



Fire and Life Safety

for the Town Health Officer

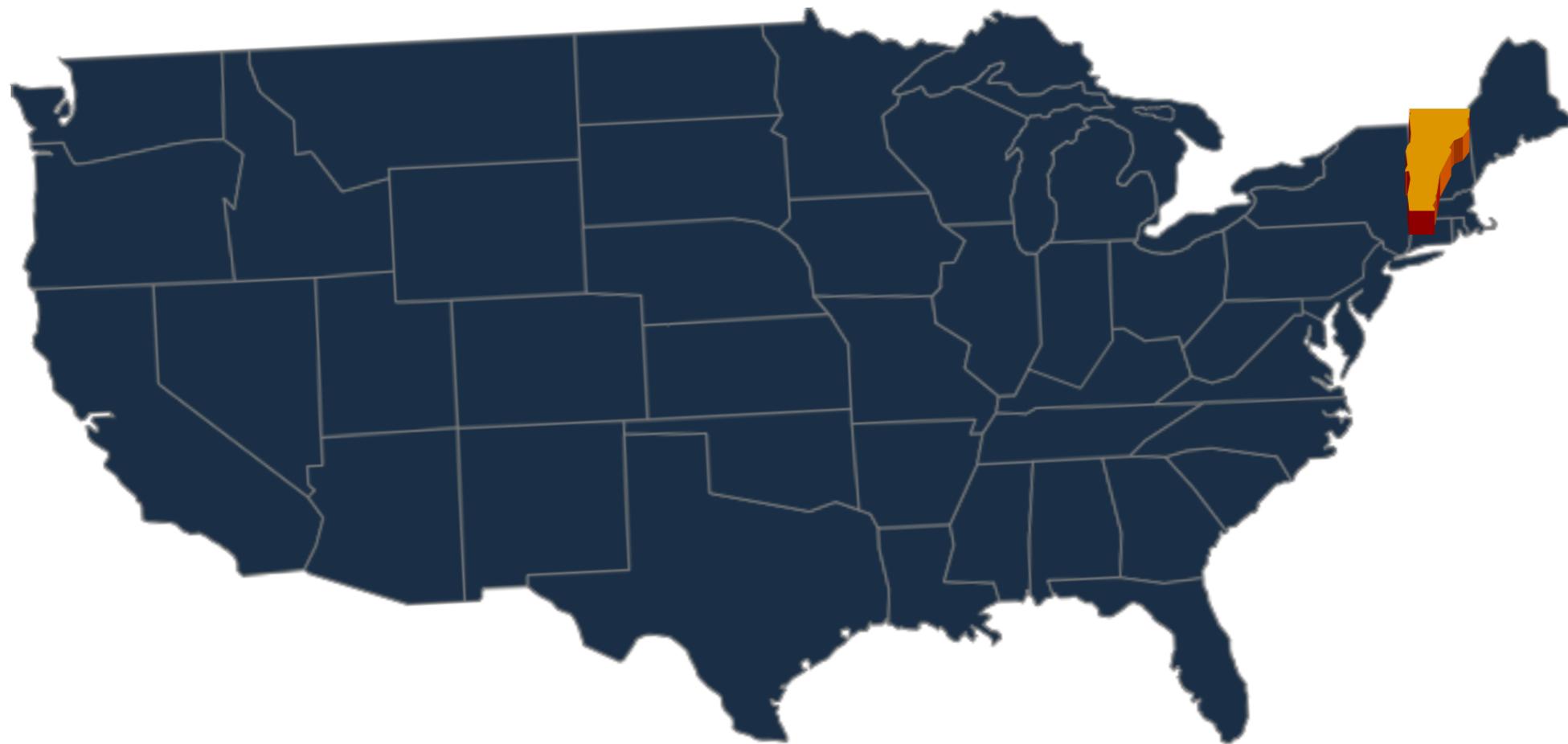
Presented by Fire Marshal Josh Cox
St. Albans City Fire Department
July 10, 2013



Agenda

1. Housing Stock & Construction
 2. Heating Issues
 3. Electrical Issues
 4. Hoarding (And Other Occupant Actions That Create A Hazard)
 5. Overlapping Codes
 6. Q & A
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30% of Vermont's Housing Stock Was Built Before 1940



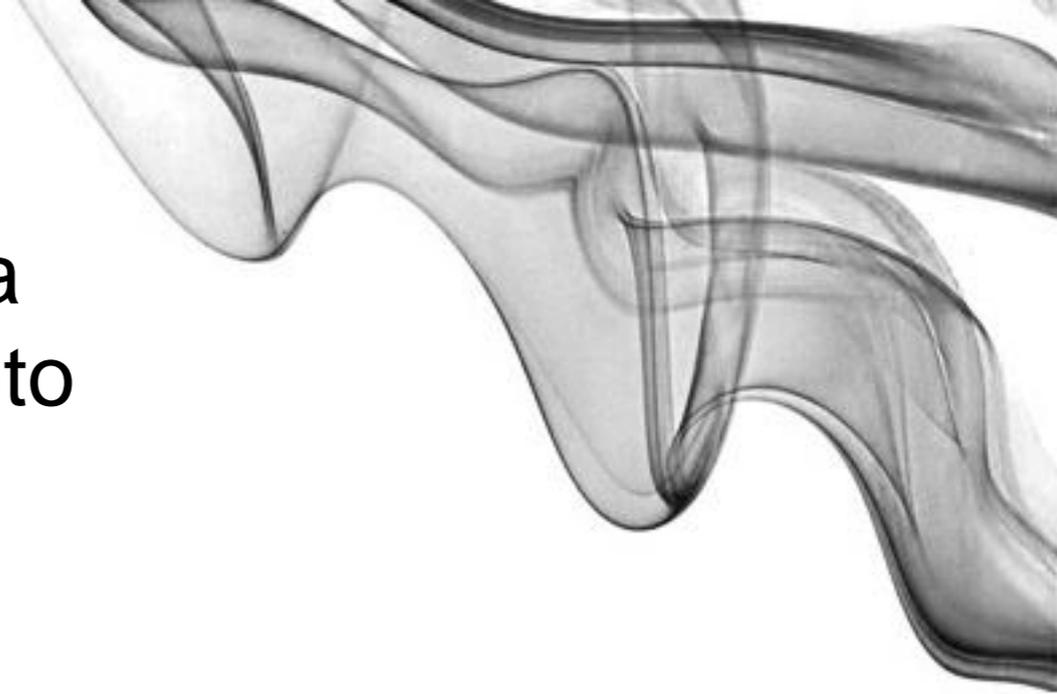
In St. Albans City, the average age of a rented dwelling unit is 112 years.

Predominate Construction Before 1940

Balloon Frame



Holes in walls and ceilings provide a natural path for combustion products to rapidly travel...



...and to other apartments.



...within walls

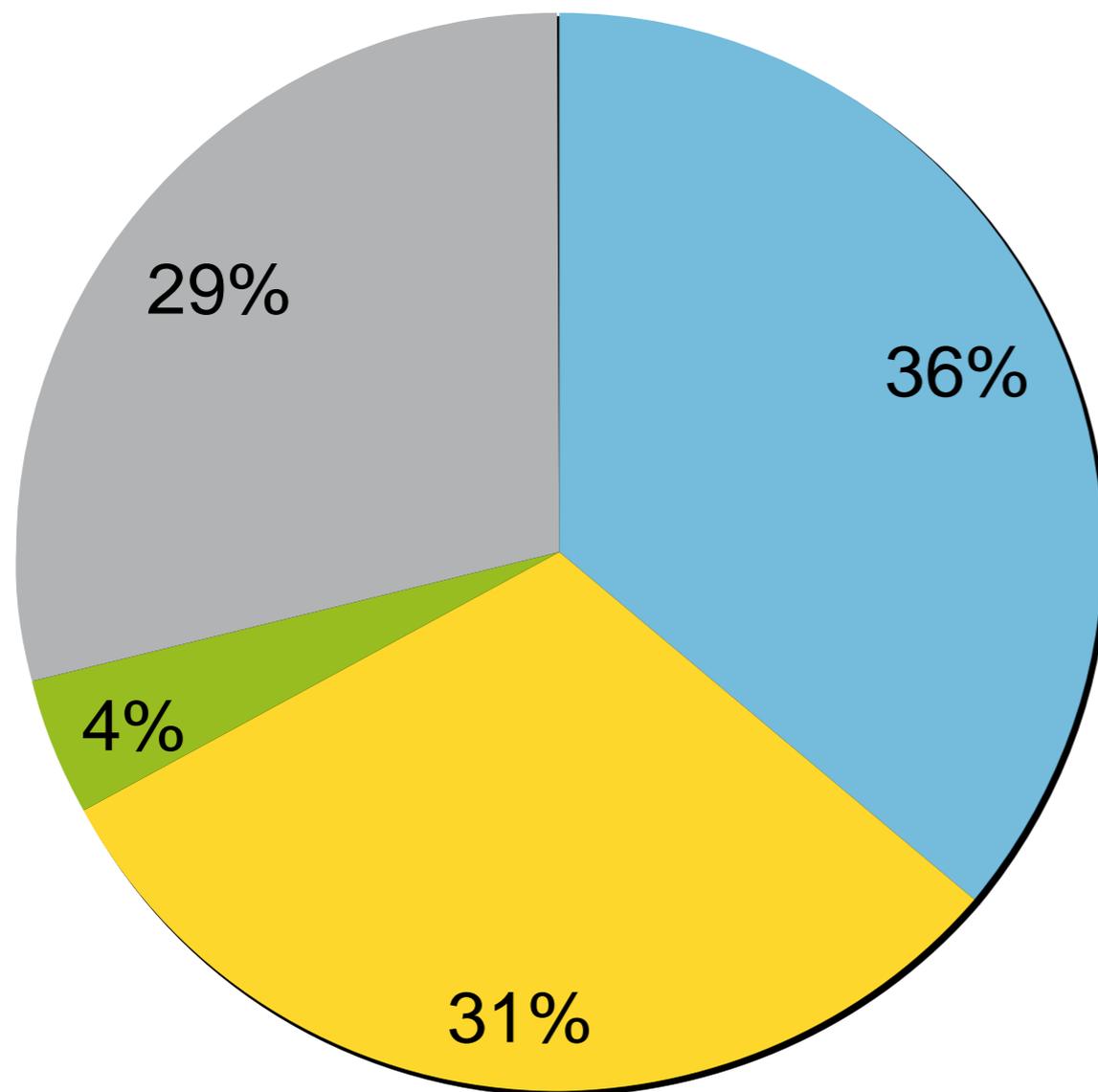


Every owner of a dwelling or rooming house shall provide and maintain the foundation, floors, walls, doors, windows, ceilings, roof, staircases, chimneys and other structural elements of his or her dwelling, dwelling unit, rooming house or rooming unit so that it is weather-tight, rodent proof and in good repair.*

*RHHC, § VIII, A



In 2012, Here Are The Leading Causes Of Fire In Vermont



- Heating (36%)
- Cooking (31%)
- Electrical (4%)
- All Others, Including Unknown Cause, Suspicious Act, Smoking, Act of Nature, Etc. (29%)

Heating: The Leading Cause of Fire In Vermont



Heating facilities shall be properly functioning and in good repair.*



*RHHC, § V, B

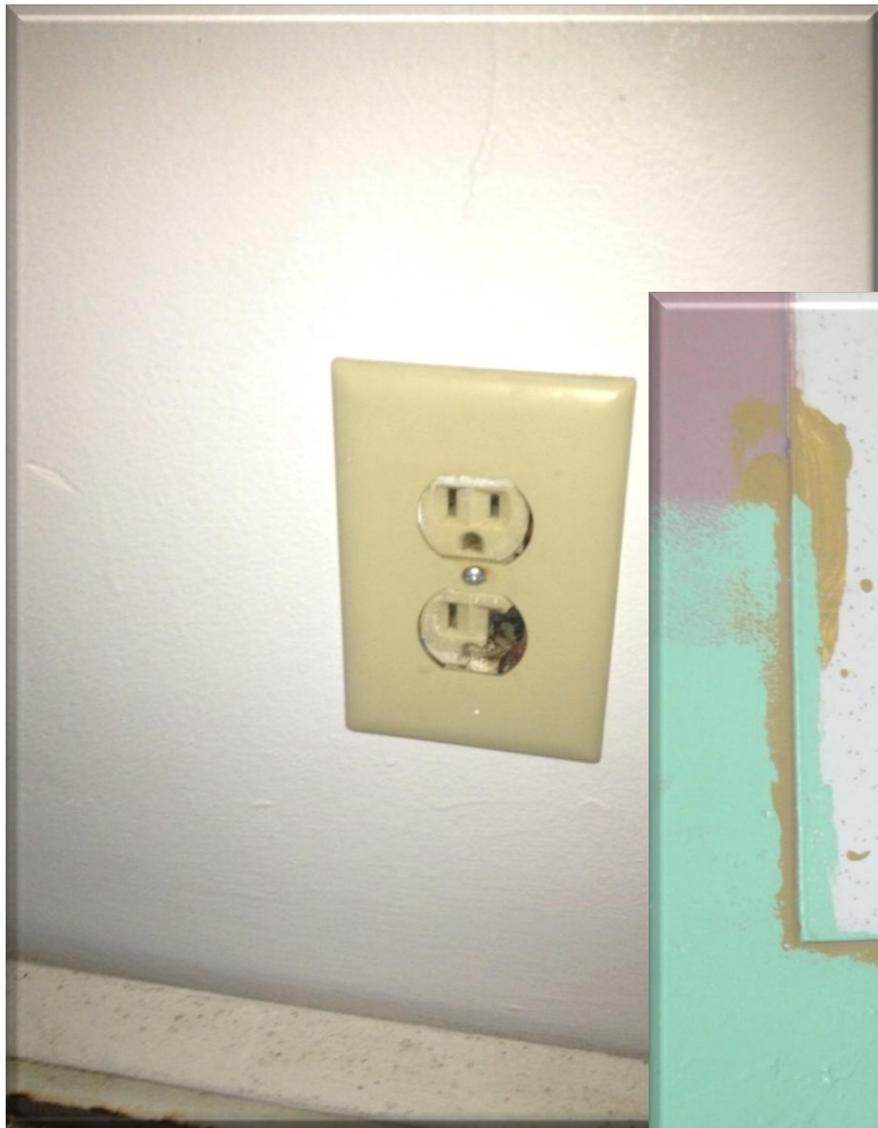
Electrical Issues



All electrical systems in dwellings, rooming houses and on rented mobile home lots shall be maintained in safe working condition.*



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Vermont Department of Public Safety
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, THE STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND THE STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM



Updated November 2012

CODE INFORMATION SHEET

PERMIT & LICENSING REQUIREMENTS
When do you need a state permit or license?

	DFS State Construction Permit	DFS Electrical		DFS Plumbing		Notes
		State Permit	License	State Permit	License	
Projects within a <u>Single Family Owner-Occupied home</u> that includes: new construction, alterations, renovations or the installation of fixtures.	NO	NO	NO	Yes	Yes	Only if connected to a public water or sewer system
Projects within a <u>Rental Property or Apartment Buildings</u> having more than two units that includes: new construction, alterations, renovations or the installation of fixtures.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Projects within a <u>Duplex or a Rental single family home</u> that includes: new construction, alterations, renovations or the installation of fixtures.	Yes	Yes	NO	Yes	Yes	
Maintenance projects with in a public building such as painting, replacement of broken fixtures with fixture that is an exact match.	NO	NO	Yes	NO	Yes	
Public Building Renovations, Additions, Alterations, Modifications and New Building Projects. See Annex I in Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code for definition of Public Building	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Includes Fire protection systems, Fire alarm system, Fire sprinkler, Kitchen hood & suppression, Elevators Ect.
The erection of temporary tents greater than 1,200 square feet in a public location	Yes	Yes	Yes	x	x	

Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code section 7 (a) The owner, or a designated representative, of a building or premises shall obtain a construction permit before beginning any construction, addition, alteration, demolition or installation of fixed building equipment at the building site unless specifically waived by the AHJ.

Hoarding

Every occupant shall exercise reasonable care in the use of his or her dwelling unit, rooming unit or rented mobile home lot and shall maintain it in such a manner that it does not create a health hazard for his or her neighbors.*

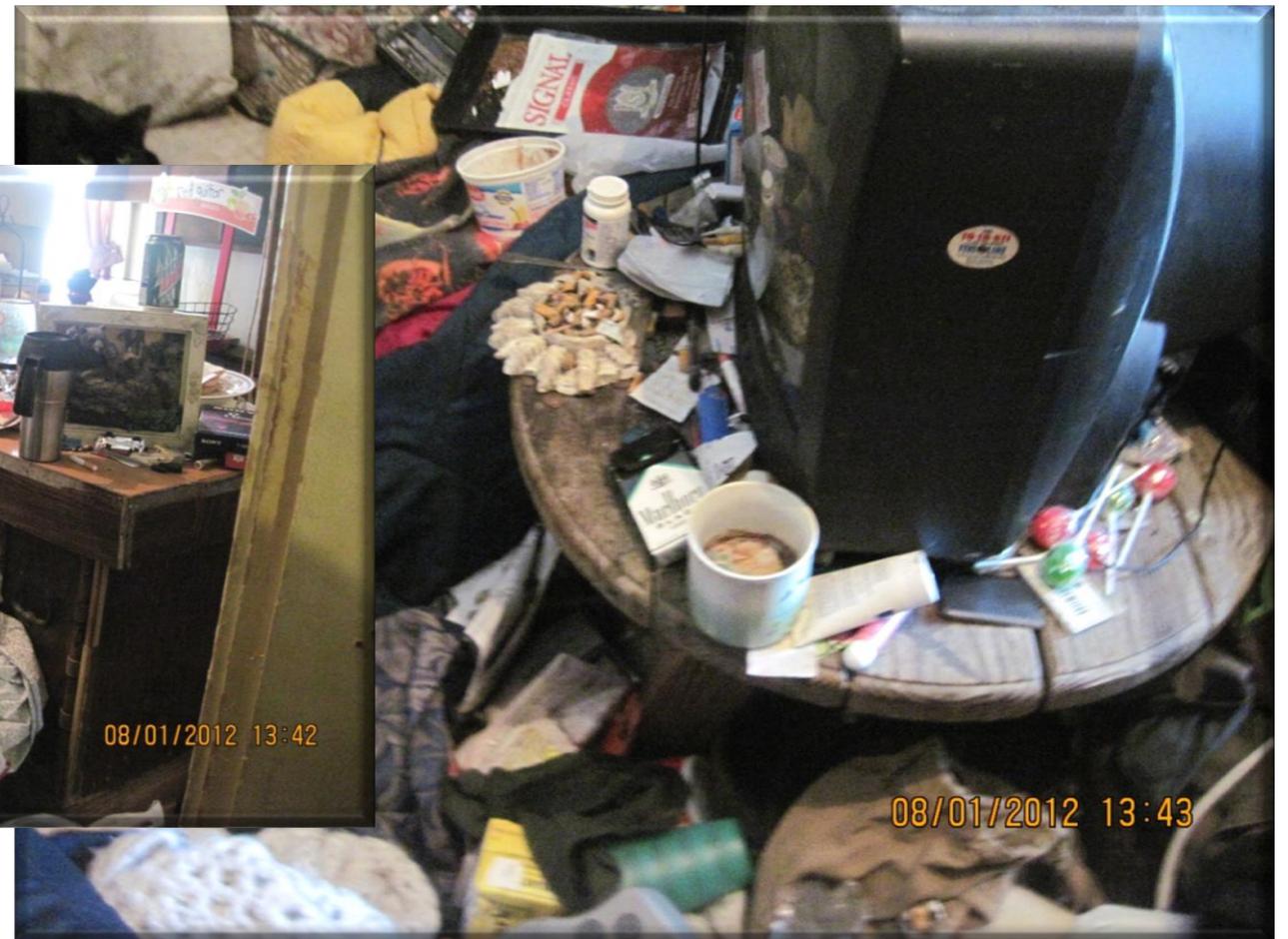
*RHHC, § X, B(2)



Hoarding

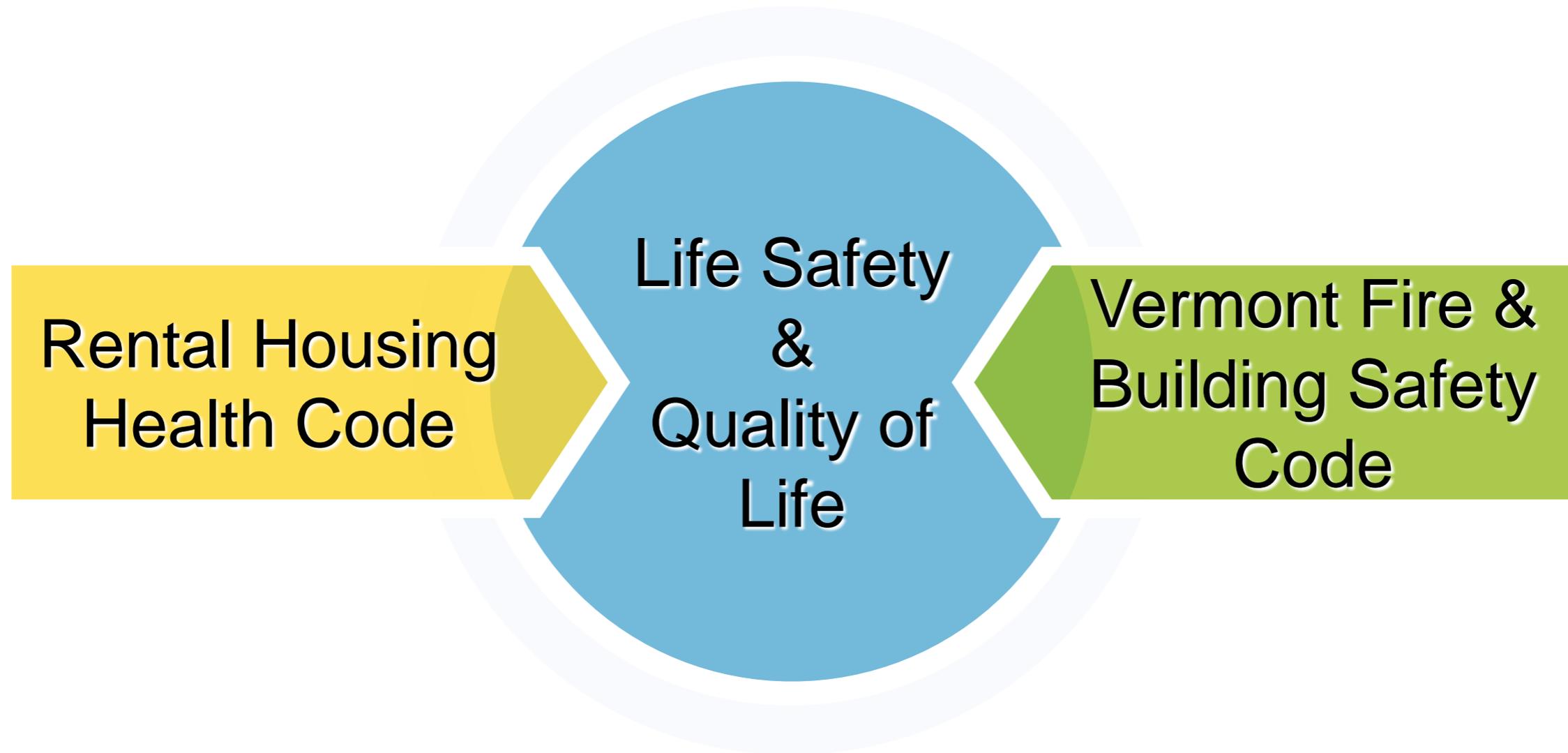
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Often The Codes Overlap –

Because They Have Similar Goals

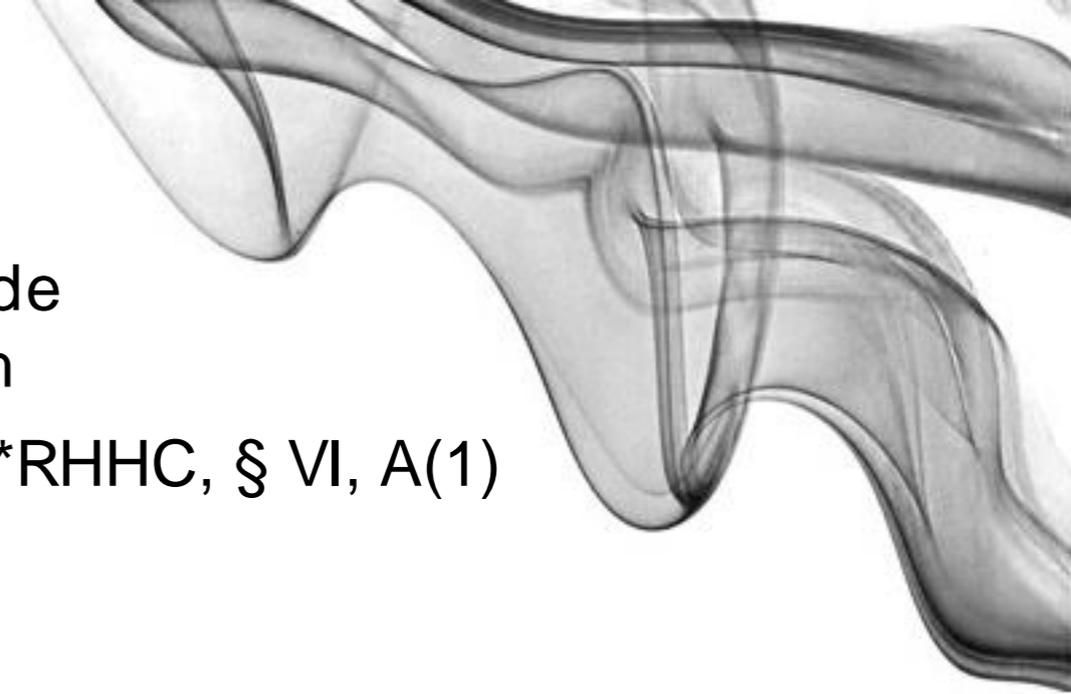


Every habitable room shall include at least one window or door in good repair located on an outside wall that is capable of being opened to admit fresh air.*

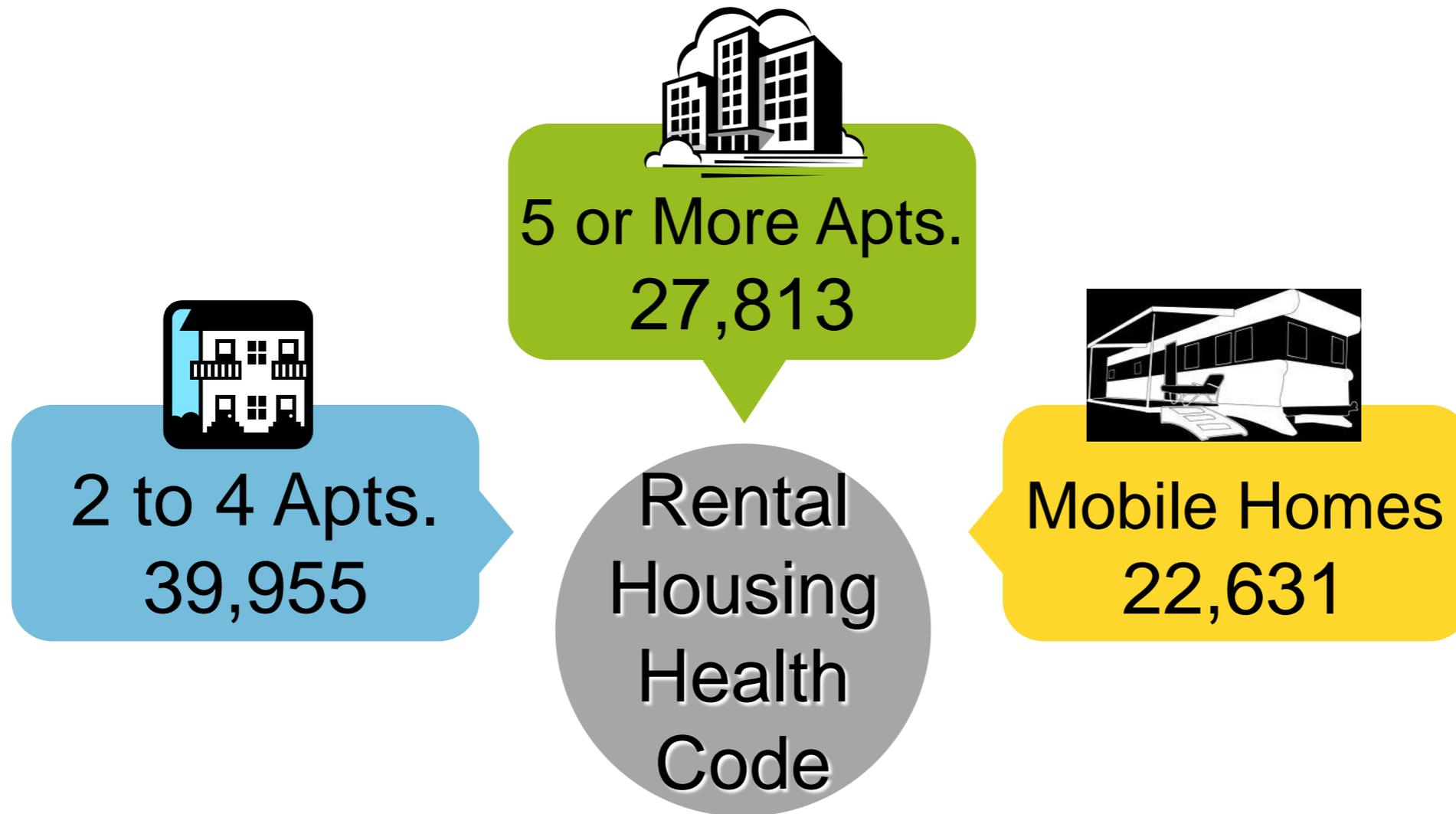


*RHHHC, § VI, A(1)

NFPA 1:14.4.1 - 2012 Edition:
Means of egress shall be continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency.



Health Officers Are Often On The Frontline Of Fire Safety



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Housing (2011)

Need Help With A Fire Safety Issue? We're Here To Help.

Local Fire Chief

Div. Of Fire Safety

THO ListServ





Q & A

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References

- “30% of Vermont’s housing stock was built before 1940”
Bennefield, Robert & Bonnette, Robert (November 2003) *Structural and Occupancy Characteristics of Housing: 2000, Census 2000 Brief*. U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, p.10.
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- “In St. Albans City, the average age of a rented dwelling unit is 112 years.”
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- “Health Officers are often on the frontline of fire safety.”
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