



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

June 2007



FIRE NOTES

On May 18th The Division of Fire Safety Unveiled it's New and Improved Web Site

Take a Look at

www.vtfiresafety.org

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Director's Message

John G. Wood

I have just returned from the Montpelier Fire Department where Governor James Douglas signed S-194, the Cancer Presumption Bill. As you can see in the photo there were a large number of firefighters in attendance; volunteer, paid on call, and career firefighters joined the Governor and members of the General Assembly for this special occasion and signing. Governor Douglas, a long time supporter of the fire service, spoke about the importance of protecting the firefighters of the State and of recognizing the many known dangers firefighters willingly face in their efforts to save lives and property. He mentioned the fact that the bill requires individuals to be tobacco free for 10 years and that cancer screenings are a must; this will make for healthier firefighters in the future.



Governor Jim Douglas Signs S-194 Cancer Presumption Bill

South Burlington Fire Captain Matt Vinci, Chairman of the Coalition of Fire and Rescue Services, worked nearly every day on this bill and kept the Coalition members informed of the bill's progress during the session. The Coalition members worked very hard on the bill while keeping their members updated, and when needed attended legislative committee meeting to both testify and show support. He recognized Senator Vincent Illuzzi for helping to sheppard the bill through the legislative process, and thanked both the House of Representatives and the Senate for all the work they put into this bill, which will benefit the firefighters of the State.

As a fire officer and firefighter you might be asking what does this mean to me and how does this benefit me and/or my family. What it means is if you meet the requirements and should get one of the cancers mentioned in the law you would then be covered for workers compensation while out of work at 662/3 of your pay, health care bills would be paid, and a death benefit would be available for the family.

We all hope this benefit will never be used, but we also know the real world we live and work in. It also means that the burden of proof is on the insurance company, not the insured. This is a tremendous benefit for the fire service, but you will need to be aware of the risks and follow the requirements of the law if you want to be covered by this benefit.

This bill passed in one session because of the hard work of the Coalition, their lobbyist, and the chairman of the coalition. It was also successful because of the resources available to the coalition through the Professional Firefighter of Vermont. This is the kind of success that the fire service can and will continue to have if they continue to speak with one voice and support the organizations that are working on their behalf. Hats off to all of those who made it happen, congratulations.

What does it mean to be a Fire Department Training Officer?

by Jim Litevich Chief Fire Service Training Officer

What does it mean to be a Fire Department Training Officer? I wish the answer was as simple as the question. Basically, there are many facets to being an FD Training Officer. As the Training Officer (T.O), your firefighters look to you for information on firefighting. They look to you for conducting meaningful monthly drills and they look to you for advice on how to be a safer and more effective firefighter.

Here's another question – what does it take to be a good Training Officer? An acceptable place to start would be to become a certified firefighter and set the example for others in your department to follow. A T.O. should also seek to attain higher levels of firefighter training throughout their time in the fire service – such as Firefighter II and Fire Officer I and II as they are available – again, leading by example.

Another critical program to ensure success as a T.O. is to become a certified Fire and Emergency Services Instructor. This program will take the T.O. into the principles of learning, student attributes and behaviors, effective interpersonal communication and then through student progress and evaluation testing. Once finished with the Instructor program, the T.O. will become a better presenter

and have a greater understanding of presenting information in a more comprehensive and competent manner to personnel that have little time to spend on training in the first place. We owe it to our students to not waste their time with poorly presented and constructed programs.

“An FD Training Officer position requires leadership to be successful. In order for members to want to attend your training sessions, the T.O. needs to offer worthwhile training. The successful T.O. will have firefighters asking for training, being willing to participate in training and being supportive of your efforts”. (National Fire Academy – *Training Operations in Small Departments*, Student Manual p. SM 1-7, May 2005)

Ultimately, a successful T.O. will build safer, more effective and efficient firefighters. After all is said and done, safety for our personnel is the reason why we conduct training in the first place.

Good luck in your efforts as a Training Officer and if you need assistance with ideas and planning, please let us know. We'll be glad to assist. Stay Safe.

DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY UNVEILS NEW WEB SITE

On May 18th the division of fire safety unveiled its new and improved web site. In an effort to provide improved service to Vermonters the site has been completely redesigned to make it easier to use and read. Visitors will find many new interesting areas of information about the divisions programs and services.

The site has been designed to be the premiere resource for fire safety information in the state. The site now includes detailed code information sheets and forms for people who work in public buildings in addition to fire facts and links to additional fire safety resources for the fire service and the general public.

The division of fire safety provides a number of services related to the safety of residents and guests of the State. This new site provides one more tool to allow the division to carry out its multi-faceted mission to protect the public and the fire service with coordinated efforts in code enforcement, fire service training, public education, hazardous materials and incident investigation.

This new site was developed with the assistance of the division staff along with members of the public and includes hundreds of hours of work, particularly by Mike Raycraft, Sylva Martin, Mike Greenia and Bob Howe who were the main design team that made the improvements possible.



Visit the new page at:

www.vtfiresafety.org

Smoke Alarm Saves Family of 4

By Stephen Leinoff, Assistant Fire Chief - Hartford Fire Department

The Adler family was saved when a smoke alarm alerted them to a fire. Adam Adler was the first one to wake up when the smoke alarm sounded. He woke up his wife Alexandra and their two children, Isabelle (age 4) and Lilly (age 7). Mr. Adler could see a wall of flame through a rear window of his house as they exited. They went to a neighbor's house to call 911. Mr. Adler credited the Hartford Fire Department's public education program for teaching the children to remain calm and take the proper actions in the event of a fire. A working smoke alarm increases your chance to survive a fire by 50 percent. This incident goes in the "Win" column for smoke alarms. This, coupled with the family doing all the right things, led to a safe family and minimal property damage.

The Adler's two dogs both survived the fire. One escaped with the Adlers; the other was found by Lieutenant David Rowlee during a secondary search of the building.

The fire damaged about an eight foot square section of the rear corner of the house. The fire damaged exterior siding, floor joists, a deck, windows and the fascia and soffit area of the house. There was light smoke damage throughout the house.

The first crew on scene knocked down the fire in seconds. Additional crews were needed to check for fire extension and salvage. The Hartford Fire Department was assisted at the scene by the Lebanon and Woodstock Fire Department. The Norwich and Hanover Fire Departments provided station coverage at Hartford Station 1 and Woodstock covered Hartford Station 2.

The fire is being investigated by the Hartford Fire Department. The preliminary determination is that the fire originated near or under the deck on the rear of the building. A discarded cigarette is a possible ignition source.

The fire occurred at 01:11 AM on April 25, 2007. The building is owned by Procter Lippincott, father of Alexandra Lippincott. The Adlers were staying there while work was being done on their home.



Smoke Detector Saves Another Life in Hartford

By Scott Cooney, Lieutenant - Hartford Fire Department

May 3, 2007 at 03:57 am the Hartford Fire Department responded to a reported building fire at 22 Maplewood Terrace in White River Junction. The first arriving unit found a 2 ½ story two unit building with all occupants evacuated from the building. Crews discovered a moderate smoke condition on all floors with no visible fire. During investigation of the basement a fire was discovered near the area of the furnace and hot water heater and was quickly extinguished.

Wendy Mosconas, the occupant of the fire unit, had a dramatic escape from the early morning fire. A newly installed smoke alarm sounded and awakened her from sleep in the second floor bedroom. She encountered smoke and had to escape through a second story window and down over a porch roof to the ground. She then ran to a neighbor's home to call 911. The women had minor cuts from breaking out a window.

During the fire one dog was successfully rescued from the fire unit by Hartford Firefighter David Powell and Lieutenant Cooney.

The fire originated in the basement. Smoke spread throughout the building through the hot air heating duct work. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Hanover and Lebanon Fire Departments responded mutual aid.

The basement had fire, heat and smoke damage. The unit is not habitable. American Red Cross is providing assistance.



PROPERTIES OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

The majority of HAZMAT incidents both in Vermont and nationally have to do with spills or leaks of petroleum based products. These include LP-Gas, diesel fuel, gasoline, kerosene, methyl ethyl ketone and ethyl alcohol. It is very likely that your fire department will encounter some of these in the near future and having a basic understanding of the properties will assist you in managing the response safely. Below you will find the definitions of the physical and chemical properties that are associated with combustible and flammable liquids.

- **Flash Point**-The minimum temperature that a liquid must be heated to produce a vapor that will flash when an ignition source is present. Generally this number is used to give a relative idea how flammable it is. For instance gasoline has a flash point of -50F, so on a normal day in Vermont it is likely it will be warm enough to give off flammable vapors. Kerosene has a flash point of 150F and we know Kerosene is much less likely to give off flammable vapors.
- **Fire Point**- This is the temperature at which a liquid gives off enough vapor to sustain combustion when there is an ignition source present. This differs from a flash point in that the combustion will continue. Often times this temperature is close to the flash point and the flash point is more useful to the responder.
- **Flammable Range**- The flammable range is made up of the Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) and the Upper Explosive Limit (UEL). The LEL is the lowest concentration of a vapor in air that is ignitable while the UEL is the highest concentration that is ignitable. For gasoline the range is from 1.3% to 7.1% in air. So if the concentration is .5% it is too lean and if it is 10% it is too rich to burn. Compare this to Acetylene which has a flammable range of 2% to 100%.
- **Vapor Density**- This is the relative weight of the vapor as compared to air which is assigned the value of 1. So if the vapor density is greater than 1 the vapor will settle to the ground and if it is less than 1 it will rise. Gasoline has a vapor density of 3-4 so it will stay close to the ground and seek low areas, while methane has a vapor density of .55 so it will rise.
- **Specific Gravity**-This has to do with liquids and not gases. Similar to vapor density specific gravity compares a liquid's proclivity to sink or float as compared to water which is given the value of 1. Gasoline has a specific gravity of .73 so it will float while chlorobenzene has a specific gravity of 1.1 indicating it will sink.

These are just a few of the important properties that help us understand how chemicals will react when they get out of containment.



Please remember to
use caution and to
call the HAZMAT
Team if you need any
assistance at :

1-800-641-5005



VFIRS – Vermont Fire Incident Reporting System

Current statistics 2007 (as of May 23, 2007)

Total incidents reported: 9922

Fires: 902 -- EMS: 4575 -- NonFire/NonEMS: 4430 -- No Activity: 8

Fire Departments reporting: 131

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

VFIRS News:

- Beginning in January 2008, the Division of Fire Safety will be collecting data in the age of buildings involved in fires. Before then the coding for this Special Study will be distributed to fire departments.
- Until January 2008, when sending in data/reports to this office (mail or email); please include your name, your department, the department FDID number, the date range of the data and a call back telephone number.
- The VFIRS web page can be located at www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/vfirs/.

If you have any questions about fire incident reporting contact **Assistant State Fire Marshal Stanley Baranowski** at (802) 479-7575 or sbaranow@dps.state.vt.us; or **Micheal Greenia** at (802) 479-7587 or mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us.



NFPA CFI PROGRAM – National Fire Protection Association Certified Inspector



The following just finished the NFPA CFI Program (National Fire Protection Association Certified Fire Inspector) held at Vermont Technical College this Spring. This class received in excess of thirty hours of instruction with a four hour final exam. In addition to the classroom hours many hours were required of self study by each participant. The class was instructed by Assistant State Fire Marshal Robert Patterson, and by Assistant State Fire Marshal Micheal D. Greenia. The attendees pictured from left to right are: Robert Stone, Wes Crider, Robert Sponable, Roland Brouillard, Terry Francis, Peter Maloska, Chuck Regala, Chris Herrick, Barry Simays, Roger Rixon, Robert Patterson, Landon Wheeler, David Raymond, Bob Robishaw, Christopher Dube, Michael Pelsor, Mark Meszaros, Todd Poole, David Rowlee, and Todd Fischer.



**National Fire
Protection Association**

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety



Code Highlights Technical Assistance

Fireworks Display – *A It is unlawful for any person to offer for sale, sell at retail or wholesale, possess, use or explode any fireworks except as permitted for a supervised public display of fireworks. A permit for a supervised public display of fireworks may be obtained from the Chief of the Fire Department, or in towns where there is no Fire Department from the board of selectman, where it is determined the display would not be hazardous to property or endanger the public. Application for a permit must be made at least 15 days in advance of the public fireworks display.*

A sample fireworks display permit and a checklist for a public fireworks display is available at:

www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/sparklers.htm 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 & Building Safety Code. Both codes are available at www.nfpa.org or 1-800-344-3555.



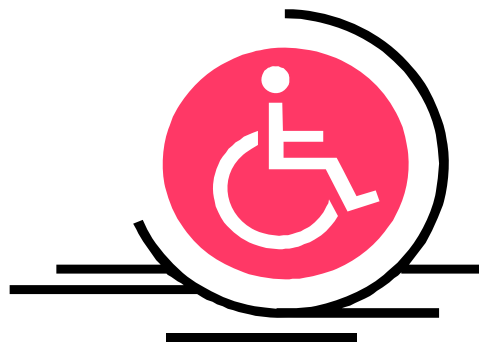
Home Structure Fires – The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recently published a report on home structure fires that included information on fires for one & two family dwellings, row houses, manufactured housing, apartments, tenements, flats, townhouses and condominiums. The study is based on data collected for the five-year period of 2000 – 2004. The information is very similar to the fire data information collected through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for Vermont. The report indicates that the most common cause of home fires was from cooking equipment and the most likely place for a fire to occur was in the kitchen. These fires were the most likely cause of fire injuries, but were not the leading cause of home fire deaths. Fires caused by smoking materials were the leading cause of fire deaths with fires starting in the living room, family room or den, as the most likely room of origin for a fatal fire. The report indicates that although 96% of all homes have at least one smoke alarm, 65% of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Previous Vermont data indicates a lower percentage of homes with at least one smoke alarm and a higher percentage of homes where fire deaths occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Each home should have smoke alarms outside of each separate sleeping area - in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping rooms, in all sleeping rooms and on each level of the dwelling unit including the basement. Both the photoelectric and ionization type of smoke alarms should be used for the best protection.

For additional details from the Home Structure Fire Report go to www.nfpa.org or osds@nfpa.org.

Robert Howe, Assistant State Fire Marshal

VERMONT ACCESS RULES - 2007



Effective Date: May 28, 2007
 available on line at VTFireSafety.org



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

www.vtfiresafety.org

CALENDAR OF

FIRE EVENTS

JUNE 2007

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	Contact
1	Fire Inspector Training VTC RANDOLH VT	DFS ~ Berlin
2 - 3	North Country International Regional Fire School ALBURG VT Hazardous Materials Decontamination STICO - Strategy and Tactics for the Intial Company Officer Hazardous Materials Operations Training Operations in Small Departments Incident Safety Officer SCBA w/ Drager Trailer	VT Fire Academy
3	North Country International Regional Fire School ALBURG VT Community Fire Prevention Class	DFS
4,5,8,9	Cambridge Fire Department Hazardous Materials Operations	VT Fire Academy
4,5,6	Hartford Swift Water	VT Fire Academy
5,7	UVM Hazardous Materials Awareness	VT Fire Academy
4,7,11,14	Tri-Mountain Emergency Assoc. Positioning, Theory & Operations for the Pumping Apparatus Driver/Operator	VT Fire Academy
11,12,13	Colchester P.D. ICS - 300	VT Fire Academy
12	Fair Haven Highway Safety	VT Fire Academy

VT Fire Service Training Council Meeting ~ June 4— DFS office Berlin
 VSFA Executive Board Meeting ~ June 10 ~ Pittsford
 VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ June 21 ~ DFS office Berlin

JULY 2007

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	Contact
8 - 14	VSFA - Cadet Academy Emergency Services Training Center Pittsford VT	VSFA VT Fire Academy
28 - 29	VSFA - State Firefighters Convention Middlebury VT	VSFA Addison County Fire Fighters Assn

VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ July 19 ~ DFS office Berlin

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION



Micheal D. Greenia

Asst State Fire Marshal Fire Safety Education Coordinator

Home Safety Month 2007

This year's Home Safety Month campaign theme – Hands on Home Safety – asks the public to take some simple hands-on steps to create a safer home environment from such leading hazards as falls, fires and burns, and poisonings.



Ask Americans where they feel safest and most will say their own home. However, unintentional injuries in the home result in nearly 21 million medical visits on average each year.

June is dedicated as Home Safety Month. The Home Safety Council dedicates the month of June each year to educate and empower both families and businesses to take actions that will make homes safe.

"We hope to bring attention to the serious problem of preventable home injuries and its leading causes: and falls, poisonings and fires and burns," says Meri-K Appy, president of the Home Safety Council. "Just a few simple steps can dramatically reduce the dangers in most homes and may even make a lifesaving difference."

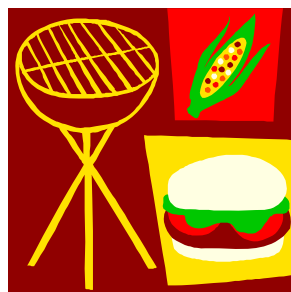
Summertime Safety

The summer season marks the time for families to enjoy some of America's traditional summer pastimes – barbecues, pool parties and backyard gatherings. However, family festivities could be interrupted by a trip to the emergency room if you don't follow simple steps to safeguard your family and friends against summer hazards.

Grilling Safety

According to the NFPA, gas and charcoal grills caused an average of 1,000 structure fires and 3,400 outdoor fires in or on home properties in 2001. To make sure your next barbecue doesn't go up in flames, follow these simple safety tips:

- Designate the grilling area a "No Play Zone" keeping kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.
- Before using, position your grill at least 3 feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes.



- Only use starter fluid made for barbecue grills when starting a fire in a charcoal grill.
- Before using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line to be sure it is working properly and not leaking.
- Never use a match to check for leaks. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill again until the leak is fixed.
- Never bring a barbecue grill indoors, or into any unventilated space. This is both a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazard.

Backyard Safety

- Wear protective goggles and ear protection while using outdoor machinery to prevent sight and hearing-loss injuries.
- Keep all garden tools out of children's reach and store them with tines, blades or spikes pointing downward.
- Fuel mowers outside and only when the motor is completely cool. If necessary, store small quantities of gasoline outside the home in a detached garage or shed, tightly sealed in an approved safety container and out of the sight and reach of children.
- Start the mower outdoors to avoid raising carbon monoxide levels inside the home or garage.
- Store pesticides in their original containers and out of the reach of children, and only mix and store pesticides in containers not used for eating or drinking.
- Always practice constant adult supervision around any body of water. Older children should not be left in charge of younger children in the pool area.
- Never swim alone. Even adults should always swim with a buddy.
- Learn and practice the basic lifesaving techniques, including First Aid and CPR. Insist that anyone who cares for your children learn CPR.



For additional information and resources to help you learn more and stay safe in and around your home, please visit the division of fire safety at www.vtfiredsafety.org or www.homesafetycouncil.org.

Vermont State Firefighters' Association

VSFA State Convention



One Hundred Eighteenth Annual
July 27th, 28, & 29th 2007



Hosted by Addison County Firefighters Assoc.

Schedule of Events

Friday, July 27, 2007

All Day- Tours of Popular Vermont Shops, Factories, and Breweries

Chicken Barbeque Town Green 5pm

Bazaar Town Green 4 pm

Entertainment-Bristol Town Band
Town Green 6pm

Executive Board Dinner TBA 7pm

Memorial Service Mead Chapel
Middlebury College 5pm

Fireworks Middlebury Rec Park Field
Court Street 9pm

Dance American Legion
49 Wilson Road, Middlebury 9pm

Saturday, July 28, 2007

Vendors
Nelson Arena Middlebury College 7am

Conference Registration
Memorial Sports Center Lobby Middlebury College 7am

Annual Meeting
Pepin Gymnasium Middlebury College 8:30am

Auxiliary Meeting
Kenyon 251 Middlebury College 8:30am

Sports Committee/Captains Meeting Kenyon Lounge
Middlebury College 10:30am

VSF A Sports Judges Luncheon Kenyon Lounge
Middlebury College 11:15am

Sporting Events Sports Complex Middlebury College

Line Up For Sports Parade 11:30am
Parade & Opening Ceremony 12:00pm

VSFA A Muster Games 12:15pm
Muster Games A ward Presentation 4:30 pm

VSFA Annual Banquet
American Legion 49 Wilson Road Middlebury
Social Hour 6pm
Dinner 7pm

Awards Presentation To Follow
Dance With DJ To Follow

Sunday, July 29, 2007

Conference Registration
Memorial Sports Center Lobby Middlebury College 7am

Vendors Nelson Arena 7am

Apparatus Judging Middlebury College 10am
Geiger Of Austria Parking Lot
38 Pond Lane Middlebury

VSF A Parade Line-up # 1 Porter Hospital 10am
North Parking Lot
South Street, Middlebury

VSF A Parade Line-up #2 10am
Sports Complex Parking Lot Middlebury College
South Main Street

VSF A Parade
Starts At : Sports Complex Middlebury College 12pm

Presentation of Awards Middlebury Fire Station # 1 2pm

For additional information please visit

www.vtfirefighters.org



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

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL & STATE FIRE ACADEMY

Central Office

1311 US Route 302—Berlin, 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

McFarland State Office Bldg.
5 Perry Street, Suite 200
Barre, VT 05641-4271
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