

### Vermont Department of Public Safety

# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY



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firesafety.vermont.gov

# **CODE INFORMATION SHEET**

Based on the 2015 edition of the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code, NFPA 101 NFPA 1 and Other Codes and Standards

# FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR THROUGH THE WALL VENTS FOR FUEL FIRED HEATING APPLIANCES

#### **Fire Protection Marking for Vents**

All through the wall vents for fuel fired heating appliances, located less than 7 feet aboveground level, shall be provided with signage permanently affixed at a height of 7 feet, mounted directly above the through the wall vent.

The sign shall be a "V" shape, not less than 4 ½ inches in height, with the principal stroke of the letter "V" not less than 3/4 inch in width, colored black on a white background. The sign shall contain the wording "Heating Vent" using plainly legible letters



### **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms**

CO alarms are required to be installed in areas adjacent to fuel fired heating appliances that use through the wall vents that terminate less than 7 feet above the ground. In buildings that have CO alarms in the areas where people sleep, the additional CO alarms adjacent to fuel fired heating appliances are not required. CO alarms shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions

## **Keep Sidewall Vents Clear**

Sidewall vents are common in new heating and water heating systems, especially high efficiency units. These vents act as a breathing device for these systems. They take in fresh air and mix it with fuel to produce heat, while discharging exhaust fumes that can include carbon monoxide (CO).

If a vent becomes buried in snow or obstructed by a shrub, this may shut down the heating appliance – or draw exhaust fumes into the building, which can produce high levels of CO inside the building.

To prevent these problems, it's important to remove snow from around the vent approximately 48 inches in all directions, and trim any shrubs around the vent, so that the vent is not blocked.

Install vents at the highest possible level, per manufacturer's instructions, but no less than 12 inches above the ground.



This sheet is designed to provide information to enhance the public safety of all Vermonters. This code information sheet is not an all-inclusive list of state laws or additional code requirements that may apply. This educational resource sheet does not carry the force of legal opinion and was developed by the Vermont Division of Fire Safety, with information provided by The U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). For additional information please visit firesafety.vermont.gov