



DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND THE STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM

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www.vtfiresafety.org

FIRE SAFETY NEWS

November 2009

Director's Message

John G. Wood



ALL 2009 FIRE INCIDENT REPORTS DUE BY JANUARY 15, 2010

DON'T WAIT UNTIL JANUARY!

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET YOUR REPORTS SUBMITTED

By now you've all heard of the fiscal economic environment in the State. The economy is in a down turn and although there are signs of recovery we have not seen it turn around here yet. Some think because we are slower to go into the down turn we are slower to come out. State agencies and departments are currently working to overcome a shortfall in revenues in the amount of 7.4 million dollars. Reduction in force is the mandated fix for this shortfall. How has this affected the division of fire safety?

We currently have four vacant positions, two electrical inspectors in the southern part of the State (these two positions are currently under recruitment) one assistant fire marshal out of the Rutland office and one homeland security coordinator position at the fire academy. On a positive note we have not lost the positions up to this point. This has been a strain on the division, but the dedicated employees are picking up the extra workload and making it happen. Not always as quick as we would like or the customer would like, but it is getting accomplished. We expect this coming winter to be the toughest for budgets. Even though there is a projected \$200 million shortfall in revenues for the next two years in the State budget, we will do our very best to provide the service to our customers in a timely professional manner. This also gives us an opportunity to be creative, and explore new ways to do business while obtaining the same mission results.

October 5, 2009, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the new burn building at VTC in Randolph.

Senator Sanders and Governor Douglas attended the ceremonies and spoke about the importance of having a "state of the art" training prop for the Vermont fire service and the fire science students at VTC.

Representative Alice Emmons and Senator Phil Scott, chairpersons of the two Institution committees, spoke about the work that went into this project by the Senate and House of Representatives. This event was well attended by the fire service and all fire service organizations were represented.

The governor submitted \$100,000 in the capital budget last year for equipment to be used at the burn building. The legislators supported the money and I am happy to announce we've ordered the equipment.

Construction on the fire academy administration/classroom in Pittsford is about 70 percent complete. We hope to be using it for classes in early 2010.

We are starting new classes throughout the State and it has been reported that there is good attendance in all classes. We will continue to support the classes for Firefighter One and Firefighter Two. These classes are free to the students and departments including the class books and equipment used for training.

Our hope is to once again provide support for the regional schools, particularly for those classes that are council approved modules and programs funded by homeland security funds. This will depend entirely on available funding at the time.



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Code Highlights *Technical Assistance*

- q Photoelectric Smoke Alarms in Multi-family, Rental & Public Buildings – All newly installed smoke alarms, including replacement smoke alarms, are now required to be photoelectric. Combination photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms are not permitted. Existing ionization smoke alarms are not required to be replaced unless installed in dwelling units within 20' of a cooking appliance, or within close proximity (3') of a bathroom containing a shower or tub. Ionization smoke alarms in these areas are required to be replaced with photoelectric smoke alarms to avoid nuisance alarms. Combination photoelectric and carbon monoxide alarms are permitted. NFPA 1: 13.7.1.4.8.6

- q Valuation of Construction: – The total valuation of new construction or rehabilitation work is the basis for payment of the construction permit fee. For projects that involve volunteer labor, donated material, or a similar practice, the value of the donated material, labor and services must be included in the valuation of the construction work when calculating the construction permit fee. Besides the valuation of material and labor the construction valuation also includes site work, fixed building equipment, consulting and design services. The valuation of electrical, plumbing and elevator work must be included in the total valuation of construction. A licensed electrician, plumber or elevator mechanic is also required to file a work notice with the Division of Fire Safety. The current construction permit fee established by the Vermont Legislature is \$4.50 per each \$1,000 of rehabilitation work for buildings constructed before 1983. The fee is \$5.50 per each \$1,000 of construction valuation work for all other rehabilitation, addition or new construction work. The Division of Fire Safety may use the ICC Building Valuation table or other means to verify the valuation of construction.

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

VFIRS – Vermont Fire Incident Reporting System

Current statistics 2009: (as of October 19, 2009)

Total incidents reported: 23,473

Fires: 1864 -- EMS: 11,540 -- NonFire/NonEMS: 10,035 -- No Activity: 29

Fire Departments reporting: 143

 **2009 FIRE INCIDENT REPORTS DUE JANUARY 15, 2010** 

Fire Chiefs and Incident Reporting Offices should check the VFIRS webpage for the current status of reports submitted by your department. <http://www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/vfirs/index.html>

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE IN SUBMITTING YOUR 2009 REPORTS PLEASE CONTACT THE DIVISION

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

Are You Ready for 2011?

This was the question asked of propane companies on the cover of a recent national trade publication. The question refers to the requirement for all bulk and industrial propane tanks over 4000 gallons water capacity to be equipped with special product control measures.

The requirement applies to liquid and vapor transfer openings and is found in Section 5.7.7.2 of the 2004 edition of N.F.P.A. 58. An effective date of July 1, 2011 was set in the 2001 edition of N.F.P.A. 58, (Section 3.3.3.6) to provide adequate lead time for the industry to implement these measures.

Liquid withdrawal and inlet openings are required to have internal valves with remote and automatic (fire) shutoff features, while vapor withdrawal and inlet openings have other options. Internal valves must be equipped with automatic shutdown if fire is sensed within 5 feet of the valve; remote manual shutdown available no closer than 25 feet or more than 100 feet from the liquid transfer point; and identification of the remote shutdown point by a sign stating "Propane Container Liquid Valve Emergency Shutoff" in block letters not less than 2 inches in height on a contrasting background.

For further information, refer to the 2004 edition of N.F.P.A. 58; visit our website at www.vtfiresafety.org; or contact your regional office of the Division of Fire Safety.

VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES

Chris Herrick, Chief, VHMRT

Multi-Gas Meters ~ *Relative Response*

As I travel around Vermont and meet with different fire departments I have noticed that an increasing number of them have acquired **Multi-Gas** meters. This is due in part to the increased awareness of Carbon Monoxide (CO) as well as greater funding for the first responders.

There are two critical issues associated with these meters that have caused some confusion and are important to insure the safe use of the instruments. These are calibration and relative response

Let's look at calibration first. Calibration is when the sensors, usually Oxygen, Hydrogen Sulfide, Lower Explosivity Level and CO are adjusted by applying a known quantity of each and adjusting the sensors. This should not be confused with 'bump testing' which is simply applying a known quantity of gas to check if the sensors are reading correctly. If the bump test shows they are not then the instrument should be re-calibrated.

Calibration should be done according to the manufacturer's recommendation but a good practice is to bump test the instrument before each use. This is to insure that the readings taken are accurate.

The issue of relative response is just as important as proper calibration. Relative response is a factor only for LEL. Instruments are calibrated to a flammable gas, pentane for instance in some. Pentane reacts differently then methane as it is burned in the instrument. The result being that a reading of 20% of the LEL in a methane environment is not accurate. The 20% needs to be multiplied by the specific conversion factor for methane. In the case of the meters used by the HAZMAT Team and calibrated using pentane is a factor of 0.5. So, in reality the 20% LEL reading for methane is really 10%.

It is important to note that some flammables will have a conversion factor that will make the actual reading higher then what is indicated on the meter. Again, with our meters and cal gas the conversion factor for gasoline is 1.3. This means a reading of 8% is in reality 10.4%.

Each meter has a recommended cal gas for flammables and the owner's manual should have the relative response conversion chart for many of the common flammables. You should familiarize yourself with this and all those using the meter should adjust their action levels accordingly.

If you have any comments or questions please give me a call!

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

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES PAID

HILLTOP INN OF VERMONT(, BERLIN	500.00	DURGA ENTERPRISES, INC.
HILLTOP INN OF VERMONT(, BERLIN	1000.00	DURGA ENTERPRISES, INC.
PRICE CHOPPER #137 (OLD, MORRISVILLE	100.00	OMEGA ELECTRIC, ALFRED
GREGOIRE APARTMENT HOUS, BARRE CITY	150.00	GREGOIRE (PREFERRED PRO
GREGOIRE APARTMENTS (9, MONTPELIER	1000.00	GREGOIRE (PREFERRED PRO
BORDER MOTEL, INC., DERBY	300.00	BORDER MOTEL, INC., C/O
BUTTLES MOBILE TRAILER, WILLIAMSTOWN	100.00	WEINTRAUB, LOUIS
KURRLE FUELS (FMR FOTTI, MONTPELIER	100.00	GOULETTE, GARY M
CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CTR, CRAFTSBURY COMMON	500.00	CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENT
MENARDS AGWAY, MORRISVILLE	200.00	MENARD, ERNEST, SHARON
MORETOWN COMMERCIAL PAR, MORETOWN	750.00	TOP NOTCH PROPERTIES, P
258 ELM STREET APARTMEN, BARTON	100.00	GOSS, WENDALL
LYNDON TOWN ELEMENTARY, LYNDONVILLE	100.00	LYNDON TOWN SCHOOL DIST
494 WOODSTOCK RD, W WOODSTOCK	250.00	FOX, NEAL
ROCK GARDEN COTTAGES, N CLARENDON	300.00	HANS, DAVID
1422 HOOKER RD-SINGLE F, LEICESTER	50.00	NERI, ANTHONY
16 PEARL ST, SPRINGFIELD	500.00	PALMER, ROBERT & MARGIE
57-59 STATE ST, WINDSOR	150.00	TOWNSEND, WIN
TARRO BLOCK, SPRINGFIELD	100.00	KINGS CORNER,
208 CHELSEA STREET, S ROYALTON	250.00	POWERS, TOM
THE ICE BARN (FORMER SH, MILTON	300.00	LECLAIR BROTHERS INC,
SAXON HOLLOW CONDOMINIU, ESSEX	100.00	OAKES, ROBERT



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety
Division of Fire Safety
www.vtfiresafety.org

CALENDAR OF
FIRE EVENTS

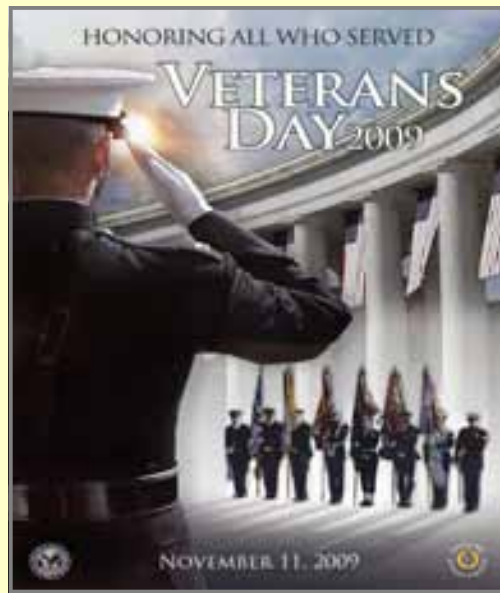
NOVEMBER 2009

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					

Nov 19, 2009 ~ VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ DFS Office Berlin

~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~
 Nov 1, 2009 ~ Daylight Savings Ends
 Nov 11, 2009 ~ Veterans Day
 Nov 26, 2009 ~ Thanksgiving

Date	Event	Location
9	Judging for the 2010 Fire Safety Calendar	DFS CENTRAL OFFICE—Berlin
10	Firefighter 1 Orientation	Dummerston FD
12	Awards Ceremony for the Fire Safety Calendar Poster Contest ~ 11:00 a.m.	DFS CENTRAL OFFICE —Berlin
12, 13 & 19	Hazardous Material Awareness	Stafford Tech School



DECEMBER 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		

Dec 17, 2009 ~ VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ DFS Office Berlin

~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~
 Dec 11, 2009 ~ Hanukkah Begins
 Dec 21, 2009 ~ First Day of Winter
 Dec 25, 2009 ~ Christmas Day
 Dec 31, 2009 ~ New Years Eve

Date	Event	Location
NO EVENTS SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME		



Happy Holidays



Vermont Fire Academy Update

by Jim Litevich Chief Fire Service Training Officer

Fire Academy Administration / Classroom building:

The new administration building is getting closer to completion. As this article is written, the metal roofing system is being installed, interior and exterior sheetrock is being finished, siding is being painted and the new parking lot is cooling off after being installed yesterday.

The building is scheduled to be "turned over" to us by November 30, 2009 and we should be moving in shortly thereafter. We are starting to plan an opening ceremony around that time as well. We will announce the actual date as soon as it is scheduled and please understand that all are invited to attend this important occasion in the history of fire training in Vermont.

VTC Burn Building:

The site work for the burn building at VTC has begun. The 24x30 storage building will be built by the VTC students in their Construction Management Practices class this fall.

The building is scheduled to be delivered in November and assembled on site. Completion is scheduled for January 2010 and should be ready to go for the 2010 burn season.

FY 2010 Firefighter I and II programs:

All three of this year's Firefighter II programs are in motion with 61 firefighters taking part in the process. Eight of the ten Firefighter I programs (with 171 students) have also begun. The two remaining two programs will begin in November (Dummerston) and January (Thetford). If you are near either of these two locations, there is still time to take advantage of the training opportunity and register to take part.

Accreditation:

This year marks our fifth year of being accredited. Thanks to all staff, instructors and students for making this a successful venture. Shortly there will be a site visit conducted by the National Fire Service Professional Qualification Board ("Pro Board"). The Pro Board's Site Visit Team will ensure that we are still conducting our programs in concert with the National Fire Protection Association standards and are keeping with the current standard of care for delivering and certifying fire training programs. We anticipate a good visit and hope to report to you that we are able to continue to offer quality accredited programming to aid in your fire service education.

Budget:

We are still not out of the woods in this area and expect further reductions to our general fund revenue source. We will do our best to minimize any disruption to our programming and our service to you. Please understand that we may not always be successful with these efforts and ask for your patience as we make needed adjustments.

Remember to keep your eyes and ears open for the grand opening ceremony and we hope to see you all here when it happens!

Be safe, Jim



FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION NOTES



Micheal D. Greenia
 Asst. State Fire Marshal
 Fire Safety Education and Information Coordinator

Highlights from Fire Prevention Week

Over 550 Boy Scouts Attend a Fall Camporee that focuses on Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety.

Highgate— The Boy Scouts of America Three Rivers District which serves Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle and western Lamoille Counties hosed a special event during the first weekend of this year's fire prevention week.



The event took place on October 3, 2009 at the Highgate International Airport, in Highgate Vermont. Over 550 scouts and 50 adult leaders participated in a program titled "Are You Prepared?" Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety during this years fall camporee. The event was organized by Dr William Roberts and the Three Rivers District which is Vermont's largest ever scout district. Support was provided by the BSA Green Mountain Council and various other partners.

We are currently developing a "how to" manual that will help any fire department that wishes to set up this same kind of event at their fire station.

The Division of Fire Safety utilized our Fire Safety House trailer, and one of the units from the HAZMAT response team as well as equipment from the Essex Junction Fire Department to set up various stations where the scouts took part in educational sessions and completed various activities that are required to earn the Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety Merit Badges.



Due to the amount of Scouts that attended this event it became clear that we needed additional help from our fellow firefighters. A few fire fighters and members from area fire departments answered the call and volunteered to help teach fire prevention education and act as badge counselors.

The state of Vermont Division of Fire Safety, the BSA Three Rivers District would like to thank the following people for making the fire safety part of this event possible:

By completing the stations the scouts gained knowledge about fire safety as well as developing the skills needed to keep other people safe in all types of emergencies.

The merit badge program is one of the most recognized aspects of scouting and provides scouts with basic character-building tools. Through participation in the merit badge program a Scout acquires the kind of self-confidence that comes only from overcoming obstacles to achieve a goal.

This was the first event of this type and magnitude that has taken place in Vermont, we feel that this was a excellent event and is a fantastic way for the fire service to team up with the boy scouts to reach our youth with our fire safety and injury prevention messages.

- Micheal Greenia - Div of Fire Safety / Badge Station Coordinator / Underhill-Jericho Fire
- Derek Shepardson - Div of Fire Safety / Badge Station Coordinator / Essex Jct. Fire
- Jesse Dobiecki - Div of Fire Safety / Colchester Center Fire
- Keith Rivers - Essex Jct. Fire
- Steven Harnois - Essex Jct. Fire
- G. C. Morris - Vermont Department of Public Service
- David C. Jeffery - Isle Lamotte
- Kevin Carrigan - Huntingdon Quebec



SEASONAL FIRE SAFETY



oil or a conversion of the rain or snow to steam, either of which can lead to burns. Use of propane-fired turkey fryers indoors to avoid bad weather is contrary to their design and dangerous in its own right. Also, moving an operating turkey fryer indoors to escape bad weather is extremely risky. Fires have occurred when turkey fryers were used in a garage or barn or under eaves to keep the appliance out of the rain.

For additional information go to:
www.ul.com - Or - www.NFPA.org

Deep-frying that turkey could land you in hot water

For years, the delicious, deep-fried turkey was a culinary chef-d'oeuvre confined to the South. While this tasty creation deserves the raves it gets, safety experts at Underwriters Laboratories are still concerned that some backyard chefs may be sacrificing safety for good taste.



In fact, more than 112 fires or burns attributed to improper use of turkey fryers have been reported in the last seven years, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

"Although we recognize that the industry has made improvement to turkey fryers, we're still concerned by the increasing reports of fires related to turkey fryer use," says John Drengenberg, UL Consumer Affairs Manager. "Based on our observations, the fryers used to produce those great-tasting birds may not be worth the risks. And, as a result of these observations, UL has decided not to certify any turkey fryers with our trusted UL Mark."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) also discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that immerse the turkey in hot oil.

These turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures, and units currently available for home use pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. The use of turkey fryers by consumers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries and the destruction of property. NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments, such as grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants for the preparation of the dish, or consider a new type of "oil-less" turkey fryer."

In deep frying, oil is heated to temperatures of 350 degrees Fahrenheit or more. Cooking oil is combustible, and if it is heated beyond its cooking temperature, its vapors can ignite. This is a fire danger separate from the burn danger inherent in the hot oil. Overheating can occur if temperature controls, which are designed to shut off the fryer if the oil overheats, are defective, or if the appliance has no temperature controls.

Propane-fired turkey fryers are designed for outdoor use, particularly for Thanksgiving, by which time both rain and snow are common in many parts of the country. If rain or snow strikes exposed hot cooking oil, the result can be a splattering of the hot



Important tips to avoid fires during the winter heating season:

- **Install photoelectric smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home.**
- **Keep a 3' clearance between any heating equipment and anything that can burn - or in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.**
- **Never leave portable space heaters and candles unattended - turn off heaters before going to bed.**
- **Clean chimneys and vent pipes annually – put ashes in a metal container out side away from any building**
- **Un-vented heaters should have a carbon monoxide alarm in the same room.**
- **Never use lighter fluid, kerosene, diesel fuel, or gasoline to start a fire.**
- **Always use the proper grade and type of fuel for heating equipment.**
- **Plan and practice escape plans several times a year.**
- **Install heating equipment in accordance with codes and manufacturer's instructions. It's best to have a professional install the equipment.**





State of Vermont
Division of Fire Safety
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Barre, VT 05641-2351

REMEMBER Smoke Detectors, Fire Sprinklers and Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives

Vermont Department of Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety

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(800) 641-5005

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Toll Free 1-866-404-8883

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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