



# TOWN OF DURHAM

## Spring & Summer Guide, 2010

### *Frequently Used Numbers*

Office of the First Selectman  
349-3625

Building, Health &  
Engineering  
349-8253

Human Services  
349-3153

Library  
349-9544

Public Works  
349-1816

Recreation  
343-6724

Town Garage  
349-9953

Transfer Station  
349-8702

Connecticut Light & Power  
1-800-286-2000

Fuel Assistance  
349-3153

Emergency  
Ambulance, Fire, Police  
911

Non-Emergency Ambulance  
349-8366

Non-Emergency Fire  
349-9112

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



### *A letter from the First Selectman...*

Dear Town of Durham Residents,

We have compiled this Spring/Summer Guide as a tool to keep you happy, healthy, safe and informed for the warm weather seasons. Please contact us if you have any other information to include. We will update this document as needed and post on our website. I send many thanks to all our contributors.

Have a wonderful summer. Hope to see you all at the Farmers' Market and around town.

*Sincerely,*

*Laura Francis*

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## **Grill Safety - A Message from the Durham Volunteer Fire Company**

Though many people use their barbeque grills year-round, for many families, this is the start of barbeque season. In its continuous effort to ensure the safety of the community from the dangers of fire, the fire department would like to pass along these safety tips for a happy carefree outdoor cooking season.

### **Check Your Grill—Gas**

- ✓ Make sure your grill is stable and located on level ground. Tighten any loose screws that may affect your grill's stability.
- ✓ Check the tubes that lead to the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders or grease. Pay particular attention to the Venturi tube. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear the blockage.
- ✓ Check grill hoses for cracking or brittleness. Replace defective ones. Locate gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces or spilling grease. Check for leaks using a soapy water solution. If you find a leak, turn off the cylinder and have your grill repaired.
- ✓ Inspect the burners. If they look good, fire-up the grill and check for an even flame. Many burners will only last one or two seasons and must be replaced on a regular basis.
- ✓ Clean out the grease and ash that accumulated on the bottom of the grill. Check for rust and deterioration.

### **Using Your Grill—Gas**

- ✓ Be familiar with the instructions provided by the manufacturer.
- ✓ Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. A garden hose could also be used.
- ✓ Maintain a minimum of five feet clearance from any combustibles. Ten feet is even better. Watch for overhanging obstructions as well.
- ✓ Keep children away while lighting the grill and while cooking.
- ✓ Watch the wind. Keep the wind at your back.
- ✓ Don't wear loose fitting clothing especially sleeves.
- ✓ Open the tank only about a quarter to half a turn. That's all the gas you need for cooking, and if something goes wrong; it's easier to shut off.
- ✓ Keep the cover open while lighting the grill. Keeping the cover shut will allow an explosive amount of gas to accumulate.
- ✓ Light the match and then turn on the burner flame. If the gas doesn't light right away, allow the gas to dissipate before trying to light the grill again. Stand away from the grill while lighting.
- ✓ Use long-handled tools.
- ✓ If there are small children around, be mindful of where you set down the matches or lighter after lighting the grill.
- ✓ Keep a spray bottle of water handy to cool down flare-ups.
- ✓ Never leave a grill unattended.
- ✓ When you are done cooking, make sure you shut off the propane tank as well.

### **Propane Tips**

- ✓ Check your propane tank for damage. Discard a damaged tank.
- ✓ Store propane tanks upright.
- ✓ Do not store propane indoors.
- ✓ Propane vapors are heavier than air and slow to dissipate. Do not store propane below grade or in confined areas.
- ✓ When transporting propane containers, keep the cylinder upright and secure.
- ✓ Never keep a cylinder in a hot car.

### **Check Your Grill—Charcoal**

- ✓ Make sure your grill is stable and located on level ground. Tighten any loose screws that may affect your grill's stability.
- ✓ Clean out the grease and ash that accumulated on the bottom of the grill. Check for rust and deterioration.

### **Using Your Grill—Charcoal**

- ✓ Be familiar with the instructions provided by the manufacturer.
- ✓ Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. A garden hose could also be used. Maintain a minimum of five feet clearance from any combustibles. Ten feet is even better. Watch for overhanging obstructions as well.
- ✓ Keep children away while lighting the grill and while cooking.
- ✓ Watch the wind. Keep the wind at your back.
- ✓ Don't wear loose fitting clothing especially sleeves.
- ✓ Use only approved charcoal lighting fluids. Better yet—use a metal chimney or electric fire starter.
- ✓ If you use an electric fire, be careful where you place it after removing it from the grill. Never use an electric starter in the rain. Make sure it's cool before putting it away.
- ✓ When using a lighting fluid, allow the fluid to soak into the charcoal. This allows flammable vapors to dissipate. Stand away from the grill while lighting.
- ✓ Use long-handled tools.
- ✓ Never add lighter fluid once the fire has started.
- ✓ If there are small children around, be mindful of where you set down the matches or lighter after lighting the grill.
- ✓ Keep a spray bottle of water handy to cool down flare-ups.
- ✓ Never leave a grill unattended.
- ✓ Charcoal requires oxygen. The vents should be open while you're cooking. Make sure the used coals are cooled before discarding. It could take as long as 48 hours for charcoal to cool completely. Discard used charcoal into a noncombustible container.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the firehouse on the Non-Emergency phone number 860-349-9112. **Have safe summer!**

**Some Words of Wisdom from your Local Building and Health Department...**

- Gutter cleaning protects the homes roof and exterior walls, prevents odors from decay of debris and prevents the breeding of mosquitoes.
- Drain swimming pool covers after rainfalls and/or add a cup of bleach to the water to prevent algae growth and the breeding of mosquitoes.
- Leftover vegetable matter, leaves, soil mixes from unwanted potted plants and grass clippings can be composted. Newly planted vegetables and perennials will appreciate a dressing of compost.
- The creation of a border of wood chips (from the transfer station) at the perimeter of the lawn will prevent the encroachment of ticks to the children's play area.
- Utilizing a barrel for capture of rainwater flowing from the home's gutter through a downspout provides a source of water for flower or vegetable gardens between rainfalls.
- Avoid running pool filters overnight during cool weather; the temperature of the water will markedly decrease. Alternately, avoid running the filter during 90 to 100 degree days because it will add to the burden on the electrical utilities and can lead to brown or black-outs.
- Close window shades or curtains during the day to maintain a lower temperature in the home and to keep air conditioning costs lower.
- Look for carpenter ants and wood boring bees along the perimeter of the house and stop them from doing damage.
- It may be time to have your septic tank pumped/cleaned. Septic tanks should be cleaned every 3 to 5 years. An as-built, plan showing the location of the septic tank and leaching system, may be found in the files of the Building and Health Departments.
- Planting of specimen shrubs and trees within 15 feet of the septic system is not recommended; the expansion of the root system leads to damage of the system.
- Use fertilizer and pesticides (herbicides, fungicides and insecticides) sparingly. Correctly identify a problem and use the appropriate pesticide at the manufacturer's recommended concentration. Stronger concentrations are unnecessary and are potentially harmful to humans and their pets.
- Avoid leaving a garden hose (with nozzle attached) connected to an outside spigot with the spigot in the on position. Water contained in the hose may be pulled back into the home's plumbing system. Turn the spigot off when the hose is not in use. Better yet, install a hose bib vacuum breaker for around \$5 at a hardware store or disconnect the hose from the spigot after each use.
- Removal of clutter from basements, attics and closets will free up some space and will help provide ready access to the home's electrical panel, heating equipment and fuel storage area. Inspection and maintenance of the facilities will be easier. Determine if friends or relatives can use the items; if not, consider donation followed by recycling.
- Swales that were created to divert rainwater or snowmelt away from your house require maintenance. Remove branches, leaves, wind blown debris and soil deposits so that water can flow freely.
- Be prepared for severe weather. Keep nonperishable food and plenty of water in storage. Also keep a couple of covered 5 gallon containers full of water available for flushing of toilets during electrical outages.

**Is your American Flag ready to be replaced?**

Please bring your old or worn out American Flags to the Town Hall for proper retirement. The Boy Scouts of America, Durham Troop 27 retire these flags with a retirement ceremony. The drop off box is located in the front hall entrance.

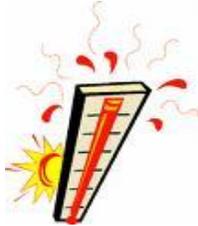
## Summertime Heat

### Prevention tips to stay healthy in the summertime heat

• Know the signs and symptoms of heat stroke, heat stress, and heat cramps. These are described below.

• Have the phone number of your family doctor clearly posted next to your phone (and stored in your cellular phone).

• Drink more fluids (nonalcoholic), regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you are thirsty to drink. Warning: If your doctor generally limits the amount of fluid you drink or has you on water pills ask him/her how much you should drink while the weather is hot.



• Don't drink liquids that contain caffeine, alcohol, or large amounts of sugar-these actually cause you to lose more body fluid.

Also, avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.

• Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If your home does not have air conditioning, go to the movies, shopping mall, public library, or a friend's house/apartment with air conditioning-even a few hours spent in an air conditioned environment can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat.

• Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

• Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.

• NEVER leave any person or animal in a closed, parked vehicle.

• Although any one at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Check regularly on:

- Infants and young children
- People aged 65 or older
- People who have a mental illness
- Those who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure

Visit adults at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Infants and young children need much more frequent watching.

• If you must be out in the heat, limit your outdoor activity to early morning and evening hours. Cut down on exercise. If you must exercise, drink two to four glasses of cool, nonalcoholic fluids each hour. A sports beverage can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat. Warning: If you are on a low-salt diet, talk with your doctor before drinking a sports beverage.

• Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat (also keeps you cooler) and sunglasses. Also put on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher (the most effective products say "UVA/UVB protection" on their labels).

**It is important to become familiar with the signs and symptoms of heat stroke, heat stress, and heat cramps, and to have an action plan so that you will know what to do if you see these signs and symptoms.**

**Heat Stroke** Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness and is accompanied by hot, dry skin; shallow breathing; a rapid, weak pulse; and confusion. Heat stroke occurs when a person's body temperature exceeds 105 degrees Fahrenheit and could render the victim unconscious.

Health officials advise that if you believe that someone has heat stroke, call for emergency medical treatment or have the person taken to the hospital immediately. While waiting for emergency personnel move the victim to a cool area out of direct sunlight; sponge bathe with cool water; and fan. If possible, relocate the person to an air-conditioned room.

**Heat Exhaustion** Heat exhaustion is characterized by heavy sweating, weakness and cold, pale, clammy skin. There may also be fainting and vomiting. If someone appears to be suffering from heat exhaustion, they should be moved to a cool area out of direct sunlight, sponge bathed with cool water and fanned. Also, give sips of water to the individual every 15 minutes for one hour.

**Heat Cramps** Heat cramps are characterized by painful spasms, usually in muscles of the legs and abdomen and by heavy sweating. To relieve heat cramps, apply firm pressure on cramping muscles or gently massage the muscles. As in the case of heat exhaustion, give sips of water every 15 minutes for one hour.

*\*Department of Public Health Press Release July 14, 2006*

## **Lightning Safety for You and Your Family - When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**

Each year in the United States, more than 400 people are struck by lightning. On average, between 55 and 60 people are killed; hundreds of others suffer permanent neurological disabilities. Most of these tragedies can be avoided with a few simple precautions. When thunderstorms threaten, get to a safe place. Lightning safety is an inconvenience that can save your life.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) collects information on weather-related deaths to learn how to prevent these tragedies. Many lightning victims say they were “caught” outside in the storm and couldn’t get to a safe place. With proper planning, these tragedies could be prevented. Other victims waited too long before seeking shelter. By heading to a safe place 5 to 10 minutes sooner, they could have avoided being struck by lightning. Some people were struck because they went back outside too soon. Stay inside a safe building or vehicle for at least 30 minutes after you hear the last thunder clap. Finally, some victims were struck inside homes or buildings while they were using electrical equipment or corded phones. Others were in contact with plumbing, a metal door or a window frame. Avoid contact with these electrical conductors when a thunderstorm is nearby!

### **What You Might Not Know About Lightning**

**All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous.** In the United States, in an average year, lightning kills about the same number of people as tornadoes and more people than hurricanes.

**Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and may strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.** Many lightning deaths occur ahead of storms or after storms have seemingly passed.

**If you can hear thunder, you are in danger.** Don’t be fooled by blue skies. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat. Lightning leaves many victims with permanent disabilities. While a small percentage of lightning strike victims die, many survivors must learn to live with very serious lifelong pain and neurological disabilities.

### **Avoid the Lightning Threat**

**Have a lightning safety plan.** Know where you’ll go for safety and how much time it will take to get there. Make sure your plan allows enough time to reach safety. **Postpone activities.** Before going outdoors, check the forecast for thunderstorms. Consider postponing activities to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.

**Monitor the weather.** Look for signs of a developing thunderstorm such as darkening skies, flashes of lightning or increasing wind.

**Get to a safe place.** If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, immediately move to a safe place. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the best protection. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning. If a sturdy building is not nearby, get into a hard-topped metal vehicle and close all the windows. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

**If you hear thunder, don’t use a corded phone except in an emergency.** Cordless phones and cell phones are safe to use.

**Keep away from electrical equipment and wiring.**

**Water pipes conduct electricity.** Don’t take a bath or shower or use other plumbing during a storm.

### **Organized Outdoor Activities**

Many people enjoy outdoor activities. It’s essential for the people in charge of these activities to understand the dangers of lightning, have a lightning safety plan in place, and follow the plan once thunder is heard or lightning is seen. Many outdoor activities rely on volunteer leaders, coaches or sports officials to make safety decisions. Make sure the leaders of these activities follow a lightning safety plan. Don’t be afraid to ask, and don’t be afraid to speak out during an event if conditions become unsafe. You could save a life!

### **What You Should Know About Being Caught Outside Near a Thunderstorm**

There is no safe place outside in a thunderstorm. Plan ahead to avoid this dangerous situation! If you’re outside and hear thunder, the only way to significantly reduce your risk of becoming a lightning casualty is to get inside a substantial building or hard-topped metal vehicle as fast as you can. In addition, you should avoid the following situations which could increase your risk of becoming a lightning casualty. Remember - there is no substitute for getting to a safe place.

**Avoid open areas.** Don’t be the tallest object in the area.

**Stay away from isolated tall trees, towers or utility poles.** Lightning tends to strike the taller objects in an area.

Stay away from metal conductors such as wires or fences. Metal does not attract lightning, but lightning can travel long distances through it. If you are with a group of people, spread out. While this actually increases the chance that someone might get struck, it tends to prevent multiple casualties, and increases the chances that someone could help if a person is struck.

### Act Fast If Someone Is Struck by Lightning!

Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge, are safe to touch, and need urgent medical attention.

Cardiac arrest is the immediate cause of death for those who die. Some deaths can be prevented if the victim receives the proper first aid immediately.

**Call for help. Call 9-1-1**

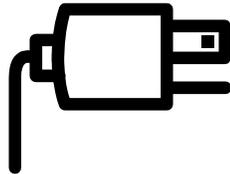
**Give first aid.** Do not delay CPR if the person is unresponsive or not breathing. Use an Automatic External Defibrillator if one is available.

**If possible, move the victim to a safer place.** Lightning can strike twice. Don't become a victim.

### Stay Informed About Storms Listen to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards

There are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes in the U.S. each year. When you hear thunder, there is an immediate lightning danger. As a further safety measure, consider purchasing a portable, battery-powered, tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. The radio will allow you to monitor any short-term forecasts for changing weather conditions. The tone-alert feature can automatically alert you when the NWS issues a severe thunderstorm watch or warning.

*\*National Weather Service*



## Outdoor Electric

### Safety

When you're working outdoors - on the job or around the house - remember: You shouldn't even get close to power lines. Accidents can happen to you or someone you care about if you're not careful. Here is some important information to help you avoid electrical accidents at home and at work.

### Ladders

Ladders, regardless of what they're made of, can become electrified if brought into contact with electric wires. Even a wooden ladder can conduct electricity. Use caution when you or your contractor are installing siding, painting, cleaning gutters or have any reason to use a ladder outside around your home

### Wires

Treat all downed, hanging, or burning wires as though they are "live" or energized. Stay away from them, and be especially attentive to children who might be outdoors if fallen wires are in the neighborhood. Call 911 to report any downed, hanging or burning wires or call your local electric distribution company. If you happen to be in a vehicle and wires are on or near it, stay in your vehicle and tell others not to touch it.

In Connecticut, call The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) at 1-800-286-2000 (947-2000 in the Hartford area and 1-860-947-2000 open calling from the Meriden area)

### Tree Work

Electric wires may be concealed in the trees or shrubs you want to trim. Before start cutting, inspect the area carefully to ensure that it is clear of wires.

### Climbing

Never let children climb utility poles, towers, or trees located near power lines.

### Generators

Some households use a backup generator to supply them with power during an outage. ***Proper installation of generators is essential to prevent a house fire and to avoid electricity feeding back into our lines and endangering the life of an unsuspecting line worker.***

Follow these guidelines if you are considering buying or using a generator.

- Before you buy a generator, make sure it's the right size for your needs.
- Always have a licensed electrician install the generator. You may also need a town permit or an official inspection.
- The generator must be connected to your home's wiring through a special transfer switch to be sure electricity produced by the generator does not back feed into our electric lines.
- Generator exhaust is deadly, so it's important that the unit be vented outside.

### Other Important Safety Reminders

- Antennas:** Before you work on a rooftop television or citizen's band radio antenna, be sure the area is clear of power lines. Install antennas where they won't touch or fall on electric lines.
- Power Tools:** Don't use outdoor power tools such as an electric drill, hedge clippers, or an electric mower in the rain or on wet surfaces. Consider installing a ground fault interrupter on outside outlets.
- Kites:** Never construct a kite from wire or metal; always use paper or wood. That goes for the tail, too; it should only be made of dry string or cloth. Always keep your kite away from electric power lines and choose a clear, dry day for kite flying. If your kite should get snagged in power lines or in a tree in which lines might be concealed, don't try to free it yourself.
- Boats:** Watch for power lines when sailing or bringing your boat ashore. Lower the mast when pulling the boat on a trailer to avoid contact with power lines along the road.
- Pools:** Be sure all electrical equipment for your swimming pool is grounded properly. If you're installing a pool, have it inspected by your town's electrical inspector when the job is completed. A ground fault interrupter should be installed on your pool's electrical equipment. If a fault occurs in the equipment, the interrupter will instantly cut the power, preventing a serious electric shock. Do not have any plug-in appliances near the pool

If you have any questions, call NU at: **1-800-286-2000** or **947-2000** in the Hartford calling area.

*\*Northeast Utilities*

## Mosquito and Tick Safety



### What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile virus (WNV) is a potentially serious illness. Experts believe WNV is a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall. This following important information can help you recognize and prevent West Nile virus.

### What Can I Do to Prevent WNV?

The easiest and best way to avoid WNV is to prevent mosquito bites.

- When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient. Follow the directions on the package.
- Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours.
- Make sure you have good screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

### What Are the Symptoms of WNV?

- **Serious Symptoms in a Few People.** About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include

high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

- **Milder Symptoms in Some People.** Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected have symptoms such as fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days, though even healthy people have become sick for several weeks.
- **No Symptoms in Most People.** Approximately 80 percent of people (about 4 out of 5) who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all.

### How Does West Nile Virus Spread?

Most often, WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite.

### What Should I Do if I Think I Have WNV?

Milder WNV illness improves on its own, and people do not necessarily need to seek medical attention for this infection though they may choose to do so. If you develop symptoms of severe WNV illness, such as unusually severe headaches or confusion, seek medical attention immediately. Severe WNV illness usually requires hospitalization. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are encouraged to talk to their doctor if they develop symptoms that could be WNV.

## **Protect yourself from tick bites**

Avoid areas with a lot of ticks. Ticks prefer wooded and bushy areas with high grass and a lot of leaf litter. Take extra precautions in May, June, and July. This is when ticks that transmit Lyme disease are most active. Ask your local health department and park or extension service about tick infested areas to avoid.



Keep ticks off your skin. Use insect repellent with 20% - 30% DEET on exposed skin and clothing to prevent tick bites. Wear long pants, long sleeves, and long socks to keep ticks off your skin. Light colored clothing will help you spot ticks more easily. Tucking pant legs into socks or boots and tucking shirts into pants help keep ticks on the outside of clothing.

### **Check your skin and clothes for ticks every day**

- Remove ticks from your clothes before going indoors. To kill ticks that you may have missed, wash your clothes in hot water and dry them using high heat for at least an hour.
- Perform daily tick checks after being outdoors, even in your own yard. Inspect all parts of your body carefully including your armpits, scalp, and groin. Remove ticks immediately using fine-tipped tweezers.
- If a tick is attached to your skin for less than 24 hours, your chance of getting Lyme disease is extremely small, but just to be safe, monitor your health closely after a tick bite and be alert for any signs and symptoms of tick-borne illness.

### **Lyme Disease Symptoms**

Not all patients with Lyme disease will have all symptoms, and many of the symptoms can occur with other diseases as well. If you believe you may have Lyme disease, it is important that you consult your health care provider for proper diagnosis. The first sign of infection is usually a circular rash. This rash occurs in approximately 70-80% of infected persons and begins at the site of a tick bite after a delay of 3-30 days. A distinctive feature of the rash is that it gradually expands over a period of several days, reaching up to 12 inches (30 cm) across. The center of the rash may clear as it enlarges, resulting in a bull's-eye appearance. It may be warm but is not usually painful. Some patients develop additional lesions in other areas of the body after several days. Patients also experience symptoms of fatigue, chills, fever, headache, and muscle and joint aches, and swollen lymph nodes. In some cases, these may be the only symptoms of infection. Most cases of Lyme disease can be cured with antibiotics, especially if treatment is begun early in the course of illness. However, a small percentage of patients with Lyme disease have symptoms that last months to years after treatment with antibiotics.

*\*CDC, US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention*

## **Residential Swimming Pool Compliance**

Many people will be putting in pools this season. Make sure you have the proper permits applied for and that you have approval to construct the pool. Pay special attention to the safety requirements required by the Connecticut State Building Code.

Lift up ladders are not approved for use in Connecticut. The approach to most pools after 1971 must be protected by a self closing / self latching gate that satisfy building codes.

Make sure that the Building Department is called to inspect the finished product. Many pools in use have never received a final inspection and are being used with improper safe guards and or unsafe electrical wiring.

Pools are great for family entertainment but there is a responsibility of the owner to make sure it is code compliant so as to minimize risk to a neighbor, family member or even a household pet.

Talk to the Town of Durham Building Department about your new or old pool and strive for compliance to the Connecticut building code in order to assure the safety of those using the family pool or those living near your pool.

Visit [www.townofdurhamct.org](http://www.townofdurhamct.org) click on Departments, Building Department for additional guidelines.

## **Swimmers**

Since most drowning victims had no intention of being in water and since most people drown within 10-30 feet of safety, it is important that you and your family learn to swim.

**Please remember:** Never rely on toys such as inner tubes and water wings to stay afloat.

- Don't take chances, by over estimating your swimming skills.
- Swim only in designated swimming areas.
- Never swim alone.

## Watch Small Children

Each year about 200 children drown and several thousand others are treated in hospitals for submersion accidents, accidents which leave children with permanent brain damage and respiratory health problems. Remember, it only takes a few seconds for a small child to wander away. Children have a natural curiosity and attraction to water.

## Cold Water Survival

Your life may depend on a better understanding of cold water. Many suspected drowning victims actually die from cold exposure or hypothermia.

Hypothermia is a condition in which the body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Violent shivering develops which may give way to confusion and a loss of body movement. If you fall in the water, in any season, hypothermia may occur. Many of our nation's open waters are mountain fed, and water temperatures even in late summer can run low enough to bring on this condition under certain conditions. It's important to remember:

- Don't discard clothing. Clothing layers provide some warmth that may actually assist you in fighting hypothermia. This includes shoes and hats.
- Wear your life jacket! This helps hold heat into the core areas of your body, and enables you to easily put yourself into the HELP position. **HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Posture)** by drawing limbs into your body; keep armpits and groin areas protected from unnecessary exposure - a lot of heat can be lost from those areas, as well as the head.

## Divers

**Never dive into lakes and rivers...**the results can be tragic. Every year, diving accidents result in more than 8,000 people suffering paralyzing spinal cord injuries and another 5,000 dying before they reach the hospital. All too often, hidden dangers lurk beneath the surface of the water, including rock outcrops or shallow water.

## Boaters

Before Getting Underway, **know your boat and know the rules of the road. Take a safe boating course.**

- Check your boat for all required safety equipment.
- Consider the size of your boat, the number of passengers and the amount of extra equipment that will be on-board. **DON'T OVERLOAD THE BOAT!**
- If you will be in a power boat, check your electrical system and fuel system for gas fumes.
- Follow manufacturers suggested procedures **BEFORE** starting up the engine.
- Wear your life jacket - don't just carry one on board.
- Leave your alcohol behind. Work to increase your safety, not increase your risks!
- Check the weather forecast.
- File a float plan with a member of your family or friend.

*\*US Army Corps of Engineers, National Water Safety Program*

## Fireworks

There are strict laws in CT regarding fireworks. Most offered for sale in CT by reputable companies are legal. Use of illegal fireworks is a serious offense and punishable by law. Report any suspected illegal fireworks Marshal at (860) 227-7315 or the Connecticut State Police at (860) 399-2100.



## The National Council on Fireworks Safety Tips

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them!
- Always have water handy (a hose or buckets of water)
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework (wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water)
- Use common sense when using fireworks. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter. And the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated "shooter"
- Only person over age 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type.
- Do not ever use homemade fireworks or illegal explosives; they can kill you! Report illegal explosives to the fire or police department in your community.
- The national council on fireworks safety invites you to celebrate our nation's heritage on the fourth of July, but celebrate safely!

*\*National Council on Fireworks Safety*

### 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 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.

The process begins when the Town of Durham issues a message about a potential safety hazard or concern. Messages will be sent to all standard voice and text communication devices, including land line phones, cell phones, e-mail, and more. If you don't confirm receipt of the message, the system will try to reach your second contact number or email.

There are multiple ways to sign up for the notification system.

1. Sign up on line at [www.townofdurhamct.org](http://www.townofdurhamct.org) and click on the "one call reaches all" link.
  2. Sign up by phone by calling 860-271-8212. Leave a message with the following information:
    - First Name, Last Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code
    - Home Phone, Home Phone #2, Mobile Phone, Mobile Phone #2, Fax Number, email address
  3. Download a signup form at [www.townofdurhamct.org](http://www.townofdurhamct.org), click on the red "one call reaches all" link, scroll down to "sign up for emergency alerts" and click on download the Safer Durham Mailer & Sign up form.
- You also have the option to stop receiving alerts or "opt out" of the emergency notification system utilizing options 1 & 2 above. Note that you must provide all information that was registered into the system to opt out completely.

For information or questions regarding the system please contact the Department of Emergency Management at 860-271-8212 and leave a message or email: [safedurhamalert@townofdurhamct.org](mailto:safedurhamalert@townofdurhamct.org)

\*Privacy Notice: The Town of Durham respects your privacy. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential.

**Connecticut Intelligence Center**  
***If You See Something Suspicious...Say Something!***  
**1-866-HLS-TIPS**  
**For Connecticut's Homeland Security**

**In an emergency contact your local police - 911**

<http://www.ct.gov/demhs/cwp/view.asp?a=3763&q=443666>

***If You See Something...Say Something***

**If You See Something Suspicious...  
Say Something!**

**1-866-HLS-TIPS**  
For Connecticut's Homeland Security  
In an emergency contact your local police - 911

**1-800-457-8477**

**Click below to go to reporting form:**

Connecticut Intelligence all to report information criminal activity terrorism received at any

[Suspicious Activity Report Form](#)  
**If you need to submit attachments please send an email to**  
[CTIC@nespin.riss.net](mailto:CTIC@nespin.riss.net)

Center (CTIC) encourages concerning suspicious or potentially related to agency/department.

Information that requires and/or response please dial 911 and then follow the reporting procedure outlined below.

immediate attention

Normal business hours.

Mon - Fri 9 AM. to 5 PM., contact the On Duty Complaint Agent at (203) 777-6311, and report the following reported incident. Who will ensure appropriate notification is made to the Duty Agent.

## Spring into Cleaning Out

It's spring and for many of us, that means cleaning up and clearing out all those things taking up valuable space in our homes. But wait!! Don't reach for a trash bag! There are ways to get rid of that mess in an environmentally responsible way, especially when it comes to electronics and toxic house and yard products.

Do you have old computer equipment and other electronics hogging space in the basement or garage? You may first want to check the town of Durham's website to see if when the town will be participating in a collection. If not, you have many more options:

- The CT Resources Recovery Authority, [www.crra.org/pages/schedule\\_electronics.htm](http://www.crra.org/pages/schedule_electronics.htm) has electronic collections scheduled for member towns, spring through the fall. Besides those old computers, bring along your stacks of paper (canceled checks, bills, records) for free and safe paper shredding, too!
- Another option that is convenient, supports job training programs for disabled people and gets you a tax benefit is to donate your old electronics and entertainment products like Xboxes, to Goodwill through their Reconnect program, [www.reconnectpartnership.com](http://www.reconnectpartnership.com). Not all Goodwill stores accept electronics, so check their website for locations and donation guidelines. You might also consider other charities such as the Salvation Army [www.satruck.org](http://www.satruck.org) or the Cristina Foundation [www.cristina.org](http://www.cristina.org).
- Stores like Staples and Best Buy will also take back a variety of electronic equipment for a nominal fee; [www.staples.com/sbd/content/about/soul/recycling.html](http://www.staples.com/sbd/content/about/soul/recycling.html) and [www.bestbuy.com/recycling](http://www.bestbuy.com/recycling).
- The U.S. EPA also has a list of other manufacturer and retailer programs for recycling electronics on their website, [www.epa.gov/wastes/conserves/materials/ecycling/donate.htm#mftr](http://www.epa.gov/wastes/conserves/materials/ecycling/donate.htm#mftr).

Okay, so now you can actually move around in the basement! But what's on that workbench, oil-based paints, a mercury thermostat, rechargeable batteries, insecticides...yikes! Almost every Connecticut municipality has access to special collections for these and other items around the house that are considered household hazardous waste, such as nail polish remover, compact fluorescent bulbs, oven cleaner and ammonia. Check the town's website or DEP's website [www.ct.gov/dep/recycle](http://www.ct.gov/dep/recycle) (go to the Household Hazardous Waste link) for a date and location in your area.

Check out DEP's webpage "What do I do with?" for ideas on how to find new homes for those hard to dispose of items, [www.ct.gov/dep/whatdoidowith](http://www.ct.gov/dep/whatdoidowith). Now, if only washing windows was that easy!

## Durham Middlefield Transfer Station

The transfer station for residents of Durham and Middlefield is located on Cherry Hill Road at the intersection of Route 147 and is open Monday 8:00 am to 7:45 pm, Thursday, 8:00 am to 7:45 pm, and Saturday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Site users are required to provide proof of residency and purchase a sticker, at the cost of \$10.00, that must be affixed to the windshield of vehicle brought to the facility.

Visit the following websites for household hazardous waste collection and electronic recycling that may be of interest:

- Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, recycling; [www.crra.org](http://www.crra.org)
- The MDC, 2010 Household Hazwaste Schedule; [www.themdc.com](http://www.themdc.com)
- Or visit [www.townofdurhamct.org](http://www.townofdurhamct.org) and click on transfer station

## Skateboarding Safety Tips

Skateboarding is a popular activity enjoyed by many young people. However, it's also an activity that causes many unintentional injuries. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in 2006 there were 65,000

skateboard injuries to children younger than 15 years old. Fractures are a frequent type of injury. Deaths as a result of collisions with motor vehicles and from falls are also reported. Irregular riding surfaces account for more than half of the skateboarding injuries caused by falls. Wrist injury is the number one injury, usually a sprain or a fracture. Skateboarders who have been skating for less than a week suffered one-third of the injuries. When experienced riders suffered injuries, it was usually from falls that were caused by rocks and other irregularities in the riding surface.

The National Safety Council offers these skateboarding tips:

- There are boards with varying characteristics for different types of riding; i.e., slalom, freestyle or speed. Some boards are rated as to the weight of the intended user.
- Protective equipment, such as closed, slip-resistant shoes, **helmets** and specially designed padding, may not fully protect skateboarders from fractures, but wearing it can reduce the number and severity of cuts and scrapes.
- Padded jackets and shorts are available for skateboarders, as well as padding for hips, knees and elbows. Wrist braces and special skateboarding gloves also can help absorb the impact of a fall.
- The protective equipment currently on the market is not subject to government performance standards and careful selection is necessary.
- In a helmet, look for proper fit and a chin strap; notice whether the helmet blocks vision and hearing. If padding is too tight, it could restrict circulation and reduce the ability to move freely. Loose-fitting padding, on the other hand, could slip off or slide out of position.



Learning how to fall may help reduce the chances of a serious injury.

- If you are losing your balance, crouch down on the skateboard so that you will not have as far to fall.
- In a fall, the idea is to land on the fleshy parts of your body.
- If you fall, try to roll rather than absorb the force with your arms.
- Even though it may be difficult during a fall, try to relax your body, rather than go stiff.

## Tips for using a skateboard

- Give your board a safety check each time before you ride.
- Always wear safety gear.
- Never ride in the street.
- Obey the city laws. Observe traffic and areas where you can and cannot skate.
- Don't skate in crowds of non-skaters.
- Only one person per skateboard.
- Never hitch a ride from a car, bicycle, etc.
- Don't take chances; complicated tricks require careful practice and a specially-designated area.
- Learn to fall—practice falling on a soft surface or grass.

## Bicycling



### Bicycling Street Smarts - Riding Confidently, Legally and Safety

This compact tutorial, available as a 46-page booklet and online version will increase your safety and confidence while bicycling on any road, whether you are a beginner or an expert. You'll have more fun and feel better about riding, be it for pleasure, fitness or transportation.

[www.bikexpert.com/streetsmarts/usa/acknowl.htm](http://www.bikexpert.com/streetsmarts/usa/acknowl.htm)

## Local Property Taxes - Answers to Some Commonly asked Questions

### When are tax bills mailed?

Tax bills are mailed the last week of June each year. ***If you do not receive a tax bill by the first week in July, please contact our office.*** There are a few reasons why you may not have received a bill. We will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have. You can find detailed information regarding taxes in the Taxpayer's Guide that is mailed with your bill.

### When are taxes due?

- **Local property taxes** are due and payable on **July 1, 2010**. All **Real** or **Personal** property tax bills over \$100.00 may be payable in two installments as established by law. The second installment will be due January 1, 2011.
- **Motor Vehicle** taxes are due in full July 1<sup>st</sup> regardless of amount.
- **Supplemental motor vehicle** taxes are due in full the next January 1<sup>st</sup> regardless of amount. Supplemental motor vehicle bills are issued pursuant to Section 12-71b of the CT. Gen. Statutes and covers motor vehicles newly registered after October 1 and before August 1.

### Who do I make my check payable to?

Checks should be made out to:

**Tax Collector - Town of Durham**

Credit card or electronic check payments may be made at our electronic payment station in the Town Hall or at the town's website: [www.townofdurhamct.org](http://www.townofdurhamct.org). Please note the provider does charge a transaction fee for this service.

### What is the last day to pay?

The last day to pay without penalty is Monday **August 2, 2010**. We encourage taxpayers of Durham to make payments by mail.

Special additional office hours for **July 2010**:

- Saturday, July 31, 2010, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Will I owe interest if I did not receive a tax bill?

**Yes.** It is your obligation to notify the Tax Collector if you did not receive a tax bill (State Statute 12-70 and 12-130).

Failure to pay the tax within one month of the due date will result in an interest charge of 1.5% per month (18% per annum) from the due date (State Statute 12-145) **Call the tax office at 349-1165 if you do not receive a bill and are unsure if you owe taxes.**

### How will I be charged interest?

If a payment is late, interest accrues at the rate of 1.5% per month, from the due date. (July 1)

On August 3, 2010, there will be a late charge (interest) of 3% of the tax outstanding or a minimum of \$2.00 interest whichever is greater. This interest charge has been set by state law.

### Do I owe taxes if I sold my car?

**Yes.** If you have sold a vehicle and transferred the license plate to another vehicle after October 1st, you are required to pay the bill in July for the old vehicle. You will receive a supplemental motor vehicle tax bill in January 2011 for the newly acquired vehicle. If you sold a vehicle, and did not transfer the plate to another vehicle, you must return the plate(s) to the DMV and get a plate receipt to provide to the Assessor. You may be eligible for an adjustment of the tax bill for that vehicle.

### Contact Information

Martin French, Tax Collector, CCMC

Phone: (860) 349-1165 Fax: (860) 343-6733

Email: [mfrench@townofdurhamct.org](mailto:mfrench@townofdurhamct.org)

### Tax Collector's Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am - 7:00 pm
Friday	8:30 am - 3:00 pm

or by appointment as necessary