



Division of Licensing and Protection

HC 2 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury VT 05671-2060

<http://www.dail.vermont.gov>

Survey and Certification Voice/TTY (802) 241-0480

Survey and Certification Fax (802) 241-0343

Survey and Certification Reporting Line: (888) 700-5330

To Report Adult Abuse: (800) 564-1612

August 13, 2019

Ms. Melissa Jackson, Administrator
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201-5014

Provider #: 475032

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Enclosed is a copy of your acceptable plans of correction for the **Life Safety Code survey** conducted on **August 7, 2019**. Please post this document in a prominent place in your facility.

We will follow-up to verify that substantial compliance has been achieved and maintained. If we find that your facility has failed to achieve or maintain substantial compliance, remedies may be imposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela M. Cota RN".

Pamela M. Cota, RN
Licensing Chief

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

PRINTED: 08/09/2019
FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 0938-0391

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 475032	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING 01 - BUILDING 01 B. WING _	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 08/07/2019
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER VERMONT VETERANS' HOME			STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 325 NORTH STREET BENNINGTON, VT 05201	
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)	ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)	(X5) COMPLETION DATE
K 000	INITIAL COMMENTS An unannounced on-site investigation of a complaint was conducted by the Division of Fire Safety on August 7, 2019. The following violations were identified.	K 000	The filing of this plan of correction does not constitute an admission of guilt. Vermont Veterans Home ("the Provider") submits this Plan of Correction ("POC") in accordance with specific regulatory requirements.	
K 345 SS=D	Fire Alarm System - Testing and Maintenance CFR(s): NFPA 101 Fire Alarm System - Testing and Maintenance A fire alarm system is tested and maintained in accordance with an approved program complying with the requirements of NFPA 70, National Electric Code, and NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. Records of system acceptance, maintenance and testing are readily available. 9.6.1.3, 9.6.1.5, NFPA 70, NFPA 72 This REQUIREMENT is not met as evidenced by: Per observation on 8/7/2019, the facility failed to test and maintain the Fire Alarm System according to the regulatory requirements. The findings include the following. 1. Per observation on 8/7/2019, accompanied by the facilities Master Electrician, the fire alarm system is in trouble at the time the inspection occurred. The trouble was causing an audible signal at the fire alarm control panel, and at all other remote annunciate panels in the building. The signal was unable to be silenced as it would go back into trouble signal almost immediately. 2. Per observation on 8/7/2019, accompanied by the facilities Master Electrician, in the basement it was noted that several of the fire alarm devices were hanging by the wiring to try and dry them out from water or moisture getting into them.	K 345	K 345 Fire Alarm System: Testing and Maintenance CFR(s) NFPA 101 1. The facility's fire alarm contractor was on sight 8/7/19 and 8/8/19 to trouble shoot the system. A malfunctioning strobe was determined to be the cause of the trouble alarm. The strobe was replaced, and the fire alarm system returned to baseline operating condition. 2. The facility's maintenance staff placed several fans and air movers in the basement areas affected by moisture. The fire alarm devices are now dry and were reattached and tested. The NAC panel was found to be dry and was closed. The facility will continue to use fans and air movers in the basement to mitigate the moisture while permanent remedies are developed that include replacing the steam piping and heat exchangers in the American Way basement. The facility will contract with remediation contractors to dry out, dehumidify and clean the basement and crawl spaces under American Way and North Wing. VVH maintenance staff will be placed on a duty rotation to conduct a daily	

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

(X6) DATE

Melissa Agoston, LNA, FAHCA

CEO

8/12/19

Any deficiency statement ending with an asterisk (*) denotes a deficiency which the institution may be excused from correcting providing it is determined that other safeguards provide sufficient protection to the patients. (See instructions.) Except for nursing homes, the findings stated above are disclosable 90 days following the date of survey whether or not a plan of correction is provided. For nursing homes, the above findings and plans of correction are disclosable 14 days following the date these documents are made available to the facility. If deficiencies are cited, an approved plan of correction is requisite to continued program participation.

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K 345	Continued From page 1 There were also NAC panels that had their door open to dry out the moisture inside of them.	K 345	inspection/sweep of the basement and crawl spaces within the facility, where we will document potential hazards and the need for immediate repairs. This sweep will be conducted occasionally during evening/night shifts and at least one day per weekend by the maintenance person on duty. Random nights and all weekends will be included.	
K 511 SS=D	Utilities - Gas and Electric CFR(s): NFPA 101 Utilities - Gas and Electric Equipment using gas or related gas piping complies with NFPA 54, National Fuel Gas Code, electrical wiring and equipment complies with NFPA 70, National Electric Code. Existing installations can continue in service provided no hazard to life. 18.5.1.1, 19.5.1.1, 9.1.1, 9.1.2 This REQUIREMENT is not met as evidenced by: Per observation on 8/7/2019, the facility failed to assure that equipment using gas, or gas related piping complied with all regulatory requirements. The findings include the following. 1. Per observation on 8/7/2019, accompanied by the facilities Master Electrician, the geothermal heating/cooling units in the basement have several of the unites covers removed exposing live electrical wiring and components. it was also noted that several components of the geothermal units (relays, switches, etc.,) were not properly attached ot the piping or units themselves. 2. Per observation on 8/7/2019, accompanied by the facilities Master Electrician, in the basement there are several motors or pumps wiring that are not terminated properly. The wiring is terminated outside of the termination box of the pump or	K 511	Data from the audits will be brought to the QAPI meeting every other month for six months or until the committee determines resolution. The Director of Environmental Services is ultimately responsible to ensure proper operation of the facility's fire alarm system. Compliance Date: August 19, 2019 <i>K345 POC accepted 8/12/19 J.Burnd/pme</i> K 511 Utilities - Gas and Electric CFR(s) NFPA 1. All missing unit covers have been replaced. The facility's Master Electrician has rewired motors and relays to correct potential hazards. 2. The facility's Master Electrician has terminated all exposed wiring properly in boxes, grounded equipment, and securely attached low-voltage components and switches to the relevant equipment. 3. See # 2 above. 4. The facility's geothermal technician will only perform electrical work under the direct supervision of the facility's Master Electrician. The geothermal technician has been educated on this requirement.	

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K 511	<p>Continued From page 2 motor exposed.</p> <p>3. Per observation on 8/7/2019, accompanied by the facilities Master Electrician, in the basement the equipment grounding conductor is not attached to the pump or motor which creates an electrical shock or fire hazard.</p> <p>4. Per observation and record review on 8/7/2019, accompanied by the facilities Master Electrician, it was noted that the geothermal technician for the Vermont Veterans home is not licensed in Vermont to perform electrical work that he is currently conducting at the facility. All work is required to be performed under the supervision of the Master Electrician which was not being done at the time of this investigation.</p> <p>5. Per observation on 8/7/2019, accompanied by the facilities Master Electrician, there is a water problem in th basement caused by leaking pipes and condensation. This is creating an issue with moisture getting into the electrical components and other electrical equipment. The moisture may be getting into equipment causing corrosion of terminations which could cause equipment failure or fire.</p> <p>6. Per observation on 8/7/2019, accompanied by the facilities Master Electrician, there are several areas in the basement where water is several inches deep on the floor in and near electrical equipment creating an electrical shock hazard. All electrical must be checked for any issues associated with the moisture problem.</p>	K 511	<p>5. The maintenance staff has placed several fans and air movers in the basement spaces affected by the steam system problems, in order to dry out the space. These spaces are now dry. Further remedies are being worked on with a high priority by an engineering firm in Burlington, VT to replace the steam piping and heat exchangers in the American Way basement, and by remediation contractors to dry out, dehumidify and clean basement and crawl spaces under American Way and North Wing.</p> <p>6. The standing water noted by the inspector in basement areas has been removed and the basements are currently free of any standing water. The maintenance staff placed several fans and air movers in the basement spaces in order to dry out the space. The VVH has contracted a local electrical firm to assist the VVH Master Electrician in checking any electrical devices, wiring, connections or other related infrastructure for issues related to moisture. The spaces affected, as well as all other basement areas, will be monitored daily for groundwater infiltration and leaks, to prevent standing water.</p> <p>VVH maintenance staff will be placed on a duty rotation to conduct a daily inspection/sweep of the basement and</p>	

crawl spaces within the facility, where we will document potential hazards and the need for immediate repairs. This sweep will be conducted occasionally during evening/night shifts and at least one day per weekend by the maintenance person on duty. Random nights and all weekends will be included.

Data from the audits will be brought to the QAPI meeting every other month for six months or until the committee determines resolution.

The Director of Environmental Services is ultimately responsible to ensure proper operation of the facility's fire alarm system.

Compliance Date: August 19, 2019

K511 PDC accepted 8/12/19 J Bernard / Ane