

SWANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTS A DRY HYDRANT

October 24, 2025

The Swanton Fire Department has been working diligently to install a new dry hydrant to improve Swanton's fire protection infrastructure. The location is at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Fishing Access at John's Bridge on Route 7 southeast of the Village. This Dry Hydrant is a 6" steel & PVC pipe system installed in the Missisquoi River that allows Fire Trucks to draw water to fill the tankers. The project required collaboration with three landowners, Vermont Agency of Transportation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the landowner of the abutting

agricultural fields. The project also required support from the Town of Swanton to share a large excavator for the construction and to keep the access open year-round by accepting the responsibility for plowing the access.

The Village and Town were happy to collaborate on this project because of the value it offers to residents on the southeast half of the Town. After several months of working on the necessary permits and authorization, the Swanton Village Public Works Department was able to bring the Fire Chief's vision for the dry hydrant to fruition in September of 2025.

The project was partially funded by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts' (VACD) VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force, and they provided technical support for necessary purchases, fabricating the components, and for the installation. Troy Dare, the Program Manager, was on site during construction to ensure the project was a success.

All this effort was very worthwhile because the strategic location of the dry hydrant on the southeastern side of

the Missisquoi River will allow improved response time to the southeast portion of the Town. Previously refill trips for fires in the eastern end of Swanton would enter the Village and utilize a hydrant located near the Elementary School which was problematic for high vehicular and pedestrian traffic at certain times of the day. By installing the dry hydrant on the eastern side of the Missisquoi River, response times have improved because of the very high-water flows which are 1,100 gallons per minute (GPM) from the Missisquoi River and because of the elimination of Village traffic conflicts.

The Swanton Fire Department serves the community with dedication and vision. Their tireless efforts have led to improved fire suppression for the Town and adjoining towns through Mutual Aid Agreements.

