



## THE MOBILIZER

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## Parks are Taking Emergency Planning Steps

Milton Mobile Home Cooperative and the Bunker Hill Community Cooperative in Windsor are both working with the Mobile Home Program to create park emergency planning committees and park emergency plans. The park emergency planning committees have created a park communication plan and identified potential hazards in their communities. In the event of any emergency, a power outage, fuel spill or flooding, these groups will know what resources they have, which households might need special assistance, and have a contact list ready for places they may need to call for information. Planning in advance gives communities the chance to talk through “what would we do if...” in advance in a relaxed setting and not in the middle of a crisis. This winter, staff from Vermont Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will be working with the Milton Cooperative to practice their emergency plan. Planning for emergencies is always a great idea, especially having a family communication plan and three days of supplies on hand. If you would like emergency planning resources for your family or your park. Give us a call. We are happy to share our planning resources.

## 2014 Threshold for Rent Increase Mediations

In 2014, park residents may request mediation for **any rent increase above 3.2%**. Here's how it works:

1. Notices of rent increase must be given 60 days in advance on an official form from the Department of Economic, Housing, and Community Development (DEHCD).
2. The form gives the amount of rent increase in dollars and as a percentage.
3. If the percentage is greater than 3.2%, you may request mediation.
4. To request mediation, you must gather the signatures of a majority of the homeowners in the park within 15 business days. Call the Mobile Home Project for a petition form.
5. The state will pay for a professional mediator to sit down with a representative for the residents and a representative for the park owner. Many mediations result in a smaller rent increase.

The annual threshold is determined by adding 1% to the annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Housing portion.

## Fuel Tank Safety Tips

There is never a bad season to think about fuel tank safety. This season, take a few minutes to run through this short safety checklist. If you answer yes to any of the following questions contact your licensed oil heat technician for an inspection and to correct problems. If you find a spill, don't delay; report the spill to Agency of Natural Resources Waste Management Division.

1) Are the tank legs unstable or on an uneven foundation?

No  Yes

2) Do you see rust, weeps, wet spots, or excessive dents on the tank's surface?

No  Yes

3) Are there any drips or signs of leakage around the oil filter or valves?

No  Yes

4) Do the oil lines run either under concrete or aboveground without being encased in a protective tubing?

No  Yes

5) Are there any threats of snow or ice falling on the oil tank or filter? (The two main causes of spills come from copper lines leaking under a concrete floor slab and from falling snow and ice damaging fuel filters and outside lines.)

No  Yes

6) Are there any signs of the tank's vent being clogged or blocked by ice or snow? (Screened vents are available to prevent insect nest problems.)

No  Yes

7) Is the overfill whistle obstructed, or silent when the tank is being filled? (It should whistle.)

No  Yes

8) Are there any signs of spills around the fill pipe?

No  Yes

9) Is the tank's gauge cracked, stuck, or frozen? Do you see oil staining around it?

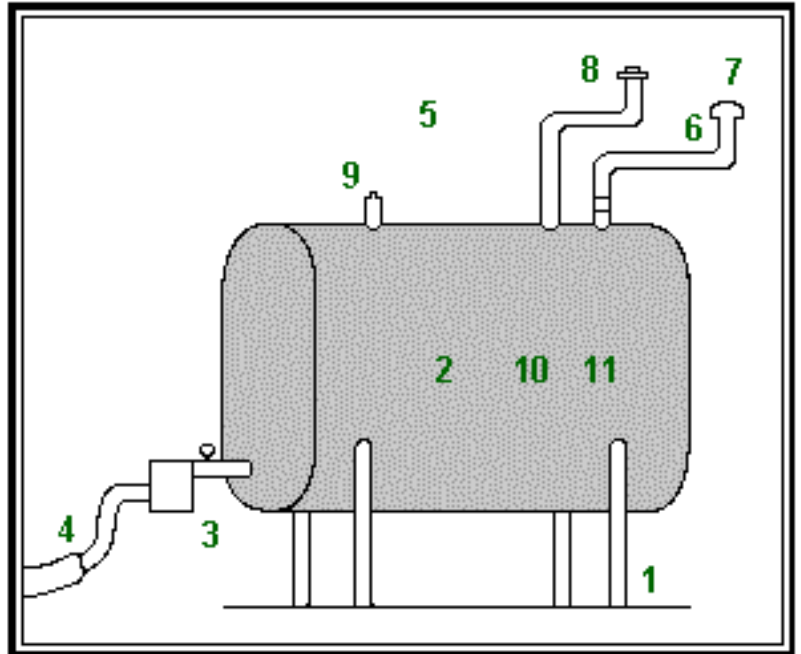
No  Yes

10) Is your tank more than 25 years old?

No  Yes

11) Is your outside tank a dark color? (It should be painted a light color to minimize corrosive condensation inside the tank.)

No  Yes



Information Source: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Waste Division

For more information, visit: [http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/spills/AST\\_checklist.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/spills/AST_checklist.htm)

## New Vermont-made Manufactured Homes



### VERMOD High Performance Manufactured Homes

*The future of manufactured home living, available today*

- New, high quality construction
- Super insulated
- Comfortable, light-filled floorplans
- Made right here in Vermont
- Very low energy costs!! Total heat and electricity as low as \$85 per month
- Solar ready

Purchase Assistance Grants available for a limited time!  
See more information at [www.vhcb.org/mhip](http://www.vhcb.org/mhip) or call Bruce Whitney at 802-451-1959.

## Help for Mobile Home Down Payments

It just got a little easier to buy a mobile home. The Champlain Housing Trust will finance 20% to 50% of your home's purchase price, and you do not have to repay the loan until you sell the home. Thanks to state funding, you pay no interest. Here are the details: The home must be Energy Star rated, 1997 or newer. You must be able to get financing from another source for the remaining purchase costs. You must also be able to pay for 5% of the purchase costs from your own pocket (unless you are a Tropical Storm Irene survivor).

The new loan product was created to increase homeownership, promote energy efficiency, and help Irene survivors buy new homes. However, you do not have to be an Irene survivor to be eligible, and you can live anywhere in Vermont.

If you are interested in detailed information on eligibility requirements and conditions, or would like to apply, call 1-877-274-7431 and ask for Becca McNamara or e-mail [bmcnamara@getahome.org](mailto:bmcnamara@getahome.org).



Is your address correct? Please let us know if there are any changes.

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## Mobile Home Program

P.O. Box 1603 Phone: 802-660-3455  
Burlington, VT 05402 Fax: 802-651-4179  
[www.cvoeo.org](http://www.cvoeo.org)

Core funding for the CVOEO Mobile Home Program comes from the State of Vermont and is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

### 3 Squares VT (aka Food stamps)

#### Are you eligible? Why not learn more?

We can help you apply or renew your application at our office! It's quick and easy :)

For assistance, contact: **Travis Clairmont**, Chittenden Community Action  
**(802) 863-6248 ext. 731**

*This message is funded in part by the USDA, an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

### Have questions about Vermont Health Connect?

CVOEO and our statewide network of Community Action partners are now offering free help with understanding the changes to Vermont's healthcare system, what the new coverage options are and who is eligible for both coverage and the various forms of financial assistance that are now available. Our trained and certified Navigators are also providing in-person help with the application process to anyone who is eligible for coverage through Vermont Health Connect, regardless of income. This includes: uninsured Vermonters, employees and owners of businesses with less than 50 employees, those on Catamount or VHAP and individuals buying their insurance through the individual market. Learn more about Vermont Health Connect, including what the recently announced deadline extension means for you, or schedule your appointment with a Navigator, by contacting CVOEO's Navigator Program at (802) 860-1417 x115 or [navigator@cvoeo.org](mailto:navigator@cvoeo.org).



**VERMONT  
HEALTH  
CONNECT**

Find the plan that's right for you.