



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town News

Week of January 30, 2012

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – Feb. 1

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 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.

Emergency Preparedness – Jan. 31

The Mammoth Lakes CERT, Community Emergency Response Team is a group of volunteers trained to assist local first responders during an emergency. Training includes, personnel emergency preparedness, first aid, CPR/AID, traffic control, small fire control/extinguishing, triage, search and rescue, establishment/operating of Emergency Operating Centers and shelter operations. Fortunately 2011 was free of serious emergencies. The Mammoth Lakes CERT did assist the Mammoth Lakes Police Department with traffic control at town events, Mono County Public Health with flu clinics and participated in several State and County emergency exercises to maintain skills.

CERT will be conducting a one hour introduction to emergency preparedness and CERT goals and training objectives at the Best Western Motel, Main Street, Mammoth Lakes on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. This introduction is free to all Mammoth Lakes residents as will be the next CERT training academy that will be conducted at 9AM-5PM on 25 Feb. 3 March and 10 March at the Best Western. Training materials and refreshments will be provided. CERT would like attendees to join our team but joining is not a requirement. Questions about CERT and registration should be left at 760-933-8262 or addressed to, mammothlakescert_pio@yahoo.com.

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, January 27, 2012 - Saturday, January 28, 2012 = 54%
(64% same weekend in 2011, down 10% in 2012)

Sunday, January 29, 2012 - Thursday, February 2, 2012 = 27%
(35% same midweek in 2011, down 8% in 2012)

Hotels/Motels/B&B: 68% (Fri-Sat) 25% (Sun-Thurs)
Condos: 40% (Fri-Sat) / 29% (Sun-Thurs)

Calls for Service/Officer Observations

180, including 1 business/building check

Crime Incident Reports

34 reports, including 11 arrests

Traffic Stop/Citations/Traffic Collisions

42 stops; 10 citations; 2 parking citations; 1 skate park citation; 6 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

4 incidents; 0 reports

Wildlife

1 call; 0 reports

Twitter

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

Community Development

TOT Enforcement Update – January 27

In August 2011, the Town of Mammoth Lakes implemented an aggressive transient occupancy tax (TOT) enforcement program. TOT collection, compliance and enforcement are critical components to the success of our resort community of Mammoth Lakes. The following is an update of this week's enforcement and collection progress and activity.

Major Accomplishments

- The Town Manager established the Community Development Department and Finance Department TOT Enforcement and Collection Team who are dedicated to implementing this high priority program directed by the Town Council.
- Regular meetings are held with Town staff team and the "TOT Committee" representing the Town's lodging community to discuss progress, new issues and ideas and program improvements.
- Extensive public information has been made available through periodic press releases and Public Service Advisories (PSAs), by direct mail to property owners and on the Town's web page to increase awareness and knowledge of the importance of TOT to the community, and about TOT and zoning rules. For TOT-related information, please visit www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, call us at (760) 934-8989 ext. 275, or send an email to: tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

- The TOT hotline and email address are checked each day to obtain TOT tips and complaints which are quickly turned into active enforcement cases. We also respond to public questions received through these sources.
- The staff team is developing and implementing the TOT enforcement program. Based on tips and research, both TOT revenue and zoning complaints are being processed according to the Municipal Code and code compliance procedures. Staff conducts web and field research to find possible TOT violations and is issuing warnings (citations and fines are now underway) to responsible parties for both revenue and zoning collection violations.
- On November 30, 2011, the Town Council adopted changes to the Municipal Code to strengthen and clarify Chapter 3 "Revenue and Finance" and Chapter 5 "Business Taxes, Licenses and Regulations" that improve TOT enforcement. Changes became effective on January 1, 2012.

What's New?

TOT Violation & Collection Activity - 101 total enforcement cases (up from 91 prior week)

- 22 new cases (up from 15 prior week)
- 32 Closed cases (cases are periodically monitored to ensure continued compliance)
 - 25 cases: determined to be legal use with valid business and/or TOT certificate
 - 7 cases: transient rental activity abated, business and/or TOT certificate obtained
- 47 Open Cases
 - 20 cases: under investigation and/or notice of violation letters in progress (same as previous week)
 - 20 notice of violation letters issued, awaiting reply by responsible party (up from 16 previous week)
 - 1 case: administrative citation letter issued, awaiting reply and abatement (same as previous week)
 - 6 cases: on hold because ad has been removed from web or states only monthly rental permitted (same as previous week)
- 63 New Business Tax Certificates (Since August 8, 2011)

Zoning & Revenue Administrative Citations - Town staff, in consultation with the Town Attorney, are preparing to issue Administrative Citations by certified mail to responsible parties who have failed to respond and comply with letters of warning. The Administrative Citations describe the specific zoning and/or revenue violation of the Municipal Code, the initial fine, subsequent fines and legal action, the time to correct the violation, and how to appeal the citation.

TOT Enforcement and Collection Team Strengthened – The Community Development Department has allocated more staff to the enforcement and collection effort and Patricia Kent has joined the team as an Intern to focus full-time on enforcement. Karen Sibert will begin work supporting TOT assessments and audits in March.

Business Tax and TOT Certificate Process – Town staff has taken first steps to begin streamlining and automating the business tax/TOT certificate process. This will add these certificates to the existing permit management software system. Software development is underway and testing will begin in spring 2012.

What's Next?

- Distribute the real estate residential disclosure form required for all future real estate transactions prior to the close of escrow. Town staff is also developing a "look up tool" that will help the public to determine the zoning of any property in the Town and whether or not transient rentals are permitted.
- Changes to Municipal Code Chapter 8 "Nuisances" and Chapter 3 "Revenue and Finance" to clarify and simplify fines and recovery of attorneys fees related to processing administrative citations and misdemeanors and nuisance abatement.
- Staff will begin to refine the TOT audit and assessment program in March.

We Want to Hear From YOU!

The Town values the quality of life of our residents and visitors. Because TOT is so important to maintaining our community's vitality, we are making a concerted effort to make it easier to find information about, and to comply with, TOT and zoning rules. For TOT-related information, please visit www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, call us at **(760) 934-8989 ext. 275**, or send an email to: tot@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and compliance!

Community News

Mammoth Mountain Is 100% Open!

Over 4 feet of snow fell on Mammoth Mountain over the weekend, raising their season snow total to 106.5" with a more respectable base depth of 40-60". This is also [Learn to Ski and Ride Week](#) at Mammoth Mountain and all one and two and a half hour lessons are 50% off from January 22-27, 2012. What are you waiting for?

Mammoth Lakes isn't just for skiers and snowboarders:

- The Mammoth Ice Rink operates 7-days a week
- Mammoth Nordic Club is now grooming Town XC routes
- All main routes are open at Tamarack XC Ski Center.
- Enjoy tubing with the family at Woolly's Adventure Summit
- Take a romantic dog sled ride
- Shop at one of our premium outlets, including Ralph Lauren Polo and Coach.
- And enjoy fine dining or family fun at one of our many restaurants

Please visit MammothMountain.com or Vistmammoth.com for all the details, specials and happenings in around Mammoth Lakes this weekend.

Mammoth Athletes Compete At Winter X

[Winter X Games 2012](#) will take place this weekend: January 26-29, 2012 at Buttermilk Mountain in Aspen, Colorado. A formidable team of Mammoth athletes will be representing at Winter X. Defending Ski X Gold Medalist [John Teller](#) is aiming to make history as the first skier to successfully defend his Ski X title. Kaya Turski defended her Gold Medal in Women's slopestyle, and Greg Bretz, and Jack & Luke Mitrani will be seeking Halfpipe glory! Check out the athlete bios, event venue details, and the complete schedule online at: <http://espn.go.com/action/xgames/winter/2012/schedule>.

The Toughest Race in the Most Beautiful Place!

Organizers of the 6th annual June Lake Triathlon are excited to announce that registration is now open for the toughest race in the most beautiful place. Put Saturday, July 7, 2012 on your calendar, and make your 2012 resolution happen! Register by Tuesday, January 31, 2012 to catch the early bird fee! Prices change on February 1st, so quickly go to www.junelaketriathlon.com to register online.

There are two race distance options for adults and youth ages 13 and up: Olympic or Sprint distance both have Adaptive Athlete divisions and can be raced as an Individual or a Group Relay. Kids ages 6-12 race the Kids Mini Tri! For our 3rd year, the Welcome Dinner is hosted by June Mountain. Take a chair lift ride up to the Ski and Summer Chalet to dine with views overlooking the race course and beyond to historic Mono Lake! This event has grown each year and fills up at 500 athletes. We look forward to a successful event with the help of our amazing athletes, sponsors, volunteers, and our non-profit beneficiary Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra.

If you would like to be a volunteer, or have questions about registering or about our June Lake Triathlon training camps, please contact Race Director Alana Levin at (760) 717-0176 or alana@highsierratri.org. For sponsorship inquiries and to find out how to gain some exposure for your organization at this event, please contact Sandra DiDomizio at (760) 709-6744 or sandrad@greenfoxevents.com.

Mammoth Lakes Foundation Awards 14 College Scholarships for Spring 2012

The Mammoth Lakes Foundation recently completed its review of scholarship applications for the Spring 2012 semester at Cerro Coso Community College, and thanks to its supporters, awarded a total of 14 scholarships to local students. The recipients must be local residents, maintain a GPA of at least 2.5, be enrolled full-time, and on-the-ground at Cerro Coso – Mammoth Campus. In addition they must provide volunteer time at a minimum of 20 hours. This spring's scholarship recipients range from recent high school grads to long-time locals pursuing vocational nursing certification, to Mammoth transplants. For some of the scholarship winners it is their first semester, for other it's the last time—next fall for them will mean transferring to a four-year university having successfully completed their two-year Associates Degree at Cerro Coso.

This semester's scholarship winners are: Kelly Goodick, Priscila Guerrero, Angela Harvey, Lisa Hostetter, Lane Jacobson, Steven Kutsch, Michele Larson, Cesar Medina, Becky Monroy, Rebekah Rowan, Dwight Saunders, Taylor Strawn, Maria G. Vasquez, and Carla Weaver.

Edison Theatre Presents 2nd Annual "Poetry Out Loud" Competition

On **Saturday, January 28, 2012** at 6:00 p.m. the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre in cooperation with Mammoth Lakes Foundation presents the 2nd Annual Mono County Finals in the national Poetry Out Loud competition. Artistic Director Shira Dubrovner became aware of the Poetry Out Loud program that launched nationwide in 2006, when Eva Poole-Gilson, a published poet and instructor at Cerro Coso College who resides in Bishop, brought it to her attention last year. Dubrovner quickly embraced the idea of offering the same opportunities to students in the Eastern Sierra that are available to students in much larger, urban communities.

Poetry Out Loud was created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation and is administered in partnership with the State Arts Agencies—in this

case the California Arts Council. This year's competition at the Edison Theatre is sponsored by the Eastern Sierra Community Bank. It is a contest that encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. The program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. POL has grown every year with over 365,000 students competing in 2010-2011.

This year competitors include students from Benton High School, Coleville High School, Lee Vining High School, and Mammoth Lakes High School, all coached by Poole-Gilson. Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure that starts at the classroom level. Winners advance to a school-wide competition, then to a regional competition—the Mono County Competition at the Edison Theatre on January 28, then to the state competition on March 26 in Sacramento, and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington D.C. in May.

CMU Presents "Truly, Madly, Deeply"

On **Saturday, January 28, 2012**, Chamber Music Unbound presents The Felici Piano Trio and guests Tereza Stanislav, violin and Robert Brophy, viola, in a concert entitled "Truly, Madly, Deeply" with music by Haydn, Schubert, Barber and Elgar. The concert is held at the Cerro Coso College in Mammoth Lakes, and begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets (\$25 Adult, \$17 Senior) are available online (www.ChamberMusicUnbound.org), at Access Art and Business Center, the Inyo Council for the Arts, or at the door on concert nights.

Andrew Bourne, MD Celebration of Life – Feb. 4

Michael Karch, MD on behalf of the Bourne family is organizing a Celebration of Life for Dr. Bourne on **Saturday, February 4, 2012** at the Cerro Coso College from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Dr. Bourne, and the Bourne family as a whole, have positively affected countless lives in our community in many ways. Please support the family through this most difficult time by celebrating and remembering Andrew's life. Please note: the original location of Shady Rest Park has been changed.

"In the final analysis, a man should be judged not by his lowest moment....but rather, by his highest."

Recreation Highlights

Mammoth Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League Begins Jan. 30

The Recreation Department is hosting a Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League every Monday and Wednesday evening at the MMS gym. The League begins Monday, January 30 2012 and concludes on April 16, 2012. Teams are admitted into the league on a first-come, first-served basis with 8-person/team maximum. League fees are \$350/team. Fees cover custom jerseys, end-of-season awards, and league administration. For more information please call John at (760) 934-8989 x234 or William at (619) 987-2670. Team and individual sign-ups are taking place now at the Recreation office located upstairs in the Minaret Village Mall.

Winter Instructional Basketball League for 1st and 2nd Grades

Join recreation staff and coach William for exciting basketball basics on Thursday evenings beginning February 2, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Middle School gym. This program is offered for free and is limited to the first 40 sign-ups. Kindergarteners are welcome with a volunteering parent. Lowered 7ft hoops and smaller balls will be supplied. For more information please call John at (760) 934-8989 ext. 234 or swing by the Recreation Department office located above Giovanni's to enroll and sign the emergency waiver.

\$5.00 Mondays at the Mammoth Ice Rink

Skate every Monday night (non-holiday) between 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. for only \$5.00. The \$5.00 rate includes skate rental, and is available for all skating enthusiasts: youth, adults and seniors! Call (760) 934-2505 or visit www.Mammothicerink.com for all the details. We'll see you on the ice!

Recreation Department Hosts "FAME!"

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department is offering a special winter week-long session of Youtheatre scheduled for Monday, February 27, to Saturday, March 3, 2012. The show will be "Fame", and rehearsal schedules will be from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. after school (Mon.-Fri.) with two shows scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Arts Center.

Registration deadline for the program is Friday, February 17, 2012. The fees for this winter workshop are \$85 for children 7 and up. We will offer a multi-child discount this year. Space is limited and will sell-out fast! Registration is at the Recreation Department Office located above Giovanni's in the Vons shopping center (Minaret Village Mall). For more information please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 234.

Costume requirements:

"Fame" – Ann will furnish all costumes and props as usual. Everyone needs dance shoes, and for the final number everyone needs to furnish their own clothing in black and red. Lastly, everyone should dress if going to school, however, in clothes fit for stretching and dancing. There is also a 'tap' scene so tap shoes are welcome too. Similar to last winter's Glee Club there will be an audition scene where each child is welcome to sing their favorite song. Ann will work as many children's solos into Saturday's performances as possible. Having the song ready on CD for the first day of practice will be very helpful.

Ice Skating Lessons

Group lessons are now offered at the Mammoth Ice Rink. Lessons are scheduled for 30 minutes, for a cost of only \$10 per student, with a guaranteed maximum of 8 students per group. Lesson times are 3:30 – 4:00 p.m., 4:30 – 5:00 p.m., and 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Purchase five lessons in advance and get the 6th Lesson FREE! Please call the Mammoth Ice Rink at (760) 934-2505 for reservations or additional information.

Stick-Time at the Mammoth Ice Rink!

Get some “Stick time” at the Mammoth Ice Rink every Wednesday during lunch (12:00 – 2:00 p.m.). Anyone can get on the ice and experience an introduction to Ice Hockey. Instruction is provided and normal skating fees apply, skate rentals, sticks, and pucks available - helmets recommended! 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, see our rack card in all Certified Racks located throughout Mammoth Lakes, or call the Mammoth Ice Rink at (760) 934-2505.

Open Gym Basketball

The Recreation Department in partnership with the Mammoth Unified School District is offering open gym basketball at the MHS gym every Sunday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. beginning January 8, 2012. The cost is only \$2/player per session with the completion of a Town waiver. Program concludes on Sunday, March 25, 2012. Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for additional information.

Pick-Up Youth Soccer

If you're looking for more soccer, the Recreation Department in partnership with the Mammoth Unified School District is offering pick-up youth soccer at the MHS Gym every Sunday from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. beginning January 8, 2012. The cost is only \$2/player per session with the completion of a Town waiver. Based on demand, games will be 5 v 5 and structured by age division (U8-U10, U12-U15 & U19). Goals and soccer balls are supplied - shin guards and indoor shoes required (no cleats). Program concludes on Sunday, March 25, 2012. Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for additional information.

Tennis Anyone!

Looking to play some tennis this winter? Head up to the Community Center Tennis Courts and play a few sets with your friends and family. Nets have been erected on courts 3 & 4 so enjoy, and be patient and considerate of other players. We would like to remind you that the bathrooms and water fountains are closed for the winter.

Ice Hockey

Drop-in Ice Hockey has been programmed on Wednesday evenings for youth between 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., followed by women's hockey from 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. On Tuesday/Thursday evenings the men take to the ice between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Saturday morning the youth (5-15 yrs) are on the ice, and an open Hockey

session has been scheduled on Sunday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Fees for Youth/Women is only \$5.00, Men \$10.00.

Get Gymnastics Fever!

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 sessions are available at the Community Center on Forest Trail.

- 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 – Wednesday: 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 - \$5.00 February

Party yourself into shape for only \$5.00/session this February at the Community Center. Zumba® Fitness offered by Kaysie Williams is programmed every Monday from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Contact Us

All the summer, fall, winter and Spring events, programs and activities are listed on www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us and in the 2011-12 Annual Mammoth Recreation Guide. Please call the Recreation Department at (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 or visit us in the Town Offices – Minaret Village Mall (above Giovanni's) to register for a program, for additional information or to forward your comments and suggestions.

Notify Me!

Receive updates sent directly to your email or phone from the Town of Mammoth Lakes by subscribing to "Notify Me." Found on the left side of www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us, stay current with Public Service Announcements, Emergency Alerts, Town e-News, Recreation This Week, No Burn Announcements, DNDP updates, bid postings, news flash, calendar items, and more! Make smart decisions, subscribe today!

Recreation Events & Activities in Town...

Adventure Slide Show Series

The 2012 Adventure Slide Show Series has begun. Snowcreek Athletic Club hosts a series of eight multi-media presentations with a focus on adventure every Tuesday night in January and February (except Feb 14). Shows start at 7:00 p.m. Below is the line up....put the shows on your calendar! Come early to grab some food and a drink, and please carpool as parking is limited.

Tuesday, January 31st

Speaker: Cathleen Calkins

Kamchatka Peninsula: Backcountry Skiing Russia's Remote Volcanos

Tuesday, February 7th

Speaker: Dave Nettle

Italy: A Ski Mountaineering Hut to Hut Adventure in the Ortler Alps

Tuesday, February 21st

Speaker: Kari Castle

Peru: Hang Gliding Over the Andes' Mystical Ruins

Tuesday, February 28th

Speaker: Marty Lewis

The Owens River Gorge: A traditional sport climbing paradise

2012 Little League Online Registration Now Open

Mono County Little League invites all baseball players ages 4 – 15 to register for 2012 Spring Baseball. Walk-in registration will be held on the following dates, times and locations:

- Tuesday, January 31 4:00 - 6:00PM at the Mammoth Lakes Library
- Monday, February 6 4:00 – 6:30PM at the Mammoth Elementary School

Additionally, online registration is currently open. Parents are strongly encouraged to visit www.MonoCountyLittleLeague.com to register online, download forms and find additional information. New players are required to provide a copy of their birth certificate and copies of three (3) proofs of residency (such as driver's license, utility bill, phone bill.) Register by February 6, 2012 and save \$10 per player! For additional registration questions, please contact Carl Underkoffler at (760) 914-0428. Let's get ready to PLAY BALL!

Sports & Recreation Calendar

- On-going: Gymnastics/Tumbling Program at the Community Center
- On-going: Sunday Night Open Gym Basketball & Pick-up Youth Soccer at MHS (ends March 25)
- On-going: Zumba Fitness at the Community Center - \$5.00 Februarys'
- On-going: \$5.00 Monday evening at the Mammoth Ice Rink
- On-going: Stick-time at the Mammoth Ice Rink every Wednesday lunch
- On-going: Ice Hockey every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings
- On-going: Ice Skating lessons at the Mammoth Ice Rink
- Jan. 23: DSES Wounded Warrior Project
- Jan. 26-29: Winter X Games
- Jan. 27: Inyo/Mono League SL
- Jan. 28: The Unbound Series – Rail Jam
- Jan. 28: CMU presents “Truly, Madly, Deeply”
- Jan. 28: “Poetry Out Loud” at the Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre
- Jan. 29: The Unbound Series – Halfpipe
- Jan. 30: Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League begins
- Jan. 31: VC's Race 3 (actually Race 2)
- Jan. 31: Mono County Little League registration at the ML Library
- Feb. 2: Winter Instructional Basketball League for 1st & 2nd Grades begins
- Feb. 5: Allan Bard 20k Classic Race
- Feb. 6: Mono County Little League Registration at MES
- Feb. 17: Registration deadline for FAME

Public Service Announcements

Mountain Pass Road Update

Due to current weather conditions, SR120 West, “Tioga Pass” closed Tuesday, January 17th, 2012 for the season. SR 108 “Sonora Pass” and SR 89 “Monitor Pass” have closed effective Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 12:00 pm. Depending on weather conditions, this may be a season closure. Weather and road conditions can change rapidly during winter storms. High winds and blowing snow often cause zero visibility conditions. Call 1-800-427-7623 for current road conditions. For immediate updates, follow us on Twitter at: Caltrans9 or Facebook at: California Department of Transportation District 9.

Fireplace/Stove Safety

Just about everyone in town is aware of the fire that occurred in town last week. If it had not been for the awareness of an 8 year old girl, it is very possible that her mother may not have made it out of the structure alive. An operable smoke alarm in her bedroom awoke the girl and she woke up her father who then managed to wake his wife. In piecing together the events of the first couple of minutes, it is obvious that there were a couple of minutes of confusion until the realization that the single family residence was on fire. Fortunately all three occupants and their pets were able to vacate the structure with assistance from neighbors and the Fire Department.

The investigation revealed that one of the contributing factors that lead to the incident was the burning of too many compressed logs in the insert woodstove. Manufacturers will tell you that you should never burn more than one or two of these types of logs. This is because the logs burn at a much greater temperature than

standard wood. Mixing both natural wood and compressed logs is appropriate, so long as no more than one or two compressed logs are used.

In the past few years, the Fire Department has been called to several locations where numerous compressed logs had been inserted into stoves or fireplaces. While this practice will create abundant heat, the problem is that the stoves and fireplaces are not designed for such significant levels of heat. Please avoid the temptation to fill the fire box up with numerous compressed logs.

This incident is a perfect example why smoke alarms are considered one of the best investments that a family can make in relationship to their safety. Install both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms: install in bedrooms, in hallways leading to bedrooms, and at least one per floor level. Interconnect alarms so when one sounds, they all sound. Test every six months, replace batteries once a year, and replace alarms after ten years. Nearly two-thirds of home structure fire deaths occur in homes where there was no smoke alarm or where smoke alarms were present but failed to operate.

Also install carbon monoxide alarms: install in bedrooms or in hallways leading to bedrooms and at least one per floor level. Locate an alarm within 20 feet of any combustible appliances. Test every six months, replace batteries once a year, and replace alarms after five years.

For more information or for any questions pertaining to fire related issues, please feel free to contact the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department at 934-2300.

We're Here to Get You There!

Winter weather is not predictable - Be Prepared

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Department of Highway Patrol (CHP) want you to get where you're going safely this winter. The following are some driving tips that will help you prepare for winter driving conditions:

Winterize your car – Check your brakes, windshield wipers, exhaust system and heater/defroster to make sure they are in good working condition. Check your radiator fluid level and add antifreeze/coolant as needed. Replace wiper blades if needed. Add a winter formula windshield wiper fluid. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and the tread is in good condition

Check road conditions frequently –During Storms, tune your car radio to Caltrans Highway Advisory Radio (HAR), call 1-800 ROAD (7623) or check the internet at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo>

Carry in your car - a flashlight with extra batteries, blanket, extra clothing, water and snacks, towel, gloves, ice scraper/deicer, shovel, small broom, spare key, sand/kitty litter.

Allow enough time - Slow down.

Don't panic - If you begin to slide while driving on snow or ice, slowly take your foot off the gas pedal and steer your vehicle in the direction you wish to travel. If you must use brakes and your vehicle is equipped with anti-lock brakes (ABS), apply firm steady pressure. If you do not have ABS brakes gently pump the brake pedal. Do not allow the brakes to lock up.

Black Ice –Black ice is nearly invisible. The temperature doesn't have to be below freezing in order for ice to form on road surfaces. Ice can form, especially when it's windy, when the air temperature drops below 40 degrees. Low or shaded areas surrounded by landscaping or with a nearby source of water, such as bridges and underpasses, can have icy spots.

Be observant - Do not pass snow removal equipment unless the operator directs you to.

Stay with your vehicle - If you become stranded stay with your vehicle. Conserve fuel while maintaining warmth and be aware of possible exhaust or carbon monoxide problems.

Chains – All vehicles, including those with four-wheel drive and snow tires are required to carry chains when traveling in areas that have chain control. Make sure they are the correct size for your tires and in proper working order. Chains must be installed on drive wheels. Know if your vehicle has front or rear wheel drive. Cable chains are acceptable, but may not provide as much traction as traditional chains. The speed limit when chains are required is 25, 30, or 35 MPH: it is posted and enforced. Chain installers may be available to help install your chains. They are not Caltrans employees. They are independent business people who are licensed to install chains. If you choose to use their services ask for a receipt that includes the installer's badge number. Chain installers are not allowed to sell or rent chains. When removing chains or installing chains, drive beyond the signs reading "Chain Control/End Chain Control." Pull over out of the lanes of traffic.

Chain Control Information:

- R-1 – Chains or snow tread tires with a tread depth of 6/32" and a "M&S" imprint on the tire's sidewall.
- R-2 – Chains required on all vehicles except four-wheel or all-wheel drives with snow tread tires on all four wheels. Engage the four-wheel drive in the 4-high.
- R-3 – Chains required on all vehicles; no exceptions.

High winds and blowing snow often cause zero visibility conditions. To protect travelers, the CHP may close the road temporarily until conditions improve. During winter storms spinouts and accidents happen closing the highway. Heavily traveled routes are particularly vulnerable to such closures. Caltrans may meter traffic during the storm, letting fewer vehicles into the area reducing congestion and giving motorists the option of turning around and waiting out the delay in a warm place.

SLOW DOWN – CARRY CHAINS

Winter Safety Issues

The [Christmas Day fire in Stamford](#), Ct. that claimed the lives of five people, has shaken many in the United States. The fire in Stamford has thrust the focus on home safety once again. On a special holiday, a woman experienced an unimaginable tragedy, seeing her parents and three young children perish in a tragic blaze. It's left many wondering why something so devastating like this can happen.

The investigation has revealed that one of the adults in the home placed what he thought were extinguished fireplace ashes into a bag and placed the bag in the foyer near the back of the home. Fireplace ashes can be deceiving; sometimes where there is no smoke, there can be fire. US Fire Administration officials estimate that

there are nearly 11,600 residential building fires in the U.S. each year caused by improper management of hot embers or ashes.

The mistake that people make is removing the ashes too quickly. Even though ashes may look gray, treat everything that's in a fireplace or woodstove as a potential source of fire for up to 48 hours. Proper storage or disposal of ashes is essential to prevent potentially devastating accidents. If you have to remove the embers, place them in a metal container and leave them outside, well away from a structure, for at least a day. Then dispose of them properly.

The Stamford fire became more life threatening as a result of house construction where none of the smoke alarms were operational. Whenever a home is occupied, and especially if used for sleeping purposes, families need to make sure that their home's smoke alarms are in working order. This involves replacing batteries every year with new batteries and replacement of alarms every ten years. There are two types of smoke alarms used to protect residents in the event of a fire; photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms - both respond differently to smoke and flame. Ionization smoke alarms react poorly to deadly smoke but faster to flames while photoelectric alarms react much faster to smoke. To properly protect a residence, both should be used.

In addition to the above, remember other fire prevention measures to keep you and your family safe. Have a family escape plan and practice the plan regularly with the entire family. Be extra careful with any type of heating device and provide for adequate room around the device. Never allow candles to burn in an unoccupied room and never leave a candle burning when going to sleep. Do not use extension cords for anything but temporary use. Keep exits clear of stored items. And remember all single family homes in California are required to have at least one operating carbon monoxide alarm, but usually more are required.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Mammoth Lakes Police Department is Looking for Reserve Police Officers

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department is reactivating its Police Reserve Officer Program. Police Reserve Officers are part-time volunteers who supplement the full time officers. They can serve a variety of assignments including patrol, special events, prisoner transportation, and wildlife management. Police Chief Dan Watson reports that he and other Eastern Sierra law enforcement personnel have been working with Cerro Coso College to institute a Reserve Academy at the Bishop or Mammoth Lakes campus. In the meantime, the Mammoth Lakes Police Department is looking for any retired police officers who live in the general area who may be interested in joining the MLPD as a Reserve Officer. Anyone interested in learning more about the MLPD Police Reserve Program should contact Sergeant Marc Moscovitz at (760) 934-2011 ext. 68 or at mмосcowitz@mammothlakespd.org.

New Non-Stop Winter Flights to Mammoth Lakes

Beginning this winter, San Diego and Orange County residents will have easy access to world-class skiing and snowboarding thanks to [United Airlines'](#) new non-stop service to Mammoth Yosemite Airport. United is also expanding service from San Francisco International Airport to Mammoth Lakes with a second flight from Friday – Monday. The new flights will depart daily throughout the winter from San Diego and four days per week from Orange County (Friday - Monday). In addition, air service to and from San Francisco now includes additional Friday - Monday flight service to complement the daily flight service already in existence.

United Express regional partner SkyWest Airlines will operate the flights using 66-seat CRJ700 regional jets which include six first-class and 60 economy seats per plane. The first flights of the season are scheduled to depart Thursday, December 15, 2011 from San Francisco and San Diego and Friday, December 16, 2011 from Orange County. For more information about the new flights or to reserve a seat, call 1-800-UNITED1 or visit www.united.com. For more information about Mammoth Mountain, visit www.mammothmountain.com.

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.