

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

2014/FY14-2017/FY17



Compiled by

KR

Bruce Kling

Last Updated: 07/9/18

Copyright © 2007-2018, klingreport.com

Given the time I have put into compiling this document, please do not copy or distribute without my written permission.

Copyright Notice:

Copyright 2007-2018 klingreport.com. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior written permission of the author.

Restrictions:

You may not distribute copies of this document to others, or electronically transfer the document from one computer to another over a network. YOU MAY NOT MODIFY, ADAPT, TRANSLATE, RENT, LEASE, LOAN, RESELL FOR PROFIT, DISTRIBUTE, NETWORK, OR CREATE DERIVATIVE WORKS BASED UPON THE DOCUMENT OR ANY PART THEREOF.

DO NOT COPY

INTRODUCTION

Municipalities utilize different types of fire departments: career, call, volunteer, and combination departments. Career fire departments employ their personnel on a full-time basis and receive regular compensation. Call fire departments receive nominal benefits and are paid when called out. Volunteer fire departments receive no compensation. A combination department usually has a limited number of personnel who are paid on a full-time basis that is augmented with a call force. Generally, career departments will be more expensive than combination departments, which will be more expensive than call departments, which will be more expensive than volunteer departments. Career departments are also known as full-time departments. Some fire departments are full-time by day but call by night and/or on weekends.

There are almost 29,800 fire departments in the United States of which only about 15% are full-time departments¹ but protect almost 2/3rds of the population. There are a total of 234 local fire departments in Vermont of which nine (9) are considered full-time departments. Of the nine full-time departments, only one fire department is a true full-time department in that it uses full-time personnel exclusively. The other “full-time” fire departments are combination departments. There are four other fire departments that provide immediate coverage during the day with nights and weekends being on-call.

- Vermont has 246 incorporated municipalities, 35 villages which are considered to be municipalities, and 9 unincorporated towns and gores.
- The unincorporated towns and gores are Averill, Avery’s Gore, Ferdinand, Lewis, Warner’s Grant, Warren’s Gore, Buel’s Gore, Glastenbury, and Somerset. The first six (6) in this list are in the Northeast corner of Vermont and are known as the unified towns and gores of Essex County. Glastenbury and Somerset are towns in Southern Vermont that were unincorporated in 1937. None of the unincorporated towns and gores has a fire department.
- The 35 villages are Albany village, Alburg Village, Barton Village, Bellows Falls, Cabot Village, Cambridge Village, Derby Center, Derby Line, Enosburg Falls, Essex Junction, Hyde Park Village, Jacksonville, Jeffersonville, Johnson Village, Ludlow Village, Lyndonville, Manchester Village, Marshfield Village, Morrisville, Newbury Village, Newfane Village, North Bennington, Perkinsville, North Westminster, Old Bennington, Orleans Village, Poultney Village, Saxton’s River, Swanton Village, Waterbury Village, Wells River, West Burke, Westminster Village, and Woodstock Village. Some of the villages have their own fire department and those will be shown in the tables categorizing the fire departments.

Municipal Fire Departments

A municipal fire department is part of a city or town funded by the city’s or town’s general fund budget which is paid for primarily through property taxes. The career departments listed in the first table are all municipal departments.

- Bennington, Essex, Rockingham, and Troy each have a municipal fire department and a village fire department.
- North Pownal, Pownal Center, and East Pownal Fire departments merge into the Pownal Valley Fire Department in 1994.
- Middlebury and East Middlebury fire departments merged in 1997.
- West Rutland Fire District merged with the town of West Rutland in 1999 to become a municipal department.

¹ U.S. Fire Department Profile Through 2015. April 2017. Hylton J.G. Haynes and Gary P. Stein.

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

- The Milton village fire department merges with the town of Milton forming the Milton fire department.
- The Putney fire department became a municipal department in 2001.

Fire Districts

A fire district is a quasi-municipal corporation. It is an independent governmental entity that exists separately from the municipality in which it resides. They are usually created for specific purposes such as fire, water, lighting, sewer, etc. As such, they have their own taxing authority. Usually, district taxes are included in the property tax bill put out by the municipality and the municipality passes the district taxes on to the district. However, some districts have their own tax collector and those district residents receive two property tax bills, one from the town and one from the district.

Vermont has many fire districts but the majority of fire districts exist to provide water and/or sewer not fire services. Seven towns have fire services provided by one or more fire districts while two towns have multiple fire departments with at least one fire department part of a fire district.

- Bennington has three fire departments but only Bennington rural (Catamount Hose Company established in 1953) is part of a fire district
- Colchester contracts for fire services from the private, non-profit Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Department (established in 1951) and from Mallets Bay Fire Department (established in 1952) which is part of Colchester Fire District #2.

Towns with a single fire district providing fire services to the entire town are Brandon, Chelsea, Westminster, and Williamstown.

- The Brandon fire district provides fire (Dunmore Hose Company) and water services to the town.
- The Dunmore Hose Company was established in 1894. The Chelsea fire department was established in 1884. The Westminster fire department was established in 1936. The Williamstown fire department was established in 1911.
- The Norwich fire department moved from being part of a fire district to being a town department in 1989.
- Berlin Fire District merged with the Montpelier Fire Department in 2002.

Towns with multiple fire districts providing fire services to the town are Dorset, Wallingford, and Weathersfield

- Dorset has two fire districts: Dorset (established in 1911) and East Dorset (established in 1943) fire districts.
- Wallingford has two fire districts: Wallingford fire district #1 (established in 1907) and Wallingford fire district #2 which funds the East Wallingford fire department.
- Weathersfield has two fire districts: Ascutney (established in 1960) and West Weathersfield (established in 1936).

Private Fire Departments

Several towns do not have a municipal fire department nor fire districts. Instead, they get fire services from a private fire department. Addison, Alburgh, Bakersfield, Berlin, Charleston, Clarendon, Castleton, East Montpelier, Franklin, Glover, Grand Isle, Granville, Guilford, Highgate, Johnson, Ludlow, North Hero, Readsboro, Sheldon, South Royalton, Strafford, Thetford, Tinmouth, Underhill-Jericho, Vershire, Wells, Williston, and Wilmington all use a private, non-profit fire department. Barnard, Barton, Burke, Cavendish, Dover, Fairfield, Hyde Park, Londonderry, Lunenburg, Newbury, Newfane, Pomfret, Pownal, Randolph, and

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Woodstock have multiple private volunteer fire departments, each in a geographic fire district not a taxing fire district. Each has their own fire chief and each receives funding from their town.

National Standards

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) developed a standard, known as NFPA 1710, to guide full-time fire departments on the minimum number of personnel needed for safe and effective firefighting. To provide EMS care (including transport), the State of Vermont and NFPA 1710 requires at a minimum 2 personnel. With the majority of the call volume increasingly becoming EMS related, I choose two (2) in-house EMTs and/or firefighters to be the minimum staffing level as the requirement for a fire department to be deemed capable of providing immediate coverage.

Two represents the minimum number of personnel to respond to an EMS call not to a structure fire. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4) defines a "2-in/2-out" rule for fighting interior structure fires. Responding to a structure fire with less than four firefighters prevents the first responding unit from complying with OSHA's "2-in/2-out" standard, and places the lives of those firefighters in jeopardy. Whether the towns listed in this document comply with this regulation is not known nor is that the purpose of this document.

The coverage information is provided in four tables. The first table lists those fire departments that provide immediate coverage 24/7. The second table lists those fire departments that provide immediate coverage for some portion of the day. All provide immediate coverage during the weekday because of the difficulty getting call firefighters to respond during the day. The coverage end time varies anywhere from 5PM to 10PM. Each table lists the town, its last known population and coverage area for land (excludes water), who dispatches the fire department, the budget numbers for fire and ambulance/EMS, ambulance revenue, staffing information, and call volume.

The third table lists those fire departments that provide 24/7 coverage but it is not immediate coverage as there is no staff in-house when the call first comes in. In other words, it lists the call and volunteer fire departments. The majority of the fire departments in Vermont are call and volunteer departments. NFPA 1720 guides volunteer fire departments on the minimum number of personnel needed for safe and effective firefighting. While this document will not provide staffing information for the call/volunteer departments, it should be noted that the number of people able to participate as firefighters has dropped significantly in many towns for several reasons: time demands, increased training requirements, increase in call volume requiring more time commitments, changes in sociological conditions, fire leadership problems, and increasing use of combination departments². As a result, many volunteer or on-call fire departments are starting to hire two daytime firefighters as this is considered to be the time period of greatest need though this does not appear to be happening yet in Vermont. However, to handle the increase in paperwork and inspections, some towns started to hire a full-time chief such as Wilmington and Norwich. Several departments in Vermont cannot provide adequate coverage during the day so they have automatic aid agreements where both departments respond (i.e., Hyde Park and Morrisville, Elmore and Wolcott).

The fourth table lists those towns with no fire department and shows who they contract out for fire and ambulance service.

Fire Budgets

Municipalities are free to use any format for internal financial reporting such as for budgeting or cost accounting. For example, some municipalities roll up health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, workers comp, and unemployment insurance into the employee benefits section and Property & liability insurance into the insurance section of the general government account. Other municipalities budget this in the fire department account. Legal fees appear to be rolled up into the legal

² "Retention and Recruitment in the Volunteer Fire Service: Problems and Solutions", December 1998

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

account for all municipalities; and building maintenance is in the general government account while covered by the fire department in others.

- The University of Vermont pays a fixed fee for fire services to the city of Burlington which is accounted for as fire department revenue.
- Calais contracts for fire coverage from East Montpelier paying 25% of the East Montpelier Fire Department budget and from Woodbury paying 33% of the average Woodbury Fire Department operating costs of the prior three years.
- Panton contracts for fire coverage from Vergennes for a fixed price per year plus an hourly wage to each member of the Vergennes fire department that responds to the fire call.
- St George contracts for fire coverage from Hinesburg and pays 15% of the Hinesburg Fire Department budget.
- The Sheffield-Wheelock fire district budget is shared by the two towns via an intergovernmental agreement with each paying 50% of the operating and capital budgets.
- Elmore and Wolcott respond to each other's calls

Full-cost budgeting has all costs allocated to each department so it is clear what it costs to run that department. As such, a full-cost budget for the fire department has wages, benefits, insurance, legal fees, utilities, fuel, equipment repairs, mechanic, and hydrant rentals (if appropriate) in its departmental operating budget. I am keeping capital budget (including debt service) separate since most towns do capital outlays as warrant articles. Of the full-time fire departments, the only ones that do full-cost budgeting appear to be Hartford, Montpelier, St. Albans, and South Burlington with the exception that all roll up legal fees into the general government budget.

One possible way to assess a fire department is by determining the cost to protect all property in the municipality it serves. This includes not just taxable properties but all properties.

Ambulance Service

In Vermont, EMS services are coordinated through the State's Department of Health, specifically the Office of EMS and Injury Prevention. Vermont has divided the State into thirteen EMS districts with each district having a significant role in pre-hospital emergency care.

Vermont has four levels of staffing: Emergency Care Attendant (ECA), EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P. For ambulance service, Vermont has three levels: BLS, ALS intermediate (ILS), and ALS paramedic. The state requires two (2) licensed personnel to be in a transporting ambulance at all times with the only requirement that one of the licensed providers be at least an EMT-B.

There are two types of emergency medical services in the EMS realm – a first responder service and an ambulance service.

- A first responder service provides emergency medical care at the scene but cannot provide emergency transport to a hospital. Given the time it may take for an ambulance to arrive on scene, first responder services are very prevalent (approximately 90) in Vermont. However, since they are not involved in emergency transport, they cannot bill patients for their services. Therefore, their town funds first responder services.
- An ambulance service provides emergency transport to a hospital. Over a third of Vermont's ambulance services respond to less than one call a day which makes maintaining skills difficult and requires a financial subsidy from covered communities (Vermont State Health Plan 2005 Part 4: Focus Areas). Emergency ambulance transport is a billable service. Most towns contract out for emergency ambulance service although there are some towns that provide their own municipal emergency transport service.

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

There are basically five types of ambulance service: A fire department based ambulance service, a municipal ambulance service (separate from the fire department), a non-profit ambulance service, a hospital-based ambulance service, and a commercial ambulance service. Vermont is different from the rest of the New England States in that most towns use a volunteer, non-profit ambulance service. In fact, the Vermont Department of Health indicates that there are fifty non-for-profit ambulance companies in the State and 32 municipal ambulance services of which twelve are through the fire departments. While some fire departments provide ambulance service, the number of such departments is small in number. The volunteer, non-profit ambulance services use a subscription service in which residents pay a small yearly subscription fee. If the ambulance service is needed, the insurance company is billed and the resident is not responsible for anything not paid by the insurance company. If a resident chooses not to pay the subscription fee, the resident is responsible for whatever the insurance company does not cover.

The following table shows the number of emergency ambulance transport providers in Vermont and what percentage of that total fall in the five categories just mentioned.

BLS/ILS Providers	Fire Dept	Muni Dept	Non-Profit	Hosp	Priv - Comm
75	25%	17%	53%	0%	4%

Knowing what percentage of emergency ambulance transport providers are fire department based, non-profit, hospital-based, commercial, or municipal-based, the following shows what percentage of towns is serviced by emergency ambulance transport providers in each State.

Fire Dept	Muni Dept	Non-Profit	Hosp	Priv - Comm
21%	10%	64%	0%	5%

Due to rounding the total percentages may be slightly below or above 100%. Please note that the above table does not take into consideration the ambulance services providing paramedic intercepts. It only reflects those ambulance service providers with emergency ambulance transport contracts with the municipalities in Vermont. You can see from the tables that 69% of emergency ambulance transport services are provided by non-profit ambulance companies yet they cover 55% of the towns.

Paramedic services are not currently available in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. While there are services in the counties which have Paramedics on-board, they are only licensed to the intermediate level of care. There are several initiatives in place within each district to implement paramedic level care. In Chittenden County, paramedic services became available in the last two years by Charlotte Rescue, Colchester Rescue, Essex Rescue, and South Burlington.

Since many towns contract out for private ambulance service, the entry in the ambulance budget column reflects the cost of that contract. Some towns don't break out the cost of ambulance service, primarily because its firefighters are cross-trained and can function either as a firefighter or an EMT depending on the nature of the call. For such towns, the fire budget covers both fire and ambulance service, and the ambulance budget column will have an entry of NBO which means "Not Broken Out". When the ambulance service is budgeted separate from the fire service, it likely does not reflect the true cost of operating the ambulance service.

The ambulance member fees, patient receipts, and paramedic intercepts are combined into ambulance revenue because I believe it to be a significant revenue source. The fees and patient receipts are revenue deposited in either the General Fund. Ultimately, both mechanisms are used to reduce taxes in some form.

There are some private, non-profit ambulance services that do not charge for their service.

- Deerfield Valley Rescue and Mad River Valley Ambulance Service rely on a subscription service and revenue from insurance billings to pay for its services rather than rely on town subsidies.

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

- St. Michael's Rescue relies on insurance payments to fund their service and do not ask for a subsidy from the towns they service as they learned that they could not request Medicaid or Medicare funding if they were subsidized in part by Towns.
- Calais gets ambulance service from East Montpelier and pays 30% of the ambulance budget.

All the fire departments in the first table providing ambulance service do their own billing so they pay no service fees to a billing company

Estimating Ambulance Service Costs

For towns that don't break out the cost of their ambulance and fire services separately due to having cross-trained personnel, how can one estimate the cost of the ambulance service? A generally accepted costing model on how to estimate the cost of EMS services for such a fire department has the following formula:

- A. Personnel Costs = average on-call time x average hourly labor rate x average number of personnel on the call x number of incidents prior year. (Hourly rate includes benefits)
- B. Vehicle = (Operating cost per mile x annual call miles) + annual cost for ambulance replacement.
- C. Supplies = Actual Cost of Medical Supplies per year + costs of billing service.
- D. indirect Costs = 25% (A+B+C). 25% is used as a factor to address other benefits and training costs.

Several fire departments in the state use this formula in determining the fee to charge towns contracting for ambulance service. There is some merit to taking the formula in part A and multiplying it by the number of shifts but that is not considered part of the formula at this time.

Staffing Levels

The National institute of Standards and Technology published a report in 2010 entitled "Report on Residential Fireground Field Experiments". This report found that a four person crew completed all tasks on the fire ground 30% faster than a two person crew and 25% faster than a three person crew. Similar results were seen with laddering and ventilation. Interestingly, four person crews completed primary search and rescue operations 6% faster than three person crews but 30% faster than two person crews. Two person crews took almost a minute longer than three person crews to stretch a hose line and almost 90 seconds longer than four person crews. With this in mind, it might be interesting to see what the staffing levels are in Vermont fire departments.

The first line in the staffing levels column shows full-time and on-call. Full-time personnel are career firefighters, chief officers, and any full-time civilians (i.e., executive secretary). The initial staffing levels are shown and if there has been any change in staffing levels, it will be followed by an arrow ('=>') and then the new levels. The second line in the staffing levels column reflects the number of shifts using full-time personnel with the following exceptions:

- Bellows Falls has a daytime staffing of 3 when one includes the fire chief and deputy fire chief. Nights have two firefighters: one full-time and one call firefighter.
- While Montpelier has a crew of 3 per shift, it is typically augmented so there are 5 personnel on duty during the day and 4 on duty half the night as they have 2 part-time EMTs who provide 24/7 coverage.

The fourth line is the number of fire stations in the municipality or district.

Firefighters are trained for firefighting and for EMT duties. Emergency response has been consolidated into many fire departments such that the majority of the call volume for a fire department today is EMS-related not fire. In fact, over the last 20 years, the number of EMS responses has more than tripled while fires have

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

decreased by almost 50%³. It is estimated that 66% of all fire department calls in 2011 were EMS-related⁴. As we have seen with the floods seen in the Caledonia and Orleans Counties in July and southern Vermont counties in April, fire departments are expected to respond to natural disasters. With the advent of 9/11, fire departments also are expected to respond to acts of terrorism. So, the role of a firefighter has changed dramatically from years ago. The fire department is also involved in fire prevention activities (such as public education and property inspections) and on-going training of its personnel.

Shifts

The third line is the shift schedule (for those departments that provide 24/7 immediate coverage). A department with three shifts typically employs a 24/48 shift. This means one day (24-hour) on followed by two days off with one Kelly day every third week. A department with four shifts typically works 42 hours per week and the work shift is employed in a variety of ways. A 24/72 shift means one day (24-hour) on followed by three days off. A 10/14 shift means two 10-hour days followed by two 14-hour nights followed by four days off. All the different shifts are depicted in Appendix A at the end of this document.

Call Volume

The calls for service (CFS) were provided by the fire chief of the department or were taken from the State Fire Marshal's Annual Report which show emergency calls only so there may be differences with the call numbers in town reports as they may contain emergency and non-emergency calls. Unfortunately, the fourteenth edition of "Fire in the United States 1995-2004" by the US Fire Administration indicates that only 65% of all Vermont fire department use NFIRS (upon which VFIRS is based). The latest Vermont Fire Marshal's report indicates that this may be up to 72% today.

The calls for service are broken down into EMS and other calls. An EMS call is defined to be medical, motor vehicle accidents, and rescue related since this is the definition used by VFIRS. Non-EMS (other) calls are fire, hazard, hazardous materials, and service calls. Motor Vehicle calls may actually show up in both EMS and other calls if the town has both a rescue squad and fire department. For the EMS call numbers in green, this represents the call volume of the ambulance provider which may or may not be the fire department.

Keep in mind that the call volume does not reflect the call response time. For example, the call volume may go down by a few calls but the call response time may actually be higher. So, call volume alone is not necessarily the only indicator of measuring the "busyness" of a fire department. Another example is the number of EMS calls. While the number of EMS calls may represent 66% of all calls, it is important to remember that an EMS call typically requires on average about 45 minutes and two or three personnel. Fire calls frequently require most, if not all, on-duty personnel and take many hours to mitigate. When looking at it from this perspective, the number of hours spent performing EMS functions versus fire functions is more like 50% each. Unfortunately, in at least one municipality, the officials looked at the call percentage and concluded that if the EMS service was privatized, it would reduce workload by 62% and hence, the fire department would not need as many personnel. Therefore, it cannot be stressed enough that call volume alone is not necessarily the only indicator of measuring the "busyness" of a fire department.

A comparison of municipal call volume across the New England States can be found in Appendix B to see if there are any trends in EMS and/or fire calls across New England.

Mutual Aid

An issue of growing concern for some fire departments is the increase in the number of simultaneous calls. This is not an area that much attention has been paid to but it puts additional stresses on a department. When an incident or multiple simultaneous incidents occur such that the available local fire department resources are overwhelmed, then additional help is summoned from other nearby fire departments. When fire departments

³ Effective Fire Protection: A National Concern. A Study by the Insurance Service Office (ISO).

⁴ Fire Loss in the United States During 2011. September 2012. Michael J. Karter, Jr.

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

help each other in this fashion, it is called Mutual Aid. In fact, a recent survey conducted for ISO⁵ indicates that over 50% of fire departments call on mutual aid to respond to initial alarms for a structure fire due to lack of responders.

In some communities, a fire department in an adjacent municipality can provide a quicker response than the local fire department. Typically, these fire departments enter into an Automatic Mutual Aid agreement. Automatic Aid provides for a fire department in another municipality to immediately respond to reported fires because it is closer, thus providing the quickest response of manpower and equipment to incidents, and allowing more of the municipality to remain protected at all times. In the same ISO Survey, over 60% indicated that neighboring departments responded due to Automatic Aid agreements.

Automatic Mutual Aid is set up as agreements between participating fire departments. Mutual Aid is set up as Run cards and clearly defines which fire departments are to respond to a fire when requested at different fire alarm levels.

Mutual Aid is covered under Vermont Statute 175:2981 for fire and ?? for EMS. To form a Mutual Aid District, the communities involved must petition the State Fire Marshal. There are several Mutual Aid Districts in the state. ***An attempt was made to list them in Appendix C and the towns that belong to them but the data is not complete and has not been verified so use caution with the data.*** There are communities in New Hampshire, New York, and Massachusetts that belong to various mutual aid organizations throughout the state. Besides providing mutual aid, these organizations may also be used for joint training, group purchases, coordination of equipment purchases, and dispatch.

Fire Dispatch

One of the keys to limiting damage caused by fire is the response time. NFPA 1710 sets a goal for all fire departments to respond to a fire within 6 minutes. Response time is defined as the time from when a 911 call is first received to the time a fire truck arrives on scene. Part of this 6-minute window is 1 minute for dispatch time. Fire and ambulance agencies are dispatched from a dispatch center. Some people believe that all 911 calls go directly to their local dispatch center rather than to a central location. Basic 911 Service is an emergency telephone system that automatically connects 911 callers to a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Enhanced-911 service does the same plus shows the caller's name, street address, and telephone number to the PSAP. This allows the PSAP to identify the caller's location automatically if the caller is unable to communicate this information verbally to the PSAP call taker. Enhanced-911 services are provided by the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board and are paid for by a monthly user fee on all telephones (land and wireless).

Vermont once had 53 primary PSAPs but that has been reduced to eight primary PSAPs located throughout the State: St. Albans City PD, Hartford PD, Shelburne PD, Rockingham VSP, Derby VSP, Williston VSP, Rutland VSP, and the Lamoille CSO.

All calls to 911 in Vermont are routed to the appropriate PSAP. Police and fire calls are immediately transferred to the appropriate local dispatch center. For medical emergencies, the appropriate EMS responder is called but the PSAP stays on the line providing appropriate emergency medical instructions while waiting for the responder to arrive.

The call volume handled by the PSAP has remained around 190,000 since 2002.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total 911 calls	187,227	197,598	195,018	208,367	215,504	206,401	203,142
EMS FD calls	19,577	22,819	22,385	22,225	22,513	23,535	23,208
Fire calls	3,089	4,661	4,089	4,169	4,203	3,575	3,269
Total Calls	39,321	47,125	44,118	43,831	45,296	45,763	44,085

⁵ Fire Chief's Opinion 2008. ISO, September 2008

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

The Fire and EMS calls were taken from town reports, the Vermont Fire Marshal's Annual Reports, dispatch centers, and town officials. The total 911 calls were taken from the yearly report to the Governor. Some local dispatch centers dispatch fire and EMS, some EMS only, some dispatch police and fire, and some just dispatch police.

Issues Facing Fire Departments

The biggest issue appears to be the aging apparatus and facilities and the lack of equipment.

- Roughly 41% of the existing fire stations are estimated to be over 40 years old, a majority of which have no backup power and are not equipped for exhaust emission control per NFPA 1500 2002 9.1.6.
- It is estimated that more than half of all engines in Vermont fire departments are at least 15 years old⁶. This is close to the national average. The industry standard for the life span of a fire engine is 15 years followed by 5 years of reserve status. Starting in 2007, the EPA's new emission standards go into effect to which the fire apparatus industry must comply. It is estimated that this will increase the cost of a new engine by as much as 50K. These new emission standards will significantly reduce the amounts of nitrous oxide, particulate matter, and non-methane hydrocarbon (NMHC) emissions.
- Providing firefighters with proper and up-to-date equipment such as portable radios, SCBA units, Personal Alert Safety System devices, and personal protective clothing. The protective clothing costs about 2,000 and the SCBA units cost about 4,500 on average.⁷

Many of the older fire stations were built in the town center when it was where the population center was. As the towns have built outward, fire stations are no longer centrally located. We have seen regionalization of dispatch services and to some extent, ambulance services. With the cost of new fire stations and apparatus, will regionalization of fire services be next?

CAVEAT EMPTOR

The personnel and number of stations initially came from the Fire Department Census Survey found on the US Fire Administration website and were cross-referenced with information from the town web sites and/or town reports. The population numbers were taken from the US Census Bureau. The Fire and EMS calls were taken from town reports, the Vermont Fire Marshal's Annual Reports, dispatch centers, and town officials.

The information in this document came from various sources (town reports, town plans, St. Albans Police Dispatch Center, and town officials) and the information was verified to the extent it was possible. While I tried to be as accurate as possible, there is the possibility for errors. Hopefully, if there are any errors, someone will be kind enough to point them out to me.

⁶ A Needs Assessment of the Fire Service: Vermont. June 2004. John R. Hall, Jr and Michael J. Karter, Jr.

⁷ National Volunteer Fire Council 2005 Fact Sheet.

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Change Summary

FY2006:

Burlington increased its staffing by one.

FY2009:

South Burlington increases shift staffing by two by hiring six full-time firefighters.

St. Albans City decreases shift staffing by 3 by laying off eight full-time firefighters.

FY2011:

Readsboro switches to North Adams ambulance service

FY2014:

Whitingham ambulance service and Valley Rescue Squad go out of business.

DO NOT COPY

Fire Departments Providing 24/7 Immediate Coverage

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	Staffing FT/Call Shift Data	EMS Calls 2014-17	Total Calls 2014-17	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Barre City	8,927 over 4.0 sq mi	Barre City PD	19/20 4 shifts of 4 24/72 shift 1 station	2256 2147 2188 2588	2869 2739 2715 2978	Barre City FD	Barre City FD
Brattleboro	11,798 over 32.0 sq mi	Brattleboro Central Dispatch	25/10 3 shifts of 7 24/48 shift 2 stations	1136 1136 1112 1133	2280 2339 2498 2429	Rescue, inc	Rescue, inc
Burlington	42,284 over 10.6 sq mi	Self Dispatch	80/0 3 shifts of 20 24/48 shift 5 stations	4351 4686 4562 3915	7001 7521 7465 7598	Burlington FD	None
Hartford	9,812 over 45.0 sq mi	Hartford PD	20/10 2 shifts of 4/5 10/14 shift 2 stations	1357 1324 1261 1293	1853 1889 1806 1807	Hartford FD	Hartford FD
Montpelier	7,755 over 10.2 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	17/26 4 shifts of 3 24/48 shift 1 station	1051 1076 962 982	1624 1755 1495 1589	Montpelier FD	Barre Town EMS or Barre City FD
Rutland City ⁸	16,126 over 7.6 sq mi	Rutland VSP	30/18 3 shifts of 9 24/48 shift 1 station	8482 8856 8975 9155	1802 1804 1688 1747	Regional Amb	Regional Amb
South Burlington	18,612 over 16.6 sq mi	South Burlington PD	25/10 => 31/12 3 shifts of 9 24/48 shift 2 stations	2261 2236 2119 2416	3050 3227 3139 3576	South Burlington FD	South Burlington FD
Springfield	9,257 over 49.3 sq mi	Springfield PD	12/38 4 shifts of 2 10/14 shift 1 station	1440 1831 1752 1649	2246 2421 2327 2313	Springfield FD	Springfield FD
St. Johnsbury	7,585 over 36.4 sq mi	St. Johnsbury PD	10/15 3 shifts of 3 24/48 shift 1 station	672 623 626 610	1402 1225 1283 1241	Calex Amb	Calex Amb

⁸ The EMS calls are for the Regional Ambulance Service which covers the City not the fire department.

Cost To Protect Property per \$1000 Valuation

There are various statistical measures that can be used to determine the cost effectiveness of a fire department. Most center on the cost per capita which can be a misleading statistic for those communities that get a large influx of visitors on weekends or the summer. For those communities, the cost per call may be a more telling statistic. One statistical measure I like is the cost to protect all property in a town. As this table shows, there can be a significant difference between the cost per \$1000 based on taxable properties and that of all properties. However, a fire department is expected to protect all properties so the cost to protect all properties gives a more realistic picture of the true cost to protect property in a municipality.

Full-time Departments

Town	2017 Taxable Property Valuation	2017 Tax-Exempt Property Valuation	Cost/\$1000 Protected Value (Taxable)	Cost/\$1000 Protected Value (All Properties)
Barre City	484,391,411	195,549,060	0.98	0.7
Brattleboro	1,099,491,962	201,966,221	1.69	1.43
Burlington	3,689,699,500	1,655,211,500	2.16	1.49
Hartford	1,328,380,900	123,285,000	1.37	1.25
Montpelier	824,781,150	201,420,800	1.79	1.44
Rutland City	960,990,275	326,598,125	3.03	2.26
South Burlington	2,968,537,250	207,523,300	1.55	1.45
Springfield	616,519,611	137,806,649	1.46	1.2
St. Albans City	504,292,400	227,756,900	0.75	0.52
St. Johnsbury	552,711,847	224,732,146	2.1	1.49
Williston	1,937,918,652	94,892,248	0.73	0.69
Windsor	97,466,250	95,827,174	3.83	1.93
TOTAL	15,065,181,208	3,692,569,123	1.68	1.35
AVERAGE	1,255,431,767	307,714,094	1.79	1.32

Combination Departments Providing Immediate Coverage by Day/On-call Nights (and/or Weekends)

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	FT/Call	EMS Calls 2014-17	Total Calls 2014-17	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Bellows Falls Village ⁹	3,074 over 1.4 sq mi	SWNH (f) Golden Cross (a)	5/20 3 shifts of 1 24/48 shift 1 station	654 521 518 537	853 847 849 701	Golden Cross Amb	Golden Cross Amb
St. Albans ¹⁰	6,876 over 10.6 sq mi	St. Albans PD	13/18 => 2/15 3 shifts of 1 24/48 shift 1 station	No EMS	228 308 254 216	AmCare	None
Williston	9,014 over 30.3 sq mi	Sheburne PD	5/32 => 9/34 3 shifts of 3 24/48 shift 1 station	934 916 949 1039	1711 1870 1938 1852	Williston FD	None
Windsor	3,485 over 19.5 sq mi	Hartford PD	5/25 1 shift of 5 1-1-1-5 shift 1 station	1514 1583 1470 1388	1915 1915 1648 1807	Windsor FD	Windsor FD Hartford FD

⁹ In 2017, due to budget issues, Bellows Falls had to layoff 3 firefighters. It is now staffed weekdays M-F with nights and weekends on call.

¹⁰ In 2009, the fire department full-time staff went from 13 to 5 and the department was told to stop responding to EMS calls. In 2012, the departments full-time staff again got cut from 5 to 3.

Call/Volunteer Fire Departments

This table lists the towns with call or volunteer fire departments. Many towns have their own fire department. Some towns have fire departments as part of a village or fire district. Some towns have private, non-profit fire departments that a town will help fund. Those towns having names of fire departments after the name of the town are some combination of municipal, private, and/or fire district departments.

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Addison	1,368 in 39.0 sq mi	Shelburne PD	73 86 87	100 115 114	Rescue	Vergennes RS	Middlebury Amb
Albany	937 in 38.7 sq mi	Derby VSP	No EMS	13 7 #	Rescue	Barton RS Orleans Amb	Calex Ambulance
Alburgh	1,986 in 48.8 sq mi	St Albans City PD	433 434 388	No Data Avail	Rescue	Alburgh Rescue	None
Arlington	2,308 in 42.4 sq mi	Rutland VSP	503 498 471	133 117 142	Rescue	Arlington RS	Bennington Rescue
Bakersfield	1,333 in 44.6 sq mi	St Albans City PD	54 36 58	74 56 76	Rescue FR	Enosburg (s) Richford (n)	None
Barnard Barnard FD E. Barnard FD	947 in 48.9 sq mi	Rockingham VSP	48 40 35	75 70 61	Rescue FR	Woodstock (e) WRV amb (w)	Woodstock Amb or WRV Amb
Barnet	1,706 in 43.6 sq mi	Twin St (f) St Johnsbury (a)	95 99 78	138 134 144	Rescue FR	Calex Ambulance	Calex Ambulance
Barre Town	7,937 in 30.7 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	1903 2052 2203	168 208 198	Rescue	Barre Town EMS	Barre Town EMS
Barton Barton FD	2,805 in 44.2 sq mi	Derby VSP	295 262 299	No Data Avail	Rescue	Barton RS	Calex Ambulance
Barton- Orleans Village	816 in 0.7 sq mi	Derby VSP	648 600 605	# 47 40	Rescue	Orleans Ambulance	Calex Ambulance
Bennington Bennington FD	15,702 in 40.6 sq mi	Bennington PD	6133 4908 5676	# 201 205	Rescue	Bennington RS	Bennington Rescue
Bennington – North Bennington	1,639 in 1.9 sq mi	Bennington PD	No EMS	48 41 78	Rescue	Bennington RS	Bennington Rescue
Bennington Rural Fire District	138	Bennington PD	No EMS	141 181 280	Rescue	Bennington RS	Bennington Rescue
Benson	1,049 in 45.5 sq mi	Rutland VSP	63 52 54	85 81 74	Rescue FR	Fair Haven RS	Fair Haven RS
Berkshire	1,706 in 42.2 sq mi	St Albans City PD	113 50 120	181 72 153	Rescue FR	Richford RS Enosburg Amb	None
Berlin	2,886 in 36.9 sq mi	Capital West (f) Lamoille cso (a)	398 400 330	593 562 505	Rescue FR	Barre Town EMS	Barre Town EMS
Bethel	2,022 in 45.4 sq mi	Rockingham VSP	23 28 24	70 107 61	Rescue	White River Valley Amb	White River Valley Amb

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Bolton	1,190 in 42.8 sq mi	Capital West (f) contact comm(a)	No EMS	75 92 86	Rescue	Richmond Rescue	None
Bradford	2,804 in 29.9 sq mi	Upper Valley RDC	399 418 410	561 587 552	Rescue FR	Upper Valley Ambulance	Upper Valley Ambulance
Brandon Fire District	3,943 in 40.2 sq mi	Rutland VSP	758 696 519	153 169 145	Rescue	Brandon RS	Brandon RS
Bridgewater	936 in 49.6 sq mi	Woodstock PD	No EMS	48 52 47	Rescue	Woodstock Ambulance	Woodstock Ambulance
Bridport	1,216 in 46.2 sq mi	Shelburne Pd (f) MREMS (a)	62 52 66	83 81 89	Rescue FR	Middlebury Ambulance	Middlebury Ambulance
Brighton	1,218 in 53.4 sq mi	Derby VSP	No EMS	30 35 #	Rescue	Lyndon RS	Calex Ambulance
Bristol	3,885 in 42.2 sq mi	Shelburne PD	553 689 610	137 114 138	Rescue	Bristol RS	Middlebury Amb
Brookfield	1,296 in 41.7 sq mi	Barre City Pd (f) Rock. VSP (a)	No EMS	55 37 32	Rescue	White River Valley Amb	White River Valley Amb
Burke – East Burke FD	1,751 in 34.1 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	No EMS	51 66 86	Rescue	Calex Amb Lyndon Rescue	Calex Ambulance
Burke – West Burke Fire District	343	St Johnsbury PD	No EMS	39 45 43	Rescue	Calex Amb Lyndon Rescue	Calex Ambulance
Cabot	1,434 in 38.5 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	128 113 115	50 49 43	Rescue	Cabot Ambulance	Calex Ambulance
Cambridge	3,695 in 63.7 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	391 395 383	180 189 213	Rescue	Cambridge RS	Northern EMS
Canaan – Beecher Falls	970 in 33.4 sq mi	US Customs	No Data Avail	254 238 246	Rescue, FR	45 th Parallel EMS	45 th Parallel EMS
Castleton	4,695 in 42.4 sq mi	Rutland VSP	438 434 406	595 562 563	Rescue, FR	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance
Cavendish Cavendish VFD	1,367 in 39.7 sq mi	Ludlow PD	No EMS 82 #	58 129 41	Rescue	Ludlow Ambulance	Ludlow Ambulance
Cavendish Proctorsville FD	1,367 in 39.7 sq mi	Ludlow PD	52 64 72	113 119 116	Rescue, FR	Ludlow Ambulance	Ludlow Ambulance
Charleston	1,021 in 38.6 sq mi	Derby VSP	No EMS	32 31 31	Rescue	Newport Ambulance	Newport Ambulance
Charlotte	3,778 in 50.4 sq mi	Shelburne PD	380 364 381	209 201 133	Rescue	Charlotte Rescue	Charlotte Rescue
Chelsea Fire District	1,240 in 39.9 sq mi	Rockingham VSP	No EMS	49 50 46	Rescue	First Branch Ambulance	White River Valley Amb

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Chester	3,153 in 55.9 sq mi	Springfield PD	310 353 381	182 189 133	Rescue	Chester FD	Ludlow Amb
Chittenden	1,250 in 74.2 sq mi	Rutland VSP	55 # #	94 36 45	Rescue, FR	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance
Clarendon	2,557 in 31.6 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	78 77 39	Rescue	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance
Colchester Mallets Bay FD	17,165 in 58.6 sq mi	Colchester PD	# 90 148	444 250 425	Rescue, FR	Colchester Rescue	Colchester Rescue
Colchester – Colchester VFD			211 211 230	782 665 738	Rescue, FR	Colchester Rescue	Colchester Rescue
Concord	1,232 in 53.5 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	74 82 98	118 136 147	Rescue, FR	Calex Ambulance	Calex Ambulance
Corinth East Corinth FD	1,370 in 48.6 sq mi	Barre City PD	189 180 157	222 220 228	Rescue, FR	Upper Valley Ambulance	Upper Valley Ambulance
Cornwall	1,182 in 28.6 sq mi	Shelburne Pd (f) MREMS (a)	39 42 55	67 91 87	Rescue, FR	Middlebury Ambulance	Middlebury Ambulance
Craftsbury	1,204 in 39.7 sq mi	Derby VSP	41 45 40	67 72 60	Rescue	Hardwick RS	Northern EMS
Danby-Mt. Tabor	1,301 in 85.3 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	58 56 57	Rescue	Manchester RS Granville (NY) RS	Manchester RS
Danville	2,194 in 61.2 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	457 193 No EMS	80 83 70	Rescue	Danville RS	Calex Ambulance
Derby	4,612 in 57.6 sq mi	Derby VSP	487 539 No EMS	113 102 122	Rescue	Newport Ambulance	Newport Ambulance
Dorset Dorset Fire District	2,022 in 47.9 sq mi	WCSO, NY (f) Manchstr PD (a)	No EMS	100 105 96	Rescue	Manchester RS	Manchester RS
Dorset East Dorset Fire District			No EMS	112 114 92	Rescue	Manchester RS	Manchester RS
Dover East Dover VFD	1,117 in 35.3 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	No EMS	No Data Avail	Rescue	Deerfield Valley Rescue	Bennington Rescue
Dover – West Dover FD			No EMS	163 144 139	Rescue	Deerfield Valley Rescue	Bennington Rescue
Dummerston W. Dummerston	1,854 in 30.8 sq mi	SWNH (f) Brattleboro Dispatch (a)	101 99 83	169 205 171	Rescue, FR	Rescue, inc	Rescue, inc
East Montpelier	2,580 in 32.1 sq mi	Capital West (f) Barre City Pd(a)	309 418 389	415 587 532	Rescue, FR, Amb	East Montpelier FD	Barre Town EMS
Elmore	863 in 39.6 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	No EMS	43 42 41	Rescue	Morristown RS	Morristown RS

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Enosburg	2,718 in 48.7 sq mi	St Albans City PD	826 782 755	99 80 75	Rescue	Enosburg Amb	None
Essex Essex FD	19,713 in 34.4 sq mi	Essex PD	486 472 518	1082 881 409	Rescue, FR	Essex Rescue	Essex Rescue
Essex Essex Junction	9,331 in 4.9 sq mi	Essex PD	92 94 121	449 455 538	Rescue, FR	Essex Rescue	Essex Rescue
Fair Haven	2,718 in 18.1 sq mi	WCSSO, NY	571 576 468	126 116 565	Rescue	Fair Haven RS	Fair Haven RS
Fairfax	4,319 in 40.5 sq mi	St Albans City PD	374 394 423	162 164 607	Rescue	Fairfax RS	None
Fairfield Fairfield FD E. Fairfield FD	1,912 in 68.5 sq mi	St Albans City PD	No EMS	38 41 34	Rescue	AmCare	None
Fairlee	979 in 21.2 sq mi	Upper Valley RDC	98 147 133	158 201 196	Rescue, FR	Upper Valley Ambulance	Upper Valley Ambulance
Ferrisburgh	2,768 in 61.2 sq mi	Shelburne PD	No EMS	96 75 67	Rescue	Vergennes RS	Charlotte Rescue
Franklin	1,416 in 40.8 sq mi	St Albans City PD	109 92 103	136 120 142	Rescue, FR	Franklin Rescue	None
Georgia	4,550 in 45.2 sq mi	St Albans City PD	196 199 289	355 342 417	Rescue, FR	AmCare	None
Glover	1,119 in 38.6 sq mi	Derby VSP	245 185 209	No Data Avail	Rescue	Glover Ambulance	Calex Ambulance
Grafton	674 in 38.4 sq mi	SWNH (f) GoldenCross (a)	51 50 88	88 105 172	Rescue, FR	Golden Cross Ambulance	Golden Cross Ambulance
Grand Isle	2,055 in 35.1 sq mi	St Albans City PD	300 285 278	144 147 406	Rescue	Grand Isle RS	None
Granville	297 in 52.2 sq mi	Rockingham VSP	39 82 91	68 112 127	Rescue, FR	WRV Amb (e) Valley RS (w)	White River Valley Amb
Greensboro	760 in 39.4 sq mi	Private Dispatcher	No EMS	39 33 39	Rescue	Hardwick RS	Northern EMS
Groton	1,020 in 55.0 sq mi	Twin State	70 106 87	175 246 138	Rescue, FR	Woodsville Ambulance	Woodsville Ambulance
Guilford	2,108 in 40.0 sq mi	SWNH (f) Brattleboro Dispatch (a)	134 134 110	213 243 226	Rescue, FR	Rescue, inc	Rescue, inc
Halifax	724 in 39.8 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	No EMS	36 56 50	Rescue, FR	Deerfield Valley Rescue	Rescue, inc
Hancock	322 in 38.5 sq mi	Rockingham VSP	No EMS	No Data Avail	Rescue	Valley RS	

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Hardwick	3,003 in 38.9 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	498 579 528	87 66 67	Rescue	Hardwick RS	Northern EMS
Hartland	3,393 in 45.2 sq mi	Hartford PD	201 164	324 287	Rescue, FR	Woodstock, Windsor, Hartford	Woodstock, Hartford FD
Highgate	3,561 in 59.9 sq mi	St.Albans City PD	No EMS	101 95 87	Rescue	Missisquoi Valley Rescue	None
Hinesburg	4,425 in 40.1 sq mi	Shelburne Pd (f) St Michaels (a)	338 287 310	497 407 401	Rescue, FR	St Michaels Rescue	Charlotte Rescue
Hubbardton	702 in 28.9 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	40 35 46	Rescue	Fair Haven RS	Fair Haven RS
Huntington	1,952 in 38.1 sq mi	Shelburne PD	No Data Avail	72 98	Rescue, FR	Richmond Rescue	None
Hyde Park Hyde Park FD	2,981 in 39.0 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	70 89 96	181 192 192	Rescue, FR	Northern EMS	Northern EMS
Hyde Park North Hyde Park FD			No EMS	51 49 56	Rescue	Northern EMS	Northern EMS
Ira	429 in 21.3 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	18 20 11	Rescue	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance
Irasburg	1,160 in 40.6 sq mi	Derby VSP	No EMS	31 28 38	Rescue	Orleans Ambulance	Calex Ambulance
Isle La Motte	469 in 16.7 sq mi	St Albans City PD	55 45 38	96 94 68	Rescue, FR	Alburg Rescue	None
Jamaica	1,029 in 49.5 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	63 69 69	128 146 149	Rescue, FR	Londonderry Rescue Rescue, inc	Londonderry Rescue Rescue, inc
Jay	520 in 34.0 sq mi	Derby VSP	No EMS	50 #	Rescue	Missisquoi Valley Amb	Northern EMS
Johnson	1,452 in 45.1 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	40 38 52	120 107 122	Rescue, FR	Northern EMS	Northern EMS
Killington – Sherburne VFD	806 in 46.9 sq mi	Rutland VSP	93 138 117	284 273 216	Rescue, FR	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance
Lincoln	1,269 in 44.0 sq mi	Shelburne PD	63 58 49	88 100 83	Rescue FR	Bristol RS	Middlebury Ambulance
Lowell	877 in 56.1 sq mi	Derby VSP	No EMS	14 35 33	Rescue	Missisquoi Valley Amb	Northern EMS
Londonderry Champion	1,758 in 35.9 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	443 513 471	44 60 48	Rescue	Londonderry Rescue	Londonderry Rescue
Londonderry Phoenix Fire C				57 86 72	Rescue	Londonderry Rescue	Londonderry Rescue

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Ludlow	1,963 in 35.7 sq mi	Ludlow PD	805 787 796	186 166 171	Rescue	Ludlow Ambulance	Ludlow Ambulance
Lunenburg Gilman FD Lunenburg FD	1,299 in 45.4 sq mi	State Hwy (f) Derby VSP (a)	No EMS	34 24	Rescue	Lancaster EMS	Lancaster EMS
Lyndon - Lyndonville FD	5,971 in 39.8 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	1519 1430 1486	212 235 195	Rescue	Lyndon Rescue	Calex Ambulance
Manchester	4,371 in 42.3 sq mi	Manchester PD	1196 1108 1054	210 221 213	Rescue	Manchester RS	Manchester RS
Marlboro	1,074 in 40.7 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	63 64 57	115 117 141	Rescue FR	Deerfield Valley Rescue	Rescue, inc
Marshfield	1,583 in 43.4 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	No EMS	51 47 40	Rescue	Cabot Ambulance	Barre Town EMS
Middlebury	8,483 in 39.2 sq mi	Town PD (f) MREMS (a)	2139 2375 1670	42 230 284	Rescue	Middlebury Ambulance	Middlebury Ambulance
Middlesex	1,735 in 39.9 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	158 153 168	239 250 228	Rescue FR	Montpelier FD	Barre Town EMS or Barre City FD
Middletown Springs	741 in 22.8 sq mi	WCSO (NY)	45 39 30	92 81	Rescue FR	Poultney RS	Regional Ambulance
Milton	10,418 in 60.9 sq mi	Colchester PD	844 862 850	214 248 234	Rescue	Milton Rescue	None
Monkton	1,975 in 36.2 sq mi	Shelburne PD	60 70 65	115 123 107	Rescue, FR	Bristol RS Vergennes RS	Middlebury Ambulance
Montgomery	1,210 in 56.7 sq mi	St Albans City PD	51 39 67	26 30 24	Rescue	Richford (d) Montgomery RS (n)	None
Moretown	1,661 in 40.2 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	No EMS	49 38 44	Rescue	Northfield Amb (s) Montpelier (n)	Barre Town EMS or Barre City FD
Morristown - Morrisville FD	5,277 in 51.6 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	620 601 721	153 201 216	Rescue	Morristown RS Northern EMS	Northern EMS
Mount Holly	1,229 in 49.6 sq mi	Rutland VSP	63 105 85	46 50	Rescue	Mount Holly RS	Regional Ambulance
New Haven	1,723 in 41.8 sq mi	Shelburne Pd (f) MREMS (a)	No EMS	# 136 145	Rescue	Bristol RS (n) Middlebury Amb (s)	Middlebury Ambulance
Newark	579 in 37.2 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	52 28 #	72 51 29	Rescue, FR	Lyndon Rescue	Calex Ambulance
Newbury - Newbury VFD	1,822 in 62.5 sq mi	Twin State	286 317 291	320 358 341	Rescue, FR	Woodsville Ambulance	Woodsville Ambulance
Newbury - Wells River FD	401 over 1.9 sq mi	Twin State	No EMS	60 82 59	Rescue	Woodsville Ambulance	Woodsville Ambulance

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Newbury - W. Newbury FD	396 over 7.6 sq mi	Twin State	No EMS	23 29 56	Rescue	Woodsville Ambulance	Woodsville Ambulance
Newfane Newbrook FD	1,717 in 40.4 sq mi	SWNH (f) Brattleboro Dispatch (a)	169 186 130	267 258 233	Rescue, FR	Rescue, inc	Rescue, inc
Newfane - S. Newfane FD		SWNH (f) Brattleboro Dispatch (a)	No EMS	30 #	Rescue	Rescue, inc	Rescue, inc
Newport City	4,579 over 7.6 sq mi	Town PD (f) Derby VSP (a)	1620 1451 1487	201 243 200	Rescue	Newport Ambulance	None
Newport Town	1,590 in 43.5 sq mi	Derby VSP	No EMS	37 30 35	Rescue	Missisquoi Valley & Newport Amb	None
North Hero	798 in 46.6 sq mi	St Albans City PD	No EMS	22 #	Rescue	Grand Isle RS	None
Northfield	6,221 in 43.7 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	815 820 862	114 89 131	Rescue	Northfield Ambulance	Northfield Ambulance
Norwich	3,414 in 44.8 sq mi	Hartford PD (f) UVRDC (a)	121 100 106	252 236 252	Rescue FR	Hanover FD	Hanover FD
Orwell	1,248 in 49.7 sq mi	Local Disp (f) MREMS (a)	87 88 65	121 143 95	Rescue FR	Middlebury Ambulance	Middlebury Ambulance
Pawlet Pawlet VFD	810 in 21.1 sq mi	WCOS (NY)	1723 1734 1779	36 39 34	Rescue	Granville RS (NY)	Regional Ambulance
Pawlet W. Pawlet VFD	660 in 21.8 sq mi	WCOS (NY)		66 62 36	Rescue	Granville RS (NY)	Regional Ambulance
Peacham	732 in 47.7 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	52 55 70	79 80 104	Rescue, FR	Danville RS Cabot Amb	Calex Ambulance
Peru	373 in 37.4 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	No EMS	43 30 32	Rescue	Londonderry Rescue	Londonderry Rescue
Pittsfield	543 in 20.1 sq mi	Rutland VSP (f) Rock. VSP (a)	No EMS	35 28 30	Rescue	White River Valley Amb	White River Valley Amb
Pittsford	2,973 in 43.6 sq mi	Rutland VSP	130 187 221	272 270 327	Rescue, FR	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance
Plainfield	1,252 in 21.1 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	No Data Avail	No Data Avail	Rescue, FR	East Montpelier FD	Barre Town EMS
Plymouth	619 in 48.7 sq mi	Ludlow PD	No Data Avail	27 23 23	Rescue, FR	Ludlow (s) Woodstock (n)	Ludlow Amb, Woodstock Amb
Pomfret N. Pomfret FD So, Pomfret FD	904 in 39.5 sq mi	Woodstock PD	42 56 48	82 89 82	Rescue, FR	Woodstock Ambulance	Woodstock Ambulance
Poultney	3,414 in 44.8 sq mi	WCOS (NY)	351 449 489	169 125 167	Rescue	Poultney RS	Regional Ambulance

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Pownal Pownal FD	3,511 in 46.7 sq mi	Bennington PD	269	65 82 56	Rescue	Village Ambulance	Village Ambulance
Pownal Pownal Valley	3,511	Bennington PD	512 500	41 60 58	Rescue	Village Ambulance	Village Ambulance
Proctor	1,731 over 7.6 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	97 65 69	Rescue	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance
Putney	2,689 in 26.8 sq mi	SWNH (f) Brattleboro Dispatch (a)	272 227 235	565 486 540	Rescue, FR	Rescue, inc	Rescue, inc
Randolph - East Randolph	170 over 2.8 sq mi	Rock VSP (a) Barre City pd (f)	No EMS	22 31 24	Rescue	Whilte River Valley Amb	Whilte River Valley Amb
Randolph Randolph Ctr	1,550 in 24.4 sq mi	Rock VSP (a) Barre City pd (f)	No EMS	78 90 78	Rescue	Whilte River Valley Amb	Whilte River Valley Amb
Randolph Randolph Vllg	3,068 in 20.7 sq mi	Rock VSP (a) Barre City pd (f)	44 50	145 150 96	Rescue, FR	Whilte River Valley Amb	Whilte River Valley Amb
Reading	666 in 41.7 sq mi	Hartford PD	No EMS	81 92 46	Rescue	Woodstock Ambulance	Woodstock Ambulance
Readsboro	760 in 36.5 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	73 66 41	114 93 57	Rescue, FR	North Adams Ambulance	North Adams Ambulance
Richford	2,326 in 43.3 sq mi	St Albans City PD	492 577 612	98 104 91	Rescue	Richford RS	None
Richmond	4,108 in 32.3 sq mi	Shelburne PD	549 589 603	153 164	Rescue	Richmond Rescue	None
Ripton	586 in 49.5 sq mi	Shelburne Pd (f) MREMS (a)	30 35 30	50 46 49	Rescue, FR	Middlebury Ambulance	Middlebury Ambulance
Rochester	1,140 in 56.2 sq mi	Rockingham VSP	No EMS	44 46 32	Rescue	Valley RS	
Rockingham Rockingham FD	1,605 in 40.4 sq mi	SWNH (f) GoldenCross (a)	146 106 123	211 194 173	Rescue, FR	Golden Cross Ambulance	Golden Cross Ambulance
Rockingham - Saxtons River Village	566 over 0.5 sq mi	SWNH (f) GoldenCross (a)	# 98	# 139	Rescue FR	Golden Cross Ambulance	Golden Cross Ambulance
Roxbury	692 in 41.8 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	No EMS	26 18 29	Rescue	Northfield Ambulance	Northfield Ambulance
Royalton S. Royalton	2,781 in 40.9 sq mi	Hartford PD	323 357 403	71 83 57	Rescue	So. Royalton RS	WRV Amb, Hartford FD
Rupert	711 in 44.6 sq mi	WCSO, NY (f) Manchstr PD (a)	No EMS	45 33	Rescue	Manchester RS	Manchester RS
Rutland Town	4,032 in 19.3 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	254 179 191	Rescue	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Ryegate	1,169 in 36.8 sq mi	Twin State	143 180	171 235	Rescue FR	Woodsville Ambulance	Woodsville Ambulance
Salisbury	1,133 in 30.1 sq mi	Shelburne Pd (f) MREMS (a)	No EMS	# 31	Rescue	Middlebury Ambulance	Middlebury Ambulance
Shaftsbury	3,574 in 43.2 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	105 94	Rescue	Bennington (s) & Arlington RS (n)	Bennington Rescue
Sharon	1,501 in 40.1 sq mi	Hartford PD	No EMS	96 114	Rescue	So. Royalton Hartford (s)	WRV Amb, Hartford FD
Sheffield- Wheelock	1,511 in 72.6 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	No EMS	58 33	Rescue	Lyndon Rescue	Calex Ambulance
Shelburne	7,188 in 44.9 sq mi	Shelburne PD	900 898	251 247	Rescue	Shelburne RS	Charlotte Rescue
Sheldon	2,200 in 39.3 sq mi	St Albans City PD	108 100	166 170	Rescue FR	Enosburg Ambulance	None
Shoreham	1,263 in 46.3 sq mi	Shelburne Pd (f) MREMS (a)	85 #	# #	Rescue FR	Middlebury Ambulance	Middlebury Ambulance
Shrewsbury	1,050 in 50.2 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	38 39	Rescue	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance
South Hero	1,623 in 47.5 sq mi	St Albans City PD	139 163	149 159	Rescue	South Hero Rescue	None
St. Albans Town	6,044 in 60.6 sq mi	St Albans City PD	112 91	308 254	Rescue	AmCare	None
Stamford	821 in 9.6 sq mi	North Adams	34 52	61 78	Rescue FR	North Adams Ambulance	North Adams Ambulance
Starksboro	1,771 in 45.5 sq mi	Shelburne PD	95 118	122 173	Rescue FR	Bristol RS	Middlebury Ambulance
Stockbridge	736 in 46.2 sq mi	Rockingham VSP	24 29	46 56	Rescue FR	White River Valley Amb	Upper Valley Ambulance
Stowe	4,356 in 72.7 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	622 694	282 270	Rescue	Stowe Rescue	Northern EMS
Strafford	1,101 in 44.3 sq mi	Upper Valley RDC	66 58	96 100	Rescue FR	Upper Valley Ambulance	Upper Valley Ambulance
Stratton	215 in 46.9 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	106 124	173 196	Rescue FR	Londonderry RS (n) & Rescue, inc (s)	Londonderry RS, Rescue, inc
Sutton	1,027 in 38.4 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	No EMS	28 28	Rescue	Lyndon Rescue	Calex Ambulance
Swanton	6,477 in 61.7 sq mi	St Albans City PD	89 110	248 268	Rescue FR	Missisquoi Valley Rescue	None

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Thetford	2,594 in 44.2 sq mi	Upper Valley RDC	136 212	246 268	Rescue FR	Upper Valley Ambulance	Upper Valley Ambulance
Tinmouth	613 in 28.4 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No Data Avail	No Data Avail	Rescue	Wallingford RS (e) Poultney (w)	Regional Ambulance
Topsham – Tri-Village FD	1,176 in 49.0 sq mi	Barre City pd (f) Lamoille cso (a)	169 180	204 201	Rescue	Barre Town EMS	Barre Town EMS
Townshend	1,224 in 42.8 sq mi	SWNH (f) Brattleboro Dispatch (a)	No Data Avail	No Data Avail	Rescue	Rescue, inc	Rescue, inc
Troy Troy FD North Troy FD	1,659 in 36.1 sq mi	Derby VSP	No EMS	46 38	Rescue	Missisquoi Valley Amb	Northern EMS
Tunbridge	1,287 in 44.8 sq mi	Rockingham SP	No EMS	26 34	Rescue	First Branch Amb	Whilte River Valley Amb
Underhill-Jericho	8,075 in 86.8 sq mi	Williston SP (f) Essex PD (a)	135 142	331 320	Rescue FR	Essex RS (n) Richmond RS	Essex Rescue
Vergennes	2,582 over 2.5 sq mi	Shelburne PD	911 854	154 171	Rescue	Vergennes RS	Middlebury Ambulance
Vernon	2,192 in 20.0 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	85 178	# 243	Rescue FR	Rescue, inc	Rescue, inc
Vershire	731 in 36.5 sq mi	Upper Valley RDC	No EMS	42 81	Rescue	Upper Valley Ambulance	Upper Valley Ambulance
Waitsfield- Fayston	3,080 in 63.4 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	No EMS	107 88	Rescue	Mad River Valley Amb	Barre Town EMS or Barre City FD
Walden	930 in 39.0 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	47 34	75 63	Rescue FR	Danville RS Hardwick RS	Calex Ambulance
Wallingford Wallingford Fire District #1	2,066 in 43.4 sq mi	Rutland VSP	124 120	# #	Rescue	Wallingford RS (w) Mt Holly (e)	Regional Ambulance
Wardsboro	895 in 29.3 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	62 49	103 84	Rescue	Deerfield Valley RS Rescue, inc	Rescue, inc
Warren	1,707 in 40.1 sq mi	Williston VSP	No EMS	50 72	Rescue	Mad River Valley Amb	Barre Town EMS or Barre City FD
Washington	1,042 in 38.9 sq mi	Barre City pd (f) Lamoille cso (a)	53 58	97 90	Rescue	Barre Town EMS	Barre Town EMS
Waterbury Waterbury FD Waterbury Vllg	1,765 in 49.7 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	645 698	250 193	Rescue	Waterbury Ambulance	
Waterford	1,277 in 39.7 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	5458 45	87 81	Rescue, FR	Calex Ambulance	Calex Ambulance
Weathersfield Ascutney Fire District	540 over 1.7 sq mi	Hartford PD (f) GoldenCross (a)	172 183	290 279	Rescue, FR	Golden Cross Ambulance	Golden Cross Ambulance

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Weathersfield W Wethersfield Fire District	2,274 in 42.5 sq mi	Hartford PD (f) GoldenCross (a)	59 68	120 160	Rescue, FR	Golden Cross Ambulance	Golden Cross Ambulance
Wells	1,143 in 23.4 sq mi	WCSO (NY)	No EMS	56 59	Rescue	Granville RS (NY)	Regional Ambulance
West Fairlee	654 in 22.8 sq mi	Upper Valley RDC	42 89	74 126	Rescue FR	Upper Valley Ambulance	Upper Valley Ambulance
West Haven	262 in 28.5 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	6 #	Rescue	Fair Haven RS	Fair Haven RS
West Rutland	2,312 in 18.0 sq mi	Rutland VSP	No EMS	101 64	Rescue	Regional Ambulance	Regional Ambulance
West Windsor	1,098 in 24.7 sq mi	Hartford PD	64 89	113 152	Rescue, FR	Windsor FD	Windsor FD
Westford	2,041 in 39.3 sq mi	Williston VSP	No EMS	25 21	Rescue	Essex RS (s) Fairfax RS (n)	Essex Rescue
Westminster Fire District	3,161 in 46.1 sq mi	SWNH (f) GoldenCross (a)	226 200	374 379	Rescue, FR	Golden Cross Ambulance	Golden Cross Ambulance
Westmore	349 in 37.5 sq mi	Derby VSP	No EMS	21 #	Rescue	Barton RS (w) Orleans (e)	Calex Ambulance
Weston	566 in 35.2 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	No EMS	67 66	Rescue	Londonderry Rescue	Londonderry Rescue
Weybridge	832 in 17.6 sq mi	Shelburne Pd (f) MREMS (a)	No EMS	27 13	Rescue	Middlebury Ambulance	Middlebury Ambulance
Whiting	418 in 13.7 sq mi	Shlburne Pd (f) MREMS (a)	No Data Avail	No Data Avail	Rescue	Middlebury Ambulance	Middlebury Ambulance
Whitingham	1,350 in 39.3 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	83 93	136 152	Rescue	Deerfield Valley Rescue	Rescue, inc Baystate Hosp EMS
Williamstown Fire District	3,398 in 40.3 sq mi	Barre City PD	449 383	138 108	Rescue	Williamstown Ambulance	Barre Town EMS
Wilmington	1,865 in 41.3 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	73 72	197 196	Rescue, FR	Deerfield Valley Rescue	Bennington Rescue
Windham	417 in 26.1 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	No EMS	24 38	Rescue	Londonderry Rescue	Londonderry Rescue
Winhall	765 in 44.0 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	No EMS	125 132	Rescue	Londonderry Rescue	Londonderry Rescue
Winooski	7,312 over 1.5 sq mi	Town PD (f) St Michaels (a)	No EMS	404 368	Rescue	St Michaels Rescue	None
Wolcott	1,691 in 39.2 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	No EMS	34 53	Rescue	Hardwick RS Morristown RS	Northern EMS

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop/ Cover Area	Dispatch	EMS Calls 2015-17	Total Calls 2015-17	FD EMS Level	BLS Transport	Paramedic Services
Woodbury	907 in 39.1 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	No EMS	64 72	Rescue	Hardwick RS	Northern EMS
Woodstock Woodstock FD	3,047 in 44.6 sq mi	Woodstock PD	604 700	232 171	Rescue	Woodstock Ambulance	Woodstock Ambulance
Woodstock S. Woodstock		Woodstock PD	No Data Avail	No Data Avail	Rescue	Woodstock Ambulance	Woodstock Ambulance
Worcester	999 in 38.8 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	No Data Avail	No Data Avail	Rescue	Montpelier FD	Barre Town EMS or Barre City FD

DO NOT COPY

Towns with No Fire Departments

There are several towns with small populations that cannot afford to fund a fire department. This table lists those towns and shows the fire and emergency ambulance agencies they contract with to provide fire and ambulance coverage.

Municipality	Pop	Dispatch	Ambulance Provider	Fire Coverage Provided by
Andover	467 over 28.6 sq mi	Springfield PD	Chester FD	Chester FD
Athens	440 over 13.0 sq mi	SWNH (f) GoldenCross (a)	Golden Cross Ambulance	Golden Cross Ambulance
Baltimore	244 over 4.7 sq mi	Springfield PD	Springfield FD	Springfield FD
Belvidere	35 over 32.1 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	Northern EMS	Johnson FD
Bloomfield	221 over 40.3 sq mi	Colebrook Comm Center	45 th Parallel EMS	Colebrook FD
Braintree	1,249 in 38.3 sq mi	Barre City PD (f) Rock VSP (a)	White River Valley Amb	Randolph Village FD
Brookline	527 over 12.9 sq mi	SWNH (f) Brattleboro Dispatch (a)	Rescue, inc	New Brook FD
Brownington	986 over 28.3 sq mi	Derby VSP	Orleans Ambulance	Orleans Village FD
Brunswick	111 over 25.5 sq mi	Colebrook Comm Center	Orleans Ambulance	Colebrook FD Orleans Village
Calais	1,610 over 38 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	East Montpelier FD	E. Montpelier Woodbury FD
Coventry	1,084 in 27.5 sq mi	Derby VSP	Newport Amb Orleans Amb	Irasburg FD Newport Center Orleans Village
Duxbury	1,337 in 42.9 sq mi	Capital West Dispatch	Waterbury Ambulance	Moretown FD Waterbury FD
Eden	1,336 in 63.6 sq mi	Lamoille CSO	Northern EMS	Joint with Hyde Park
Fletcher	1,288 in 37.7 sq mi	St Albans City PD	Cambridge RS Fairfax RS	Cambridge FD Fairfax FD
Glastonbury	8 over 44.4 sq mi	Rutland VSP	Arlington RS	Shaftsbury FD
Goshen	163 over 20.7 sq mi	Rutland VSP	Brandon RS	Brandon FD
Granby	88 over 39.0 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	Lyndon RS Lancaster EMS	East Burke FD

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop	Dispatch	Ambulance Provider	Fire Coverage Provided by
Guildhall	260 over 32.8 sq mi	NH State Hwy Dispatch	Lancaster EMS Groveton Amb	Lancaster FD (s) Groveton FD (n)
Holland	628 over 37.6 sq mi	Derby VSP	Newport Ambulance	Derby FD
Kirby	486 over 24.4 sq mi	St Johnsbury PD	Calex Amb Lyndon RS	St Johnsbury Lyndon FD
Landgrove	157 over 9.1 sq mi	Southwest NH Dispatch	Londonderry Rescue	Londonderry FD
Leicester	1,004 1,100 1,098	Rutland VSP	Brandon RS	Brandon FD Whiting FD
Lemington	118 104 103	Colebrook Comm Center	45 th Parallel EMS	Colebrook FD
Maidstone	104 208 208	NH State Hwy Dispatch	Groveton Amb	Stratford FD (n) Groveton FD (s)
Mendon	1,079 1,057 1,052	Rutland VSP	Regional Amb	Rutland FD
Morgan	740 749 748	Derby VSP	Derby Line	East Charleston, Brighton, Derby
Mount Tabor	197 254 253	Rutland VSP	Manchester RS	Joint with Danby
Norton	226 169 169	US Customs	45 th Parallel EMS	Beecher Falls FD
Orange	960 1,073 1,075	Barre City PD	Barre Town Ambulance	Barre Town FD Tri-Village FD Washington FD
Panton	689 676 675	Shelburne PD	Vergennes RS	Vergennes FD
St. George	696 676 679	Shelburne PD (f) St Michaels (a)	St Michaels Rescue	Hinesburg FD
Sandgate	354 405 404	Rutland VSP	Arlington RS	Arlington FD
Searsburg	90 109 108	Southwest NH Dispatch	Deerfield Valley RS	Wilmington FD
Somerset	5 3 3	Southwest NH Dispatch	Deerfield Valley RS	Wilmington FD
Stannard	193 215 216	Private Dispatcher	Hardwick RS	Greensboro FD
Sudbury	618 559 557	Addison CSO (f) Rutland SP (a)	Brandon RS	Whiting FD Hubbardton FD
Sunderland	913 955 952	Rutland VSP	Arlington RS	Arlington FD

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Municipality	Pop	Dispatch	Ambulance Provider	Fire Coverage Provided by
Victory	94 62 62	St Johnsbury PD	Calex Amb (s) Lyndon Resc (n)	East Burke FD Concord FD
Waltham	480 485 485	Shelburne PD	Vergennes RS	Vergennes FD
Waterville	711 675 679	Lamoille CSO	Northern EMS	Johnson FD
Westfield	513 535 535	Orleans CSO	Missisquoi Valley Amb	Troy FD
Woodford	389 423 423	Bennington PD	Bennington RS	Bennington Rural FD
UTG Avery's Gore Averill Ferdinand Lewis Warner's Grant Warren Gore	60 60 60	US Customs (f) St Johnsbury (a)	Lyndon Rescue	Beecher Falls FD Beecher Falls FD Brighton FD Brighton FD Beecher Falls FD Beecher Falls FD

DO NOT COPY

Appendix A – Work Shift Schedule Examples

in discussing shift schedules in this document, it may be difficult at times for the reader to understand these different schedules. So, here are examples of the different shifts for those department deploying four shifts. The different shifts are labeled A, B, C, and D.

24/72 (1 day on/3 days off) shift						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
A	B	C	D	A	B	C
D	A	B	C	D	A	B
C	D	A	B	C	D	A
B	C	D	A	B	C	D
A	B	C	D	A	B	C

24/48 (1 day on/2 days off) shift						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
A	B	C	A	B	C	A
B	C	A	B	C	A	B
C	A	B	C	A	B	C
A	B	C	A	B	C	A
B	C	A	B	C	A	B

10/14 shift													
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
B	A	B	A	C	B	C	B	D	C	D	C	A	D
A	D	B	A	B	A	C	B	C	B	D	C	D	C
A	D	A	D	B	A	B	A	C	B	C	B	D	C
D	C	A	D	A	D	B	A	B	A	C	B	C	B
D	C	D	C	A	D	A	D	B	A	B	A	B	A

2 days on/1 day off/2 nights on/3 days off													
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
A	C	A	D	B	D	B	A	C	A	C	B	D	B
D	C	A	C	A	D	B	D	B	A	C	A	C	B
D	B	D	C	A	C	A	D	B	D	B	A	C	A
C	B	D	B	D	C	A	C	A	D	B	D	B	A
C	A	C	B	D	B	D	C	A	C	A	C	A	D

Appendix B - EMS and Fire Emergency Calls across New England

Using information from the State Fire Marshal Office Annual Reports for Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts; and NFIRS for Connecticut and New Hampshire, we can look at the number of municipal fire and EMS calls to determine if any trends can be observed. Since all the data (including that in the FMO Annual Report) is taken from NFIRS, it is dependent on the number of fire departments entering their data into the system and there is not 100% compliance.

New England State	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5yr Avg
Connecticut								
Muni EMS calls	193,191	173,638	185,832	205,487	185,890	203,422	222,609	190,854
Fire calls	15,596	12,450	11,997	13,069	11,956	11,740	11,884	12,242
Non-fire calls	122,145	135,781	108,047	113,139	106,845	107,797	113,860	114,322
Total Muni Calls	330,932	321,869	305,876	331,695	304,691	322,959	348,353	317,418
% Muni EMS calls	58.4%	53.9%	60.8%	62.0%	61.0%	63.0%	63.9%	60.1%
% Muni Fire Calls	4.7%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.6%	3.4%	3.9%
Maine								
Muni EMS calls	49,693	54,001	60,490	55,573	70,076	81,750	78,887	64,378
Fire calls	4,609	4,420	4,983	4,595	5,112	5,653	6,011	4,953
Non-fire calls	22,814	24,800	26,589	26,017	32,289	33,930	34,387	28,725
Total Muni Calls	77,116	83,221	92,062	86,185	107,477	121,333	119,285	98,056
% Muni EMS calls	64.4%	64.9%	65.7%	64.5%	65.2%	67.4%	66.1%	65.7%
% Muni Fire Calls	6.0%	5.3%	5.4%	5.3%	4.8%	4.7%	5.0%	5.1%
New Hampshire								
Muni EMS calls	75,540	81,403	82,456	87,534	99,124	98,746	111,147	89,853
Fire Calls	6,614	5,755	6,397	6,071	5,844	6,793	7,375	6,172
Non-fire calls	50,318	54,254	49,302	52,407	58,378	55,260	58,261	53,920
Total Muni Calls	132,472	141,412	138,155	146,012	163,346	160,799	176,783	149,945
% Muni EMS calls	57.0%	57.6%	59.7%	59.9%	60.7%	61.4%	62.9%	59.9%
% Muni Fire Calls	5.0%	4.1%	4.6%	4.2%	3.6%	4.2%	4.2%	4.1%
Vermont								
Muni EMS calls	19,577	22,819	21,396	22,225	22,513	23,535	23,208	22,498
Fire Calls	3,089	3,235	3,031	4,076	5,431	3,575	3,269	3,870
Non-fire calls	16,657	21,071	18,702	20,119	16,332	16,332	16,332	18,511
Total Muni Calls	41,969	48,326	45,677	46,420	45,569	45,763	44,085	46,351
% Muni EMS calls	46.6%	47.2%	46.8%	47.9%	49.4%	51.4%	52.6%	48.5%
% Muni Fire Calls	7.4%	6.7%	6.6%	8.8%	11.9%	7.8%	7.4%	8.3%
Massachusetts								
Muni EMS calls	406,253	429,488	442,310	443,486	472,447	510,956		450,823
Fire calls	32,680	29,110	31,229	29,828	28,989	31,302		30,367
Non-fire calls	288,693	309,746	285,297	298,686	306,611	327,928		297,807
Total Muni Calls	727,626	768,344	758,836	772,000	808,047	870,186		784,173
% Muni EMS calls	55.8%	55.9%	58.3%	57.4%	58.5%	58.7%		57.5%
% Muni Fire Calls	4.5%	3.8%	4.1%	3.9%	3.6%	3.6%		3.9%
Rhode Island								
Muni EMS calls	134,983	144,353	149,703	148,105	156,579	161,022	154,820	151,952
Total Muni Calls	207,298	199,866	198,786	199,541	195,623	207,763	204,023	200,316
% Muni EMS calls	65.1%	72.2%	75.3%	74.2%	80.0%	77.5%	75.9%	75.9%
% Muni Fire Calls	34.9%	27.8%	24.7%	25.8%	20.0%	22.5%	24.1%	24.1%

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

In looking at Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, the percentage of fire and EMS calls relative to the total calls are similar. Of the non-fire calls, false alarms and service calls account for between 25% and 30% of the total emergency calls for the five States in the table above.

- Maine's percentage of fire and EMS calls relative to the total calls are higher than these three States. This may be partly due to the fact that slightly less than half the fire departments report incident data.
- Vermont's percentage of fire calls is higher and the percentage of EMS calls is lower relative to the total calls. The lower EMS percentage may be due to Vermont's reliance on non-profits for ambulance service (although many towns have a first responder squad) and its higher fire call percentage may be due to its small population and smaller density (population per square mile).

DO NOT COPY

Appendix C – Mutual Aid Associations

Most of the county mutual aid associations coordinate mutual aid with respect to dispatch operations and joint training. They generally do not get involved with equipment purchases.

Mutual Aid Association	Year Form	Departments/Towns
Addison County Firefighters Association (www.addisoncountyfire.org)	1944	Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburg, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Weybridge, Whiting
Bennington County Mutual Aid Assn		Arlington, Bennington, Bennington Rural, Dorset, Manchester, North Bennington, Peru, Pownal, Pownal Village, Readsboro, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Winhall
Chittenden County Fire Mutual Aid (www.ccfmas.org)	2002	Bolton, Burlington, Charlotte, Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, Grand Isle, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Mallets Bay, Milton, North Hero, Richmond, Shelburne, South Burlington, St. George, South Hero, Underhill, Westford, Williston, Winooski
Franklin County Mutual Aid Association (17 departments in VT, 5 in Canada)	1974	VT: Alburg, Bakersfield, Berkshire, East Fairfield, Enosburg, Fairfax, Fairfield, Fletcher, Franklin, Georgia, Highgate, Milton, Montgomery, Sheldon, St. Albans City, St. Albans Town, Swanton CA: Philipsburg, Sutton
Grand Isle County Mutual Aid System		Alburg, Grand Isle, Isle LaMotte, North Hero, South Hero
Lamoille County Mutual Aid Association		Cambridge, Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morrisville, North Hyde Park, Stowe, Wolcott
Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Assn (http://rutlandcountyfiremutualaid.org)	1985	Benson, Brandon, Castleton, Chittenden, Clarendon, Danby-Mt. Tabor, East Wallingford, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Ira, Mt. Holly, Pawlet, Pittsfield, Pittsford, Poultney, Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town, Killington, Shrewsbury, Tinmouth, Wallingford, Wells, West Haven, West Pawlet, West Rutland
Capital Fire Mutual Aid System (36 departments)		Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bolton, Cabot, Calais, Chelsea, Duxbury, Groton, E. Montpelier, Marshfield, Middlesex, Montpelier, Moretown, Northfield, Peacham, Plainfield, Roxbury, Stowe, Waitsfield, Walden, Warren, Waterbury, Waterbury Village, Woodbury, Wolcott, Worcester
Connecticut River Valley Mutual Aid		VT: Ascutney, Bellows Falls, Bridgewater, Cavendish, Chester, Hartland, Killington, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Proctorsville, Putney, Reading, Rockingham, Saxton's River, So. Londonderry, So. Woodstock, Springfield, West Windsor, W. Weathersfield, Westminster, Weston, Windsor, Woodstock NH: Charlestown, Claremont, Cornish
Deerfield Valley Mutual Aid System		Dover, Halifax, Marlboro, Readsboro, Whitingham
Northeast international Mutual Aid Systems (12 departments in VT, 2 in Canada)	1973	VT: Albany, Barton, Brighton, Derby, Charleston, East Haven, Newark, Newport City, Sutton, Troy, Westmore CA: Masonville Quebec, Stanstead Quebec
Northeast Mutual Aid (17 departments)		East Burke, Concord, East Haven, Lyndon, Newark, Sutton, Sheffield-Wheelock, West Burke, Westmore
Rural Vermont Mutual Aid System		Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick, Walden
Tri-Mountain Mutual Aid		Jamaica, Londondery, Peru, So.Londonderry, Stratton Mtn, Weston, Winhall, Windham

The Franklin County Mutual Aid and Grand Isle County Mutual Aid dispatching is done through the St. Albans Central dispatching system. The Lamoille County Mutual Aid dispatching is done through the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office. The Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid dispatching is done through the Vermont State Police dispatch center in Rutland. Tri-Mountain Mutual Aid is dispatched out of SWNH.

Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services in Vermont

Out-of-State Mutual Aid Associations that some Vermont Towns belong to

Clinton County NY Fire Mutual Aid www.clintoncountygov.com		VT: Alburg, Isle LaMotte CA: Hemmingford, LaColle, Saint Paul, Saint Bernard NY: Altona, Ausable Forks, Beekmantown, Cadyville, Champlain, Chazy, Churubusco, Cumberland Head, Dannemora, Ellenburg (2), Keeseville, Lyon Mountain, Mooers, Morrisville, Peru, Plattsburgh City, Rescue Hose, Rouses Point, Saranac, South Plattsburgh, West Chazy
Northern New Hampshire Fire Mutual Aid Pact (Norpac)	1989	NH: Bethlehem, Carroll, Clarksville, Colebrook, Columbia, Dalton, Dummer, Errol, Gorham, Groveton (Northumberland), Jefferson, Lancaster, Littleton, Milan, Pittsburg, Randolph, Shelburne, Stark, Stewartstown, North Stratford, Whitefield VT: Beecher Falls, Lunenburg
Southwest New Hampshire Mutual Aid Association www.firemutualaid.com	1958	NH: Acworth, Alstead, Amherst, Antrim, Bennington, Charlestown, Chesterfield, Claremont, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Fracestown, Gilsum, Goshen, Greenfield, Hancock, Harrisville, Hinsdale, Jaffrey, Keene, Langdon, Lempster, Lyndeborough, Marlborough, Marlow, Nelson, New Ipswich, Peterborough, Richmond, Rindge, Roxbury, Sharon, Spofford, Stoddard, Sullivan, Surry, Swanzey, Temple, Troy, Unity, Walpole, Washington, Westmoreland, Winchester MA: Royalston, Winchendon VT: Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, Chester, Dummerston, Dover, Grafton, Guilford, Halifax, Jamaica, Londonderry, Marlboro, Newfane, Peru, Putney, Readsboro, Saxtons River, Springfield, Stratton, Townshend, Vernon, Wardsboro, Westminster, Weston, Whitingham, Wilmington, Windham, Winhall
TriState Fire Mutual Aid Association (www.geocites.com/shelburne911)		MA: Amherst, Ashfield, Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Hadley, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne Center, Shelburne Falls, South Deerfield, Sunderland, Turner Falls, Warwick, Wendell, Whately, Williamsburg NH: Hinsdale, Keene, Swanzey VT: Brattleboro, Guilford, Halifax, Vernon
Twin State Mutual Aid Association http://grafftoncountysheriff.net		NH: Bath, Bethlehem, Carroll, Easton, Franconia, Haverhill, Landaff, Lincoln, Lisbon, Littleton, Lyman, Monroe, Piermont, Sugar Hill, Woodstock VT: Barnet, Bradford, Groton, Newbury, Peacham, Ryegate, Wells River
Upper Valley Mutual Aid Association www.hanovernh.org/police (33 towns)	1997	NH: Canaan, Claremont, Cornish, Enfield, Grafton, Grantham, Hanover, Lebanon, Lyme, Meriden, Orford, Piermont, Plainfield, Springfield VT: Ascutney, Barnard, Bradford, Bridgewater, E Barnard, Fairlee, Hartford, Hartland, Norwich, Pomfret, South Royalton, S. Woodstock, Sharon, Strafford, Teago, Thetford, Vershire, West Fairlee, West Windsor, White River Valley, Windsor, Woodstock
Capital West Dispatch (17 communities)	Berlin, Bolton, Cabot, Calais, E. Montpelier, Marshfield, Middlesex, Montpelier, Moretown, Northfield, Plainfield, Roxbury, Waitsfield, Walden, Waterbury, Woodbury, Worcester	