000 fires.

For those fire departments with an occasional candle fire, the problem may seem insignificant and not worth reporting. The national incident reporting system paints a much larger picture identifying fire causes in broad terms and allows us to work on prevention efforts that deal with specific fire problems. If your fire department doesn't presently report to the State NIFRS reporting system, please consider it. It will help make a difference.

INFORMATION ON SPARKLERS, FIREWORKS & the ANNUAL FIREWORKS INJURY SURVEY

Robert Howe, Chief Fire Prevention Officer

Sparklers less than 14 inches long with no more than 20 grams of pyrotechnic mixture and novelty sparkling items limited to snakes, party poppers, glow worms, smoke devices, string poppers, snappers, or drop pops with no more than 0.25 grains of explosive mixture, that are in compliance with United States Consumer Product Safety Commission regulations, are now legal for sale and use in Vermont. Additional details on legal and illegal devices are available on the website at <http://www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/sparklers.htm>.

In order to evaluate the impact of injuries and property loss from sparklers and fireworks the Division of Fire Safety, Department of Public Safety, will again conduct a survey of emergency departments and ambulance service providers for the time frame from June 23, 2005 to July 23, 2005 to supplement the information received through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) fire data reporting system. The time frame selected for the survey is the same research time frame used by the U. S. Fire Administration and the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. NFIRS does not break down the source of ignition by type of firework device so each fire department will need to supplement the NFIRS fire report with information on any fire caused by legal sparklers, permitted public fireworks displays or illegal fireworks. The supplemental information must be provided to Assist. Fire Marshal Baranowski as soon as possible after the fire: at sbaranow@dps.state.vt.us or (802) 479-7575. To gather more detailed information on injuries from sparklers and fireworks a survey is being sent to all emergency departments and ambulance service providers. Ambulance personnel need to report all injuries from sparklers and fireworks whether the injured person is transported or treated at the scene. Emergency departments would only report injuries to people who were not transported by ambulance.

The Division of Fire Safety is promoting public awareness on the appropriate use of sparklers and novelty sparkling items, and the risks associated with illegal fireworks that are prohibited for sale and use, except as part of a public fireworks display. Information is being sent directly to all emergency departments, ambulance service providers, fire departments, and police agencies. Public service safety announcements are also planned to get safety information to the public.

All fireworks, not including sparklers and novelty sparkling items, are illegal in Vermont except for permitted supervised public fireworks displays. A permit for a display is obtained from the chief of the fire department after it is determined by the fire and police chief that the fireworks display will be handled by a competent operator in a manner that will not be hazardous to people or property. Application for a permit must be made at least 15 days in advance of the fireworks display. A permit is non-transferable. Information on the definitions, prohibitions, permits, seizure and penalties in Vermont law regarding sparklers and fireworks are located in 20 V.S.A. 3131, 3132 and 3135.

A sample fireworks display permit and a checklist for a public fireworks display are also available on the website to assist fire departments in developing local permits and procedures to evaluate permit requests. The sample checklist includes some information from NFPA 1123. More complete information on the qualifications of operators, the selection of display areas, discharge and fall out areas, site security and crowd control, and the operation of the fireworks display is included in NFPA 1123. The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standard 1123, Code for Fireworks Display, and NFPA 1124, Code for the Manufacture, Transportation, Storage and Retail Sales of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles, are adopted under the Vermont Fire Prevention & Building Code. Both codes are available at www.nfpa.org or 1-800-344-3555.

In addition to the permit from the fire chief there is now an additional federal requirement for a public fireworks display. Effective May 24, 2003, a permit is required from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF) to contract for, purchase or receive display fireworks. The contract, purchase or receipt of Class 'C', or consumer fireworks, as part of a public fireworks display, does not require an ATF permit, but a permit from the fire chief is still required. A municipality is exempt from the requirement to have an ATF permit to contract for, purchase or receive display fireworks.

For additional information on sparklers, fireworks or related topics contact:

Robert M. Howe, Assist. State Fire Marshal,
1.800.640.2106 or rhowe@dps.state.vt.us

State's Attorney Helps Fire Safety Division Enforce Life Safety Codes

Submitted by Dirk Anderson, Staff Attorney

As a general rule, the Fire Safety Division works cooperatively with building owners in order to ensure that buildings meet fire and life safety codes. In rare cases, the department will issue administrative penalties and orders of the commissioner in order to bring about code compliance. When even administrative enforcement measures fail to get a building owner's attention, the Vermont legislature has extended enforcement authority to the state's attorney in each county. It is not often that the Division calls on the state's attorney for help, but in one recent case, the state's attorney obliged, and a recalcitrant St. Albans building owner found himself in jail.

Ronald Cyr owns a building on Lake Street in St. Albans that has been a fire hazard, a public safety headache,

and an eyesore for many years. In 2002, the Fire Safety Division ordered the building closed, and worked with local social services to relocate the two remaining tenants. Since then, the building has been ordered boarded up, with mixed results. Finally, when it became obvious that the building had deteriorated further, and was being used for criminal activity, Franklin County State's attorney Jim Hughes worked with the Fire Safety Division to get a superior court judge to order the building demolished. When even that failed to get results, a judge approved an arrest warrant request from the state's attorney, and Mr. Cyr wound up spending several days in jail. The judge in the case told Mr. Cyr that if he didn't comply with the order, another arrest warrant would be issued.

The Fire Safety Division would like to thank Franklin County State's Attorney Jim Hughes for helping us enforce the law, and for taking fire safety seriously.

Credentialing and Resource Typing: What are they?

Chief Jim Litevich, Vermont Fire Academy

During the past few months, you may have heard some discussion about credentialing and resource typing especially when referring to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). These two terms are very different but at the same time they are very similar as to what type of information is to be collected.

The basic difference is that "credentialing" refers to personnel and their fire service qualifications / certifications and "resource typing" deals with equipment (vehicles mostly) and its qualifications / capabilities. Both efforts are trying to standardize, identify (with a common fire service terminology) and organize resources – human and mechanical for the most effective response to any size emergency.

Why do we need to worry about credentialing and resource typing? It's simple, for the safe and efficient management / mitigation of large scale incidents – natural and man made. Sure you are probably are aware of your neighboring department's new pumper and how that department "mans" their mutual aid responses. You may in fact know each of the firefighters (and their capabilities) that will be coming over to help. Now, what about the next town over from your neighbor or the next town over from them? Not as clear is it? In fact, I'll bet that if you go more than four towns over and try to assess their capabilities, you would have a pretty tough time remembering or even knowing their capabilities much less know what to expect when they show up on scene.

That's where the credentialing of personnel can help. If firefighters have an ID (credential) badge with their basic ID information and training certifications clearly and simply identified, wouldn't that be a good thing for the Incident Commander, Operations Chief or Staging Area Manager to know of and recognize those capabilities before that person is assigned firefighting tasks? Wouldn't that be safer for the firefighter, too!

Sure it would be, Chiefs and Company Officers can make better informed strategic decisions with that kind of information up front as well. I think Clint Eastwood said it best in the movie "The Outlaw Josey Wales" – "A man's got to know his limitations ...". Credentialing does just that. Credentialing assists the fire ground commander in knowing the capabilities and limitations of the firefighting force at his disposal. I think this could help to minimize injuries to personnel, don't you?

Now let's take a brief look at resource typing. This task deals with identifying the attributes of existing resources and applying them to standardized models. It really isn't that hard to accomplish resource typing as the standardized models already exist. In fact, the information is on the NIMS website at: www.fema.gov/nims, follow the resource management / mutual aid link to the typing information. All we have to do is figure out where our department's vehicles / equipment fit into those standardized types.

If this resource typing can be accomplished and the need arises to mobilize a lot of equipment, emergency responders / managers can order specific resources based on those types and know ahead of time what that equipment is capable of

upon arrival at the staging area. This will also minimize the unnecessary response of equipment that is not needed for that specific emergency.

Currently in the state of Vermont, there are people working on these tasks from each response entity – fire – law enforcement and EMS. For questions on the efforts for credentialing and resource typing, please contact me at the fire academy, for law enforcement, please contact Dave McMullen at the police academy – 483-6228 and for the EMS effort, contact Dan Manz – 863-7310.

The fire committee, comprised from the fire organizations, has met a couple of times and is in the process of setting the minimum criteria for issuing credentials and is working on the most efficient process to develop in order to collect resource typing information. If anyone is interested in assisting in this important task, let me know as there is much yet to accomplish.

Please understand upfront that the Fire Chief is the final authority as to which resources – human and/or mechanical, will be made available in the event of a large incident in state. It is the Fire chief that will decide who from the FD will obtain a credential and be able to represent the FD. It is the Fire chief that will decide which equipment can/will go to support the personnel to avoid stripping the town of coverage.

The final goal: the credentialing and resource typing information will reside in a database at Vermont Emergency Management and will become available to assist the emergency managers in mobilizing needed equipment and trained personnel to a large scale incident.

I hope this article helps you to understand these issues a little better. This system has existed in the wildland fire community for over 20 years now and it does work well. It is amazing to see an open field be transformed into a base camp with food service, ICS quarters, check in area, supply areas, vehicle areas, camping areas, shower units, restrooms, telephone service etc. for 500 + firefighters in about three days. This system can work for the structural community as well. It will take some work to set this system up in Vermont but it will be well worth it in the future. Hopefully though, we will not ever need to use it.

Once the Credentialing / resource typing committee establishes its priorities, the committee will be in contact with all VT FD's with further information on how to assist in making this work.

If you have any questions, let me know, thanks and stay safe.

Vermont Fire Academy Training Schedule for July 2005

Course	Location	Date
Hazardous Materials Decon TTT	Vermont Fire Academy	July 8,9
VT Hazardous Materials Response Team(Monthly drill)	TBD	July 16, 17
Intro. To Flammable Gas	Craftsbury	July 15,16
Intro. To Fire Service (American Legion Cadet program)	Vermont Police Academy	July 12
Displays / Activities	VT Army/Air Guard Family Support	July 21
Flashover	Proctorsville FD	July ?
Flashover	Essex Town FD	July 16,17

The Division of Fire Safety Recognizes Special Fire Prevention Efforts

Submitted by Micheal Greenia, Assistant State Fire Marshal—Williston Office

UNDERHILL - Recently a special awards ceremony was held in Underhill to recognize the special fire prevention efforts of the local school and the fire department.

The Division of Fire Safety along with the fire department bestowed a special recognition award to the Underhill ID School for having 7 winners in the state fire safety calendar over the years.

The fire safety calendar provides an important educational link to fire safety in the home, by having fire safety messages learned in school and repeated at home through out the year.



"Over the years, the students of the Underhill ID School have excelled in using art and design to educate the public about protecting themselves from injury or death caused by fire. The artwork and safety messages created by the students have helped to increase fire safety awareness not only in the towns of Underhill and Jericho but statewide," said John Wood Division Director.

The director also recognized the special efforts of the Underhill - Jericho Fire Department with a special award. The UJFD is a department with a deep commitment to fire prevention. Fire prevention education is a year round venture at the department and involves everyone from the Chief to the newest firefighter. The department holds numerous fire prevention events threw out the year, which are coordinated by the department's fire prevention committee, and organized by chairperson Kitty Clark.

The event was also reported by (WCAX) Channel 3 News.

It was just another school day for 9-year-old Marina Bowie. But how she got to school made her trip unique. The Underhill -Jericho Fire Department drove Marina to school in a fire truck as part of her prize for winning a special spot in this year's fire safety and prevention calendar. Thousands of the third graders submit their drawings into the contest but out of the 13 winners, Marina's made the cover.

((DFS Director John Wood: Marina's submission was 911. 911 is fairly new in the state and it's a good message for the people to know that you just need to dial 911 in an emergency in the community and she did a nice job of presenting that.))

((Marina Bowie: is she on the phone? Yes she's calling 911. How did you learn about 911? My family talked about it at home a lot and we talked about it at school.))

((Chief Randy Clark: if you can start that education early whether it's smoke detectors, escape plans, and being careful while cooking and not playing with fire, it will stick with them through their life.)) In the last 14 years, artwork from seven Underhill I-D students has appeared in the calendar.

At a special assembly at Underhill I-D, her peers applauded her achievement and the fire chief declared May 31st 2005 -- Marina Bowie Day. While her calendar cover helps fire officials get the word out about 911, this third grader says she doesn't want to put out the flames of fame just yet. ((it's exciting. It's fun. I don't think I'll ever get to do that again.)) Jessica Abo. Channel 3 News.

The news article is only one example of how the Underhill - Jericho Fire Department promotes efforts to make fire prevention a part of our daily lives by never passing up an opportunity to teach about fire safety.

Sprinkler Success Story—Merchants Bank ATM Lobby

*Submitted by Ken Pease, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Barre Office*

On June 19, 2005 a fire was reported at the Merchants Bank ATM Lobby located at 105 North Main Street, Barre. Upon arrival the fire department noticed that a sprinkler head had activated and was flowing water. The sprinkler head extinguished the fire while smoke in the area was still visible. With the use of the thermal imaging camera two hot spots were found with no fire extension. Sprinklers systems when installed and maintained properly provide an effective fire protection tool for fire departments and the community.

Fire Fact

*Submitted by Ken Pease, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Barre Office*

Fire Reports (2003): The National Fire Protection Association reported that most calls to U.S. fire departments in 2003 were medical aid and false alarms. Fire Departments responded to 13.6 million medical assistance calls and 2.2 million false alarms. Fire Departments responded to 1.6 million actual fires, which was down 6 percent. Since 1983, medical calls and false alarm responses have doubled in number. Medical Aid calls now account for about 61% of fire department calls, and false alarms account for about 10 percent. (Source, NFPA Journal May/June 2005)

PROPOSED RULES REGARDING CO DETECTION AND PREVENTION

Robert Howe, Chief Fire Prevention Officer

CO detectors were not required under the 1999 Vermont Fire Prevention & Building Code and there also have not been requirements for the installation of CO detectors in single-family dwellings in Vermont. That has now changed. Act 19 of the Legislative Session now establishes requirements for CO detection and prevention for both single-family dwellings and public buildings. The law specifies that beginning July 1, 2005 new owner occupied single-family dwellings, and dwellings that are sold or transferred, must have CO detectors installed in the immediate vicinity of any bedrooms. New construction must have CO detectors that are wired in with battery back up.

The requirements for CO detection and prevention in public buildings, including multi-family and rental dwellings, are being developed under the administrative rulemaking process and will be in effect October 1, 2005. The following requirements are being proposed:

- CO detectors to be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms for all multi-family and rental dwellings.
- CO detectors to be installed in the vicinity of each sleeping area in daycares.
- CO detectors to be installed in any corridor that is in the immediate vicinity of sleeping rooms in health care and residential care.
- CO detectors to be installed in any corridor that is in the immediate vicinity of sleeping rooms, or where there is no corridor, in each sleeping room, in hotels and dormitories. Where suites are provided CO detectors to be placed the same as in multi-family dwellings.
- CO detectors to be installed in accordance with NFPA 720, 2003 edition. CO detectors are designed to meet Underwriters Laboratory test standards that require an alarm between 60 and 240 minutes if exposed to 70 ppm, between 10 and 50 minutes if exposed to 150 ppm and an alarm between 4 and 15 minutes if exposed to 400 ppm.
- CO detectors to be installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Because CO is similar to air in weight most manufactures permit installation at heights ranging from 18" of the floor to the ceiling. Most manufactures also list recommended locations in addition to detector locations required by the code.
- CO detectors to be directly wired in to a non-dedicated branch circuit with battery back up. Existing construction may use battery operated or plug in CO detectors until October 1, 2007.
- Gas fired heating appliances to be inspected by a qualified person every two years beginning November 2006.
- The number of hours of related training for certification renewal for gas and oil heat technicians to be increased to 15 hours in three years.
- Positive pressure ventilation to be provided for occupied spaces adjacent or accessory to parking structures.

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

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