



Duties of a Town Health Officer: THO 101

Training Topics

1. Basics of public health & Health Department
2. What is a Town Health Officer?
3. What are public health hazards?
4. Understanding the job of Town Health Officer
5. What to expect
6. Enforcing public health laws
7. What goes into a Health Order?

What is Public Health?

“Public health is the system that works to protect and promote the health of citizens. It is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging healthy life and promoting physical and mental health.”

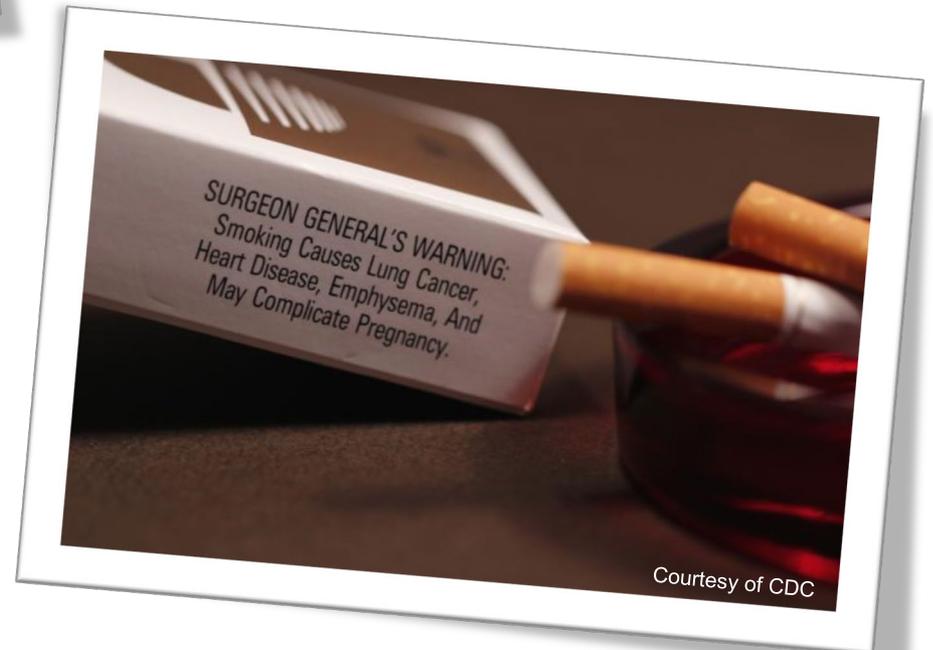
- Dr. Mark Levine, Commissioner of Health

Medical Care vs. Public Health

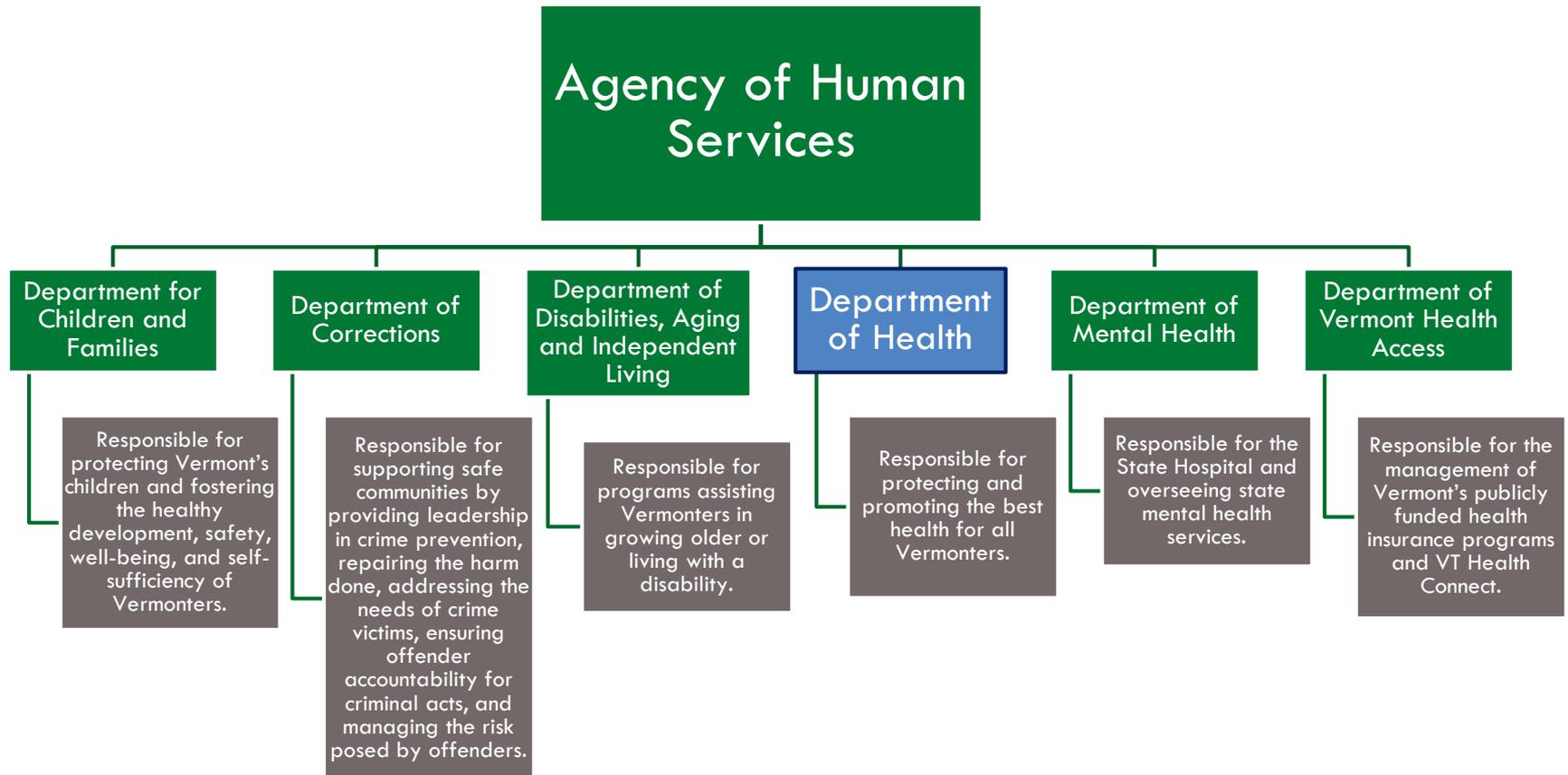


- A physician focuses on an individual's care and treatment.

- Public health focuses on the health of an entire population using evidence-based prevention models.



Health In Vermont



The Vermont Department of Health

- **We focus on prevention**, which is perhaps the best investment that can be made in health.
- **We educate and inform Vermonters** about eating a healthy diet, regular exercise and not smoking.
- **We promote and improve access** to immunizations, mammograms, HIV/AIDS testing and care, and prenatal care.
- **We license** physicians and hospitals, **inspect** food and lodging establishments, and **enforce** health regulations.
- **We prepare for and respond** to public health emergencies and threats, and provide the public with information to help them stay safe and healthy.



Vision

Healthy Vermonters living in healthy communities

Mission

Protect and promote the best health for all Vermonters

Environmental Health Division

- Lead & Asbestos
- Healthy Homes
- Private Drinking Water
- Radon
- School Environmental Health
- Recreational Water
- Food & Lodging
- Radiological Health
- Toxicological Health
- Public Health Tracking



What is a Town Health Officer



Unpacking the THO Statute

Vermont State Statute Title 18, Chapter 11 § 602a. Duties of local health officers

(a) A local health officer, within his or her jurisdiction, shall:

- (1) upon **request of a landlord or tenant**, or upon receipt of information regarding **a condition that may be a public health hazard, conduct an investigation**;
- (2) **enforce the provisions of this title**, the rules promulgated, and permits issued thereunder;
- (3) **prevent, remove, or destroy any public health hazard, or mitigate any significant public health risk** in accordance with the provisions of this title;
- (4) in consultation with the Department, take the steps necessary to enforce all orders issued pursuant to chapter 3 of this title.

(b) **Upon discovery of violation or a public health hazard or public health risk that involves a public water system, a food or lodging establishment, or any other matter regulated by Department rule**, the local health officer shall **immediately notify the Division of Environmental Health**. Upon discovery of any other violation, public health hazard, or public health risk, the local health officer shall notify the Division of Environmental Health within 48 hours of discovery of such violation or hazard and of any action taken by the officer. (Added 1985, No. 267 (Adj. Sess.), § 19; amended 2017, No. 188 (Adj. Sess.), § 4.)

Local Health Officer Appointment

“The commissioner shall appoint, upon recommendation of the selectmen, a local health officer for each town or city...” 18 V.S.A. § 601(a)

- Every three years:
 - VDH sends a letter to town clerk to inform THO of end of term
 - Selectboard or city council must recommend a THO for appointment
 - Town completes the Recommendation Form and the Oath/Affirmation for THOs and returns to VDH
 - THO is appointed by Commissioner and sent a certificate from VDH

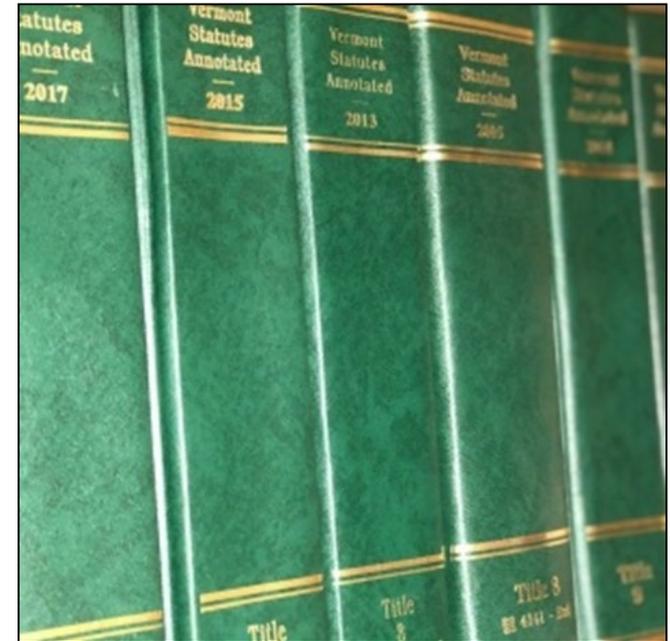
Ending a Commission

- A THO's term automatically ends after 3 years
- The town may recommend the current THO, or appoint someone new
- A term may be ended by a THO early, with the submission of a letter (or email) of resignation to his/her selectboard and the Department of Health
- THOs can be removed "for cause"
- The selectboard chair will automatically assume the duties if a new THO is not appointed

What does a THO do?

- A Town Health Officer:
 - Conducts inspections on complaints of public health hazards
 - Conduct inspections on rental housing complaints
 - Work towards voluntary compliance
 - Issue Health Orders & Emergency Health Orders

18 VSA Chapter 11



Understanding Public Health Hazards

“...potential harm to the public health by virtue of any condition or any biological, chemical, or physical agent.” 18 V.S.A. § 2 (9)

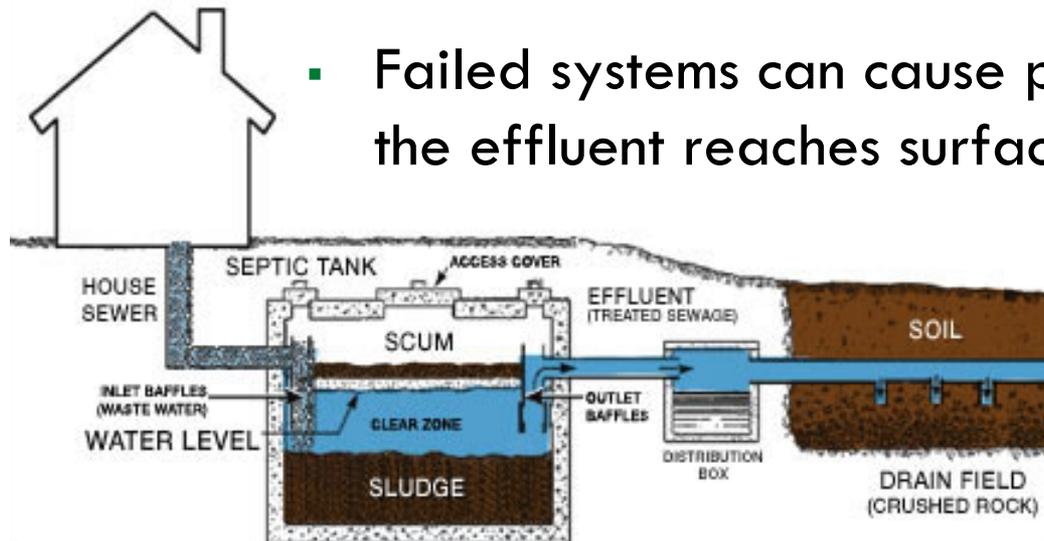
Factors to Consider

1. Number of people at risk
2. Characteristics of the person or people at risk
3. Characteristic of the condition or agent that is the source of potential harm
4. Availability of private remedies
5. Geographical area and characteristics of the location of the source of the potentially hazardous condition
6. Department policy as established by rule or agency procedure

What does a THO encounter?

Septic Systems and Sewage

- Wastewater systems protect both humans and the environment by treating the wastewater (sewage) before it reaches groundwater or surface water.
- Nationally, 25% of homes are on septic systems, in Vermont it's closer to 55% of the population
- Failed systems can cause public health concerns when the effluent reaches surface waters



How Systems Fail

- Poor site location (slowly permeable soil or high ground water table).
- Poorly designed (such as not large enough) to handle the amount of effluent being generated
- Poor construction (such as smearing the soil beneath the leachfield)
- Discharging more water to the system than the system is designed to dispose
- Improper disposal of fats, grease, oils, garbage disposals, and household chemicals down the drain
- Poor maintenance of the system (not regularly pumping the septic tank)
- Driving heavy equipment over the leach field
- Trees growing near the leach field (roots can clog or break piping materials)
- Construction near the leachfield that directs surface water to pond over the leachfield
- Flooding resulting in loss of coverage of drainage piping
- Extreme freezes resulting in frozen and cracked sewer lines

THO Role When a Septic System Fails

- Inspect immediately
- Look for backed up drains, foul odors, surfacing materials near the tank or drainage areas
- Check for brush piles, junk piles, compost piles or fresh piles of dirt or gravel near the septic system. These are sometimes used to cover up problems.
- Use dye tablets when needed
- Talk to system owner about required actions, which may include:
 - Having the septic tank pumped within 24 hours and monitored
 - Spreading lime and straw and put up temporary fencing around the area of surfacing sewage.
 - Contacting a professional engineer or licensed designer to assess and determine the repair necessary
- **Contact Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Wastewater Management Division**

Lead Paint

Lead poisoning, which can cause learning disabilities and behavioral problems, is 100% preventable

- ❑ Lead paint is presumed in pre-1978 buildings- under Vermont law
- ❑ VT requires annual Essential Maintenance Practices and landlords must submit annual compliance statements
- ❑ Abatement & renovation work must comply with both state and federal regulations



Essential Maintenance Practices

- For rental properties: contact VDH to determine if there is a current EMP compliance statement on file
- Inspect property for compliance with lead laws – do you see chipping or peeling paint?



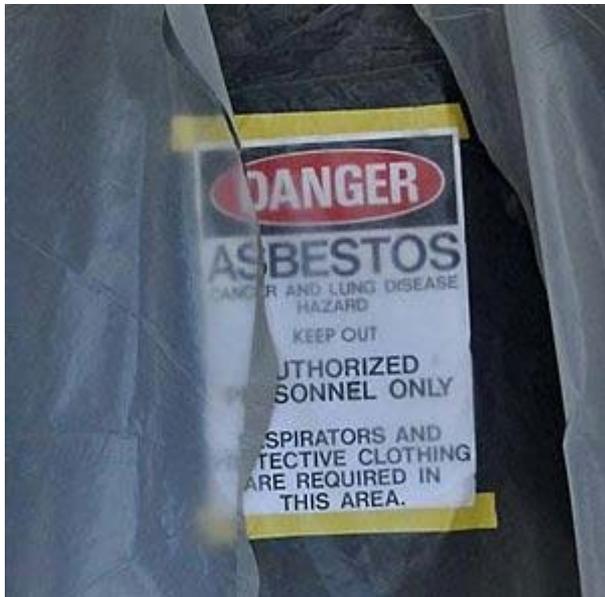
- Notify property owner of any violations
- Require violations be corrected within 30 days

Unsafe Work Practices – Renovations

- ❑ Inspect property to determine if unsafe work practices, like dry sanding or scraping, are in progress
- ❑ Require that work, including clean-up, stop
- ❑ Notify VDH and property owner
- ❑ Require property owner to hire a licensed risk assessor if more than 1 ft² of paint has been disturbed
- ❑ Mandate proper cleanup



Asbestos



- Present in many products including insulation, roofing, and flooring materials.
- When disturbed during renovation or demolition, fibers are released, causing serious health effects after prolonged or acute exposures.
- THOs should contact VDH whenever they suspect they have encountered an issue dealing with asbestos

Animal Control

Rabies Hotline:
1-800-4-RABIES

- Work with law enforcement officers, game wardens, and humane society personnel to address issues of animal cruelty and possible rabies exposures
- All potential human rabies exposures must be reported to the THO within 24 hours
- THOs conduct an investigation, complete an Animal Bite Report, determine animal's vaccination status, and require any necessary quarantine and observation
- May also be asked to assist in cases of rabies exposure to domestic animals

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH		Town Health Officer Animal Bite Report Form		AFFIX PATIENT LABEL HERE	
Reporting Information					
Date of report: ___/___/___	Town: _____	Health Officer name: _____			
Work phone: (____) _____ - _____	Alternative phone: (____) _____ - _____				
Person reporting bite: <input type="checkbox"/> Health care provider <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinarian <input type="checkbox"/> Bite victim/parent or guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Other					
Reporter name: _____		Facility: _____	Phone: (____) _____ - _____		
Bite Victim Information					
Last name: _____		First name: _____	MI: _____		
Street address: _____		Town: _____			
State: ___	Zip: _____		Phone: (____) _____ - _____		
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> No answer	Age: _____	Date of birth: ___/___/___			
Bite Information					
Date of bite: ___/___/___		Where bite occurred: _____		Provoked bite? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Location of bite: <input type="checkbox"/> Leg <input type="checkbox"/> Head <input type="checkbox"/> Torso <input type="checkbox"/> Arm <input type="checkbox"/> Hand/Finger <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____					
Animal type: <input type="checkbox"/> Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> Cow <input type="checkbox"/> Horse <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep <input type="checkbox"/> Ferret <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon <input type="checkbox"/> Skunk <input type="checkbox"/> Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Fox <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____					
Animal status: <input type="checkbox"/> Owned <input type="checkbox"/> Stray <input type="checkbox"/> Wild <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown					
If owned, owner's name: _____		If owned, animal's name: _____			
Street address: _____		Town: _____			
State: ___	Zip: _____	Owner telephone: (____) _____ - _____			
Animal disposition: <input type="checkbox"/> 10-day confinement <input type="checkbox"/> Euthanized and tested <input type="checkbox"/> At large/unavailable <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown					
Veterinarian name: _____		Facility: _____	Phone: (____) _____ - _____		
Has the animal received a rabies vaccine in the past? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown					
If yes, date of last rabies shot: ___/___/___		Rabies Tag #: _____			
Describe bite scenario: _____ _____					
Action taken by Health Officer: _____ _____					

Report animal bites to the local [Town Health Officer](#).

Health Officers: Please keep a completed copy of this form in your town clerk's office.
Direct questions to the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program at (802) 863-7240.

Ver. 4

September 2018

Drinking Water

- ❑ Public water systems regulated by DEC
- ❑ 35-45% of Vermonters on well systems
- ❑ No testing requirements for private water, but VDH recommends annual testing
- ❑ THO's role is primarily in assuring that renters have access to safe water
- ❑ May also be contacted by DEC when a public systems must issue a boil advisory for the town

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Vermont Department of Health



Photo courtesy of CDC

Recreational Water

- ❑ Vermont's natural waters all contain microorganisms which can make people ill
- ❑ THOs are sometimes asked to monitor beaches and water for E. coli, blue green algae/cyanobacteria, and other organisms
- ❑ Some towns do routine testing
- ❑ Guidance is available on VDH's website.



Air Contaminants

Indoor

- ❑ Carbon Monoxide
- ❑ Tobacco Smoke
- ❑ Radon
- ❑ Mold

Outdoor

- ❑ Illegal Burning
- ❑ Wood Boilers





Solid & Hazardous Waste



- ❑ THOs often receive calls concerning improper disposal of waste
- ❑ Often, DEC has jurisdiction over these issues
- ❑ DEC may also ask that THOs assist in an inspection
- ❑ The Rental Housing Health Code provides rules for garbage removal in rental properties
- ❑ Improper disposal of waste can lead to pest infestation, groundwater contamination, and health effects

Pests in a Community



← Skunks

Raccoon →



← Rats & Mice



← Mosquito

Tick →



Role of the Town Health Officer

- ❑ Pests may at times present a threat to the public health in a community
- ❑ Excess garbage can often attract pest infestations
- ❑ THO may need to inspect to determine whether there is a violation of the Rental Housing Health Code



Pesticide Use

- ❑ Pesticides are used in agricultural industries, homes, schools, and parks.
- ❑ Certain types of exposures to pesticides can cause health problems
- ❑ The Pesticide Program of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets ensures that pesticides are properly used and sold throughout Vermont.
- ❑ They certify commercial and private pesticide applicators, and investigate pesticide complaints (e.g. improper application).



THOs should refer questions and complaints to the Agency of Agriculture



Enforcement of Public Health Laws

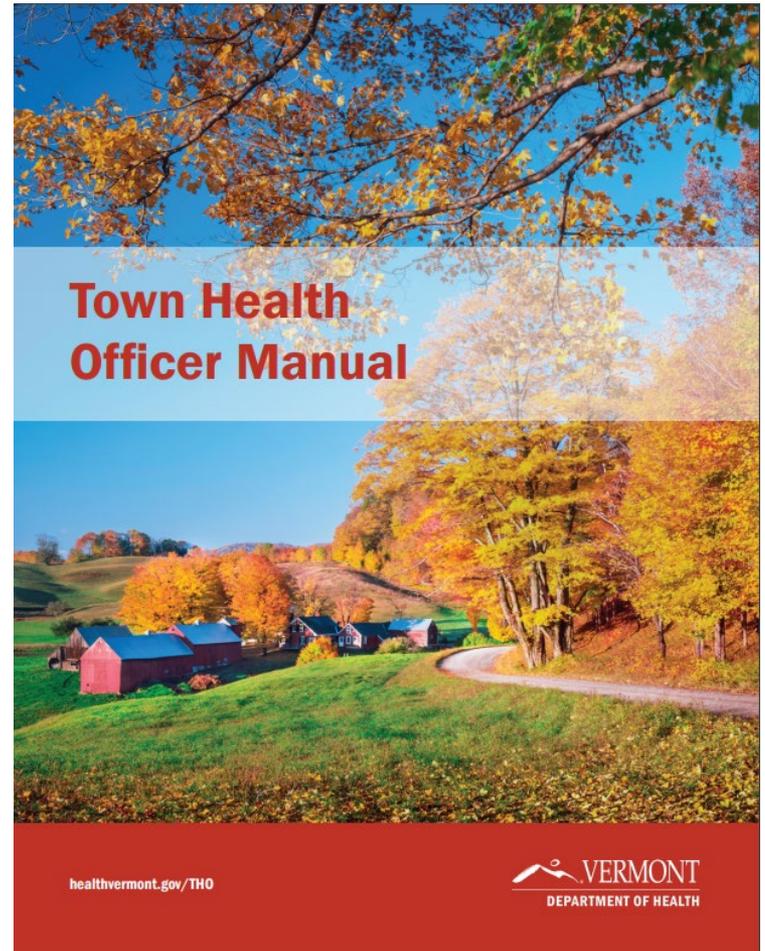
Compiling an Enforcement Report

- ❑ The best investigations have the best records
- ❑ Take detailed notes and keep track of all communications
- ❑ Take photos when possible
- ❑ Your records are public records, so keep them on file at the town offices



Supplies and Tools

- ❑ Notebook and pens
- ❑ Inspection forms
- ❑ Digital Camera/Camera Phone
- ❑ Computer access
- ❑ Contact list
- ❑ THO manual

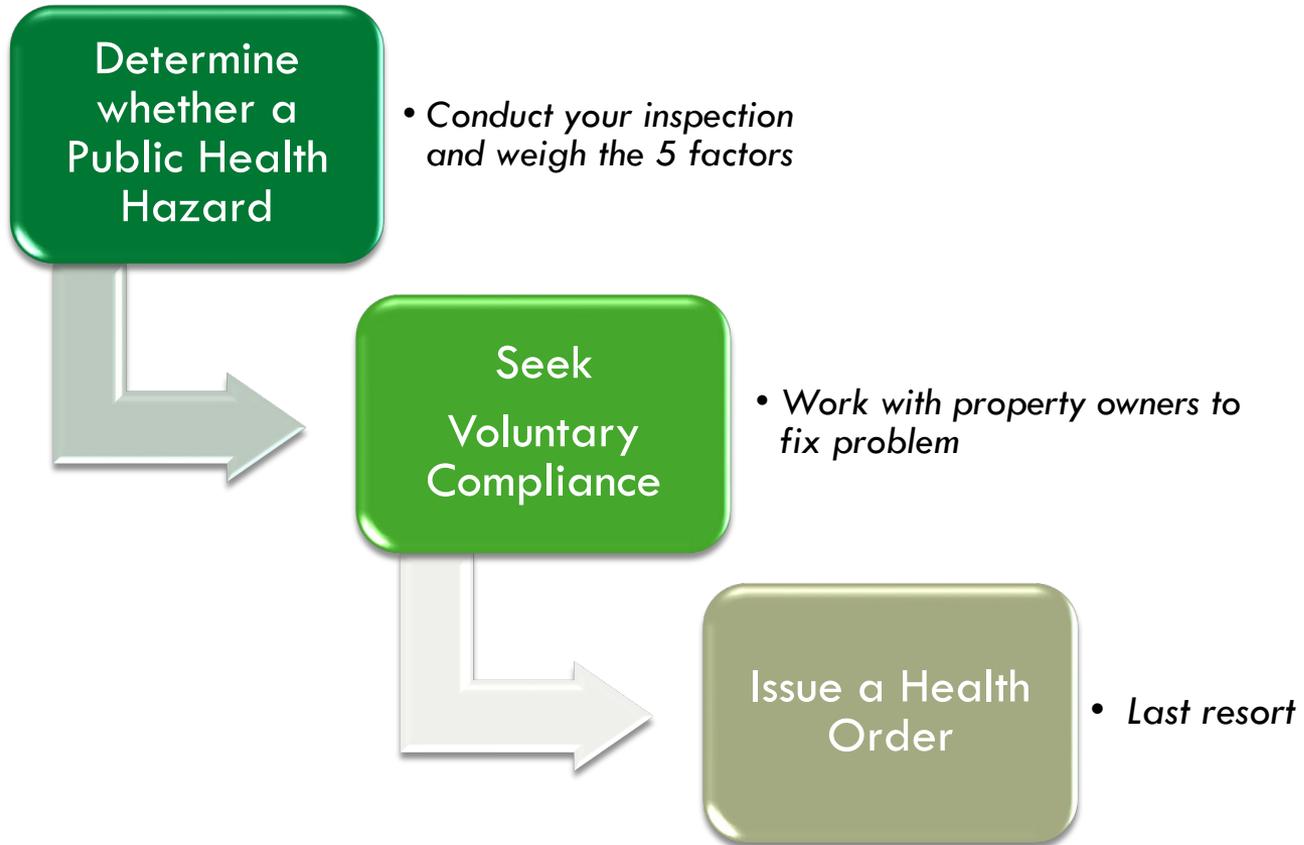


Evidence from Investigation

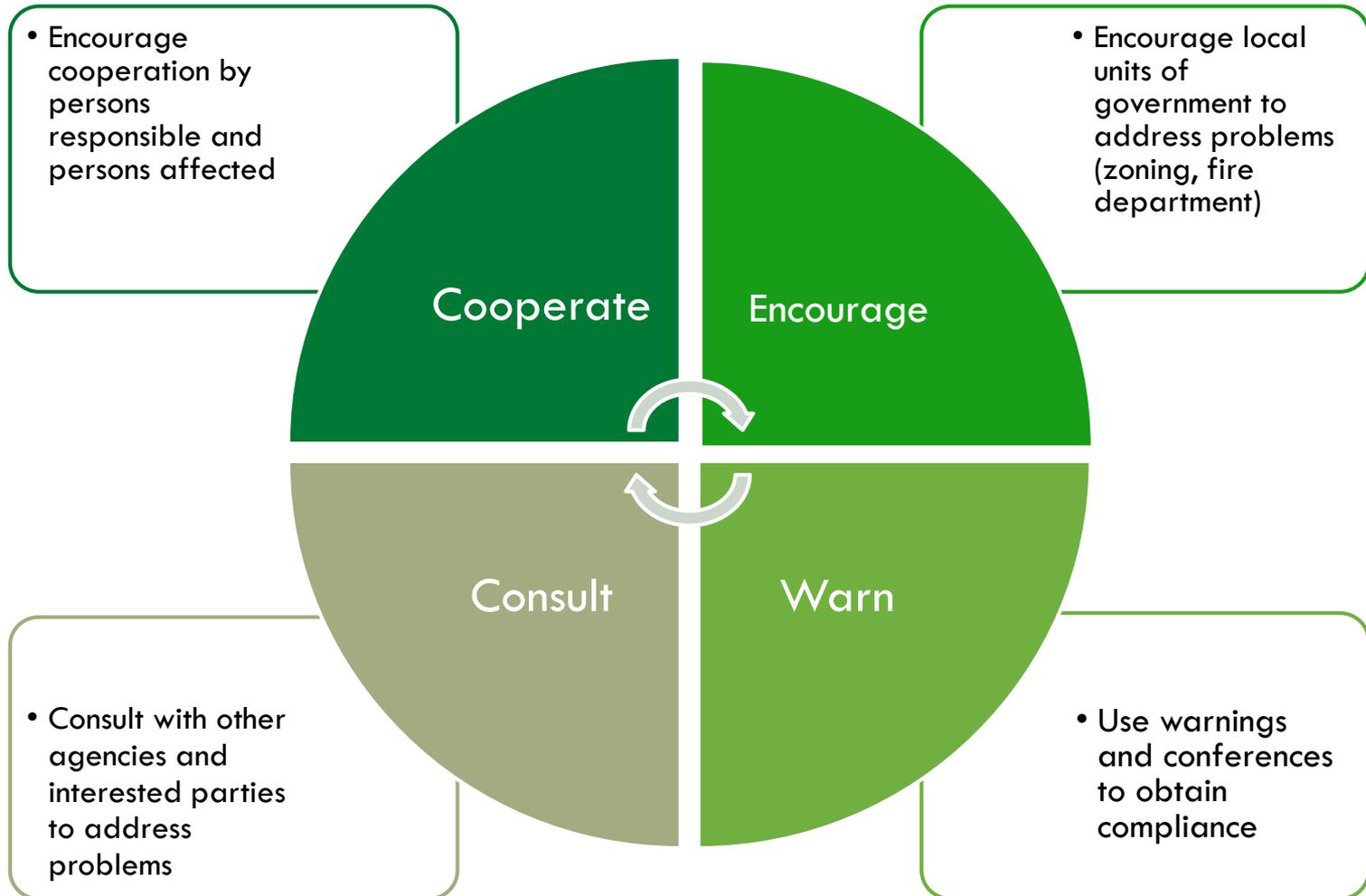
- Your investigative report should convey the story
- It should include the five W's, with the "What" being the biggest piece of your report: Who, What, When, Where, Why

 VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Town Health Officer Complaint & Inspection Form	Complaint Received By: Title/Program: _____ Date: _____
	Complainants Name, Address, & Phone # _____
Owner Name, Address, & Phone Number: _____	Property Location: <input type="checkbox"/> Rental <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Reason for Complaint: _____	
Town: _____	Town Health Officer Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Health Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Health Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Date of Inspection: _____	Type of Inspection: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up Last inspection date _____
Inspection Observations: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	
Overall Inspection Findings and Required Corrections: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	
Required Compliance Date: _____	Follow-up Inspection Date Set: _____
Referred to Other State Agency/Department or Other Organization: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Details/Comments: _____ _____ _____	

Now What?



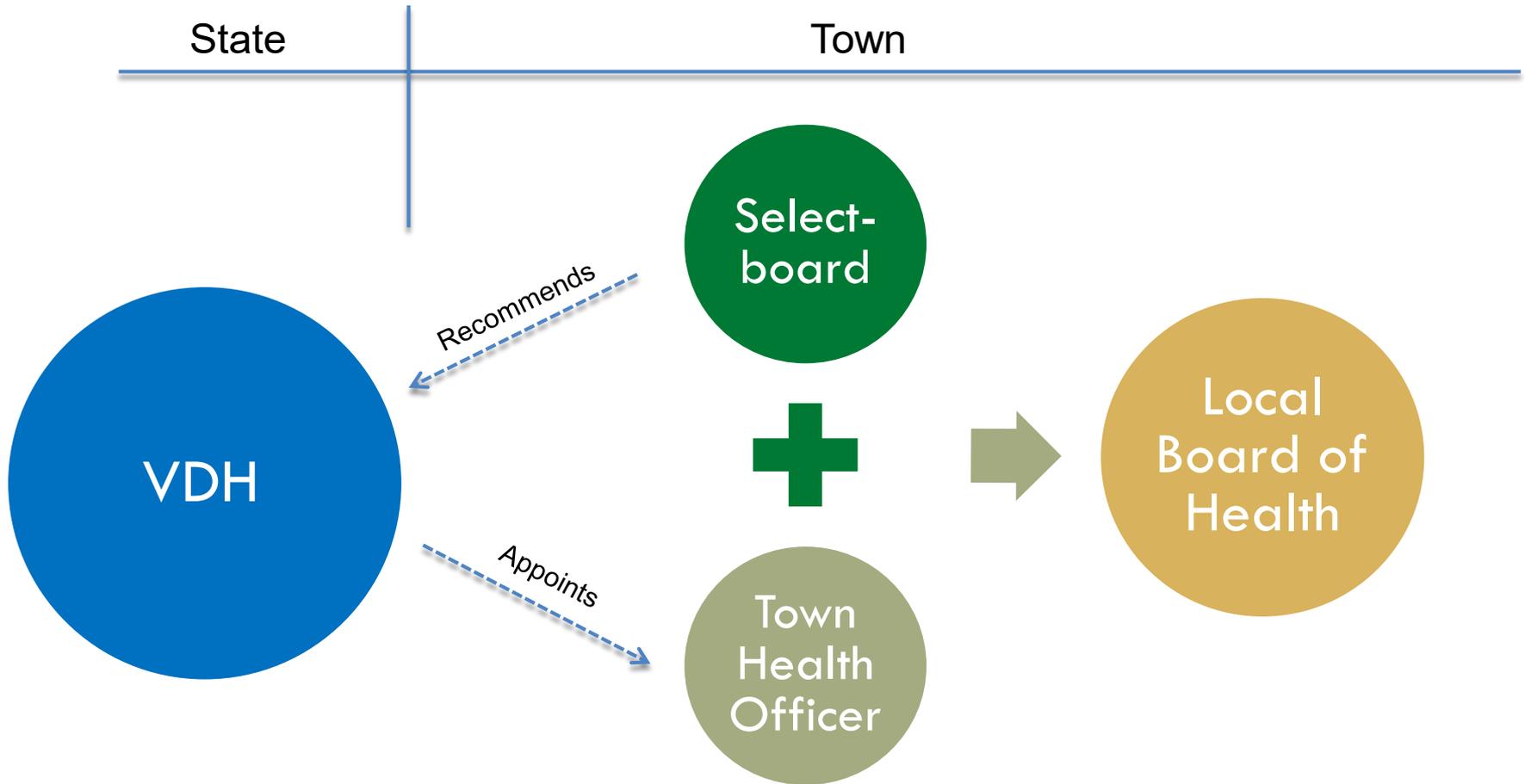
Achieving Voluntary Compliance



Enforcement

... when voluntary compliance can't be achieved

Structure Within a Town



18 V.S.A. § 604

You and Your Selectboard



- For most towns, the Local Board of Health is comprised of the town selectboard and the THO
- Some (ex: Burlington) have a standalone Board of Health
- The THO is the Chair of the Local Board of Health

- If they don't already exist, set up clear guidelines for how you will communicate and report back to your board on issues of public health
- The town is responsible for reimbursing the THO expenses and for any legal costs associated with the job so discuss budget constraints prior to taking any action

Town Attorneys

- It is always a good idea to involve town attorneys as early on in the process as possible to ensure that health orders are issued properly.
- Speak with your selectboard first to get approval for legal fees.



Health Orders and Emergency Health Orders

- What is a health order for?
 - To prevent, remove or destroy any public health hazard
 - To mitigate a significant public health risk
 - To correct any violation of the laws of Title 18 of the Vermont statutes or violation of any rules promulgated by the Vermont Department of Health under those laws
 - To correct any violation of a permit restriction or requirement
 - See 18 V.S.A. § 126 (d)
- What is an emergency health order for?
 - A health officer may issue an emergency health order “when necessary to prevent, remove, or destroy an imminent and substantial public health hazard, or to mitigate an imminent and substantial significant public health risk.”

Public Health Risk

- **18 V.S.A. § 2(10) “Public health risk”**
 - ▣ Means the probability of experiencing a public health hazard

- **18 V.S.A. § 2(12) “Significant public health risk”**
 - ▣ Means a public health risk of such magnitude that the commissioner or local health officer has reason to believe that it must be mitigated.
 - ▣ The magnitude of the risk is a factor of the characteristics of the public health hazard and the degree and the circumstance of exposure to such public health hazard

Issuing a Health Order: Overview

- THO completes investigation
- Serves individual with written statement of reasons for a health order together with the supporting evidence and a statement of procedural rights. 18 V.S.A. § § 126,127
- Health Order is in effect upon ruling from the Local Board of Health
- Emergency Order is in effect upon actual notice to the individual

Process: HO vs. EHO

Health Order	Emergency Health Order
Notice of Intent & Procedural Rights Issued	Health Order Issued
Opportunity for a Hearing	Notice & Procedural Rights Issued
Hearing	Opportunity for a Hearing
Health Order Issued	Hearing

Written Notice of Intent

- Informs responsible party that you are seeking a health order
- Includes:
 - ▣ Name and address of individual in violation
 - ▣ Relevant statutory and regulatory references
 - ▣ The investigation report
 - ▣ Why you are seeking a health order
 - ▣ Date when health order will go into effect
- Informs individual in violation of their right to request a hearing.

NOTICE OF INTENT

Upon the authority granted me as Health Officer of the [City or Town of], Vermont per Title 18, V.S.A. section 126, I hereby seek a Health Order against [Responsible Party, Address of Responsible Party, City, State, Zip] based on the following information:

1. On May 28, 2009 I received information regarding the accumulation of bags of garbage at the residence at [Address of Residence].
2. On May 29, 2009, I visited the residence at [Address of Residence] and observed an accumulation of uncovered household trash in ripped black plastic bags.
3. On May 29, 2009 I sent a letter to [Responsible Party] at the above address (copy attached) seeking voluntarily compliance with the State Rental Housing Health Code within 10 days.
4. On June 9, 2009, I received further information that no clean-up had occurred at [Address of Residence].
5. On June 9, 2009, I visited [Address of Residence] again, once again observed the trash and took photographs of the location. Copies of the photos are attached. I also noticed a large amount of loose trash in the shed next to the outdoor trash.
6. On June 9, 2009, I noticed a clear odor of rotting trash and other debris.
7. Based on this investigation, I have determined that this situation creates a public health risk to the neighbors from rodents and other small animals and insects as the warm weather returns.

Therefore, I will be seeking a Health Order at the June 29, 2009 meeting of the [Name of Select Board or City Council] acting as the Local Board of Health at [Time and Location of Meeting] unless such garbage has been removed. Notice is hereby given to [Responsible Party] of my intent and if [Responsible Party] requests a hearing to rebut my allegations, the [Responsible Party] shall contact the [Select Board Chair, City Council Chair, Town Manager, or Town Clerk] in order to be placed on the agenda.

Attached is supporting evidence and a statement of procedural rights.

[Name of THO], Town Health Officer
[Town or City, State, Zip]

Statement of Procedural Rights

Burlington Board of Health

STATEMENT OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

Pursuant to 18 V.S.A. §§ 126 & 127, you are hereby notified of your rights.

1. You may appeal a health order in writing to the Burlington Board of Health and be given the opportunity for a hearing, at which time you shall be given the opportunity to rebut the allegations upon which the order is based. You must appeal an emergency health order in writing within five (5) days from receipt of the order.
2. You have the right to appeal any act, decision or order of the Burlington Board of Health to the State Board of Health.
3. Your appeal to the State Board of Health must be made within 30 days of the act, decision, or order.
4. The appeal hearing before the State Board of Health shall be subject to the provisions of 3 V.S.A., Ch. 25, the Administrative Procedure Act, relating to contested cases.
5. The State Board of Health will hear your appeal de novo, that is, it will consider your case anew, and all persons and parties of interest, as determined by Board rule, may appear and be heard. A decision on your appeal will be made within 30 days following the conclusion of the hearing.
6. You may appeal the decision of the State Board of Health to the Vermont Supreme Court.
7. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Health Order issued by the Burlington Board of Health or the Emergency Health Order of the health officer may subject you to further legal action including civil enforcement of the order in the superior court and criminal penalties.

□ Needs to include the following:

- Statutory provisions
- The right to request a hearing.
- The right to appeal decision to Local Board of Health
- The right to appeal selectboard or Local Board of Health's act, decision or order to the State Board of Health within 30 days
- The right to appeal to the State Board of Health is subject to the Administrative Procedure Act, relating to contested cases

Statement of Procedural Rights (continued)

- They can present evidence at the hearing in front of State Board of Health
- If the State Board of Health finds against them, they have the right to appeal to the Vermont Supreme Court

Statement of Procedural Rights

You have a right to a hearing pursuant to 18 V.S.A. §126. A hearing will be scheduled upon request. Please contact Elisabeth Wirsing at the Vermont Department of Health. If Ms. Wiring does not hear from you within 15 days, the VDHFL will treat your lack of response as waiving your right to a hearing and the Health Order will be issued.

If you request a hearing, you will be given an opportunity to rebut the violations set forth in this Notice of Intent and demonstrate that the Health Order should not be issued. You have the right to bring an attorney and witnesses if you choose.

If you are not satisfied with the Commissioner's decision, you have the right to appeal that decision to the State Board of Health within 30 days. The appeal hearing before the State Board of Health shall be subject to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. Chapter 25, relating to contested cases.

- If they fail to comply with the Health Order they may be subject to further legal action including civil enforcement of the order in superior court and criminal penalties

Health Order Template



[Town Letterhead or Header]

[Town] Board of Health
Public Health Order

Upon investigation of Health Officer [THO name] and testimony provided at the hearing of [hearing date], the [town] Board of Health finds the following:

Finding of Facts

1. [list relevant fact]
2. [list relevant fact]
3. [etc.]

Conclusion of Law

In accordance with state and local law, I am by this notice notifying you of the following determination:

A PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD [OR RISK] EXISTS AT [location address]. Said hazard is in violation of [list relevant statutory and regulatory provisions]. [Provide any additional information or justification including what the impact to public health is or could be.]

Order

Therefore by the authority granted in 18 V.S.A. §126, 602a, it is hereby ordered.

1. ORDERED: [list required action]
2. ORDERED: [list any additional required actions and timelines]

Appeal Rights

[Either list procedural appeal rights or include attachment with “see attached” in this section.]

X _____
[Chairman, Board of Health]

Service of Notice of Intent

- Any questions you may have on service please contact your town attorney
- V.R.C.P. 4 requires the following for service:
 - Service of process is done by sheriff, constable or other person authorized by law
 - Service of the notice of intent, supporting evidence and the statement of procedural rights to:
 - The individual or
 - Leave a copy at the individual's dwelling house with an individual of suitable age and discretion who resides there; or
 - On individual's agent authorized by appointment or by law.



Hearing on a Health Order

- The hearing is held if requested, by the select board
- The individual who was served the Notice of Intent has the opportunity to rebut the allegations made and demonstrate that no Health Order should be issued.
- Select board issues the Health Order
- Health Order is in effect upon being issued by the Board.
- 18 V.S.A. 126



Enforcing a Health Order



- Civil enforcement of health orders at the county superior court is available if the individual doesn't comply. 18 V.S.A. § 130
- Criminal penalties are also available if individual is not abiding by the health order. 18 V.S.A. § 131
- Town Attorney would handle these steps

Statewide Emergency or Disaster

Emergency Condemnation

- 24 V.S.A § 2291(27) grants authority to “municipal building inspector, health officer, fire marshal, or zoning administrator” to declare a property “condemned to be destroyed” if...
 - ▣ Governor makes disaster or emergency declaration, and
 - ▣ Property has been damaged by the disaster or emergency, **and**
 - ▣ Property is dangerous to life, health, or safety due to the disaster related damage

Emergency Condemnation

- Declaration provided by the state and posted online
- Property owners can appeal condemnation under 18 V.S.A. Chapter 83

DISASTER DECLARATION CONDEMNED TO BE DESTROYED ORDER		
Authority and Scope: Title 24: Municipal and County Government, Chapter 061: Regulatory Provisions; Police Power of Municipalities, Subchapter 011: Miscellaneous Regulatory Powers, § 2291. Enumeration of Powers <ul style="list-style-type: none">When a disaster or emergency has been declared by the Governor, a municipal building inspector, health officer, fire marshal, or zoning administrator may declare condemned to be destroyed a property that has been damaged in the disaster or emergency and is dangerous to life, health, or safety due to the disaster-related damage. The owner of property condemned under this subdivision may appeal the condemnation according to the condemnation appeals procedure of chapter 83 of this title, provided that any appeal to the Superior Court shall be to the Civil Division.		
Municipality: _____	Inspector: _____	
Physical Address: _____	Title: _____	
Town and Zip Code: _____	Phone Number: _____	
Physical Location: (9-1-1 Address)		
Street and Mailing Address		_____
City and Zip Code		_____
Owner Name	Name _____	
Address:	Street and or PO Box _____	
	City and Zip Code _____	
Structural	Electrical / Heating	General / Health
<input type="checkbox"/> The structure poses an immediate hazard to the public or public right of way.	<input type="checkbox"/> Electrical wiring has been submerged	<input type="checkbox"/> There is a fuel oil or other hazardous spill
<input type="checkbox"/> The structure has moved off of its foundation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Furnace has been submerged	<input type="checkbox"/> There is significant mold
<input type="checkbox"/> Structural frame is twisted or damaged.		
Damage Information		
Date Damaged Occurred (mm/dd/yyyy): _____		Date of Inspection (mm/dd/yyyy): _____
Cause of Damage: _____ Fire _____ Flood _____ Flood and Wind _____ Seismic _____ Wind _____ Other _____		
Cause of Damage (if "Other" is selected): _____		
Percent Damaged		
Foundation: _____ Superstructure: _____ Roof: _____ Exterior Finish: _____ Interior Finish: _____ Doors & Windows: _____		
Plumbing: _____ Electrical: _____ Appliances: _____ Cabinet and Countertops: _____ HVAC: _____		
State of Vermont - Division of Fire Safety		
Revised March 2015		
MUNICIPAL CONDEMNED TO BE DESTROYED ORDER		

Additional Information

<http://healthvermont.gov/tho>

HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT

- ASBESTOS & LEAD IN BUILDINGS
- CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- CLIMATE & HEALTH
- DRINKING WATER
- ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS & POLLUTANTS
- ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING
- FOOD & LODGING PROGRAM
- HEALTHY HOMES
- HEALTHY SCHOOLS
- RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH
- RECREATIONAL WATER
- TOWN HEALTH OFFICERS
- PLANS & REPORTS

CONTACT:
Environmental Health Division
108 Cherry Street
P.O. Box 70 – Drawer 30
Burlington, VT 05405-0070
Phone: 802-863-7220 or 800-439-8550 (in Vermont)
Fax: 802-863-7483
AHS.VDHEnvHealth@vermont.gov

QUICK LINKS | ALERTS | GET HELP NOW | HOW HEALTHY ARE WE? | SEARCH

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TOWN HEALTH OFFICERS

Need a local contact? [Find Your Town Health Officer](#)

By law, every town and city in Vermont has a local board of health. The local board of health consists of the town health officer and town select board (or city council). The duties and responsibilities of Vermont boards of health are established by [state statute](#).

Town health officers are responsible for:

- Investigating possible public health hazards and risks within the town or city
- Taking action to prevent, remove, or destroy any public health hazards
- Taking action to lessen significant public health risks
- Enforcing health laws, rules and permit conditions, and taking the steps necessary to enforce orders

[Contact Information](#)

IN THIS SECTION

- Find Your Town Health Officer**
Search for your town health officer by town or by name.
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- Forms for Town Health Officers**
Find the forms town health officers need to facilitate and support their work.
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- Resources for Town Health Officers**
Find resources that may be helpful to town health officers.
[READ MORE](#)
- Town Health Officer Trainings**
Get on-demand training for town health officers, including videos, presentations and audio recordings.
[READ MORE](#)

Contact Health Dept.

Find THOs

Resources

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Thank you for all your hard work!

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact

**Vermont Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health**

Weekdays

Call toll-free 800-439-8550 Monday – Friday, 7:45 am to 4:30 pm

After-hours, weekends and holidays

Call the Duty Officer at 802-864-7240 or toll-free 800-640-4374

Email marielle.strong@vermont.gov to join the listserv!