



Vermont Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

45 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont 05671 800-640-2106

Firesafety.vermont.gov



Disaster Safety Assessment and the Posting of Placards

This guidance directive is intended to provide basic information to building owners or tenants that have experienced damage in a disaster or flood. The goal of Safety Assessment Program and the posting of placards is to help perform accurate, initial building safety assessments as quickly as possible to prevent death or injury. This system will allow people to safely re-enter homes and businesses and ensure that people do not enter unsafe structures after a disaster or flood.

Teams of Fire Marshals/Inspectors are dispatched to evaluate and survey damaged buildings to determine if there were safety hazards that would directly affect building occupants or the general public. The teams will also provide and post the building with colored placards that denote the condition of each structure evaluated.

What are the procedures for posting and what do the placards (tags) colors represent?

the colored placards (tags) are posted on “rapid assessed” structures to easily identify building damage assessment results from a distance. They are normally posted at all building entrances. The following describes the circumstances by which inspectors should post each type/color of placard.

INSPECTED
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

NO RESTRICTION ON USE OR OCCUPANCY

This structure has been inspected and found to be safe for occupancy. No significant damage has been found. Report any unsafe conditions that exist within 24 hours to the inspector.

Date: _____ Time: _____

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions by Inspector(s): _____

Exterior only
 Exterior and Interior

Facility Name and Address: _____ For more information contact: _____

Site Number: _____

Any unauthorized person removing this sign is subject to a penalty up to \$250.00 (21 V.S.A. 2116a)

INSPECTED: (Green Placard) Buildings can be damaged yet remain safe. If the safety of a building was not significantly changed by the disaster/flood, it should be posted with a green placard reading INSPECTED. However, building systems should still be evaluated for negative impact from the event.

LIMITED ENTRY
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

OFF LIMITS TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL

This structure has serious hazards and safety restrictions. Entry only for emergency purposes.

Restriction on use:
 Entry for Emergency Purposes only
 Other

Date: _____ Time: _____

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions by Inspector(s): _____

Facility Name and Address: _____ For more information contact: _____

Site Number: _____

Any unauthorized person removing this sign is subject to a penalty up to \$250.00 (21 V.S.A. 2116a)

LIMITED ENTRY: (Yellow Placard) When there is some risk of entry in all or part of the building that does not warrant a RED PLACARD, a yellow placard should be used. The placard should indicate the specific restriction (i.e., entry, duration of occupancy, use, etc.).

When the extent of damage is uncertain or cannot be ascertained within the time and resources available to a Rapid Evaluation team, the building should be posted with a yellow placard reading RESTRICTED USE in the notes section and indicating additional inspection requirements, and any additional restrictions regarding building use or occupancy should be clearly noted on the placard.

DANGER UNSAFE
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DO NOT ENTER OR OCCUPY

WARNING: This structure has serious hazards and is unsafe for occupancy. Entry may result in death or injury.

Restriction on use:
 Entry for Emergency Purposes only
 Other

Date: _____ Time: _____

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions by Inspector(s): _____

Facility Name and Address: _____ For more information contact: _____

Site Number: _____

Any unauthorized person removing this sign is subject to a penalty up to \$250.00 (21 V.S.A. 2116a)

DANGER UNSAFE: (Red Placard) Buildings damaged by a disaster/flood that pose an imminent threat to life or safety should be posted with a red placard reading DANGER UNSAFE. **These are not demolition orders.**

This placard indicates it is unsafe to occupy or enter the building for any reason. Even when a building can be entered for inspection it is still possible that internal damage could pose dangers requiring an Unsafe posting. It is also possible that an otherwise safe building must be posted Unsafe because it is threatened by falling hazards from a nearby building.

Placards on single family homes are for notification purposes only and may include specific recommended evaluations that need to be completed prior to re-entry. The homeowner can remove the placard at their discretion but are encouraged to heed the listed warnings.

Placards placed on rental properties and commercial buildings must not be removed or replaced, except by authorized representatives of the Division of Fire Safety.