



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town News

Town e-News – Week of December 10, 2012

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – Dec. 19

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Visit the [Streaming Media Archive](#) to review the previous meeting minutes or view the webcast Town Council meeting.

Calls For Service/Officer Observations

102, including 2 business/building checks

Crime/Incident Reports

20 reports, including 3 arrests

Traffic Stops/Citations/Traffic Collisions

7 stops; 2 citations; 5 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 4 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

1 incident; 0 reports

Wildlife

5 calls; 0 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, December 7, 2012 - Saturday, December 8, 2012 = 28%

(24% same weekend in 2011, up 4% in 2012)

Sunday, December 9, 2012 - Thursday, December 13, 2012 = 16%

(19% same midweek in 2011, down 3% in 2012)

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 35% (Friday-Saturday) 18% (Sunday-Thursday)

Condos: 22% (Friday-Saturday) 14% (Sunday-Thursday)

Follow 'TownofMammoth' daily on Twitter at www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Community News

Bring Your Festive Spirit To The Official Town Of Mammoth Lakes Tree-Lighting Ceremony

The entire community of Mammoth Lakes is cordially invited to attend the Official Town of Mammoth Lakes Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 7, 2012 in the Footloose Sports parking lot at the corner of Old Mammoth Road and Main Street.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Mayor, Matthew Lehman, will welcome in the festive season, and with help from the community, turn on the spectacular Town of Mammoth Lakes Holiday Tree.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., listen to festive music by local performers, stay warm around the many fire pits, and enjoy hot chocolate and food available for sale by the Mammoth High School Leo's Club and the Mammoth Youth Football League. Nothing smells more festive than fresh popped kettle corn! New this year, Sierra Sugar Pop will be making tantalizing fresh Kettle Corn. Bring your appetite!

Kids won't want to miss Santa's traditional arrival, compliments of the Long Valley Fire Department, and Woolly is also scheduled to welcome kids of all ages!

All guests attending the ceremony will receive a 2 for 1 coupon (restrictions apply) for the Mammoth Ice Rink, (opens Dec. 7) including a Mammoth Lakes sticker pack compliments of the Recreation Department and Mammoth Lakes Tourism.

"Bring your festive spirit and welcome in the holiday season at the official Town of Mammoth Lakes Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 7," stated Stuart Brown, Recreation Manager for the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Please contact Recreation Supervisor Stephanie Daniel at (760) 934-8989 ext. 237 for additional information about this fun, family-festive event.

Dickens Christmas Carol – Dec. 6-23

A different take on a classic, a play within a play featuring hilarious, belly laughing fun. Shows are Thursday-Sunday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Please call (760) 934-6592 for reservations. Tickets are \$20 general admission or \$18 for students & seniors. Edison Theatre is located at 100 College Parkway.

Disabled Sports Island Extravaganza – Dec. 8

Disabled Sports' famous ISLAND EXTRAVAGANZA dinner, dance, silent auction and raffle returns Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m at Canyon Lodge. Don't miss this year's fabulous Cajun themed event featuring GATOR BEAT and a Hawaiian vacation grand raffle prize! Purchase tickets at the DSES office (inside the Mammoth Kids building at Main Lodge), Second Chance Thrift Shop, the Booky Joint or online at www.disabledsportseasternsierra.org.

Chamber Music Unbound Presents "Festive Holiday Pops" – Dec. 8

Chamber Music Unbound presents The Felici Piano Trio, Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra & Choir and Elissa Johnston, soprano, in "Festive Holiday Pops" on Saturday, December 8, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Mammoth Lakes. With music by Handel, Bach and festive holiday tunes. Tickets (\$25 Adult, \$17 Senior, \$7 Student) are available online (www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org), at the Booky Joint, the Inyo Council for the Arts, or at the door on concert nights.

World Minded invites you to GIVE back to your planet and community this Holiday season!

We use our locally printed, Organic, Made in USA apparel as a canvas to help promote positive change. We make a \$5 donation to our featured non-profits for each humanitarian t-shirt sale. Please visit us this Sunday for the Shop Opening Party or between December 8-20 at 325 Old Mammoth Rd (in back of the Remax building, upstairs: (760) 924-8570). Thank you for being World Minded!"

Christmas Tree Cutting Permits Now Available

Christmas tree cutting permits are now available for \$5 per tree with a limit of one tree per household, from cutting areas on the Bridgeport District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has once again opened the Bridgeport Ranger District for cutting and tree removal. Permits for that area are available at the Bridgeport Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the White Mountain Ranger Station.

For the Bureau of Land Management lands there are tree cutting areas near Benton and Lyda, Nevada. Permits for these areas are available from the joint BLM/Forest Service Visitor Center (White Mountain Ranger Station) in Bishop and the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.

- Bridgeport Ranger Station (760-932-7070) open Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 4:30
- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (760-647-3043) open Thursday-Monday, 9:00-4:30. Closing Sunday December 2, for the season.
- Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center (760-924-5500) open daily from 8:00 to 5:00
- White Mountain Ranger Station, 798 N. Main Street in Bishop (760-873-2500) open Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30

Please note that all ranger stations and visitor centers will be closed on Thursday November 22 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Maps, directions to cutting areas, and regulations for cutting Christmas trees may be obtained at the issuing office or by calling the above-listed offices.

Winter Forest visitors are always advised to dress appropriately; bring along emergency items such as chains, snow tires, a shovel, first-aid kit, blankets, and extra food and water; and tell trusted parties their expected cutting location and departure and return times.

Mammoth Moves – Dec. 12

What: Join the Mammoth Lakes Library staff and the Nutrition & Physical Activity Taskforce for 30 minutes of activity and fun. Put some warm clothes and appropriate shoes for a winter walk!

Where: Meet in front of the Mammoth Lakes Library

When: Arrive at 12:10 p.m. Walk from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

Contact: Sandra Pearce at 760-924-1818 or spearce@mono.ca.gov. Also check out upcoming Mammoth Moves sessions at www.monohealth.com under Resources, or go to Mono County Health Department's Facebook page for the latest Mammoth Moves updates or schedule changes.

The Friends of Education Dinner Celebrates with Fun & Surprises – Dec. 15

There's still space and time (but not much) to purchase tickets for the 22nd Annual Friends of Education Celebration and maybe win a DIAMOND! Saturday, December 15 beginning at 5:00 pm, join us for food, fun, music, entertainment and the chance to win a Diamond--or one of several other Holiday Raffle Prizes all while supporting higher education and cultural enrichment in Mammoth Lakes

The evening begins with a devastatingly delightful display of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and wines, followed by a presentation of the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre's December production of a fun-filled holiday farce based on "A Christmas Carol"--with apologies to Mr. Dickens. During intermission tasty desserts and dessert wines accompany a presentation of awards to the Founder of the Year and the Volunteer of the year.

A special added feature of this year's event is a special Diamond giveaway! Each attendee has the opportunity to purchase a Diamond Raffle ticket and one lucky winner will walk away with a certified diamond. Diamond Raffle tickets will be available at a price of \$100, limited to one ticket per attendee. The evening will also include a "Holiday" raffle for which unlimited raffle tickets may be purchased. Prizes include two VIP tickets to the July 5-7 Mammoth Food & Wine Experience with other prizes soon to be announced.

Tickets for the event go on sale October 15, so plan your holiday celebration with us now. Seating is limited and the festivities and the setting are sure to be entertaining with a rib-tickling live theatre experience, honoring of some very special people, and awarding a Diamond of a prize!

To purchase tickets to the Friends of Education annual celebration, call (760) 934-3781, or visit the website at www.mammothlakesfoundation.org/theatre.html

Recreation Highlights

Mammoth Ice Rink To Open Dec. 14

The Mammoth Ice Rink is now scheduled to open on Friday, December 14, 2012 (weather permitting). The Mammoth Ice Rink is an outdoor facility located at 416 Sierra Park Road adjacent to the new Mammoth Lakes Library offering public skating sessions, hockey clinics, pick-up hockey, lessons and is available for rental.

Admission

Adults skate for \$10.00 with skate rentals, \$8.00 for youth (5-15) with skate rentals, and kids 4 and under skate free with a paid adult. This winter get your 6th Skate FREE with the Five Skate Pass (5SP), Seniors and college students skate mid-week for half-price, and local students skate for only \$2.00 per session (including skate rentals).

Lessons

Ice skating group lessons are scheduled every Friday night at the Mammoth Ice Rink. Lessons are scheduled for 45 minutes for a cost of only \$10 per student with a maximum of 8 students per session. Friday night lesson times are 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. for Elementary age children and from 7:00 – 7:45 p.m. for Middle/High School age skaters. Purchase five lessons in advance and get the 6th Lesson FREE! Ice skates are not included in the fee, but are available for rental. Private lessons are available for \$25/hour.

Ice Hockey

Pick-up Ice Hockey is programmed at the Mammoth Ice Rink for the entire season (includes holiday periods). Please refer to the winter schedule for details. Fees are \$10 for adults or \$5 for youth per session, or \$150/\$100 for an Adult or Youth Season Pass.

The Mammoth Ice Rink is owned and operated by the Town of Mammoth Lakes through a partnership with Mammoth Unified School District and Mono County Office of Education. The facility is drug-free, smoke-free and pet-free. We accept cash, credit cards, and personal checks with a valid driver's license. For the complete winter schedule, rates and special promotions visit www.mammothicerink.com, or call the Mammoth Ice Rink at (760) 934-2505 during winter operating hours. We'll see you on the ice!

Gymnastics/Tumbling Program

NEW SCHEDULE: Beginning October 19, 2012, the Wednesday session will now take place on Friday. No class on October 26 – join us at the Halloween Party at the Mammoth Roller Rink!

This year-round program is designed to introduce children from 3-18 years old the wonderful and exciting sport of gymnastics. Offered by Michelle DeJong, a level 8 competitive gymnast and Level 1-5 gymnastics coach, participants will learn to tumble and more in a safe and structured environment. This program is also a recipient of Measure R funding with \$7,000 of gymnastic equipment. Three age programs are available:

- 3-5 yr. olds – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- 5-8 yr. olds – Saturday: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

- 8-12+ yr. olds – **Friday:** 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. & Saturday: 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 8-12+ yr. olds – Tuesday: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Invitation only.

Five session Punch Cards are available for \$60 for the first family member and \$55 for each additional family member. Private lessons are available upon request, please inquire with the instructor. Drop-ins cost \$15 per session are welcome and encouraged - First one is FREE! Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for more information or to register your aspiring Gymnast!

Zumba Fitness

Party yourself into shape with Zumba® Fitness offered by Kaysie Williams from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, 1000 Forest Trail. Cost: 10 punch-\$77.50; 5 punch-\$42.50; Drop-In rate \$10 per class and your first class is only \$5!

Sports & Recreation Calendar

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|--------------|---|
| ▪ CLOSED | Reds Meadow, Tioga, Sonora and the Lakes Basin |
| ▪ Nov. 8 | Mammoth Mountain Opening Day! |
| ▪ Nov. 17 | Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center Opening Day |
| ▪ Dec. 7 | Official Town of Mammoth Lakes Tree Lighting Ceremony |
| ▪ Dec. 14 | Mammoth Ice Rink Opening Day! |
| ▪ Dec. 14/15 | Old Mammoth Road Jam |
| ▪ Dec. 22 | Mammoth Night of Lights |

Public Service Announcements

Mono County Public Health Update

A Wake – Up Call: Indicators Point to an Early, Bad Flu Season!

Significant increases in flu activity in the United States have occurred in the last 2 weeks, indicating that an early flu season is upon us. These increases overlap with National Influenza Vaccination Week being observed from Dec 2-8. This should be a wake-up call for anyone who has put off vaccination – the time is NOW!

According to local, regional, and national public health reports, all but 2 states have already reported laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza, and the percentage of tests turning positive is rising fast. Influenza activity in parts of the country is already higher than all of last season, with 5 states reporting the highest level of activity possible. These indicators are the highest for this time of year since the 2003-4 season, which was early and severe, especially for children. Last season, which was mild and late, the US did not reach a peak until mid-March – a month later than the usual in February.

Flu activity is most intense in the south-central and southeast part of the country right now. However, it is showing signs of increasing across the country as well, including in California. Thus far, there have not been any documented cases in the

Eastern Sierra. Certainly there has been a lot of illness in our midst this fall – just not the real influenza. The bad news – most of the viruses identified so far this season in the US have been Type A, which are typically associated with more severe seasons. The good news – most of the viruses are well matched to the viruses in this year's vaccine.

With increasing flu activity and family and friends gathering for the holidays, now is a great time to get a flu vaccine to protect yourself and your loved ones. Virtually everyone older than 6 months of age should be vaccinated. Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting against influenza disease. This is especially important for those at highest risk of developing complications from the flu – and for those family and friends around them. This includes children under the age of 5 years, those adults over 65 years of age, pregnant women, and those with long-term medical problems, such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, neurological and neurodevelopmental problems, blood disorders, obesity, kidney and liver disease, HIV/AIDS, and cancer.

Since the vaccine takes 2 weeks to work, you have time – before the virus arrives in the Eastern Sierra, and before most holiday gatherings – to get yourself protected, and to protect your family. Vaccine is plentiful this year, and is available from your healthcare provider, pharmacies, and the Health Department. Getting vaccinated means you have taken a giant step in protecting yourself, your family and friends, and your community from what promises to be a bad flu season. Many are still unprotected – are you one of them? Now is the time to act!

Holiday Fire Safety Tips from the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District

Decorating homes and businesses is a basic part of the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. An estimated 250 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 170 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires resulted in 21 deaths and 43 injuries.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy. Learn how to prevent a fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home. Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by decorations or trees. Help ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season.

Christmas Trees

What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural cut tree in its festivities, make sure that you – "Keep the tree watered." Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. A dry and neglected tree can be a serious problem. Keep your tree well-watered and remove from the structure if many needles begin falling from the tree.

Selecting a Tree for the Holidays

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree was cut too long ago, has dried out, and is a fire hazard and should be removed regardless of how long the tree has been in the structure.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Do not put your cut tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or hauling it to the disposal center for proper treatment.

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch. **Do not leave holiday lights on unattended!**

Holiday Decorations

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Don't Block Exits

Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry/exit way puts you and your family at risk.

Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace

Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire. Wrapping paper may also contain toxins that are not safe to breathe if allowed to burn.

The Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District wishes you a very happy and safe holiday season. For more information or for any questions pertaining to fire related issues, please feel free to contact the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department at (760) 934-2300.

Reds Meadow Area Open for Winter Use

Logging operations in the Reds Meadow Valley have been completed for removing down trees from the wind event of last November 30, 2012. Consequently, the area closures in the Reds Meadow Valley will no longer be in effect. While the Reds Meadow Road is closed to wheeled motor vehicles for the season due to snow, access to Reds Meadow Valley will now be open to winter public use, including snowshoer, skier, snowmobile and pedestrian traffic.

Before travel into the Reds Meadow Valley, visitors should be aware of winter conditions and hazards in the area. The Reds Meadow Road is not maintained during

winter, and may be subject to avalanche hazard. No services are available in Reds Meadow Valley during the winter. In case of need for emergency communication, public pay phones are located at the Reds Meadow Resort, Devils Postpile National Monument Ranger Station, and across from the Pumice Flat Group Campground.

For more information, please call the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at (760) 924-5500 or visit the Welcome Center at 2510 Hwy 203 next to the Mammoth Ranger Station.

Help Keep Mammoth's Air Clean This Winter

When the Town of Mammoth Lakes experiences periods of clear, cold, and calm weather with minimal breeze, the air quality deteriorates. Wood smoke from fireplaces and stoves cannot dissipate, and sometimes builds up to unhealthy levels that could have serious health consequences. To keep our air as clean as possible, please do your part by following these simple steps:

- Only burn clean and hot fires
- Check your chimney periodically for emissions (if smoke is clearly visible, then your fire needs more air, the wood is not dry enough, or the wood is not split small enough)
- Call (760) 934-1010 for any wood burning restrictions
- Abide by the "no wood burning" days restrictions

The Town of Mammoth Lakes continually monitors air quality, and will announce "no wood burning" days when air quality is forecast to approach unhealthy levels. To find out if wood burning restrictions have been announced, please call (760) 934-1010, listen to local radio announcements, or sign up for air quality notifications via the Town's Notify Me feature at <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/list.aspx>.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Town And Partners Begin Construction On The Mammoth Gateway Community Project!

The Town and its partners have begun construction on the Mammoth Gateway Community Project, which is a citizen-initiated, public-private partnership, to construct a gateway entry on Main Street. The Project, which was spearheaded by local citizen Mrs. Elizabeth Tenney, involves a number of partners that have contributed many hours and resources, including Snowcreek (Chadmar), Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA), Mammoth Community Foundation (MCF), Mono County, Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD), the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the United States Forest Service (USFS), and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, as well as a number of local citizens.

The Project, which was designed by local artist Larry Walker, (architectural services were provided by architect Bruce Woodward), is intended to reflect the unique environment, culture, and heritage of Mammoth Lakes, and serve as a welcome to visitors and residents. Construction is expected to be completed in mid-November.

For additional information below on the gateway project, please visit the dedicated webpage: http://mammothgateway.org/Construction_Updates.html.

Free, Real-Time Property Information Now Available!

The Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County are proud to present ParcelViewer, the Town and County's official web-based property information system. This free, public, on-line service can be relied upon to provide convenient, accurate and up-to-date information, based on the official Assessor's data-base. Use ParcelViewer to view and print customized parcel information and maps, including:

- Zoning Information
- Property Addresses
- Complex Names/ Condo Unit Numbers
- Parcel Lines*
- Valuation Data
- Acreage
- Aerial imagery of surrounding properties and more!

Visit Parcel Viewer today at <http://gis.mono.ca.gov/parcelviewer/>

California Mandates Recycling for Business and Multi-Family Residential Locations

A new State of California Bill (AB 341) directed by CalRecycle mandating commercial recycling in California goes into effect July 1, 2012. The Town of Mammoth Lakes will be providing education and outreach to help the community comply with the new regulations.

The goal of AB 341 is to increase the statewide recycling rates to 75% by 2020. Starting July 1 2012, businesses and public entities that generate four cubic yards or more of waste per week, including multi-family units of five or more will be required to recycle. The purpose of this new law is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts while expanding opportunities for additional recycling services and recycling manufacturing facilities in California.

Please use the following link for additional information provided by CalRecycle that addresses the "Frequently Asked Questions:" <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/Recycling/FAQ.htm>.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML), Sierra Conservation Project (SCP) and Mammoth Disposal (MD) are taking active steps to assist businesses and multi-family residences to comply with the new regulations.

Brian Robinette, owner of Sierra Conservation Project commented, "This is a big step in the right direction for recycling and diverting recyclables from our local landfills. The new regulation will give the extra incentive needed to make recycling programs a reality at all Mammoth Lakes business and residential locations."

The TOML, SCP and MD have been working together for several years to develop and grow recycling programs here in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Johnny Goetz, Town of Mammoth Lakes Senior Building Inspector states, "Now is a great time for local businesses to take advantage of the numerous recycling opportunities we have available in Town. Condominium complexes can also take advantage of the TOML and SCP's recycling programs which are currently providing start-up infrastructure to the complex at no cost - while supplies last."

The TOML and SCP have applied for additional grant money to continue to offset the start-up cost for multi-family and businesses here in town. Bear proof recycling containers are provided to participating condo complexes, and are serviced by SCP.

Pat Fenton, General Manager of Mammoth Disposal added, "Recycling is at the core of the company's goal of sustainability, and it's the core of our commitment to business owners and the Town of Mammoth Lakes to meet this mandate."

The following recycling programs are currently available within the Town of Mammoth Lakes:

- Commercial cardboard recycling
- Restaurant and bar programs
- Lodging and hospitality programs
- Business recycling
- Office recycling
- Residential recycling
- Aluminum, plastic, and glass
- E-Waste
- Used oil and batteries

Some of the benefits of recycling identified by CalRecycle are creating jobs in California, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, keeping valuable materials out of landfills, and creating a healthy environment for the community and future generations by recovering natural resources.

For more information regarding recycling programs and opportunities within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, contact Johnny Goetz at (760) 934-8989 ext. 244 or jgoetz@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Town & MLFD Identify Potential Safety Issue

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development Department (Town) and Mammoth Lakes Fire Department (Fire District) have identified an issue with inserted wood burning fireplace installations in town. If you have either a pellet/gas insert installation or a masonry flue/chase, these types of appliances or installations are not an issue. The issue is that wood burning inserts placed into zero clearance fireplace boxes (fireplace) with factory built metal flue pipes and wooden chases may not have adequate clearance to combustible materials (wood, plywood, and/or sheetrock behind the rock, brick, metal and/or wooden material that doesn't allow you to see on the interior surface of the fireplace façade). This issue can exist in all types of residential occupancies, from single family to multi-family projects. As a result of the clearances that may not have been met, combustible materials are igniting and several fires have resulted around town. Thus far there have been no injuries, but both the Town and Fire District feel that we cannot wait until something tragic occurs before we take necessary action. At this point both agencies are hoping to educate the town population to the concern.

The original fireplace contained fires that never obtained very high burning temperatures, due to the amount of heat that went up the flue. Once the insert was installed, the appliance burned much more efficiently causing the combustibles surrounding the original installation to be exposed to significantly greater heat levels. Another factor is the amount of use the insert is experiencing. The issue is occurring throughout town; no certain complex, no certain installer, no certain type of product, nor any other common characteristic that allows the agencies to narrow down the likely installations of concern. One complex in town had 23 of 60 units show some sign of heat damage to combustibles.

Permitted installations during the last 18 to 24 months that followed the manufacturer's installation instructions have been installed correctly. The Town and Fire District do not mean to alarm anyone, but strongly believe that this situation is serious enough to inform the public on the use and installation of these types of wood burning installations. If you need any further assistance or have any questions, please contact the Fire District at (760) 934-2300 or Town at (760) 934-8989, ex 244. For more information: <http://mammothlakesfd.intuitwebsites.com>

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Frequently Asked Questions

Some of the most frequently asked questions about legal rentals and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) are:

1. What is a transient rental?

A transient rental is any unit that is occupied for the purpose of sleeping, lodging, or similar reasons for a period of 30 consecutive days or less in exchange for a fee or similar consideration.

2. Can I rent my unit as a transient rental?

Only some zones within the Town of Mammoth Lakes permit transient rentals. The following zones permit transient rentals:

- RMF-2 (Residential Multi-family 2)
- CL (Commercial Lodging)
- CG Commercial General)
- R (Resort, including master plan areas)
- SP (Specific Plan, including North Village and Clearwater)

This list is intended as a guide only. Although the above zones permit transient use generally, other regulations, such as those found in master plans, CC&Rs, or project conditions of approval may prohibit transient rental within a particular development. Generally, transient rental of single family homes is prohibited. A zoning map can be found on the Town's website.

3. What is transient occupancy tax (TOT)?

Transient occupancy tax, or TOT, is a 13% tax that is charged "for the privilege of occupancy of any transient occupancy facility." The tax is required to be paid to the operator of the transient occupancy facility at the time the rent is paid. It is the operator's responsibility to remit the TOT to the Town.

4. Do I need to pay TOT?

If you are renting your unit as a transient rental, even if it is only for one weekend a year, you need to pay TOT. This includes single family homes and other units that are not permitted to rent nightly, but may be doing so illegally. TOT shall be remitted for each night the unit is rented.

5. Do I need a business tax certificate?

Yes, if you are renting your unit on a transient basis.

6. Do I need a transient occupancy tax certificate?

Yes. You are required to purchase a transient occupancy certificate for each rental unit to post in your transient rental property. This is included as part of Schedule E or F in the business tax certificate application.

7. What is the difference between a business tax certificate and a transient occupancy tax certificate?

Business tax is an annual tax and is required for all business activity. The transient occupancy tax certificate is a one-time purchase that is non-transferable. This certificate is required to be posted in your transient rental unit.

8. Do I need a business tax certificate if all of my rentals are handled through a reservation company?

If all of your rentals are handled through a reservation company, most reservation companies will purchase the transient occupancy tax certificate and collect and remit the TOT to the Town. You may wish to check with your reservation company to confirm that this is being taken care of. If you rent your unit by owner in addition to renting with a property management company, you are also required to obtain a separate business tax certificate and transient occupancy tax certificate.

9. How do I apply for a business tax certificate?

The Town's website contains information regarding business tax certificates, including an application for a business tax certificate: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=182>. Transient Rentals fall under schedule F for condominium rentals and schedule E for hotels, motels, lodges, and campgrounds. This application can be mailed back to the Town, or submitted in person. The total cost for one unit is \$118.00 (\$65.00 application fee, \$5.00 planning review fee, \$25.00 fee to rent one unit, \$23.00 TOT certificate fee). Additional costs apply for additional units. Business tax certificates are required on or before the first day business commences; penalties will apply for late filings. If you have additional questions regarding this process please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 x245.

10. Do I have a business tax certificate?

To find out if you have a valid business tax certificate on file, please contact the Finance Department at (760) 934-8989 x245 or your property management company.

11. What is illegal rental activity?

Illegal rental activity is any rental activity that is not consistent with the Town's Zoning Ordinance, or any rental activity that is not compliant with the Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance. This can include transient rental of units located in zones that prohibit transient rentals. It can also include transient rentals in a zone where it is permitted, but when the TOT is not remitted to the Town.

12. How can I report illegal rental activity?

If you suspect illegal rental activity, you may submit an anonymous tip via the Town's TOT hotline at (760) 934-8989 x275 or on the Town's website via

the Transient Occupancy Tax information page. Please include any information that you have that would substantiate the claim, along with the property address and owner's name if you have it. You may also email tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us. Note that emails are not anonymous, however, staff will do its best to keep your information private.

13. Questions & Anonymous TOT Hotline

If you have questions about TOT enforcement, or if you would like to report suspicious activity or rental advertisements please contact our anonymous hotline. The Town will follow-up on any reports submitted. The Hot Line Number is (760) 934-8989 ext. 275 or email your information to: TOT@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Register for CodeRED

Residents of Mono County can register their cell phones to receive emergency CodeRED (reverse 911) alerts from Mono County. This is a county public service available to all Mono County residents so please tell your friends and neighbors in Mono County that they can register for this service. CodeRED announcements are for personal notification and will not replace CERT CAHAN notification. Here is how to sign register/sign up using the INTERNET:

1. Go to monosheriff.org
2. scroll down left side panel to CodeRED community notification system;
3. click on it and follow directions.

Leash Law Reminder

Mammoth residents and visitors are reminded that the Town has a leash law, and it is a violation of the ordinance to allow your dog to run loose off of your property. While budget cuts eliminated the Animal Control Officer position, the laws pertaining to controlling your pets did not change, and you can still be cited by Mammoth Lakes Police Department officers if your dog is at large. The PD is currently receiving a large number of complaints from several neighborhoods, and will be targeting patrol time in those areas when possible to apprehend loose dogs and to cite their owners. In addition to the citation fine, you could also be charged boarding fees by Mono County Animal Control if we choose to impound your dog at the Whitmore Shelter.

At-large dogs are a traffic hazard, and even the most well behaved dog can bite if provoked. If your loose animal causes a traffic collision or injures/bites someone, you would likely be liable for damages, which could add up to thousands of dollars. Please respect your neighbors, AND your pet and obey the leash law.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives

The Town of Mammoth Lakes has launched a community outreach effort to inform community residents that on July 1, 2011 many homes will be required to install carbon monoxide detectors.

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that carbon monoxide kills approximately 500 people each year and injures another 20,000 people nationwide. In an effort to prevent these accidental deaths and injuries, the California legislature enacted SB 183 (Lowenthal) which mandates owners of dwelling intended for human occupancy to install carbon monoxide devices in

existing dwelling units having a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or attached garage.

CO devices must be installed in all specified single-family dwellings by July 1, 2011. All other specified dwelling units must have CO devices installed by January 1, 2013.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) has developed a list of certified CO devices that meet the requirement specified within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010.

For a complete list of currently approved devices please visit the SFM's website at http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting_bml_searchcotest.php. Under the search categories provided select Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors for a complete list of devices.

Further details contained within the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act of 2010:

- Owners shall install CO devices in a manner consistent with building standards applicable to new construction for the relevant type of occupancy if it is technically feasible. See the 2010 California Building Code, Section 420.4, and the 2010 California Residential Code, Section R315.
- CO devices shall produce a distinct audible alarm.
- CO devices may be combined with a smoke detector, if the combination device meets all specified SFM listing and approval requirements.
- Violation of Health & Safety Code Section 17926 is an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of two-hundred dollars for each offense.
- A local enforcement agency shall provide the property owner a 30-day notice to correct.
- Local jurisdictions are authorized to adopt ordinances requiring CO devices if the ordinance is consistent with the requirement of this bill.

For a full list of this legislation's stipulations please review the Department of Housing and Community Development's Information Bulletin 2011-01 at <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/shl/infobulls/IB2011-01.pdf>.

Town Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

In 2003, the Town implemented an outdoor lighting ordinance to eliminate light pollution and preserve views of our starry skies. The outdoor lighting ordinance was adopted to encourage residents to administer a lighting system that not only promotes public safety and night-time ambiance but to maximize energy conservation. To eliminate glare and light trespass into neighboring properties and roadways, the outdoor lighting fixtures on your property should be shielded and re-directed to shine downward or changed out to a lower wattage. More information about responsible lighting can be found at www.crlaction.org.