

**A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TOM WILLIAMS, VERMONT CHAPTER
IAAI.**

Dear Fellow Vermont Chapter Members and Guests:

As we look toward the winter season, I am reminded that there are difficult economic times ahead for our fellow Vermonters . In many cases they will be facing tough times heating their homes. That makes our job all the more difficult. Auxiliary heating by our friends and neighbors can present some real challenges.

I also look back to the challenges that have faced our organization. I am proud that we met those challenges and our successes have become the talk of neighboring IAAI Chapters. Our Website (VTIAAI.ORG) has become a showplace of both information and opportunity. I have been meeting with the Presidents of the neighboring Chapters in an effort to exchange ideas and to discuss common problems. I will continue to do so during my term as President.

I am also reminded that this years training program was attended by almost one hundred insurance and jurisdictional investigators from several states surrounding us. We all should be proud of that.

Some time ago I joined some of my colleagues in a meeting with a representative of VOSHA with regard to a discussion of CONFINED SPACE and safety. It was an interesting meeting and one that is relevant. It is imperative that you understand the term CONFINED SPACE and how to approach investigations and insurance inspections in such areas. While your employer is responsible for providing you with the correct safety equipment (air sampling meters, breathing protection, and a team of trained personnel), You are responsible for knowing and relaying to your employer when an unsafe condition exists. Remember the first responsibility you have is to return home safely to your family.

The Vermont Chapter of the IAAI is the professional voice of our craft. The mandate I got from our membership when I took office was to continue an atmosphere of professionalism. That mandate is being preserved and acted upon for the benefit of all of us in the area of both insurance and investigations.

My thanks to all of you for your assistance and cooperation. Be vigilant and be safe.

Cordially and with my thanks,

Tom Williams

