

BYPASSING SAFETY CONTROLS



**A MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC
BY SAFER VRS**

INTRODUCTION

The vacation rental industry has a responsibility to prioritize safety for its guests. One aspect of safety that is often overlooked is bypassing safety controls. Bypassing safety controls refers to the act of overriding or disabling any safety measure without proper authorization. This could lead to serious injuries or fatalities if proper precautions are not taken.

In order to prevent incidents related to bypassing safety controls, it is important to educate guests and staff on the dangers and consequences of bypassing these measures. This handout will provide a comprehensive overview of what bypassing safety controls means and why it is important to obtain authorization before overriding or disabling any safety measures.

The handout will also provide practical steps on how to safeguard against such incidents and identify potential hazards, as well as guidelines for conducting regular property surveys to ensure that all equipment is functioning properly.

What is Bypassing Safety Controls?



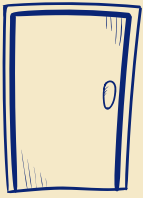
Bypassing safety controls refers to temporarily disabling a component or system's safety control mechanism. For example, bypassing the blade guard on a lawnmower by taping the handle and allowing it to operate without holding it. Another example is taping or putting paper over smoke detectors during cooking or smoking, which makes the smoke detector inoperable.



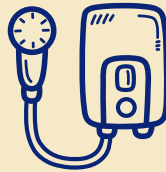
Why are safety controls put in place?

Safety controls are put in place after many serious injuries or fatalities have occurred. They are intended to protect the operator or guests from harm.

Examples of Bypassing Safety Controls in Vacation Rentals:



Bypassing garage door sensors



Removing physical stops on hot water heaters



Taping or putting paper over smoke detectors



Bypassing safety controls during maintenance



Bypassing permissive on heaters or gas/propane equipment

HOW TO IDENTIFY AND PREVENT BYPASSING SAFETY CONTROLS:

Bypassing safety controls in vacation rental properties can be dangerous. This section provides steps to identify and prevent bypassing.



Provide Instructions: Provide written or video instructions to guests on how to handle equipment, such as fireplaces and propane heaters, and who to contact if there's a problem.



Conduct Surveys: Regularly conduct surveys of the property to identify any equipment that may have been bypassed by previous guests or contractors.



Schedule Maintenance: Schedule annual or more frequent maintenance checks for fuel-fired equipment, pools, hot tubs, saunas, etc.



Verify Restoration: Implement a system to verify that bypassed equipment has been restored to its normal operation.

CONCLUSION

This safety topic highlights the importance of taking proactive measures to identify and prevent bypassing of safety controls in vacation rental properties.

By conducting regular surveys, scheduling maintenance checks, providing instructions to guests, and implementing a system to verify restoration, vacation rental owners and managers can reduce the risk of potential hazards and ensure a safe environment for guests.

These actions can help prevent incidents related to bypassing safety controls and create a safer and more enjoyable vacation experience for everyone.