



Division of Fire Safety Mission

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The Division of Fire Safety's mission is to protect the public and fire service through coordinated efforts in Code Enforcement, Fire Service Training, Public Education, Hazardous Materials Response, Fire Investigation and Urban Search and Rescue.

These efforts maximize life safety and property conservation and minimize environmental impacts due to fire, natural disasters and other emergencies in the State of Vermont.



Energy Efficiency

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The Division of Fire Safety employees 55 full time employees and over 200 temps.

Annual Budget : 14.5 Million

Statewide construction permitting, plan review, trade licensing, trade certification, code enforcement, rental housing health and safety, fire service training, hazardous- material response, urban search and rescue, fire investigation, community risk reduction and public education



District Offices

Williston Regional Office

Waterbury Regional Office

Springfield Regional Office

Rutland Regional Office

Colchester (Special Teams Haz Mat/USAR)

Pittsford: Vermont Fire Academy





Division Overview

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The division promulgates rules for adoption of nationally recognized codes which are meshed into our safety programs;

- **Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code**
- **Electrical Safety Rules- (Electrical Licensing Board)**
- **Elevator Safety Rules (Elevator Safety Board)**
- **Handicap Access Rules (Access Board)**
- **Plumbing Safety Rules (Plumbing Licensing Board)**



Trade Groups

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Electricians: 3656

Plumbers: 1646

Elevator: 1646

Fire Sprinkler: 38

Elevator: 149

Boiler: 86

TQPs: 471





Jurisdictional Authority

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20 V.S.A. Chapter 173 § 2730

- All residential rental properties including ADU's if rented and short-term rentals. New and Existing and Rental Housing Health and Safety Codes Apply.
- All commercial building with a few farm exemptions. We regulate cannabis extraction processes.
- We do not regulate single-family owner-occupied dwellings.



Codes and Standards - IRC

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- We are a **NFPA** and **ICC** State and we use provisions from both model code groups to compliment each other.
- We use the NFPA Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) for new and existing buildings and the IBC for **new** multi-family residential 3 units or more and all commercial construction.
- We use the Life Safety Code in conjunction with the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code (VFBSC) for the construction of **1&2 Family Dwellings**



Codes and Standards IRC

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- **On August 27, 2024, we held our first introductory meeting on whether the division should adopt the IRC.**
- **We had 14 participants in attendance, and we started with introductions.**
- **I provided an overview of our current codes and briefly explained how a plan review would look like for a new duplex today under our current process.**



Codes and Standards IRC

- **I provided an overview of our current codes and briefly explained how a plan review would look like for a new duplex today under our current process.**
- **I explained some of the challenges in adopting codes and specifically touched on a few focused on the IRC**
- **The group was provided an opportunity to provide pitch statements with a chance to elaborate some on their thoughts.**



Key Take Aways IRC

- **Trade professionals who work inside the homes are licensed/certified, but the builders are not.**
- **Lack of education and training and no building code for single family homes and duplexes leading to non compliance and complaints of poor workmanship.**
- **The impact of housing affordability was raised.**
- **Challenges with the administration of the IRC would require a substantial read through for conflicts with existing codes.**



Key Take Aways IRC

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- **A certification program should be established ensuring contractors are licensed/certified.**
- **Could the IRC be adopted as a standard of care without enforcement.**
- **I reiterated the position of the division not to extend its jurisdictional authority to single family homes.**
- **Modular homes are constructed to the IRC – thus other single-family homes should be.**



Key Take Aways IRC

- **A certification program should be established ensuring contractors are licensed/certified.**
- **The adoption of the IRC would provide accountability for contractors reducing complaints by leveling the playing field.**
- **There are provisions in the IRC that would impact housing affordability. These provisions would need to be evaluated for economic feasibility.**



Building Construction Overview-Budget

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Calendar Year 2021

Permits-2,422 6000 Insp. \$500 Million in construction cost

Calendar Year 2022

Permits-2,637 5673 Insp. \$550 Million in construction cost

Calendar Year 2023

Permits-2,741 6189 Insp. \$672 Million in construction cost



Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program

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1. Review plans for new construction for energy efficiency compliance for **residential rental and commercial**.
2. Inspect new construction for energy compliance with a focus on rental residential occupancies.
3. Manage energy efficiency certification.
4. Awareness, training and education.
5. Plan does not include any extension of jurisdiction into single-family owner-occupied dwellings.



Division Building Inspections-Budget

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- 4 new **plan review** positions one per district office.

Job Title: Energy Program Specialist- Pay Grade 25

\$440,000

- 4 new energy efficiency **inspectors** per district office.

Job Title: Energy Program Specialist- Pay Grade 25

\$440,000

- 1 Energy Program **Manager**- Central Office Pay Grade 28

\$130,000



Division Building Inspections-Budget

- **1 Administrative Service Coordinator: \$98,000**
- **4 Cars: \$120,000**
- **Mileage: 25,000 per year at 30 mpg= 830 gallons x \$3.50 per gallon (\$2780.00) X 4 = \$11,122.00**
- **5 Laptops: \$15,000**
- **Indirect Rate: \$200,000** (admin salaries, internal service fees – general liability insurance, ADS – app supp, ADS End User Computing, vision costs, ADS Allocated Fee, human resources, single audit, other operating expenses).



Division Building Inspections-Budget

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- The total estimated annual cost is **\$1.5 million** dollars to institute a comprehensive program covering plan review, permitting, variances, compliance certificate management for buildings under our jurisdiction.
- I have not included a position for training, education, public education and or policy development (**rule making**). This would be a senior position with an added cost of roughly \$120,000. If the private sector were to handle this no cost.



Division Building Inspections-Budget

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- **Extending our division's authority into single-family owner-occupied homes would add significant cost and we would not be supporting any extension of our jurisdiction.**