Dangerous Buildings and the Town Health officer
The VT Town Health Officer Rental Housing Inspection Checklist includes the question below:

Is the building structurally sound with no obvious signs of structural deficiencies or unsafe conditions (such as holes in walls, buckling/bulging in floors/ceilings)?

If the answer is “No”, immediately contact your regional DPS office.
Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Phone number to call varies based on property region:

- Region #1 – Williston Office: 1-800-366-8325
- Region #2 – Barre Office: 1-888-870-7888
- Region #3 – Rutland Office: 1-888-370-4834
- Region #4 – Springfield Office: 866-404-8883
Questions to answer

1. What is “Structurally sound”?  
2. What are “signs of structural deficiencies”?  
3. What are “unsafe conditions”?
Structurally sound -

A visual examination of the physical condition of all visible elements of the building may show there are signs of structural distress or deterioration.

• Document what you see
• Photographs are recommended to support your observations

*Remember you are a Town Health officer and not a structural engineer

Document what you observe and make recommendations based on your training and experience but use professionals to make official determinations!*

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What are some signs of structural deficiencies?

- holes in walls,
- buckling/bulging in floors or ceilings
- Rotten or
decayed materials
• What are “unsafe conditions”?
Structures that become dangerous and unsafe must promptly be made safe and secure to protect the public safety.

Burlington Definition:

• Dangerous building or structure means a building or structure or part thereof declared structurally unsafe or hazardous by any duly constituted authority, whether it is occupied, unoccupied, or vacant.
Is it safe for Police and Fire Department to enter once you leave this structure?

- Notification should be made to First responders regarding the condition of the property.
Summary

• Follow guidelines provided by the VT Department of Health
  – Goal should be to make the building safe and secure
• Immediately contact your regional DPS office if the building does not appear structurally sound
• Local Fire Department/Fire Marshal is an excellent resource
• Local Building official/Building inspector is an excellent resource
• Be sure to notify property owner
Questions?