



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

# FIRE SAFETY NEWS

August 2008



## Director's Message

John G. Wood

Vermont Elevator  
Safety Rules  
*Public Hearing on Proposed  
Rule Changes*  
FRIDAY AUGUST 22, 2008,  
1:00 P.M.  
Division of Fire Safety  
Training Room, 1311 US  
Route 302, Berlin, VT  
A copy of the proposed safety  
rules is available on line at  
[http://www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/  
elevator/2008ElevatorRulesBO  
ARD.doc](http://www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/elevator/2008ElevatorRulesBOARD.doc)  
or contact the central office at  
(802) 479-7561

Last month this article spoke about the high cost of fuels and how people would be looking for alternative fuels to heat their homes. The article spoke of the potential increase in fire deaths, injuries, and property lost. We know in the late seventies and early eighties when fuel prices increased that Vermont led the country in fire deaths per capita. We know there were other spikes in the fire death rate in Vermont during the nineties. This increase in fuel costs is higher than the previous increases and is forcing people to alternative fuels. Check with your local woodstove and pellet dealers to see what is happening in your community. When I checked with a few dealers here in central Vermont I found that some dealers had sold out of pellet stoves and woodstoves were going fast. One dealer said they are scheduled to install wood and pellet stoves into mid-October. People are not willing to wait, the dealer told me, so they are installing the stoves themselves. You as the fire chief are well aware that when first time users of wood and pellet stoves are installing and using these stoves, this is asking for trouble.

The local fire service leaders have to work with other civic groups in the community to reach out to the citizens. It is important to get the message out about fire safety and alternative heating safety. Some of the groups you should start contacting are the civic groups, the meals on wheels program and church groups. Local schools and young children are one of the best ways to get the message to parents and adults in the community. In some cases firefighters can go door to door and meet with the citizens, leave informational packets and discuss safety issues as well as check for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Work with local solid fuel dealers and retailers to get the safety message out. Remember, if all else fails, early warning from SMOKE and CO DETECTORS will increase the chances of surviving a fire or carbon monoxide exposure.

The Division of Fire Safety is working with the Governor's office, other state agencies, the domestic insurance industry, local fire departments, fire service groups, the American Red Cross and others to get the fire safety message out by using direct mailings, radio and television public service announcements and the division web-site. But, we feel the best way to reach the people is with local emergency responders, fire and emergency medical personnel.

The Division of Fire Safety is developing a short training program for local emergency responders, fire and emergency medical personnel and others who are interested on woodstove safety and installation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Details on the training and a sign up form to schedule the training in your area are included in this newsletter.

The Division is also working with the Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities & Health Care Administration and the domestic insurance industry to develop a "Top Ten" list of fire safety messages regarding heating and home safety. We plan to use this for our direct mailing and post in public areas. The "Top Ten" list and other information on heating safety is available on our website at [www.vtfiresafety.org/heating](http://www.vtfiresafety.org/heating). **Contact fire safety education coordinator, Micheal Greenia, at (802) 479-7561**, if you would like more information and/or would like to work with us on a fire safety project.

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## Code Highlights Technical Assistance

**Unvented Heaters** – Unvented room heaters and unvented fireplaces are not permitted in any building or structure regulated under the “Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code – 2005”. This state amendment is intended to prevent a build up of carbon monoxide from fuel burning appliances in normal room size areas. It is not the intent of the code to prohibit unvented heaters that are designed for use in large open areas in industrial buildings or buildings of similar size. Additional details are provided under the state amendment for NFPA 1:11.5.1.4.4. Single-family owner occupied dwellings, family residence registered day care and certain buildings on working farms are not regulated under the “Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code – 2005”. Anyone using an unvented room heater in a building that is exempt from the Code should make sure to follow the manufacturer’s instructions and have both working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in any dwelling unit.

**Chimney – Interconnection** – Interconnection of venting for heating appliances is regulated under NFPA 211, section 9.8. In most cases separate heating appliances cannot connect into the same chimney flue due in part to concerns with the production of large amounts of carbon monoxide and leakage of carbon monoxide and other flue gases into the building. The text of section 9.8 indicates as follow:

9.8.1 Connectors serving appliances operating under natural draft shall not be connected into any portion of a mechanical draft system operating under positive pressure.

9.8.2 Unless listed for such connection, solid fuel-burning appliances shall not be connected to a chimney flue serving another appliance.

9.8.3 Gas utilization appliances and appliances burning liquid fuel shall be permitted to be connected to one chimney flue through separate openings or shall be permitted to be connected through a single opening, provided they are joined by a suitable fitting located as close as practicable to the chimney and provided both of the following apply:

(1) Sufficient draft is available for the safe combustion of each appliance and for the removal of all products of combustion.

(2) The appliances so connected are equipped with primary safety controls and all appliances are located in the same room.

9.8.4 If two or more openings are provided into one chimney flue, the following stipulations shall apply:

(1) They shall be at different levels.

(2) The smaller connector shall enter at the highest level consistent with available headroom or clearance to combustible material.

“Listing” of a fuel-burning appliance means - Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

**Vertical Platform Lifts** – A vertical platform lift is defined as a powered hoisting and lowering mechanism designed to transport mobility-impaired persons on a guided platform that travels vertically. A vertical platform lift may or may not be installed in a shaft. The installation of a vertical platform lift requires the following permit application and work notices to be filed with the division of fire safety:

- *Construction permit* – Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code, Vermont Access Rules. This permit includes the location of the lift in regards to egress, fire separation between floors, construction materials and the access to and usability of the lift by people with disabilities. The fee is based on the construction valuation of the work that is being done including the cost of the lift. A vertical platform lift may be installed in new construction in only limited circumstances as outlined in ADAAG section 4.1.3 (5) exception 4. A vertical platform lift may be installed in existing buildings in lieu of a passenger or LULA elevator, for the path of travel to a primary function area, where the cost of an elevator is disproportionate or where the only alteration to an existing building is to provide access for the building for people with disabilities. The Vermont Access Board must approve any other use of vertical platform lifts.
- *Electrical work notice* – Electrical Safety Rules. The work notice filed by the licensed electrician covers the power supply for the lift and any building wiring or devices associated with the lift such as electrical lights, receptacles or fire alarm devices. The fee for the platform lift work notice is \$40.
- *Conveyance work notice* – Elevator Safety Rules. The work notice filed by the licensed elevator or lift mechanic covers the alteration or installation of the platform lift device. The fee for the work notice is \$25.

**Robert Howe, Assistant State Fire Marshal**

[phone] (802) 479-7566 [email] [rhowe@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:rhowe@dps.state.vt.us) [fax] (802) 479-7562

State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety



# Division of Fire Safety

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

## CALENDAR OF

# FIRE EVENTS

## 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
4 & 9	Fire & Emergency Instructor I	Burlington FD
5, 7, 9, 12, 19	Hazardous Materials Operations	Vernon FF I
9 & 10	VSFA Annual Conference	Rutland Town
14 & 16	Wildland Fire Control	Vernon FF I
22, 23, & 24	Confined Space Operations	Colchester Rescue
23	Hazardous Materials Awareness	Shelburne FD

**DFS Calendar:**  
 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!!!

**SPECIAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

The Fire Science Program at the Vermont Technical College (VTC) – Randolph will be presenting a certified Firefighter I program for its students and any interested Vermont firefighters. The times and dates for these classes will provide a unique opportunity for anyone interested in completing this program during daytime hours. The classes will be conducted at the Randolph Center Campus and will begin on **August 26, 2008.**

*For further information, please contact Mr. Tim Moore at VTC at 802-728-1773*

## SEPTEMBER 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				

Date	Event	Location
6	Southern Vermont Regional Fire School - Building Construction (FF I)	Rutland City
6	First Five Minutes	Rutland City
6	Hazardous Materials Awareness	Rutland City
6 & 7	PADO - Water Supply Module	Rutland City
7	Hazardous Materials Awareness	Rutland City
7	First Five Minutes	Rutland City
7	Advanced Fire Behavior - Flashover Training	Rutland City
11	Vermont Emergency Services Memorial	Robert Wood Jr. TF - Pittsford
13	Live Fire Training - FF I	VFA - Pittsford
15, 16 & 17	Rope Rescue Technician	Hartford Fire Station
18, 19 & 20	Rope Rescue Technician	Rutland Fire Station
20	V1/NH Two State Weekend	NFA - Emmitsburg, Maryland
20	Advanced Fire Behavior - Flashover Training	Franklin/Lamoille RFS
20 & 21	PADO Water Supply Practices Module	Franklin/Lamoille RFS
20 & 21	Ventilation Module - FF I	Franklin/Lamoille RFS
20 & 21	Flammable Gas Fire Control	Franklin/Lamoille RFS
23 & 24	Confined Space Technician	Hartford FS
25 & 26	Confined Space Technician	Rutland City FS
26, 27 & 28	Rope Rescue Technician	Brattleboro FS

**DFS Calendar:**  
 September 18, 2008 ~ VT Career Chiefs Meeting ~ DFS Office Berlin

~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~  
 September 1, 2008 ~ Labor Day  
 September 22, 2008 ~ 1st Day of Autumn



## Fire Academy Update

by Jim Litevich Chief Fire Service Training Officer

2008 has proven to be a very promising year for our activities at the Vermont Fire Academy. The Vermont Fire Training Council has adopted some new programs and the efforts in the State Legislature were very productive.

When all the dust settled in the state legislature, there were two building projects, equipment funding for job related physical ability testing and a boost to our operating budget that were left in our corner.

I'd like to thank the Vermont Fire Service Coalition and the Division of Fire Safety Director John Wood for all of their hard work in obtaining the funding for these and other fire service projects. They worked long hours on our behalf and were very successful in the final outcome. Here is a short summary of each project's status as of this writing, starting with the capital budget projects.

### **Administration / Classroom Building:**

A 7,500 square foot building is in design mode. We have a proposed floor plan layout and some conceptual elevations of what the building may look like when finished. The site plan will be finished very soon and then the permitting processes will begin in earnest. Construction could start as early as December 2008 or as late as spring 2009. The estimated construction time is about 6 months. When finished we will have administrative space and two classrooms at our disposal on site. The classrooms will be separated by a movable partition and when opened up, the entire space will allow for large gatherings of people. The building will be on a slab and one story high. (Type V-B construction is planned at this point.) The architectural firm of Dore and Whittier from South Burlington is working to provide us with the best design / construction process possible. Environmentally green features will also be incorporated when possible.



### **Burn Building at VTC Randolph Ctr:**

This multi story metal building will be about 3500 square feet in size when finished. Currently, there are plans for a 4 story tower with a standpipe

system, 4 burn rooms/ areas, rappelling fixtures, movable partitions, removable confined space props, temperature monitors and exhaust fan. The building will be located in the vicinity of the Langevin House near the Vermont Veteran's Cemetery.



Company bids will be awarded on July 10 and construction should be finished by December 2008. Once completed, the Vermont Fire Academy will operate and schedule the facility as we currently do now in Pittsford. Once in operation, the live burn training will continue to be conducted per NFPA 1403 guidance. Below are two examples of the types of burn buildings we are looking into.

### **Candidate Physical Ability Testing Equipment:**

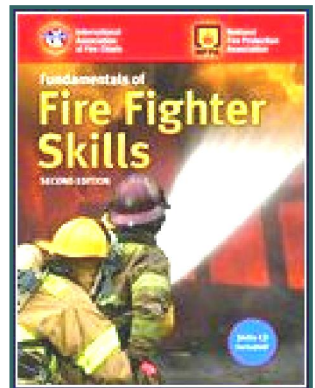
Funding was also allocated for the purchase of equipment to support the Candidate Physical Ability Testing program as developed by the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Task Force. This group was set up by the efforts of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Fighters. Planning is underway to integrate the process into Vermont's fire service for the benefit of all fire departments.

### **VFA Operating Budget:**

During this session, our operating budget was increased by two hundred thousand dollars in state fiscal year (sfy) 2009 and again in sfy 2010. We plan on increasing deliveries of Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Pumper Apparatus Driver Operator (PADO) and other programs as well. Hopefully we can keep the numbers up as our expenses go up at the same time.

### **Vermont Fire Service Training Council (VFSTC): NEW FFI, II and PADO CURRICULUMS:**

At the June 30, 2008 meeting of the VFSTC, a new curriculum was adopted for Firefighter I and Firefighter II. The decision to go with the Jones and Bartlett publishing Company's product "Fundamental of Fire Fighter Skills" was unanimous. This program is current with NFPA 1001, the Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, 2008 edition and will be put into place for this fall's presentations around the state. We are confident that the students and instructors will like the features of this new program. The publisher of the program also offers an on line version of the same information and VFA staff is looking into the details of offering that venue as well.



Further, at the June 30 meeting, the Pumper Apparatus Driver Operator program was adopted into the approved Council courses for certification.

(continued on page 6)



(continued from page 5)

### **Vermont Fire Academy Staff Appointments:**

The Vermont Fire Academy is again at full strength with the recent arrivals of Mr. Todd Cosgrove (Bakersfield) as our Homeland Security Coordinator and Mr. Michael Skaza (West Rutland) as our Site Coordinator. Both gentlemen are available at any time to answer your questions and work with you on your needs. Welcome, Todd and Mike!

As you can see, we have made some excellent progress this year. Please take a moment to thank the Governor, Commissioner Tremblay, DPS, your legislators and the Vermont Fire Service Coalition when you have the chance. The Coalition's website can be viewed at [www.vtfirecoalition.org](http://www.vtfirecoalition.org).

As always, feel free to contact any of us at any time with any questions you might have regarding firefighter training. Remember that half of the time the rumors you hear are not correct and the other half of the time they are wrong. Be safe and never stop learning.

### **Vermont Fire Service Training - Firefighter I and Firefighter II course locations**

At the June 30, 2008 Vermont Fire Service Training Council (VFSTC) meeting, the Firefighter I and Firefighter II course locations were set for this year. They are as follows:

<u>COUNTY:</u>	<u>HOST FD:</u>	<u>COURSE NAME:</u>	<u>COUNTY:</u>	<u>HOST FD:</u>	<u>COURSE NAME:</u>
Addison County	Middlebury	Firefighter I	Orleans/Essex	Beecher Falls	Firefighter I
Bennington	Bennington	Firefighter I	Rutland	Mt. Holly	Firefighter I
Caledonia	St. Johnsbury	Firefighter I		Fair Haven	Firefighter I
Chittenden	Essex	Firefighter I	Washington	Waterbury	Firefighter II
Franklin/Grand Isle	South Hero	Firefighter I	Windham	Putney ??	Firefighter II
Orange	Bradford	Firefighter I	Windsor	Windsor	Firefighter II

General admission application forms can be downloaded from our website and submitted to the Vermont Fire Academy for the program you and your personnel want to attend. The capacity limit is 30 students per course, admission will be determined by the date your application is received. Start dates will be announced at a later date. All applications will be due two weeks prior to the announced start date of the course.

**Division of Fire Safety, 317 Academy Road, Pittsford, Vermont 05763**  
**TEL: 802-483-2755 FAX: 802-483-2464 Toll Free: 1-800-615-3473**  
[www.vtfireacademy.org](http://www.vtfireacademy.org)

### ***Saved a Life from the DFS Barre Regional Office***

Recently **Assistant State Fire Marshal, Brad Charron**, instructed Debby Rancourt, Regional Manager for the NGJ Brokerage Office/Truck Stop in Derby Line, to install hardwired carbon monoxide/smoke detectors throughout the front building. This was done because she wanted to use a room in the attic for a bedroom for her and her husband in the winter months. Not long after inspecting and testing the new detectors, one of the third shift employees became nauseous, tired, and dizzy blaming her symptoms on working the third shift and being overtired. While contemplating putting her head down on her desk to take a nap, the combination detectors sounded, bringing her back to reality. She immediately vacated the building and called her supervisor. Further investigation revealed the furnace had a cracked heat exchanger with high levels of carbon monoxide being produced. Since this has happened, Mrs. Rancourt, along with several employees, have been vigilant about making sure their loved ones have installed CO/smokes in their homes and offices.

### **Final orders for administrative penalties issued since June 1, 2008**

- Top Notch Properties, Moretown Commercial Park. Issued June 18, 2008. Fire code violations \$750.
- John Ryan, McDonalds Restaurant, White River Junction. Issued June 21, 2008. Electrical permitting violation \$100.
- Bates & Murray, Inc., Colchester Municipal Office Building. Issued July 8, 2008. Fire permit violation \$500.
- Stowe Mountain Lodge. Issued July 9, 2008. Fire code violation \$500.

# VFIRS – Vermont Fire Incident Reporting System

Current statistics 2008 (as of July 18, 2008)

Total incidents reported: 12,997

Fires: 1215 -- EMS: 6014 -- NonFire/NonEMS: 5752 -- No Activity: 10

Fire Departments reporting: 124

## Heating Appliance Fires:

The upcoming heating season with higher fuel prices will result in the increased use of supplemental and/or alternative heating appliances, and this will have an effect on the State's fire problem. To better study this effect, a Special Study and additional Plus-One codes have been added to the codes for Equipment Power field (F2) for solid fuels on the Fire Module. [A Plus-One code is additional specificity added to a code already in the NFIRS 5.0 system -- A Special Study is adding an additional field and codes for a field not already in the NFIRS 5.0 system, usually for a specified time frame].

Users of the NFIRS Federal Software do not need to do anything; the codes have been added to the system by this office. Users of Vendor Software must add to their local software, the Special Study codes and Plus-One codes in the Equipment Power field (F2) for solid fuels on the Fire Module. Any local Plus-One codes used in this field must be overwritten in favor of the statewide coding.

Ø Equipment Power Source (41) Wood, paper

Code	Value
§ 411	Wood Chip
§ 412	Wood Log
§ 413	Wood Pellet
§ 419	Paper

Ø Equipment Power Source (40) Other

Code	Value
§ 401	Corn
§ 402	Other

Ø Special Study (ID # 7370) VT equipment installation date [run dates 7/18/08 to 7/18/11]

Code	Value
§ 1	6 months (2008-2009)
§ 2	1-4 years (2004-2007)
§ 3	5-14 years (1995-2003)
§ 4	15-4 years or older (up to 1994)
§ U	Unknown Date

The Equipment Power field has been a required field for any type of fire incident type. Reporting using this Special Study and Plus-One codes is now required in Vermont. When reporting these incidents, the information on the brand, model, serial number, and date of manufacture must be included in the F1 section of the fire module.

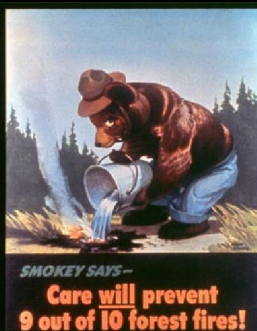
Also information on Plus-one Code for Fireworks and Fire-Safe Cigarettes can be found the Division webpage at [www.vtfiresafety.org](http://www.vtfiresafety.org).

**VFIRS contact information:**

**Micheal Greenia at (802) 479-7587 or [mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us)**

**Stanley Baranowski at (802) 479-7575 or [sbaranow@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:sbaranow@dps.state.vt.us)**

The First Smokey Poster



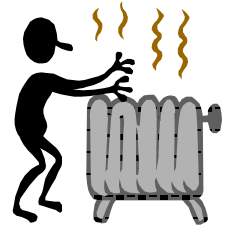
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY Smokey Bear Aug 9<sup>TH</sup>

Created in 1944, the Smokey Bear campaign is the longest running public service campaign in history. Smokey's first forest fire prevention message remained unchanged for 50 years until April 2001, when the Ad Council updated his message to address the increasing number of wildfires in the nation's wildlands. As one of the world's most recognizable fictional characters, Smokey's image is protected by US Federal Law and is administered by the USDA Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters and the Ad Council



## AS HEATING COSTS RISE, SO DO FIRE SAFETY CONCERNS

As heating oil and gasoline costs continue to rise, Vermonters are looking for alternative solutions to heating their homes during the upcoming winter season. Many are turning to space heaters, fireplaces and wood burning stoves to help save money, which can be effective cost saving alternatives, but as the fire service knows also present significant fire dangers if not properly installed and maintained.



In response, the Vermont Division of Fire Safety, together with the Governor's office, numerous other state departments and private industry have joined forces in an extensive heating safety project to urge Vermonters to take critical home heating safety precautions, before winter begins. One significant element of the program is to provide increased education efforts in the state to help families understand how to safely use space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces. In the coming weeks you will see various resources that you will be able to use to help keep your community safe.

The division will also be hosting special regional wood heating safety seminars around the state. Please sign up so we can get an idea of how many people would be attending and so we can schedule the seminars in locations that will help the most people.

***Stay tune to the our web page for more information***



## Now is the time to plan for fire prevention week events

With your involvement, we can reach more people than ever with this year's vital safety messages. The NFPA has free step-by-step guides that make it easier than ever for your fire department to participate in a successful Fire Prevention Week.

If you are planning an open house decide what you want to achieve at your open house, and who your audience is. You'll want to make sure your open house activities reinforce this year's Fire Prevention Week theme and provide useful information on how to prevent and survive a fire. Most likely, kids and parents will be visiting your open house, so messages and activities should be primarily tailored to these age groups. Visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more information



## Hot Ideas: How to Get Heating Safety Messages Out to Your Community

*Your neighbors* are your best resource to help spread heating safety messages. Here are a few examples of ways to get the word out to your community about home heating safety.

- **Hold an Open House:** This gives residents a chance to see the firehouse up close while providing valuable public education. Focus on heating safety messages demonstrating the proper use of a portable space heater and provide information on annual inspection of heating equipment. Invite a local plumber, heating company or chimney sweep to participate in the presentation.
- **Involve Your Audience:** Interactive demos are a great way to get the public's attention. Think about partnering with heating/gas companies, chimney cleaners, big box stores (Home Depot, Lowe's, Wal-Mart), supermarkets or other high-traffic businesses.
- **Focus on At-risk Populations:** Older adults and low-income families are especially vulnerable to heating fires. Visit assisted living communities or community centers that offer childcare.
- **Reach Out to Specific Populations:** Does your community have a large immigrant population? Visit local churches or community centers where they socialize. It's a great opportunity to meet new residents and share heating safety tips.
- **Stop the Presses:** Local media can give you a lot of bang for no bucks. Use the sample press release and op/eds provided in this kit to give them the facts. You can also provide them with tips and the ready-to-print heating safety spots included on this CD.
- **Run a Community Listing:** Submit events to community bulletins and church newsletters.
- **Bill It:** Work with local heating companies to distribute heating safety inserts with customer's bills using the heating safety spots.
- **Cable Access:** Contact your local cable station to present a segment on heating safety.
- **Door to Door:** Conduct a carbon monoxide alarm installation campaign in your community. Work with local business for funding or alarm donations. Visit high-risk neighborhoods and install carbon monoxide alarms.

### Event Planning Tips

Decide what you want to achieve at your event and who your audience is. You'll want to make sure your activities reinforce heating safety messages and provide useful information on how to prevent a fire.

### Pick a Date and Location

Your event can be held during the day or evening, but it must be a time that people in your community are available. Saturday and Sunday afternoons are often most convenient, and fewer events tend to take place on weekends. However, your fire department's public educator or coordinator should check the community calendar to make sure there are minimal conflicts. Of course the firehouse is always fun for the public. Other places that draw crowds include the public library, community centers and the grocery store.

### Ensure Adequate Staffing and Equipment

Emergencies can happen at any time, including during an open house. If your event is being held at a fire station, make sure enough firefighters are available so that even if a crew must leave, there is still staff available to meet with visitors.

### Have Handouts Ready

Have handouts available for all age groups. Distribute printed materials that reinforce heating safety.

### Keep it Brief

Generally, the public won't attend an event that requires hours of their time. Visitors should be able to learn at least one positive fire safety action that will help them learn safety messages in 30 minutes or less.

### Feed Them

Nothing draws a crowd like good food. Arrange for a local restaurant or fast food outlet to sponsor and provide refreshments. Have firefighters cook up their favorite specialty or solicit donations of baked goods from local chefs. Ask local distributors or bottling companies to donate cold soda.

### Make It Fun

Hold activities that allow visitors to meet firefighters and learn about fire safety in the process. Human interaction creates a personal experience for people, and is key to an open house's success. Create hands-on learning opportunities to build participants' safety skills.

### Promote, Promote, Promote

No matter how great your plans are, it won't be a success if no one knows about it. Publicize your open house at each and every opportunity, and as far in advance as possible. Use the heating safety "fill-in-the-blank" news release on this CD to promote your event to local media outlets. Develop and pass out flyers to local businesses; send letters to civic and religious groups that can announce your event, etc. These are just a few suggestions — be creative, and use your resources to your full advantage!

Vermont Division of Fire Safety



# WOOD HEATING SAFETY SEMINARS

In light of the high cost of heating fuels this year, it is projected that many Vermonters will use alternative heating sources for all or part of their heating needs.

Fire safety officials from around the state are concerned that we will see a repeat of what happened in the early 80s and that we will experience an enormous increase in fires and fire deaths.

To assist the fire service the Division of Fire Safety will be hosting special regional wood heating safety seminars around the state. These seminars will cover many of the safety issues surrounding the use alternative heating and wood stoves. The seminar will also cover how fire departments and community groups can set up a home safety survey program to help keep people in their community safe.



**Free Resources**

- Manual
- Resource CD
- Public Educational Materials
- Standard Inspection Forms

*Dates ~ TBA*  
*Locations ~ TBA*

Interested attendees are requested to complete the sign-up form below and return it to the division by Aug 31st to help in the scheduling of the seminars

**For additional information on this or other programs please contact the DFS Education and Information section at 802-479-7587 or [mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us)**

## Wood Heating Safety Seminar

## Sign-Up Form

Return (By Aug 31st) To:



**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Attn: Fire Safety Education & Information Section  
1311 US Route 302 Suite 600  
Barre, VT 05641-2351

Phone: 802-479-7587 or 800-640-2106  
Fax: 802-479-7562  
E-mail: [mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us](mailto:mgreenia@dps.state.vt.us)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department or Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Chief or Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to attend at one of these possible locations

- North East Region  
Orleans, Caledonia Co.
- Central VT Region
- Lamoille County Region
- North East Kingdom VT
- Windsor /Windham Region
- North West Region Chittenden, Franklin, Grand isle Co.
- South West Region
- Bennington County Region



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

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

Vermont Department of Public Safety  
*Division of Fire Safety*

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL & STATE FIRE ACADEMY

**Central Office**

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

**HAZMAT Response Team**  
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**Vermont Fire Academy**

317 Academy Road  
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Regional Offices:

**Barre**

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Barre, VT 05641-7301  
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Rutland, VT 05701  
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**Springfield**

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Springfield VT 05156-3168  
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**Williston**

372 Hurricane Lane, Suite 102  
Williston, VT 05495-7151  
Phone (802) 879-2300 Fax (802) 879-2312  
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DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION

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