

TOWN OF DURHAM



Fall / Winter Guide

Frequently Used Numbers

Office of the First Selectman
860-349-3625

Building, Health &
Engineering
860-349-8253

Human Services
860-349-3153

Library
860-349-9544

Public Works
860-349-1816

Recreation
860-343-6724

Town Garage
860-349-9953

Transfer Station
860-349-8702

Connecticut Light & Power
1-800-286-2000

Fuel Assistance
860-349-3153

Emergency
Ambulance, Fire, Police
911

Non-Emergency Ambulance
860-349-8366

Non-Emergency Fire
860-349-9112

Non-Emergency Police
1-800-256-5761 (or)
860-349-2325

A note from the First Selectman...

Dear Town of Durham Residents,

We created this guide to help you prepare for the fall and winter seasons and to explain a bit how the town prepares. We've also added some timely information regarding safety tips. I would like to thank our Chiefs of Service and town hall staff for their contributions to this document and for all they do for our town.

We are fortunate to have well-trained town employees and volunteers that protect your safety during the fall and winter months. However, it is critical that you help us respond to dangerous situations. Please do not hesitate to use the contact information contained in this guide to notify the appropriate official if you see a hazardous condition. We will update this guide as necessary and will post it on our website at www.townofdurhamct.org. Please check in periodically to check for revisions which will be dated.

I wish you and your families a safe, happy and healthy fall and winter seasons.

Best Regards,

Laura L. Francis

Laura L. Francis
First Selectman

"Discover Durham Business Expo"

On November **19th, 2009**, The Economic Development Commission is sponsoring a First Annual "**Discover Durham Business Expo**". This event will take place at the Firehouse from 2pm to 6pm followed by "Business After Hour" reception. All local businesses are invited to attend. This is a **FREE** event.

For more info contact Peter Cascini, Chairman EDC at 860 349-2309 email: pcascini@comcast.net.



News release

The Durham Volunteer Fire Company Urges Durham Residents to “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”

Durham, CT October 1, 2009 – Once a child touches a hot stove, as the cliché goes—he learns his lesson, stay away from a hot stove. This cliché does not take into account the pain and suffering from burns and burns should not be part of the learning process.

That’s why the Durham Volunteer Fire Company is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week 2009 - October 4-10 - to urge Durham residents to “**Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.**” This year’s campaign focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

The statistics are staggering. Each year roughly 3,000 people dies as a result of home fires and burns, and more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation’s emergency rooms for burn injuries.

“The most common types of burn injuries result from fire or flame burns, scalds and contact burns,” said Assistant Chief Dave Greenbacker. “Burns are painful and can result in serious scarring and even death. When we take extra caution in our homes to ensure that the curling iron is out of children’s reach or pot handles are turned away from the edge of the stove, such injuries are entirely preventable. Keeping our homes safe from fire and preventing devastating burn injuries is a healthy change we can make happen.”

By following simple safety rules, you can “**Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.**”

- Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- Have a 3-foot “kid-free” zone around the stove.
- Never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- Be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons, oven, irons, lamps, heaters.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent a child from sticking an object in the outlet.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle, portable heater, lit fireplace or stove, or where a hot appliance might be in use.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Set your hot water temperature no higher than 120 degrees.
- Install anti-scald valves on shower heads and faucets.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

For more information on “**Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.**” visit www.firepreventionweek.org



2009

Office of the Town Clerk

Election Reminder

NOVEMBER 3, 2009 - MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Register to vote:

- October 17th: (Saturday) 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Registrar's office 2nd floor.
- October 20th: Registration by mail cutoff date.
- October 27th: In-person voter registration cutoff date.
- November 2nd: 9:00 am - Noon. Limited registration for those who qualify as to age, citizenship or residence attained since October 27th. Must register with the Registrars of Voters.
- November 2nd: Admitting official (Registrars of Voters), on written request received at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. on this date, may admit as electors members of armed forces and former members of armed forces discharged within the calendar year immediately preceding such request, if found qualified. Any application for voter registration from an serviceman and any person out of the country may be received until 5:00 p.m. this day.

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS:

Send or bring applications to the Town Clerk's Office, P. O. Box 428, Durham, CT 06422


Absentee Ballots available beginning October 2, 2009

Applications available at:

<http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/LIB/sots/ElectionServices/ElectForms/electforms/aabeng.pdf>



NEW DEP FEES		
LICENSES	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Firearms Hunting	\$ 28.00	\$ 134.00
Inland Fishing	\$ 40.00	\$ 80.00
Marine (saltwater) fishing	\$ 30.00	\$ 60.00
Fishing - 3 days	none	\$ 32.00
Combination - hunting & fishing	\$ 56.00	\$ 176.00
Trapping	\$ 50.00	none
Trapping < 16 yr. Old	\$ 15.00	none
Junior firearms hunting	\$ 15.00	none
Over 65 Annual	free	none
Pheasant tags or permit	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00
Migratory Game Birds tags	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
HIP Permit	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00

NEW effective October 1, 2009	Marine (saltwater) fishing - 1 day	\$ 15.00	none
	All waters Fishing	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
	Marine waters & firearms	\$ 50.00	\$ 170.00
	All waters fishing & firearms	\$ 60.00	\$ 190.00
	All waters & archery	\$ 84.00	none
	Inland waters & firearms	none	\$ 176.00
NEW effective January 1, 2010	Firearms Super Sport includes: All waters fishing, firearms hunting, privateland shotgun/rifle permit, Spring privateland turkey permit	\$ 116.00	none
	Archery Super Sport includes: All waters fishing, archery permit for deer and small game, Spring privateland turkey permit	\$ 104.00	none
PERMITS			
	Spring Turkey Private Land	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00
	Spring Turkey State Land	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00
	Fall Turkey Private Land	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00
	Fall Turkey State Land	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00
	Fall Turkey Archery	\$ 28.00	\$ 28.00
	Deer Archery	\$ 60.00	\$ 200.00
	Jr. Archery	\$ 13.00	\$ 26.00
	Private land Shotgun/Rifle	\$ 28.00	\$ 100.00
	Private land Muzzleloader	\$ 28.00	\$ 100.00
	State land No-Lottery Shotgun	\$ 28.00	\$ 100.00
State land Muzzleloader	\$ 28.00	\$ 100.00	
OTHER NEW FEES EFFECTIVE 10-1-09			
	• Birth Certificate (short form)	\$15	
	• Birth Certificate (long form)	\$20	
	• Marriage Certificate copy	\$20	
	• Death Certificate copy	\$20	
	• Hand-held Scanner Usage	\$20	
	• Replacement Notary Form	\$15	
	• Campaign Finance Late	\$200	

DEP website

http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2690&Q=447982&depNav_GID=1511

Department of Public Health**September 2009****Governor Rell: State Has Registered Over 1,500 Providers to Give Swine Flu Vaccine**

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that the state has enlisted more than 1,500 doctors and other health care providers to administer the H1N1 vaccine to Connecticut residents this flu season as part of a statewide vaccination plan. The Governor said the vaccine is expected to be available in the coming weeks and will be provided by the federal government to the state at no cost.

“This has been a tremendous response from our medical community and will help us protect as many of our residents as swiftly as possible, particularly the most vulnerable to this new, emerging virus,” the Governor said. “Our statewide inoculation plan is based on years of pandemic preparation between state and local health officials. The cooperation of hundreds of providers across the state is essential to mount a strong preventive response.”

The Governor said Connecticut is expected to begin receiving vaccine as early as the first week of October. By mid-October, the state is expected to receive more than 500,000 doses, with subsequent shipments of 20,000 per week.

The vaccine will first be made available to those who are at greatest risk due to complications of H1N1 influenza: pregnant women, caregivers of children younger than age of six months, health care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact, children aged six months to four years and children aged 5 to 18 with chronic medical conditions.

The Governor will brief local emergency management officials on the statewide H1N1 inoculation plan during a conference call Friday. Also participating in the call will be officials from the state departments of Public Health, and Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

The state began recruiting doctors and other health care providers in August to administer the vaccine. Providers include private physicians, community health centers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, visiting nurse associations, retail-based outlets and public health providers.

State health officials also encourage Connecticut residents to get their seasonal flu vaccination, as well as the H1N1 vaccination. The H1N1 vaccine is only effective against the H1N1 virus and does not protect against seasonal influenza.

For more information on the H1N1 virus of the seasonal flu in Connecticut visit:
<http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch>

ICE Your Cell Phone for Safety

A campaign to use cell phones to help in the treatment or identification of accident and disaster victims has taken off worldwide.

Mobile phone users are being urged to enter a number in their phone’s memory with the acronym ICE, for In Case of Emergency, with the contact person’s name and number. The emergency contact numbers should include daytime and nighttime numbers, and the contact should know the person’s medical condition, current medications and allergies.

Paramedics or police would be able to swiftly find the number and use it to reach a relative or friend who could help identify deceased victims and treat injured ones by providing vital personal information including details of any medical conditions.

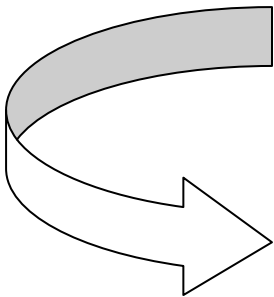
MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

Town of Durham

Flu Clinic 2009

FREE to those who do not have insurance

This years flu clinic will be open to Durham residents age 18 and over



Date: Friday, October 16, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Place: Emergency Operations Center, Canfield Lane,
Durham Fairgrounds**

Both Flu and Pneumonia vaccines will be available.

**Registration is NOT necessary. If you have questions please call
Jan Muraca at 860-349-3153.**

- **Bring to the clinic your insurance cards, or Medicare and Medicare supplement insurance cards.**
- **Proof of residency.**
- **Wear comfortable short sleeved clothing.**

If you have special needs, please let us know.

**FREE SEASONAL FLU CLINIC
SPONSORED BY MASS DISPENSING AREA 36
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009
3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.**

Mass Dispensing Area (MDA) 36 is comprised of the towns of Cromwell, Durham, Haddam, and Middlefield and the city of Middletown.

Federal and State funds are channeled to MDA 36 via the lead agency, the Middletown Health Department. MDA 36 has been planning for the protection of its citizens against a bioterrorism event or a pandemic flu.

The seasonal flu clinic is being offered free of charge and will help MDA 36 prepare for the possible future mass vaccination of our citizens against the H1N1 virus.

Durham residents 9 years and older who are willing to participate in the clinic may come to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on the Durham Fairgrounds after 2:30 pm. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Paperwork will be filled out and a short DVD may be viewed. Bring to the clinic your insurance cards, or Medicare and Medicare supplement insurance cards. Those without insurance will be served for free.

After the processing the residents will be asked to board a bus that is handicap accessible. The driver will take them to the Point of Dispensing (POD) located on the Wesleyan Campus in Middletown. The seasonal flu vaccine will be administered and the resident will board a bus for the return trip to the Durham Fairgrounds.

This clinic is in addition to the seasonal flu clinic to be held on October 16th. Thank you for your participation.

For more Information Contact: 860-349-8253



Get ready to change the way you dial your local calls in Connecticut...

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers in the state of Connecticut, the Department of Public Utility Control ordered two Area Code Overlays in Connecticut. The 475 area code will be added later this year to the area served by 203 and the 959 area code will be added at a future date to the area served by 860.

What is an Area Code Overlay?

An overlay is the addition of another area code (475) to the same geographic region as an existing area code (203). **An overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code or phone number.**

Who Will be Affected?

All Connecticut customers with a 203 or 860 number will have to change the way they dial local calls. The new 475 area code will serve customers in the same geographic region as the current 203 area code and the new 959 area code, when implemented, will serve customers in the same geographic region as the current 860 area code.

What Will be the New Dialing Procedure?

To complete local calls, the new dialing procedure requires callers to dial **area code + telephone number**. This means that all local calls in Connecticut that are currently dialed with seven digits will need to be dialed using area code + telephone number.

**When Will the Change Begin?**

Beginning **May 16, 2009**, you should begin using the new dialing procedure whenever you place a local call in Connecticut. If you forget and use the old dialing procedure of dialing just seven digits, your call will still be completed.

Beginning **November 14, 2009**, you **must** use the new dialing procedure for all local calls in Connecticut. If you do not use the new dialing procedure, your call will not be completed, and a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again.

Beginning **December 12, 2009**, new telephone lines or services may be assigned numbers with the 475 area code.

The new 959 area code telephone numbers will be assigned at a future date. No dates have been announced at this time.

What Will You Need to Do?

In addition to changing your dialing procedure, all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are programmed with a 7-digit telephone number will need to be reprogrammed to use the new dialing procedure. Some examples are life safety systems, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, alarm and security systems, gates, speed dialers, mobile phone contact lists, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, and similar functions. Be sure to check your business stationery, advertising materials, personal checks, and your personal or pet ID tags to ensure the area code is included.

What Will Remain the Same?

- Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 911.
- If 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 and 811 are currently available in your community you will still dial them with just three digits.

Who May You Contact with Questions? If you have any questions regarding information provided in this notice, please call your local service company or wireless service provider or the Department's Consumer Assistance and Information Unit at 860.827.1553 or 800.382.4586.

Pet Safety Tips for the Winter Months

“As the harsh winter months settle in it is important that you think about keeping your pets safe from all of the dangers that the season can present,” stated MEMA Director Don Boyce.

Do not leave your pet outdoors when temperatures drop below freezing. Dogs need outdoor exercise, but take care not to keep them outdoors for lengthy periods of time during very cold weather. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks. Dogs and cats are safer indoors during all sorts of extreme weather.

Wind-chill is a threat to pets, even those protected by shelters. Outdoor dogs must be protected by a dry, draft free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to both sit and lie down comfortable, but small enough to retain body heat. The floor should be elevated a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The entrance of the doghouse should be turned to face away from prevailing winds and the entrance should be covered with a flap of heavy waterproof fabric or heavy plastic.

Pets who spend a greater amount of time outdoors in the winter need more food. Maintaining warmth depletes energy. Routinely check your pet’s water dish to ensure the water is fresh and not frozen. To prevent your pet’s tongue from freezing to their feeding or drinking bowl, plastic rather than metal food and water bowls are preferred.

Be leery of frozen bodies of water. Always keep your pets on a leash when walking them near suspected frozen bodies of water. The ice may not be sturdy enough to support your pet. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue your pet yourself; go for help.

Antifreeze and de-icing chemicals can be hazardous. Antifreeze has a sweet taste that can attract animals. Always store antifreeze out of reach and clean up spills. Antifreeze made with propylene glycol can actually be swallowed in small amounts and not injure pets, wildlife or humans. De-icing chemicals, including salt, can irritate the pads of your pet’s feet. Wipe your pet’s feet with a damp towel after coming indoors, even if salt on sidewalks is not visible.

Warm automobile engines are dangerous for cats and small wildlife. Parked vehicles can attract small animals which may crawl under the hood seeking warmth. To avoid injuring animals, bang on your car’s hood to scare them off before starting your engine.

Don Boyce, MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency)

Safer Durham - Emergency Notification Program

The Town of Durham has implemented a state-of-the-art emergency notification system to alert citizens about emergencies and other important community news. The emergency notification system, operated in partnership with Everbridge, enables the Town of Durham to provide essential information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, fires, floods, unexpected road closures, or evacuation of buildings or neighborhoods.

Sign up on line at www.townofdurhamct.org and click on the One Program Reaches All Icon

Or

Signup by Phone - Call the Department of Emergency Management at 860-271-8212 and leave a message with the following information:

First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code,
eMail Address, Home Phone #2, Mobile Phone, Mobile Phone #2, FAX#

Or

Download the Safer Durham Mailer & Sign up Form at www.townofdurhamct.org and drop it off at the Town Clerk or First Selectman’s Office.

TOWN OF DURHAM ORDINANCES

WINTER PARKING BAN

Parked vehicles are one of the biggest obstacles to effective snow removal. Please support our efforts by parking your vehicle in conformance with the towns *Winter Parking Ordinance*.

Sec. 10-41 TOD Code of Ordinances - From November 1st of each year to April 1st of the following year, inclusive, it shall be unlawful to park on town streets and highways as follows:

- During the hours from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. inclusive; or
- During any winter snow emergency declared by the First Selectman

The violation of this section shall subject the registered owner of or person responsible for, such illegally parked vehicle, to a penalty of not more than ten dollars (\$10.00) for each violation plus the cost of towing.

SIDEWALK CLEARING

Sec. 14-1 TOD Code of Ordinances - All owners or occupants of property adjoining sidewalks shall remove the snow from same twenty-four (24) hours after the cessation of a snowstorm. If the said snow is not removed within twenty-four (24) hours after the cessation of a snowstorm, the Board of Selectmen may order the removal of same, the cost of which shall be charged against the owner or occupant of the property adjoining said sidewalk. The cost of removal of snow shall be collected from the party responsible by the Board of Selectmen for the use of the Town of Durham, together with a fine of five dollars (\$5.00)

Please remember that the final snow plow pass is not made until after the storm has concluded. Your cooperation in clearing the sidewalks is an essential safety measure for school children and other pedestrians using the sidewalks.

UNLAWFUL DEPOSITS OF SNOW, ICE, LEAVES OR OTHER DEBRIS ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS OR SIDEWALKS

Sec. 14-2 TOD Code of Ordinances - (a) No person shall deposit any snow, ice, leaves or other debris onto any portion of any public town road, street, or sidewalk, so as to impede or render unsafe any manner of use or travel upon said public town road, street or sidewalk.

(b) Penalties for offenses. Any person violating this article shall be guilty of an infraction. This infraction shall result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per offense.

If you have a private contractor, please make them aware of this ordinance.

WINTER TIPS

POTHOLES

Pot holes are formed when water seeps into cracks in the pavement surface and the continual freeze - thaw cycle in the early spring moves the surface of the pavement. This movement weakens the pavement. Traffic loosens the pavement even more, and it eventually crumbles and pops out. The pounding of tires wears a hole in the underlying gravel, and a pothole is formed.

During the weeks leading up to the winter season, the town crew make repairs to help minimize the formation of potholes during the winter. The patching of potholes continues throughout the winter. During

cold weather, temporary repairs are made with cold patch asphalt because the temperature is too cold to use the hot asphalt. During warmer temperatures, hot asphalt is used for more permanent repairs.

Unfortunately, during periods where the weather fluctuates from freezing to warm temperatures, the formation of potholes is unavoidable. Spring temperatures warm the cold pavement, melting and evaporating any frozen water. This creates air pockets that can eventually cause the pavement to break up. A winter of heavy snow or rain and several freeze-thaw cycles can mean a big pothole season ahead.

If you see a pothole that needs repair, please call the Public Works Department at 349-9953 or 349-1816. You may also report it online at www.townofdurhamct.org and click on **Citizen Service Request** on the upper right corner of the homepage. To help expedite our response, please be prepared to provide the exact location and size (approximate length/width/depth). The more information we have the better we can serve you.

Potholes on most heavily traveled roads are usually repaired with 48 hours notification. Maintenance crews are constantly on the lookout for potholes, but we welcome citizen calls. The sooner the pothole is reported, the more quickly Public Works can remove the road hazard.

CATCH BASINS AND STORM INLETS

Help minimize street flooding by shoveling snow and ice away from the front of the storm inlet nearest your house. This includes keeping catch basins grates free of leaves and other debris all year long.

DRIVEWAY CLEARING

The following suggestions are intended to make your driveway snow removal easier and safer.

- If possible, wait until the road has been completely plowed to the curb before shoveling the last 5-10 feet of your driveway - less snow from the road will end up in your driveway.
- It is best to place snow on the far side of your driveway, away from the direction the plow is traveling. In most cases this means placing the snow on the right side of your driveway as you face the road. Please remember it is a violation of the Town's Ordinance Sec. 14-2 to push snow into the street and you may be held liable if this snow causes an accident. Remember, please advise your contractor!
- Do not allow children to play on snow banks along the side of the road. The town may need to push back snow banks after a storm to create room for the next snow event.

HOW TO DEAL WITH ICE AND SNOW

Winter driving is a tricky and dangerous business. Better roads, better cars and better tires won't take the place of careful driving practices. To keep your experience with winter driving from becoming a crash-course, here are a few driving tips from the Connecticut Department of Transportation:

- **Time:** Give yourself plenty of extra time for getting to your destination. Speed limits are for perfect, dry conditions. On winter's icy roadways, half the speed limit may be suicide.
- **Vision:** Take the time to clear all windows of snow, ice or fog before starting out. Also, clear any snow off the roof, hood and truck - it comes loose when driving.

- **Lights:** Even though you can see, drive with low-beam headlights in snow, fog or just winter murk. Keep all lenses free of dirt by wiping them periodically. Dirty headlights can cut visibility by 50 percent or more. Don't forget the directional lights, taillights and rotating lights.
- **Tires:** Be sure your tires have adequate tread for traction in snow and to reduce the risk of hydroplaning in rain or puddles on the road. You may hear that putting extra weight in the trunk or truck bed gives better traction. Traction might be helped a little but at the expense of steering control and longer stopping distance. Likewise, you may hear that reducing tire pressure is another way of increasing traction. Reducing air pressure will not give you more traction and your tires could become seriously underinflated, affecting steering. Keep in mind that every time the outside temperature drops 10 degrees, the tire air pressure goes down about one pound per square inch. Remember too that underinflated tires are the major cause of tire failure. Tires should be inflated to manufacturer's recommendation; this information can usually be found located on the sidewall of the tire.
- **Ice/Freezing Rain:** At 30 degrees ice is twice as slippery as it is at 0 degrees. It also forms first and lasts longer on bridges and in the shade. If you hit an unexpected patch, don't try to brake, accelerate or downshift. Let up on your accelerator and let your vehicle "roll" through the slippery area. When freezing rain is occurring resulting in icing conditions, please pull over to the side of the road until the road has been treated with sand and salt.
- **Skidding:** If you go into a skid, act quickly by taking your foot off the accelerator. Keep your foot off the brake and steer in the direction the rear of the vehicle is skidding. In other words, if you want your vehicle to go right, turn right. If you want it to go left, turn left. Hold the steering wheel firmly, but don't make large abrupt turns. Use a light touch to correct the swerve.
- **Braking:** Your owner's manual will usually recommend the braking technique most effective for your car. For front and rear wheel drive vehicles with disc or drum brakes the National Safety Council recommends the following procedure: Squeeze your brakes with a slow, steady pressure until just before they lock. When you feel them start to lock, ease off until your wheels are rolling; then squeeze again.
- **Following Distance:** Maintain at least three times the normal following distance on snow or ice. If you are being followed too closely, maintain an extra distance behind the vehicle ahead so that you can slow down or brake gradually. Be prepared to adjust speed and/or stop to avoid colliding with the vehicle in front of you. Plan ahead when approaching intersections so that braking can be done smoothly, slowly and safely.
- **Stay on the Beaten Path:** Stay in line when traveling to or from a snow zone. Don't blaze your own trail, especially going downhill - you'll only manage to create a worse situation. You'll even clog the only open space emergency snow vehicles can travel.
- **Safety Belts and Child Safety Seats:** In addition to keeping you in the vehicle during a collision, they will also keep you and your child from being thrown around inside your vehicle should you go into a skid or hit an object. Use safety belts/seats at all times, it's the law.
- **Deer:** Bad weather can cause deer to be on the move. Be particularly alert when traveling in known areas of deer migration. When you see deer or other animals ahead, slow down and be prepared to stop until you are safely past them. A good defensive driving technique is to try to avoid animals if possible, however, do not swerve into the on-coming lane and risk a head-on collision, or run off the road and risk hitting another object.
- **Dead Batteries:** When jumping batteries, connect one cable to the (+) terminal of each battery. Then connect one end of the second cable to the (-) terminal of the booster battery and the other end to a nut or bolt on the engine. Do not connect it to the (-) of the discharge battery. Start the

engine of the helper vehicle and let it run a few minutes, and then start the disabled vehicle engine. Remove cables in the exact REVERSE order.

- **Walking on Ice or Snow:** After being in a warm vehicle, the soles of shoes or boots are warm enough to melt snow or ice, creating a film of water between the sole and the snow or ice surface. Be especially cautious for the first five minutes after leaving the vehicle. When walking on snow or ice, use short steps and keep your hands out of your pockets. These factors will help you maintain your balance. If you do fall, tuck your arms close to your body and roll with the fall.
- **Stay Clear of Plows and Sanders:** Watch out for these vehicles as you round corners, curbs, etc. They do not travel at a high speed; therefore, you'll tend to come up on them quickly. Slow down. Plows and sanders will pull over periodically to let traffic pass. It's risky to pass on the left of a snowplow because of blowing snow. Never pass on the right. Flying rock can damage your car if you pass a sander. The best advice is to stay three car lengths behind plows and sanders.

Source-State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation

MAILBOXES

While plow truck drivers make every effort to avoid mailboxes, they do, on occasion, hit or knock one over. Operators must report these incidents to their supervisor. It is also possible that mailboxes can be knocked over by heavy snow without the operator's knowledge. To report a downed mailbox, please call the Public Works Department at 349-9953 or 349-1816. You may also report it online at www.townofdurhamct.org and click on the **Citizen Service Request** on the upper right corner of the homepage.

It is the town's policy to replace a mailbox struck by a town vehicle if the mailbox was mounted on a sturdy post and located according to U.S. Postal Service standards. The Post Office will not deliver mail until the mailbox is replaced. These standards are summarized as follows:

- The box should be 3 ½ to 4 feet from ground level to the bottom of the box.
- The face of the box should be flush with the back of the curb or set back 6 to 12 inches from the edge of the road.
- All mailboxes should have a handle, a flag, and the house number on the right hand side as you face it from the street.
- Customers must keep the approach to their mailbox clear of obstructions to allow safe access for delivery. If USPS employees are impeded in reaching a mail receptacle, the Postmaster may withdraw delivery service.
- Curbside mailboxes must be placed to allow safe and convenient delivery by carriers without leaving their vehicles.

KNOW YOUR SNOW

Heavy snow can immobilize a region and paralyze a city, stranding commuters, closing airports, stopping the flow of supplies, and disrupting emergency and medical services. Accumulations of snow can cause roofs to collapse and knock down trees and power lines. Homes and farms may be isolated for days and unprotected livestock may be lost. In the mountains, heavy snow can lead to avalanches. The cost of snow removal, repairing damages, and the loss of business can have severe economic impacts on cities and towns.

Blizzard: Winds of 35 mph or more with snow and blowing snow reducing visibility to less than ¼ mile for at least 3 hours

Blowing snow: Wind driven snow that reduces visibility. Blowing snow may be falling snow and/or snow on the ground picked up by the wind.

Snow Squalls: Brief, intense snow showers accompanied by strong, gusty winds. Accumulation may be significant.

Snow Showers: Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.

Snow Flurries: Light snow falling for short durations with little or no accumulation.

STAY INFORMED, KEEP AHEAD OF THE STORM

Keep ahead of the storm by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio and television for the latest winter storm warnings, watches and advisories. The National Weather Service continuously broadcasts warnings and forecasts that can be received by NOAA Weather Radios, which are sold in many stores. The average range is 40 miles, depending on topography. Purchase a radio that has a battery back-up and a Specific Area Message Encoder feature, which automatically alerts you when a watch or warning is issued for your county.

What to Listen For...

The National Weather Service issues outlooks, watches, warnings and advisories for all winter weather hazards. Here's what they mean and what they do. Use the information below to make an informed decision on your risk and what actions should be taken. Remember to listen to your local officials' recommendations.

Outlook: Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2-5 days. Stay tuned to local media for updates.

Watch: Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Prepare now!

Warning: Life-threatening severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. Act now!

Advisory: Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If you are cautious these situations should not be life threatening.

SAFETY TIPS

PROTECTING WATER PIPES

To prevent the mess and aggravation of frozen water pipes, protect your home, apartment or business by following the simple steps below.

Before Cold Weather

- Locate and insulate pipes most susceptible to freezing, typically those near outer walls, in crawl spaces or in the attic.
- Wrap pipes with heat tape (UL approved).
- Seal any leaks that allow cold air inside where pipes are located.
- Disconnect garden hoses and shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

When It's Cold

- Let hot and cold water trickle at night from a faucet that may be located near or on an outside wall.
- Open cabinet doors to allow more heat to get to un-insulated pipes under a sink or appliance near an outer wall.
- Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.

- If you plan to be away: (1) have someone check your house daily to make sure the heat is still on to prevent freezing, or (2) drain and shut off the water system (except indoor sprinkler systems).

If Pipes Freeze

- Make sure you and your family knows how to shut off the water, in case pipes burst. Stopping the water flow will minimize the damage to your home. Call a plumber and contact your insurance agent.
- Never try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.
- Always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.

HEAT YOUR HOME SAFELY

If you plan to use a wood stove, fireplace, or space heater, be extremely careful. Follow the manufacturer's instructions as well as the home safety measures, and remember these safety tips:

- Use fireplace, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented to the outside and does not leak flue gas into the indoor air space.
- Do not burn paper in a fireplace.
- Ensure adequate ventilation if you must use a kerosene heater.
- Use only the type of fuel your heater is designed to use - DO NOT SUBSTITUTE.
- Do not place a space heater within 3 feet of anything that may catch on fire, such as drapes, furniture, or bedding, and NEVER cover your space heater.
- Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.
- Never leave children or pets unattended near a space heater.
- Make sure that the cord of an electric space heater is not a tripping hazard - but do not run the cord under carpets or rugs. Avoid using extension cords to plug in your space heater.
- If your space heater has a damaged electrical cord or produces sparks, do not use it.
- Store a multi-purpose, dry chemical fire extinguisher near the area to be heated.
- Protect yourself from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning by installing a battery-operated CO detector and never use generators, grills, camp stoves, or similar devices indoors.
- Alternative heating methods should be used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Before use of such products, you should check with the consumer safety product commission for recalls of the units.
- If you need to run a generator in the event of a power outage make sure it is vented properly and make sure you are not energizing the "street side." (Connecticut Light and Power workers in our state have been killed by this). This can be verified by a licensed electrician or the town's building official.
- In the event you are heating your home by an alternate method (wood stove, coal stove, pellet stove for example) and you have a hot water heating system as your permanent heating system, a word of caution. The areas that are far away from the stove and have water loops are subject to freezing

under extended cold periods. Make sure there is air flow to those areas or condition the water in those loops with approved antifreeze.

- Ashes from the fireplace or wood stove must never be put in the garbage or an area that has products that can burn. The ashes look innocent but they are very dangerous. Also, do NOT pick up these ashes with your vacuum cleaner. A fire can develop in the bag or canister of the vacuum cleaner.

GENERATOR SAFETY

Electric generators can provide you with peace of mind and convenience when you are faced with a temporary loss of electric service. Follow these safety guidelines when operating a generator:

- Before installing a generator be sure to properly install “a disconnect” from your utility electrical service. If possible have your generator installed by a qualified electrician.
- Run generators outside, downwind of structures. NEVER run a generator indoors. Deadly carbon monoxide gas from the generators exhaust can spread throughout enclosed spaces. Install a carbon monoxide detector.
- Fuel spilled on a hot generator can cause an explosion. If your generator has a detachable fuel tank, remove it before refilling. If this is not possible, shut off the generator and let it cool before refilling.
- Do not exceed the rated capacity of your generator. Most of the small home use generators produce from 350 to 12000 watts of power. Overloading your generator can damage it; the appliances connected to it, and may cause a fire. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Keep children away from generators at all times.

ENERGY AND FUEL ASSISTANCE

For the most recent energy assistance programs and guideline information, please contact Janet Muraca, Human Services Department at 349-3153 or INFOLINE at 211.

FIRE SAFETY

Smoke Detectors: Smoke detector batteries should be checked and/or replaced. Keep in mind, many different smoke detectors have a useful life of 10 years, you should check the date of manufacture on the back of the smoke detector and determine if it should be replaced per the manufacturers recommendations.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Carbon monoxide detectors should be checked. These detectors also have a limited life span. You should determine the useful life of your detector and replace as needed. If you have a heating/cooling system that uses a fossil fuel or you burn wood/pellets to heat your home, you should install a co-detector.

Emergency Exits: Emergency/Fire exits must be clear of ice and snow so they operate properly. These exits must have their walkways shoveled and kept clear of ice and snow.

Mailbox/House numbering: Your house, driveway, or mailbox should be clearly marked so it can be read by emergency responders. Keep in mind that emergency crews may be responding at night and in inclement weather. Reflective numbers are very helpful in these conditions.

Use of Power Strips/Surge Protectors: Power strips/Surge Protectors should be UL listed. In most cases these devices are UL listed however, some discount stores do sell units that are not listed. Consumer Protection Safety Commission website should be checked for product recalls.

Storage: In the winter months it is common to store seasonal items in the basement. Combustible items should be kept clear from heat sources such as furnaces, boilers, hot water heaters and other heat sources. Never store gas or propane in your basement or any inhabited area of your home.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a silent, deadly killer claiming about 1,000 lives each year in the United States. Such common items as automotive exhaust, home heating systems and obstructed chimneys can produce the colorless, odorless gas. The gas can be produced by poorly vented generators, kerosene heaters, gas grills and other items used for cooking and heating when used improperly during the winter months.

- NEVER run generators indoors. Open a window slightly when using a kerosene heater.
- NEVER use charcoal to cook indoors.
- NEVER use a gas oven to heat your home.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include sleepiness, headaches and dizziness. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, call 911.

IF THE LIGHTS GO OUT

If you lose electrical service during the winter, follow these tips:

- Call your utility first (1-800-286-2000) to determine area repair schedules. Turn off or unplug lights and appliances to prevent a circuit overload when service is restored. Leave a light on to indicate power has been restored.
- To help prevent freezing pipes, turn on faucets slightly. Running water will not freeze as quickly.
- Protect yourself from carbon monoxide poisoning:
 - DO NOT operate generators indoors; the motor emits deadly carbon monoxide gas.
 - DO NOT use charcoal to cook indoors. It too, can cause a buildup of carbon monoxide gas.
 - DO NOT use your gas oven to heat your home. Prolonged use of an open oven in a closed house can create carbon monoxide gas.
 - Make sure fuel space heaters are used with proper ventilation.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to help reduce food spoilage.

STREET SWEEPING

The Public Works Department generally begins the street sweeping program around the last week of March, weather permitting. Residents can assist us in the following ways:

- Limit parking on roadways.
- Sweep and/or rake the sand on your lawns into the street one week before the sweepers are scheduled to sweep your neighborhood.

- Keep leaves, branches, rocks and other debris out of the street. This may cause damage to the sweeper and delay the program.
- DO NOT sweep sand or other debris into catch basins and storm inlets.

A listing of the streets to be swept and the approximate start date will be listed in early March on the Town of Durham website: <http://www.townofdurhamct.org>.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

The emergency shelter for the Town of Durham is currently at Strong School on Main Street. If you need to leave your home, be ready to go as quickly as possible. Having a “Go Bag” in an accessible place ensures that you and your family are prepared for whatever situation arises. Each member of your household should have his or her own Go Bag. Go Bags should be easy to carry and sturdy, should be stored in an easily accessible location; ideally you should keep one at your home, in your car, and at work, they should be prepared for any time of the year and updated every six months.

Some items that should be included in your “Go Bag”:

- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- Flashlight
- Battery operated AM/FM radio
- Extra batteries
- Pocketknife
- Whistle
- Extra house and car keys
- Blanket
- Rain gear
- Hat
- Comfortable, sturdy shoes
- Warm clothes
- Prescription medicine for a week, with copies of prescriptions, list of doctors’ phone numbers
- Medicine, food and other supplies for pets
- Small first-aid kit
- Extra pair of glasses or contact lenses
- Extra hearing-aid and batteries
- Toilet paper
- Plastic garbage bags
- Recent family photo for ID purposes
- Toiletries
- Feminine hygiene products
- Copy of your family communications plan
- Town and regional map
- Paper, pens, and tape (in case you need to leave a message somewhere)
- Copies of important documents in a waterproof container (ID’s, insurance, proof of address, passports, etc.)
- Cash - preferably small bills and coins
- Cell phone and manual charger

SCHOOL CLOSING OR DELAYED OPENINGS

Whenever a school cancellation or late opening is necessary, every effort will be made to contact area radio and TV stations as soon as possible. The stations designated to make the announcement for Regional School District 13 include: 1080AM WTIC, 1150AM WMRD, 960AM WELI, WFSB Channel 3, WVIT Channel 30, WTNH Channel 8.

Delayed Openings

Building	2-Hour Delay	1-Hour Delay	Closing Time
Coginchaug	9:25 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	2:02 p.m.
Strong	9:25 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	2:00 p.m.
Memorial	10:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	2:45 p.m.
Korn	10:55 a.m.	9:55 a.m.	3:25 p.m.
Lyman	10:50 a.m.	9:50 a.m.	3:20 p.m.
Brewster	10:50 a.m.	9:50 a.m.	3:20 p.m.
AM K & Pre-School	10:50 a.m.		12:30 p.m. *
AM K & Pre-School		9:50 a.m.	12:00 p.m. *
PM K & Pre-School	1:35 p.m.		3:20 p.m. *
PM K & Pre-School		1:05 p.m.	3:20 p.m.*

Early Dismissal

The decision to close school early will be made by 10:45 a.m. in order to warn NO PM Kindergarten. Parents are again advised to listen to the above radio and TV stations for an announcement of early dismissal. In the event of an early dismissal, schools will be dismissed at the following times:

AM K & Pre-School	11:30 a.m. *
Strong	12:12 p.m.
Coginchaug	12:12 p.m.
Memorial	12:50 p.m.
Lyman	1:30 p.m.
Brewster	1:30 p.m.
Korn	1:35 p.m.

If school is canceled or closed early, all after-school community activities are also canceled except in special circumstances and only where approval from the Superintendent has been granted.

*Please note: the Pre-School program does not meet on Fridays.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT CLOSINGS OR DELAYS

In the event of school closings or delays, recreation programs may also be delayed or cancelled. These announcements will be made through the WFSB-TV Early Warning Network and will also be posted on the town website at www.townofdurhamct.org or by calling 860-343-6724.