




Welcome:


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Presentation Outline:

- Brief update on 2025 fire season
- Introduction to the history of the forest fire and fire prevention statutes
- Overview of proposed statutes:
 - Current statute
 - Concerns
 - Proposed Changes
 - Expected outcome



**2025 VERMONT WILDLAND
FIRE PROGRAM UPDATE**


 FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION
VERMONT
 AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

84 Fires for 66 Acres

Wet spring and early summer conditions
with few fires


Drought by mid-July led to most summer
fires in 25 years

164 days Moderate or greater fire danger

* 2026: YTD 22 fires; 138 acres

Scotch Hill Road Fire, Fair Haven, July 23rd

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84 fires for total of 66 acres in 56 different towns in Vermont in 2025. The 10-year average is 78 fires for 124 acres. (2026: YTD 22 fires; 138 acres)

Fire Danger during spring of 2025 was generally low with some elevated fire danger in late March and another dry period in late April.

In July precipitation across the state was scattered. This led to isolated areas of drought across many portions of the state

Vermont was at Moderate, High, or Very High fire danger for 164 days. Fire danger stayed Moderate or above continuously from July 5 – October 30!

Majority of the wildfires in 2025 were been human caused, with debris burning accounting for 30% of the fires. The severe to extreme drought conditions led to 4 Lighting fires and 14 fires caused by campfires.

July 23rd, the Scotch Hill Road Fire burned 12 acres. This was the largest July wildfire in Vermont since 1998. Local fire departments from at least 8 departments in Vermont and New York, GMNF, USAR, HazMat, and FPR assisted in fire suppression. This fire was finally declared out on August 6th.

2025 Vermont Wildland Fire Program Update

Vermont was at Preparedness Level 4 for over 2 weeks

12 response requests for FPR resources; FPR staff worked on fires in VT for 24 days

Type 1 helicopter pre-positioned for VT, ME and NH



Brownell Mountain Fire, Williston, October 4th



Vermont was at Preparedness Level 4 (out of 5) for over 2 weeks.

FPR was requested to provide assistance on 12 wildfires in Vermont. FPR staff worked on fires in Vermont a total of 24 days.

Due to the extreme drought conditions, fire occurrences, and elevated fire danger in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The USFS was able to pre-position a Type 1 helicopter in New Hampshire.

On October 4th, the Brownell Mountain Fire threatened a cell and radio communications tower. FPR was requested and determined that the helicopter should be utilized to protect this important infrastructure. This was the first use of a helicopter on a wildfire in Vermont. The helicopter was able to dump 6 loads on the fire...total of 10,700 gallons in about 30 minutes.

2025 VERMONT WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM UPDATE



Volunteer Fire Assistance:

- 2025 Wildland Fire Trainings:
 - 6 wildland fire control courses
 - 5 virtual statewide wildland fire trainings
 - Total of 550 students!
- 50/50 PPE and Equipment Purchasing:
 - 33 towns
 - \$40k grants for PPE for rural fire departments.



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Vermont's Volunteer fire assistance activities in the past year included 5 wildland fire control courses taught with the Vermont Fire Academy, and 5 virtual fire trainings for firefighters and fire wardens. Total of 550 students taught in 2025.

FPR annually assists rural fire departments in purchasing wildland tools, equipment, and PPE. In fall of 2025, 33 rural towns were awarded a total of \$40k for purchasing wildland personal protective equipment. (Towns purchased \$80k worth of equipment and PPE, at a cost of \$40k to the towns)

2025 VERMONT WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM UPDATE



2025 FPR Resources:

- 5 Forestry staff went on 7 fire assignments in Alaska, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Vermont.
- Due to severe drought conditions in Vermont, by mid summer FPR staff remained in-state to be available for fire response in Vermont.



Other Accomplishments:

- 1 new fire response vehicle
- New UTV skid unit
- Approval to order a Type 6 engine!

In 2025: 5 Forestry staff went on 7 fire assignments in Alaska, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Vermont. 3 of the fire details were in cooperation with the Maine Forest Service.

Due to severe drought conditions in Vermont, by mid summer FPR staff remained in state to be available for fire response in Vermont.

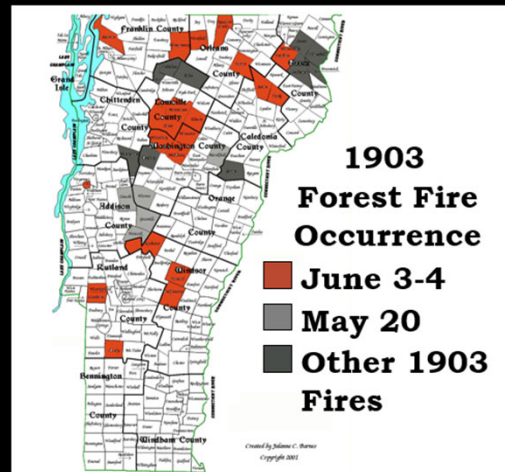
Other accomplishments included: 1 new fire response vehicle; New UTV Skid Unit for a UTV that FPR can share with USAR team, and funding by the Vermont Legislature to purchase of a new Type 6 engine; The first for Vermont!

FPR Wildland fire program and FPR business office are working with through the state procurement process with BGS purchasing. Once a vendor is selected it is expected that the build will take approximately 12 months.

BACKGROUND ON TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDENS



- Triggered by wildfires that devastated the northeast in the early 1900's and late 1800's; 5,000 acres burned in VT in 1903
- New Forest Fire Warden system established by statute in 1904
- The first forest fire wardens were selectmen from each town; in 1912 selectboard appointed wardens w/ state approval



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In 1903 over 5,000 acres burned in wildfires.

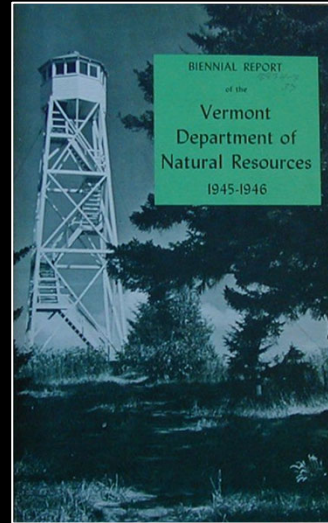
In 1904 Governor appoints a Commissioner of Forestry to oversee the new Forest Fire Warden system.

The first forest fire wardens were the first selectman from each town; in 1912 the position was to be appointed by the selectboard with approval of the state forester.

BACKGROUND ON TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDENS



- Current forest fire and fire prevention statutes were intended for a time with few fire departments
- Designed to have FPR oversee town forest fire wardens
- Has continued to be a separate system from local fire departments
- Warden Program has undergone numerous changes over the past 122 years



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Current forest fire and fire prevention statutes were intended for a time with few fire departments;
Designed to have FPR oversee town forest fire wardens;
Has continued to be a separate system from local fire departments; Goal is to align forest fire statutes with modern firefighting in VT.

The forest fire prevention statutes have undergone many changes in the past 122 years. As recently as 2016 the statutes were changed to remove the fire warden's authority to "arrest without warrant" citizens ordered to assist fighting forest fires.

LOOKING FORWARD...

- In 2023, 13 million acres burned in Quebec
- In 2024, 4,600 acres burned in Massachusetts
- In 2024, The 112-acre Hawthorne Fire in CT cost millions to suppress, w/ 2 firefighter fatalities
- 2025 Vermont had the worst drought in 130 years
- In 2024 and 2025 Vermont had 21 wildfires that were multi-day events, with several lasting 7+ days



Big Hollow Fire, Starksboro, November 2024



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While Vermont has not seen quite the same intensity of wildfires as our neighbors. We are not immune to fire. This past summer the fuel conditions were critically dry. The lack alignment with a wind event and an ignition is really the only reason we did not see a large fire.

We believe that we will see a large wildfire in Vermont in the future.

The proposed changes are intended to modernize the forest fire and fire prevention statutes and increase Vermont's preparedness and response capabilities for a large wildfire.

LOOKING FORWARD...

- Vermont FPR is proposing a suite of reforms to the Forest Fire and Fire Prevention Statute to improve legal framework for fire response and prevention.
- Proposed changes are intended to modernize the forest fire and fire prevention statutes and increase Vermont's preparedness for a large wildfire.
- FPR has engaged in consultation with Fire Chiefs and Town Forest Fire Wardens and conducted a survey to identify reform priorities and solicit information on reform approaches.
- Draft bill language provided to Rep. Hooper and we appreciate his support in bringing this forward.



Killington Fire, May 2021



The proposed changes are intended to modernize the forest fire and fire prevention statutes and increase Vermont's preparedness and response capabilities for a large wildfire.

§2603. POWERS AND DUTIES: COMMISSIONER



Current State:

- The Commissioner or designee shall be the State fire warden and may act as, and in place of, the fire warden of any municipality as provided under subchapter 4 of this chapter.



Concerns:

- Intent of Commissioner authority not defined

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Current State: The Commissioner or designee shall be the State fire warden and may act as, and in place of, the fire warden of any municipality as provided under subchapter 4 of this chapter.

Issues Related: There are no current issues related to this section, however there is a need to clarify the intent of this section.

§2603. POWERS AND DUTIES: COMMISSIONER



Proposed Changes:

- Clarify the authority of the commissioner to:
 - Appoint special forest fire wardens
 - Take command of any forest fire within the state and ability to delegate that authority
 - Serve on the NFFPC (COMPACT)
 - Ban the kindling of fires on ANR lands

Expected Outcome:

- Clear lines of authority to enable prompt response and adequate resources to manage a large incident



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Changes: Expand item (d):

Adding authority to appoint special forest fire wardens; and delegate authority from State Fire Warden to such special forest fire wardens (§2641 defines special forest fire wardens as FPR wildland fire staff)

Ability to take command of any forest fire within the state; This authority is needed for FPR wildland fire staff to take charge of a wildfire as incident commander, to request suppression cost assistance from FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant, and to utilize nationally certified responders and incident management team members for large incidents. FPR Commissioner needs to have authority to delegate that authority to an Incident Management Team that will need to be brought in when Vermont has a large wildfire.

Serve on the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission (COMPACT) with authority to enter into mutual aid agreements; Clarification due to Compact statutes listing state forester as one of the Compact commissioners.

Authority to ban the kindling of fires on ANR lands – this is referring to primitive

campfires as defined in the primitive camping rule

Expected Outcome

- Clear lines of authority to enable prompt response and adequate resources to manage a large incident

§2641. TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDENS



Current State:

- Town forest fire wardens and deputy wardens appointed by FPR Commissioner for 5-year term (with selectboard approval)
- Town Forest Fire Warden has two main duties:
 - Responsible for forest fire suppression and may delegate to chief
 - Issues permits to kindle fire



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Current State: FPR appoints all town forest fire wardens and deputy wardens for a period of 5 years with the approval of the selectboard.

Town Forest Fire Warden has 2 main duties: Responsible for forest fire suppression and Issues permits to kindle fire

Current statute states that town forest fire warden may choose to share or delegate command authority to chief engineer.

§2641. TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDENS



Concerns:

- VSA 10 §2644 states that the town forest fire warden has legal authority over forest fires
- VSA 20 § 2673 states that the chief engineer has legal authority over the apparatus and personnel associated with the fire department.
- The town forest fire warden issues permits to kindle fire and fire department responds if fire escapes



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Issues related to the current state: Authority for suppression is identified in two different statutes. This can be confusing and has potential to lead to conflict. In the case of a large or complex wildfire, legal jurisdiction needs to be clearly defined.

Authority for fire suppression is found in two statutes: VSA10 2644 states the town forest fire warden is responsible for suppression; VSA 20 2673 states that the chief engineer has charge of fire apparatus and of the companies and persons....for the purpose of extinguishing an incident or fire.

The authority for forest fire suppression needs to be clearly defined with the fire chief. If the town forest fire warden is not a member of the fire department, communication between the Town Forest Fire Warden and the Fire Chief may be challenging.

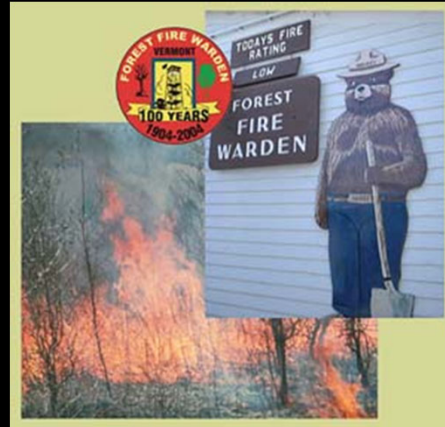
It is important that there is a direct connection with the town forest fire warden when issuing burn permits, and the fire department that will respond if the fire escapes.

§2641. TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDENS



Proposed changes:

- Identify the chief engineer of the fire department that provides protection to a town as the town forest fire warden.
- Clarify that special fire wardens are state employees.
- Gives authority for town forest fire warden to designate as many deputy town forest fire wardens as they need to issue burn permits.



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Proposed changes: Identify the chief engineer of the fire department that provides protection to a town as the town forest fire warden. FPR no longer appointing town forest fire wardens and deputies.

Additional language was added to clarify that special fire wardens are state employees and members of the Wildland Fire Program to give ability to manage wildfires.

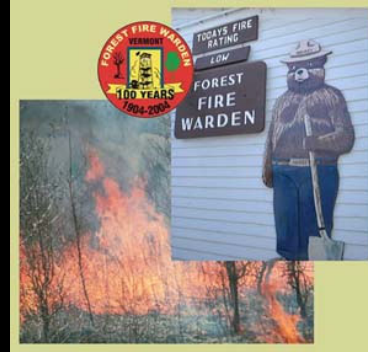
Gives authority for town forest fire warden to designate as many deputy town forest fire wardens as they need to issue burn permits without the need for FPR to appoint.

§2641. TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDENS



Expected Outcome:

- Aligns authority for all fire suppression under the fire chief in a municipality.
- Allow a town forest fire warden to appoint deputies who can issue permits to kindle fire.
- Shift town forest fire warden and deputy town forest fire warden appointments to municipal control.



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Expected Outcome: This aligns authority for fire extinguishment under one person within a town and will reduce conflict related to authority being under two different positions within a town. As the chief engineer oversees the fire department apparatus and staff, this alignment ensures prompt, professional and organized response.

The proposed changes will allow a town forest fire warden to appoint deputies who can issue permits to kindle fire, without involvement of FPR increasing efficiency and helping to not increase workload for fire chiefs.

Overall, these changes will shift town forest fire warden and deputy town forest fire warden appointments to municipal control and reduce conflict if there are differences of opinion on fire suppression and open burning within a town.

§2642. SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDENS



Current State:

- Salary for the town forest fire warden is paid by the town
- FPR provides an annual payment of \$30, as well as compensation for reporting fires and attending trainings

Concerns:

- Will be unnecessary with changes to §2641. FPR no longer appoints or requires attendance at trainings

Title 10 : Conservation and Development

Chapter 083 : Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Subchapter 004 : FOREST FIRES AND FIRE PREVENTION

(Cite as: 10 V.S.A. § 2642)

§ 2642. Salary and compensation of town forest fire wardens

(a) The salary of a town forest fire warden shall be determined by the selectboard members for time spent in the performance of the duties of his or her office, which shall be paid by the town. In addition thereto, he or she shall receive from the Commissioner \$30.00 annually for fulfilling the requirements of section 2645 of this title and keeping the required State records. He or she shall also receive from the Commissioner \$30.00 per diem for attendance at each training required by the Commissioner. He or she shall also receive annually an amount of \$10.00 for each fire report that is submitted by the forest fire warden under section 2644 of this title.

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Current State:

- Salary for the town forest fire warden is paid by the town
- FPR provides an annual payment of \$30, as well as compensation for reporting fires and attending trainings

Concern:

- If statute reform item §2641 moves forward, the payment provisions through FPR will no longer be needed since FPR does not appoint or reappoint town forest fire wardens, nor will FPR have ability to require town forest fire wardens to attend trainings

§2642. SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDENS



Proposed changes:

- Provision for towns to pay town forest fire wardens remains
- Remove FPR payment provisions

Expected outcome:

- Aligns payment with municipal and fire department
- Annual savings

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Proposed changes:

- Remove FPR payment provisions
- Provision for towns to pay town forest fire wardens remains

Expected Outcome:

- Aligns payment of town forest fire warden with the town fire department; annual taxpayer savings to the state.

\$2644. DUTIES AND POWERS OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN



Current State:

- Report all wildland fires within two weeks of the extinguishment
- Deputy forest fire wardens have same responsibilities of town forest fire wardens.

Concerns:

- FPR wildland fire staff need to be aware of all wildfires to determine preparedness

Example of a Forest Fire Report

Fire #		State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation	
Date Received		Forest Fire Report	
Date Reported		Approved by:	
Date of Fire: 4-10-2017	Time: 10:00 AM	Town: FERRISVILLE	
Fire Name: POND ROAD FIRE			
Fire Cause: DEBRIS BURNING			
Latitude: 44.66175	Was a permit issued?	Was the fire a violation?	
Longitude: 72.51170	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NUMBER OF ACRES BURNED		DATE/TIME LOG	
Conifer	0.2	Time Fire Reported	4:10 PM
Brush	1.5	Arrival on Scene	1:15 PM
Woodland/Forest		Fire Contained	1:15 PM
Total Acres	2.0	Fire Extinguished	1:15 PM
Town Forest Fire Warden Signature		Date	
[Signature]		4-10-2017	
IMPORTANT: Please include a map on the back of this report showing fire location with landmarks, fire origin (if known), wind direction and front edge.			
Wind Direction from:		Wind Speed (mph):	Temperature (F):
SSE		20	60
INCIDENT INJURIES/DAMAGES		# Residences:	# Other Structures:
# Injuries:	0	Property Damaged:	1
# Fatalities:	0	Property Damaged:	1 Shed
Person(s) Responsible:		Approx. Age:	
M. D. C.		52	
Who Reported the Fire: M. D. C.			
FIRE SUPPRESSION RESOURCES ON SCENE		Number of Personnel or Apparatus Identification	Total Hours
Town Forest Fire Wardens		2	3.5
In-town Firefighters		3	3.5
Mutual Aid Firefighters		4	3.0
Brush Trucks		2	3.5
Engines/ATVs		1	3.5
Trucks		1	3.5
Other: ATV / UTV / Chaise /		1 ATV	3.0
Other: ATV / UTV / Chaise /			

Example of a Forest Fire Report- Back



Currently the fire warden is required to report to FPR all wildland fires within two weeks of the extinguishment of a (wildland) fire. Deputy forest fire wardens have the same responsibilities of town forest fire wardens.

Issues/concerns:

- The occurrence of wildland fires is utilized to enhance the weather data to provide an accurate evaluation of fire danger.
- When fire danger is elevated, the wildland fire team will have staff on-call or on stand-by.
- Fire occurrence information is tied directly to our staffing levels and operating costs.

§2644. DUTIES AND POWERS OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN



Proposed Change:

- Inform FPR within 24 hours of discovery for fires ~~not on ANR lands~~
- Fire reports within 48 hours of extinguishment
- Deputy town forest fire warden role to only issue permits

Expected Outcome:

- FPR is aware of all wildfires and can staff appropriately
- Deputy town forest fire wardens alleviate additional workload on fire chief (town forest fire warden)



Hapgood Fire, Peru, September 6

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Proposed change:

- Changes the requirement for informing FPR within 24 hours of discovery for fires not on ANR lands; ***Note: correction needed here. FPR needs to be informed about fires on all lands.
- Requires a fire report be provided within 48 hours of extinguishment.
- Defines deputy town forest fire warden role only for issuing permits to kindle fire with no responsibility for fire suppression.

Expected outcome:

- Prompt notification of all wildfires and final reporting provides valuable information ensuring FPR wildland fire staffing is at the appropriate level.
- The use of deputy wardens to issue permits to kindle will alleviate potential additional workload for fire chiefs as town forest fire wardens.

§2643. TOWN'S LIABILITY FOR SUPPRESSION OF FOREST FIRES; STATE AID



Current State:

- Municipalities are responsible for suppression costs on non-ANR lands; however, FPR may reimburse suppression costs.
- FPR shall reimburse for suppression costs on ANR lands.

Concerns:

- Lack of clarity when FPR reimburses for fires on all lands
- No assurance that FPR is involved in suppression on ANR lands.



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Current State:

- Towns are responsible for suppression costs except on lands owned by ANR.
- FPR may reimburse suppression cost for fires not on ANR lands.
- Concerns:
 - There is a general lack of clarity related to fire suppression costs. When would FPR reimburse for suppression costs on private or municipal lands?
 - No mechanism for ensuring FPR that there is an active fire on ANR lands

§2643. TOWN'S LIABILITY FOR SUPPRESSION OF FOREST FIRES; STATE AID



Proposed Changes:

- Suppression costs on non-ANR lands may be paid for if funds are available through other emergency funding sources
- On ANR lands provides clear requirements for reimbursement of suppression costs by FPR

Expected Outcome:

- Clear guidance related to payment on all lands
- Ensures FPR is involved in suppression on ANR lands to be eligible for reimbursement



Eagle Mountain Fire, Milton, May 2015

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Proposed Changes:

- Clarify that suppression costs may be paid for if funds have been appropriated or available through other sources
- Provides timelines for informing FPR of a wildland fire suppression effort, especially as it relates to potential reimbursement of suppression costs.

Expected Outcome:

- Provide clear guidance for requirements related to payment for suppression costs
- Provides clear guidance on informing FPR of wildland fire suppression efforts and requesting FPR assistance on ANR lands within an hour. If FPR is paying for suppression efforts, need to be involved in making decisions.

§2645. OPEN BURNING; PERMITS



Current State:

- Permit to kindle fire is required for open burning with the following exceptions:
 - The kindling of a fire in a location where there is snow surrounding the open burning site;
 - Fires built in stone arches... existing fire rings ... that are not located within woodland or a field containing dry grass or other flammable material contiguous to woodland;
 - The kindling of a fire in a location that is 200 feet or more from any woodland...or other flammable material contiguous to woodland;

A form titled "STATE OF VERMONT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation PERMIT TO KINDLE FIRE". It includes fields for "Permit No.", "Date Issued", and "20..". The main text reads: "Permission is hereby granted to .. to kindle a fire in accordance with Vermont State Forest Fire Laws (10 V.S.A. Chapter 83, Section 2645) at .. in the town of .. on date(s) .. 20..". Below this is a section for "Special Written Conditions (if required by Warden)". At the bottom, it states "I, the undersigned permittee, understand the law and my responsibility under this permit." and has lines for "Permittee's Signature" and "Warden's Signature". A bold instruction at the bottom reads "READ CONDITIONS ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PERMIT BEFORE BURNING".

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Provides the situations where a permit to kindle fire is needed, exemptions from needing a permit and the materials that can be burned through this permit system.

(c) The provisions of this section will not apply to:

(1) the kindling of a fire in a location where there is snow surrounding the open burning site;

(2) fires built in stone arches, outdoor fireplaces, or existing fire rings at State recreational areas or fires built in stone arches, outdoor fireplaces, or fire rings on private property that are not located within woodland, timberland, or a field containing dry grass or other flammable plant material contiguous to woodland;

(3) the kindling of a fire in a location that is 200 feet or more from any woodland, timberland, or field containing dry grass or other flammable plant material contiguous to woodland; or

§2645. OPEN BURNING; PERMITS



Concerns:

- There has been ambiguity around the term campfires
- Statutes do not provide clear guidance related to campfires.
- Commissioner does not have authority to ban campfires.



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There has been ambiguity around the term campfires, and the statutes do not provide clear guidance related to campfires.

Commissioner does not have ability to ban campfires during times of elevated fire danger.

§2645. OPEN BURNING; PERMITS



Proposed changes:

- Defines types of fires and permit requirements (current statutes do not define campfires or prescribed burns):
 - Category 1 – Campfires 36” or less: do not need a permit but can be banned by Commissioner.
 - Category 2 – Debris fires greater than 36”: require a permit from town forest fire Warden; can be banned by Commissioner or fire warden.
 - Category 3 – Prescribed burns; require a permit from Town Forest Fire Warden and a plan; can be banned by Commissioner and fire warden.
 - Provides a scalable approach to prohibit specific types of fires within the state when wildland fire risk exists



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Defines types of fires and permit requirements (current statutes do not define campfires or prescribed burns):

Category 1 – Campfires (36” or less in a ring, or 200’ from vegetation); Do not need a permit but can be banned by Commissioner.

Category 2 – Debris fires (greater than 36”, or less than 200’ to vegetation); require a permit from Town Forest Fire Warden; can be banned by Commissioner and town forest fire warden.

Category 3 – Prescribed burns; require a permit from Town Forest Fire Warden and a plan; can be banned by Commissioner and town forest fire warden.

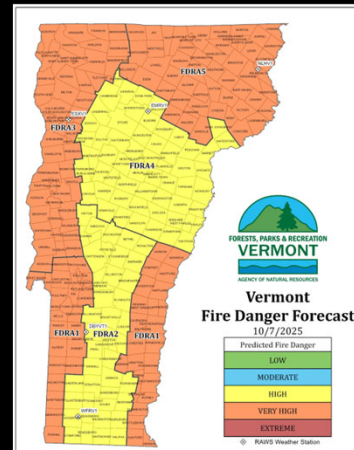
Provides a scalable approach to prohibit specific types of fires within the state when wildland fire risk exists.

§2645. OPEN BURNING; PERMITS



Expected Outcome:

- Clearly defines what types of fires require a permit.
- Enables the State to have a scalable approach to restricting categories of fires during elevated fire danger.



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By identifying different categories of fires, we can provide clearer guidance on what types of fires require a permit and those that do not.

The Commissioner authority along with these categories will enable the state to have a scalable approach to restricting types of fires during times of elevated fire danger and during periods of poor air quality.

§2646. PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOR PROHIBITING KINDLING OF FIRES; CLOSING OF FORESTLANDS

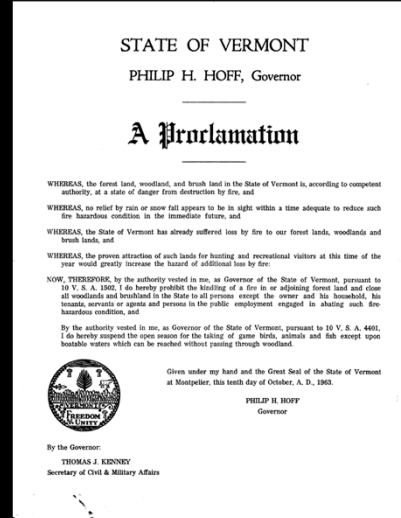
Current State:

- Governor can prohibit the kindling of fire in any town, for a specific time-period
- Exempts owners of households and their tenants
- Proclamation needs to be published in newspapers

Proposed Changes:

- Removes exemptions
- Modernizes communications

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Current State:

- Governor can prohibit the kindling of fire in any town, for a specific time-period
- Exempts owners of households and their tenants
- Proclamation needs to be published in newspapers

Proposed changes:

- Remove exemptions
- Remove the need to publish in the newspaper
- Modernizes approach to informing the public

REPEAL STATUTE ON UNIFORM FIRE PREVENTION TICKET



Current state:

- Title 10, Chapter 83, Subchapter 7 establishes a Uniform Fire Prevention Ticket within Criminal Division of the Superior Court
- The fees related to these tickets are \$25/violation plus \$25 more each day with total violation is not to exceed \$75

Concerns:

- The process for the uniform fire prevention ticket is onerous; involves superior court
- Relies on fire wardens to write criminal tickets
- This ticket has very rarely been utilized and fines have limited impact due to low fees



Current state:

- This subchapter establishes a Uniform Fire Prevention Ticket with the Criminal Division of the Superior Court
- The fees related to these tickets are \$25 for each violation and \$25/day of non-compliance with total violation is not to exceed \$75.

Concerns:

- The process for the uniform fire prevention ticket is onerous; Involves the criminal division of the superior court
- Relies on town forest fire wardens to participate in the process
- This ticket has very rarely been utilized
- Fines have limited impact due to the low fees associated with it

REPEAL STATUTE ON UNIFORM FIRE PREVENTION TICKET



Expected Outcome:

- Removes town forest fire warden from process of acting as law enforcement by issuing criminal tickets and FPR from role of administrator
- Allows municipalities to use existing authority regarding enforcement
- May encourage municipalities to create local ordinances for better assistance from law enforcement

Form No. 404
Rev. 1/13/2016

VERMONT FIRE PREVENTION TICKET A 015751

COURT ADDRESS Criminal Division/Civil Courts of Vermont

Issuing Authority

In the authority of the State of Vermont, the undersigned do hereby certify that the following person is a:

First Name (PLEASE PRINT) Last Name (PLEASE PRINT) Middle Initial

Street

Town, City State Zip Code Tel. No. (for court use)

Age DOB Place of Birth Sex Height Weight

Self Employer/Co. Employer/Co.

On: Day of Week Date Time

At: Location

In: Town

Violations of the following statute(s) are alleged:

IN VIOLATION OF: Home Statute Chapter 10 V.T.A. 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FOR PROSECUTOR'S USE ONLY

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FOR COURT USE ONLY

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INCREASING WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE CAPACITY REPORT



- The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall convene a task force to report on increasing Vermont's capacity for wildland fire response.
- Examine wildland fire incidence and existing response capacity
- Make recommendations regarding necessary equipment and actions to increase wildland fire response capacity



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- The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall convene a task force to report on increasing Vermont's capacity for wildland fire response.
- The task force shall examine available information on wildland fire incidence and existing response capacity, and shall make recommendations regarding staffing, funding, equipment, supplies, and infrastructure, including vehicles, necessary to increase wildland fire response capacity.
- The task force shall also identify any potential policy or statutory changes needed to improve wildland fire response capacity, clarify statewide roles and responsibilities among State, municipal, and federal entities, and recommend any coordination and communication improvements.
- The task force shall include representatives from the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Vermont Emergency Management, the Department of Public Safety Division of Fire Safety, the Green Mountain National Forest, and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and no more than two municipal fire chiefs.
- On or before July 15, 2027, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall submit the report to the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and

Forestry and on Government Operations & Military Affairs, and to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and Government Operations.

- In addition to any other funds appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, \$25,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund in fiscal year 2027 for the Department to enter to contract for the development of the report.

QUESTIONS?



Scotch Hill Road Fire, Fair Haven, July 23rd

