



# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL & STATE FIRE ACADEMY

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

# FIRE SAFETY NEWS

July 2008



## July Observances

Fire Works Safety Month to July 4th  
Independence Day - July 4th



## Director's Message

John G. Wood

Fire Chiefs what are you doing to prepare for this winter's heating season, not only for your self, but for those in your community, the people you protect? With the cost of heating fuels reaching all time highs people are going to find other ways to stay warm. I'm hearing and getting a lot of questions about alternative heating devices, which is a good thing, but what about the people not asking the questions? Or what about the senior citizens that just try toughing it out and succumb to the cold?

Have you got a public education plan? Have you checked with your local solid fuel dealers in the area to find out if business is up and what type of heaters are being purchased? Can you get a list of those people in your community who are installing solid fuel heaters to insure proper installation? A lot of these people are first time users of solid fuel heating and they may be using green wood. We must anticipate an increase in fires and cold related illness.



**Div. of Fire Safety  
WEB SITE HIGHLIGHT**

Wood Stove Safety Information Sheet

1. Go to [vtfiresafety.org](http://vtfiresafety.org)
2. On the left of the main page pan down to resources & publications.
3. Click on the code information sheets button.
4. Pan down and click on chimney and wood stove safety # CIS-25

Your plans for public education should include the press. Contact your local radio and newspaper to get the message out about the proper installation of wood stoves, the clearance standards and inspections by the fire department and the proper use of space heaters to include keeping combustibles away from the heaters. The public should know to treat space heaters like woodstoves or other solid fuel heaters, and they must ensure there is enough air exchange. Electric heaters will be popular this year if electricity is less than fuel, but people don't realize that putting combustibles too close to electric heaters will start a fire.

Everyone should have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in their home for early warning, should a fire occur.

You might want to consider a mailing to each of your residents in town, or put posters in the post office, hardware stores, markets, town hall, and use public events in your community to get the message out on alternative heating devices and how to use them safely. The division is currently compiling free heating safety education resources that you will be able to use to help educate your community. The resources will be posted for download in a special section of our web page.

If you need assistance with providing information and/or would like the fire safety trailer for increased awareness, contact our Fire Safety Education Coordinator Micheal Greenia at (802) 479-7561.

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**VT HAZMAT TEAM NOTES**


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 Chris Herrick, Chief, VHMRT
 

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**HAZMAT HOTLINE 1-800-641-5005**

## NEW Emergency Response Guidebooks are Available

The 2008 edition of the Emergency Response Guidebook is out and Vermont received about 15,000 to distribute to first responders. Each response vehicle should have one of the new ERGs easily accessible. In order to get copies for your agency please contact your Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC).

The 2008 versions have been updated to better aid us, the responders when planning for and responding to HAZMAT emergencies. Here is a summary of the changes:

### General Information (White Pages)

The How to use section has been color coded to reflect the references to the colored pages  
There is now a section on Pipeline Transportation for liquid and gas products (pages 24 & 25)

### Product Identification Pages (Yellow and Blue Pages)

The highlighted products are highlighted in green to refer you to the green section for Initial Isolation and Protective Action Distances  
All new Dangerous Goods have been added

### Guide Pages (Orange Pages)

Guides were tweaked based on real world experiences  
Guide 147 was blank now has a complete guide for Lithium Ion Batteries  
Highlighted products will refer to Table 1 not just the green section

### Table of Initial Isolation and Protective Action Distances

There are now two separate tables

Table one for the initial distances

Table two for WATER REACTIVES

When looking up a substance in Table 1 it may state "When Spilled in Water" which indicated you should look it up in Table 2 to see what the toxic gases are that will be released.

The distances listed have also been fine tuned and updated.

While these changes may seem insignificant they do make the new version the appropriate resource and old ones should be removed and replaced with the 2008 ERG.

When you place the new 2008 ERG into the vehicles make sure it has the HAZMAT HOTLINE written on the cover. 1-800-641-5005.

***If you would like to discuss this or any other HAZMAT issue please call me at 802-479-7586.***



## Code Highlights Technical Assistance

**Elevator Safety Rules** - All elevators, lifts and similar conveyances are required to be inspected on an annual basis by a licensed elevator inspector according to the Vermont Elevator Safety Rules. These rules are now being updated to include the more recent editions of the national standards regarding elevator and lift design, installation, operation and maintenance. The rules have been reorganized and consolidated to simplify use. The fee schedule for inspection of conveyances by a licensed elevator inspector varies from \$100 to \$250 based on the type of conveyance, the difficulty of inspection and the frequency of use. Incidents with conveyances that involve personal injury will now need to be reported to the department. Keys for emergency operation of elevators by firefighters will be standardized.

The Elevator Safety Review Board has already adopted emergency rules effective July 1, 2008, to increase the fees charged by a licensed elevator inspector to the \$100 - \$250 range, so that there will be an adequate number of inspectors working in Vermont to be able to inspect all elevators and lifts each year. The proposed rules will be available on the division website as they become available.

**Fire & Building Safety Code** – The Fire & Building Safety Code is now being updated to include the 2006 editions of the Uniform Fire Code, Life Safety Code and International Building Code. The Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code establishes the minimum standards to protect the public from fire, explosion, hazardous materials, dangerous structural conditions and the prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning. This rule consolidates the Rules for Automatic Fire Suppression Systems at Gasoline Stations into these rules and updates the code by adopting more recent editions of the same national codes and standards that are currently adopted. More prescriptive standards supplement the current performance standards for existing and historic building rehabilitation to enhance consistency and predictability. Public safety is improved by additional requirements for periodic inspections of heating appliances in existing buildings, marking heating system vents, more use of photoelectric smoke alarms to improve escape time from smoldering fires and requiring supervised wiring for fire alarms in certain buildings. Standards are reduced for the construction of firewalls in most commercial buildings. The most recent copy of the proposed rules will be available on the division website as they become available.

**Tents, Canopies and Membrane Structures** – During the summer months a large number of restaurants and stores in Vermont use tents to expand their space and attract more customers. Tents often dot the landscape for field days and community fairs. The classification of tents also includes canopies and membrane structures. Tents used by the public are classified as a public building and are regulated under codes enforced by the division. Tents used for events that are not open to the public, such as tents located at private clubs, are regulated under the codes. Tents used for private gatherings at owner occupied single-family dwellings are not regulated. An additional permit is required to erect or operate a tent in excess of 1200 square feet.

The safety concerns of the regulations focus on:

- All tent fabrics are required to be flame resistant.
- Adequate exiting must be provided from any tent when there are sides to the tent. Guy wires or ropes are not permitted to cross any means of egress at a height of less than 7' and where more than one tent is located at the same site there must be 10' between stake lines.
- Fuel tanks or containers must be located outside of any tent and be located at least 5' from any tent, secured in the upright position and protected from vehicle traffic.
- The space within a tent and within 10' of a tent must be kept free of combustible material and vegetation except for animal bedding and fodder in quantities approved by the AHJ.
- Portable fire extinguisher(s) are required.
- Where electrical systems are provided they must be installed and maintained by a licensed electrician. Electrical fuses or switches must be in approved enclosures and cables on the ground protected by approved covers.
- Portable generators must be located outside any tent and located at least 5' away from any tent. The generator must be protected from contact by fencing or enclosure.
- Tent poles and their supporting guys, stays, stakes and fastening must be of sufficient strength to resist a wind pressure of 20 lbf/square foot.

For additional information see NFPA 1:chapter 25, NFPA 101:section 11:11 or NFPA 102.

**Robert Howe, Assistant State Fire Marshal**

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# Division of Fire Safety

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

## CALENDAR OF

# FIRE EVENTS

## JULY 2008

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

Date	Event	Location
12 & 19	VSFA Fire Cadet Academy	Vermont Fire Academy - Pittsford
14 & 15	Hazardous Materials Awareness	North Bennington FD

**Attn: Fire Chief**

**For safety information on fireworks and downloadable Sample Municipal Fireworks Display Permits and Display Checklist**



**Please visit**

**<http://www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/sparklers.htm>**

**July 17, 2008 ~ VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ DFS Office Berlin**

**~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~**

**July 4, 2008 ~ Independence Day**

**Check out our webpage for BBQ Grill safety tips:  
[www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/codes/cis\\_32.pdf](http://www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/codes/cis_32.pdf)**

## AUGUST 2008

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

Date	Event	Location
9 & 10	VSFA Annual Conference	Rutland Town
5, 7, 9, 12, 19	Hazardous Materials Operations	Vernon FF I
14 & 16	Wildland Fire Control	Vernon FF I
22, 23, & 24	Confined Space Operations	Colchester Rescue
23	Hazardous Materials Awareness	Shelburne FD

**August 21, 2008 ~ VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ DFS Office Berlin**

**August 16, 2008 ~ Bennington Battle Day**

**~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~**

**August 9, 2008 ~ Smokey Bear's Birthday!!!**

# Notes of Fire History



July 1845, Rutland – the village suffered severely from a fire which swept away all the buildings on Main street between the old "Butler House" and what was known as the "three-storied store" (*the DANIELS store*).

July 6, 1944 Ringling Bros, Barnum & Bailey Circus tent fire kills 168, Hartford (CT)

July 6 1943 Earthquake epicenter at Swanton VT magnitude 4.1

Jul 07, 1984 - Williston - VT - Train Crash - Torrential downpours washed out section of RR track - "Montrealer" with two engines and 13 cars - Tracks gave way and 3 train cars plunged into gully, 2nd worst train accident in Vermont history

Jul 08, 1998 - Burlington - VT - 2nd Alarm, 19 Spring Street - Vacant Apt Bldg under repair Arson fire, with heavy fire - Exposure to similar type building with heavy fire - Exposure to single family home with light damage

July 11, 1894 the Alburg Springs resort House burned to the ground

July 14 2000 Flooding in 6 Vermont counties

July 16 1780- Last major Indian raid, led by the British, in Royalton, the town of Royalton VT is burned by Indians

July 16th. Colorado, Denver, Elitch Gardens Amusement Park: Fire in the Old Mill Boat ride, which features a waterway ride through a dark tunnel exhibiting lighted scenes of fairytale characters. The 200 feet long building was constructed in 1914 and rebuilt in 1928; 6 people died due to smoke inhalation; according to the coroner's report the following factors contributed to the incident: aged facility, ignorance, neglect, and carelessness.

July 17, 1944 Port Chicago, Calif.: 322 killed when ammunition ships exploded.

July 21 1937 Tornado / Microburst over 1,000 maples damaged in Enosburg Falls

July 24 1923 A Canadian Pacific freight train Derailment in Lyndonville VT .

July 25 1997 Floods damage 5 counties worst damage occurred in Montgomery VT

Jul 26, 1998 - Cambridge - VT - Elementary School damaged by fire

July 28, 1945 New York City: U.S. Army bomber B-25 crashed into Empire State Building; 13 dead

July 29, 1966 off North Vietnam: fire on U.S. carrier *Forrestal* killed 134.

Jul 29, 1998 - Alburg - VT - Fatal Fire -- Route 2 - Mobile home fire heavily involved - 1 fatality



**NFPA Announces Theme for Fire Prevention Week 2008**

June 2, 2008 – Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored a fire prevention campaign each October to raise the public’s awareness about the importance of fire safety. Today, the association announced the theme for the 2008 campaign: [“It’s Fire Prevention Week – Prevent Home Fires!”](#)



In the United States, eight out of 10 people killed in a fire die in one that has occurred in a home. During the week of October 5-11 and throughout the month, the public is urged to take steps to protect themselves and their homes by learning about how to prevent home fires and taking action.

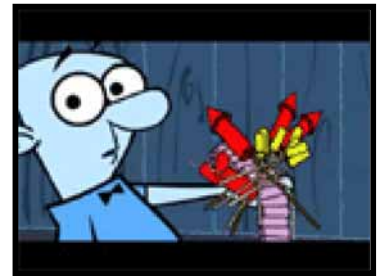
NFPA's newly launched 2008 Fire Prevention Week Web site ([www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)) offers safety tips, statistical information, and many other resources. Materials can be used by fire departments, teachers, families and anyone else interested in learning about how to prevent home fires or looking for resources to help teach others

NFPA has taken the lead in public fire safety outreach by serving as the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 86 years. The annual public awareness and safety commemoration, which is proclaimed by the President of the United States each year, is observed by fire departments in the U.S. and Canada to mark the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

legally elsewhere. Illegal fireworks can be confiscated on the spot by officials.

Sparklers and other smoke novelties are legal for sale & use in Vermont. However even sparklers and smoke devices can be harmful if not used properly, not only do sparklers burn at 1800 degrees Fahrenheit but they also encourage the use of matches and lighters by young children. Sparklers should never be treated as toys and close adult supervision should always be provided.

*Our new web page includes a section on fireworks and sparklers. The section includes a sample fireworks display permit and a checklist for a public fireworks display and additional information from NFPA 1123.*



Each July Fourth, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured using consumer fireworks.

Visit [NFPA.org](http://NFPA.org) to view NFPA’s new video public service announcements about the dangers of fireworks in untrained hands.



**Fireworks**

Over the summer families across Vermont will be celebrating with picnics, outings to the beach and neighborhood barbeques. Above all, fireworks displays will be the highlight of Fourth of July festivities.



All Vermonters need to set a good example for children and leave the fireworks to the professionals. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch them at a community celebration where the display is supervised by local fire departments and conducted by licensed professionals.

Because of the danger of these products **the possession and use of fireworks in Vermont is illegal** unless they are part of a permitted public display. It is also illegal to transport fireworks into Vermont, even if they were purchased

**Have you signed up for the Safety Source Newsletter?**

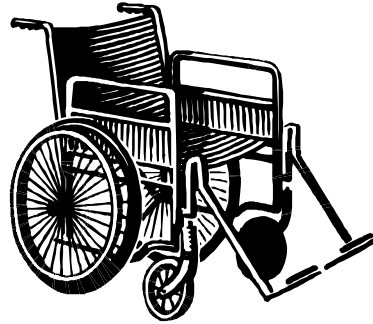
"Safety Source" is NFPA's new public education e-newsletter. Sign up now and be the first to get the latest information on happenings in the NFPA public education division, *Ready for Risk Watch*® news, *Remembering When*™ activities, fire statistics, trends, educational tips, life saves, and more.

**The Division of Fire Safety education section is here to help fire departments and can provide resources to support local fire prevention education efforts.**

**For additional information call the Vermont Division of Fire Safety Education and Information Section at 802-479-7587 or visit [www.vtfiresafety.org](http://www.vtfiresafety.org)**

# Teaching Fire Safety to People with Disabilities

By Asst. State Fire Marshal Jesse Dobiacki



One of the most challenging and exciting groups to teach fire safety education to is the handicapped. The challenges presented by these students can be quite daunting to those educators with little experience with this population. A little pre-planning on your part, and a firm grasp of the intent of the safety lessons that you teach, can help make their experience a positive one.

The most important element to consider when planning your handicapped students is the teaching environment itself. Be sure that it is accessible, and, if not, that you can easily make accommodations to include the handicapped in your lesson.

Basic fire safety information needs to be conveyed in a way that gives all children the opportunity to learn and practice fire safety skills. Keep in mind that general fire safety tips still apply to all. Children with disabilities are first and foremost children, and will benefit from the years of conventional wisdom that went into creating fire safety programs. It is also important to remember that a handicapped person requires the same fire safety information as any other student. The primary difference between the handicapped student and the average student is that their "correct" response to a any emergency, especially a fire emergency, will have to be a response that compensates for their specific handicap.

Involve care providers whenever possible. In teaching handicapped students of any age, recognize the fact that they may be well versed in certain aspects of their own emergency care – and so asking many questions of your student, if this is age appropriate, is a sound strategy. Ask: What do you do, at home, to exit when there is an emergency? What do you do if fire gets on you? How to you communicate emergencies to others? Asking questions will help you to tailor your lessons and advice to the specific student. Involving the students care providers in these conversations and lessons is also very effective

Lastly, know the issues and the specific language before teaching, so that you can operate "on the same page" as your students and their care providers. Spend some time reading and researching things like: What's the difference between a quadrapalegic and a paraplegic? What kind of smoke detecting devices are available for the deaf?

Knowing this kind of information ahead of time, and keeping your fire safety education team educated on these types of issues, will help your teaching to be appropriate and effective.

More than 43 million Americans have a disability. The identity of the group of Americans with disabilities is constantly changing — at any moment we ourselves could become part of this group, for maybe a short time or maybe for a long time.

Children with special healthcare needs or disabilities are the nation's most fragile with the most complicated medical problems. Unaware of available safety products, uninformed of how to access them, and ill-prepared to execute a workable escape plan, many families of children with disabilities or special health care needs place their trust in the precarious hope that a fire or natural disaster will never happen.

Today's children with disabilities or special health care needs served by children's hospitals nationwide have a real chance to grow up and lead productive, healthy, and safe lives. But without early education on fire and natural disaster safety and access to products to assist in safe evacuation, these families remain at risk of losing their child, not only to health problems or disabilities, but to fires or natural disasters.

**This is a grate poster that was designed by the Community Education & Child Advocacy Department at Riley Hospital for Children Indianapolis, Indiana that shows how to Lock, Drop, & Roll**





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***

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**Williston**

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Williston, VT 05495-7151  
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Toll Free (800) 366-8325

**DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION**

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