



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS
AND INSTITUTIONS

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MEMORANDUM

To: House Chairs

From: Members, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions

Date: February 18, 2015

Subject: New State House Emergency Response Systems

The Department of Buildings and General Services has installed three new emergency response systems in the State House: (1) a medical emergency button, (2) a wireless duress device, and (3) a new fire alarm system. Please find below a summary of how these new emergency response systems will operate.

Medical Emergency Button

Medical call buttons have been installed around the State House to call for assistance during a medical emergency. The device is white and is labeled "Medical Emergency." The button has been placed by the doors inside each committee room, in the main Legislative Council office, on the mezzanine, in public areas in the State House, and in each restroom. When the button is pressed, a message will go to the Capitol Police indicating the location of the medical emergency. The Capitol Police will respond by going to the site of the emergency to assist while also updating the Montpelier Police Department and EMS with information.

Wireless Duress Device

Wireless duress devices have been placed around the State House to call for assistance during any emergency other than a medical emergency. Each device, which is black and has two ivory buttons, has been placed in every committee room in a location decided by the committee. The devices are also located in each Legislative Council office. In order to activate the device during an emergency, both ivory buttons must be simultaneously pressed. When the device is activated, a message is sent to the Capitol Police. The message is only audible to the Capitol Police and will not be publicly announced. The Capitol Police will go to the site of the emergency to determine how best to respond to the message depending on the type of crisis that is occurring. At the same time, the Capitol Police will inform the Montpelier Police Department about the status of the emergency. If the Capitol Police determine that it is necessary to notify the public of the emergency, they will advise the occupants of the State House on how to proceed over the State House's public announcement system.

New Fire Alarm System

Updates were made to the State House's fire alarm system. If a fire is detected in the building, strobe lights will be activated and an automated public notification will be made advising the occupants of the building to leave the State House. The new system also includes a public announcement system that allows the Capitol Police to make announcements, if necessary.

If there are any further questions about these new emergency response systems, please reach out to the Capitol Police.