

Safety Committee Newsletter

SPRING 2010

New Smoke Detector Requirements

Effective April 5, 2010, the Board of Fire Prevention Regulation enacted an amendment to existing Massachusetts State law covering approved smoke detectors. The changes apply to homes and buildings that undergo sale or transfer or ownership and contain up to five residential units.

The newly-promulgated regulation will still require that photoelectric smoke detectors be installed within twenty feet of a kitchen or a bathroom containing a shower.

Areas located beyond the twenty feet will be required to contain dual detection by either single unit or two separate units.

In addition, the regulation has been clarified to indicate that it does apply to residential units constructed prior to January 1975 that have not undergone major alteration covered by the State Building Code.

It also contains a provision for low-voltage household warning systems that may have been installed in these homes.

Enforcement of this regulation will continue to take place when the residence is sold or transferred to a new owner, Homeowners selling their homes after April 5, 2010 will have to meet these new requirements.

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services has published a booklet to help the fire service, public and realtors understand the smoke alarm requirements when selling one- or two-family homes. Please visit www.mass.gov/dfs to read the booklet titled *A Guide to Massachusetts Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Requirements When Selling a One or Two Family Residence*. Contact your local fire department with questions or for more information.



As warmer weather arrives, there are more bikes out there; here are a few tips for sharing the road safely.

For more information on biking safety, riding with traffic, bike shops and routes, please visit www.massbike.org!

Remember... Massachusetts state law requires you to use a white headlight on the front of your bike and a rear light or reflector for nighttime rides!

Tips for Bicyclists

- Follow the Rules of the Road

As of last year, laws took effect that give municipal police the authority to issue citations to bicyclists for traffic law violation with fines between \$20 - \$50 and the authority to arrest a bicyclist who fails to identify himself/herself.

- Ride in the Same Direction as Other Traffic

Never ride against traffic; it is illegal and dangerous (closing speed is increased, motorists are not expecting you, and you cannot see signs and traffic signals).

- Stay Out of the Door Zone

Bicyclists may use an entire travel lane even where there are bike lanes, so stay away from parked cars.

- Dress for Safety

Wear a helmet and avoid clothing that might get caught in the moving parts of your bike; wear bright or reflective clothing at night.

- Choose a Bike That Fits You

A properly sized bicycle is easier to control, particularly for kids; don't buy a large bike for a child to "grow into".

- Yield to Pedestrians

They have the right of way.



Tips for Motorists

- Bicycles Are Vehicles

Any person who opens a motor vehicle's door which interferes with other traffic, including bicyclists and pedestrians can be fined up to \$100.00 dollars.

- Give Bicycles Plenty of Room

Wait for safe opportunities to pass and turn; remember that a bicycle may be approaching faster than it looks.

- Check for Bicycles Behind You

Especially before turning, opening your car door, or exiting your vehicle.

One last tip...for pedestrians:

Look Before Stepping into the Street or Bike Lane

Bicycles are quiet and you may not hear one approaching.

All information provided by Mass.gov 'Be Safe In Massachusetts' program.

Tips for Staying Healthy and Safe Following a Flood

A number of communities experienced epic flooding following last month's storms. Here are some tips from the Massachusetts executive Office of Public Safety and Security on staying safe following flooding.

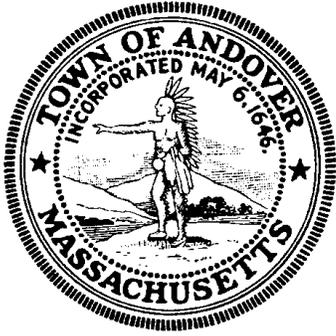


- Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to recede. Listen to the media and do not return home until authorities indicate that it is safe to do so.
- Avoid floodwaters. The water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewerage.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come in contact with floodwaters.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Before returning to a building, inspect for cracks or other damage. When entering, use extreme caution, making sure that the building is not in danger of collapsing.
- Take pictures/video of the damage, both to the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- Look for hazards such as broken or leaking gas lines, flooded electrical circuits, submerged furnaces or electrical appliances and damaged sewage systems.
- Flooded buildings should be pumped out and disinfected. Pump out basements gradually, about 1/3 per day, to avoid structural damage. After the water is pumped out, solid wastes should be disposed of in a functioning sewage disposal system or sealed in plastic bags for disposal in an approved landfill. All flooded floor and wall surfaces should be washed with a solution of two capfuls of household bleach for each gallon of water. Carpeting, mattresses and upholstered furniture should be disposed of or cleaned and disinfected by a professional cleaner.
- Throw away food that has come in contact with floodwaters.
- Be prepared for a rough time. Recovering from a flood is a big job. It is rough on the body and the spirit. The aftereffects of this type of disaster on you and your family may last a long time. Consult a health professional on how to recognize and care for anxiety, stress and fatigue.

Safety Committee Achievements

The Safety Committee was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency to sponsor the installation of a 'panic button' system in the School Administration Office and in Memorial Hall Library. The system is intended to allow staff to summon assistance from other staff members in the event it is needed, increasing the safety of the workplace for staff and visitors. All work has been completed, and the system is fully operational in both locations.





The Town of Andover Executive Safety Committee members represent the major Town Departments, such as the Department of Public Works, Plant & Facilities, Library Services, School Department, and Fire Department.

The functions of the Executive Safety Committee include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Discuss and formulate Safety Policies and make recommendations for adoption by the Town Manager/School Department.
2. Review all employee accident investigation reports to determine whether responsible conditions for each accident have been determined and corrective action taken.
3. Review in-house inspection reports and develop recommendations to the various departments.
4. Provide and schedule training to town and school department employees.
5. Keep minutes of all meetings and make them available for review to any Town Department or employee.
6. Provide a forum for comment or recommendation to each Town employee.
7. Hold Committee meetings ten times per year.



Current members of the Town of Andover Safety Committee are:

- Ali Armstrong—WTP Environmental Analyst
- Ron Hancock—Water Shop
- Rita Marconi—Human Resources
- Kathleen Golini—Human Resources
- Elaine Shola—Purchasing
- Ralph Knight—Plant and Facilities
- Cyndi Abraham—School Department
- Kim Lynn—Library
- Ruthy Olney—School Department
- Todd Pomerleau—Fire Prevention
- Rita Casper—School Department

The Committee meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 9:30 am at Town Hall.

All employees are welcome to attend a meeting or submit an issue, question or concern.

The newsletter is generated and reviewed by the Committee...please feel free to submit a topic that you would like to see in upcoming issues to Ali Armstrong or any other member!