



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town News

Week of March 26, 2012

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – April 4

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 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.

MLPD Police Academy 3

The Mammoth Lakes Police Department will be hosting its third Community Police Academy starting on **April 19, 2012**. The Community Police Academy is open to community members who are interested in learning about how the Mammoth Lakes Police Department works.

The goal of the Community Police Academy is to form and maintain partnerships between the community and the police by educating residents about the role of law enforcement. Participants will have the opportunity to see the criminal justice system as only an insider could; learn about the day-to-day operations of the department, detectives, narcotics, DUI enforcement, traffic enforcement, police equipment and much more. Participants will also tour the Mono County Superior Court in Bridgeport, tour the Mono County Jail and dispatch center and have hands on experience with police firearms at the police gun range.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older, live in the Mammoth Lakes / Mono County area and be of good moral character. The class will be limited to a maximum of 15 students. Classes will be held every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., beginning April 19, 2012 and ending June 21, 2012. Applications are available at the Mammoth Lakes Police Department (568 Old Mammoth Road) Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For additional information please contact Officer David Scobie at (760) 934-2011 ext. 55 or at dscobie@mammothlakespd.org.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Publishes Updated MLLA FAQ

Responses to the frequently asked questions regarding the judgment awarded to Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition (MLLA) and the status of settlement negotiations have been recently (March 20, 2012) updated by the Town. Please visit the home page: www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us to review the document. All inquiries or comments should be directed to the Town Manager's office at (760) 934-8989, ext. 223.

Calls for Service/Officer Observations

168, including 4 business/building checks

Crime Incident Reports

24 reports, including 4 arrests

Traffic Stop/Citations/Traffic Collisions

34 stops; 8 citations; 6 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 3 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

1 incident; 0 reports

Wildlife

2 calls; 0 reports

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, March 23, 2012 - Saturday, March 24, 2012 = **57%**
(65% same weekend in 2011, down 8% in 2012)

Sunday, March 25, 2012 - Thursday, March 29, 2012 = **36%**
(36% same midweek in 2011, same % in 2012)

Twitter

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

Community Development

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.

Community News

\$50 MVP Renewal Reward

Your guaranteed best value for renewing your MVP pass is on sale now, but hurry – purchase by April 1st and you'll an Early Renewal Reward of \$50 loaded on your pass, which you can immediately use for equipment, clothing, food, lessons, lodging, demos and more! Prices stayed the same as last year at just \$659 for Adults, \$329 for Children, \$494 for Youth and \$329 for Senior, so get yours today to lock in your \$50 Renewal Reward!

MVP Early Ups – March 24

Celebrate the new snow with an extra hour on the slopes! As an MVP Passholder, you can load select lifts starting at 7:30 a.m. and enjoy the mountain for a full hour before it opens to the public. Plus, cruise by McCoy Station at 8:00 a.m. for a complimentary continental breakfast and a chance to mingle with your fellow passholders. RSVP is required.

Nordic Fest

Join Mammoth Mountain and Tamarack XC Ski Center for a [celebration of Nordic skiing!](#) Beginning March 23, enjoy the fast paced skiing and shooting action of the Mammoth Biathlon – one of the largest biathlon events in the country – or strap on your skis for a go at the Mammoth Marathon at Tamarack Ski Center. If racing isn't your thing or you are just starting out on cross country skis be sure to check out the plethora of clinics and classes available at Tamarack, where everyone from beginners to advanced skiers can learn to perfect their technique from Tamarack's expert staff of instructors. Visit www.mammothmountain.com.

5th Annual Mammoth Winter Biathlon – March 23-25

Biathlon is an individual and/or team endurance sport which combines cross-country skiing and rifle marksmanship. Participate in the 5th Annual Mammoth Winter Biathlon scheduled from **March 23-25, 2012**.

Racers ski one loop, shoot, ski one penalty lap for each missed shot, ski another loop, shoot, ski one penalty lap for each missed shot, and ski the final loop. Penalty laps are 150 meters. For adults and 16-19 year old juniors (J1 & OJ), total race distance is 10 kilometers plus penalty laps. For Beginner Adult and 12-15 year old juniors (J2 & J3) total race distance is 6k plus penalty laps. For 8-11 year old juniors (J5 & J4) total race distance is 3k plus penalty laps. Special lightweight rifles and barrel support are provided for eight to eleven year olds who will shoot all shots prone. All others shoot one stage standing and one stage prone with standard biathlon rifles.

Safety and respect for other winter recreationalists is of utmost importance to the biathlon community. Prior shooting experience is not necessary. Rifle safety and instruction will be provided on race day for those who do not take the Pre-Comp Clinic. Community rifles and ammunition are provided for those who do not have their own. Community rifles are left at the shooting range. You do not ski with a rifle unless you bring your own. Athletes ski with unloaded and unchambered weapons and shoot live ammunition only at targets within the designated range area during scheduled and supervised times. For additional information, including the schedule, entry fees, and sponsorship opportunities, please visit:

<http://www.mammothmountain.com/ResortActivities/SpecialEvents/biathlon/>

Calling All Good Cooks: Chili Cook-off - March 25

"Bring it on," says Mammoth Lakes Police Chief "Chili-Man" Dan Watson.

Cook up your favorite 'batch of red' in a crock-pot, give it a clever name and enter it in the first annual Five-Alarm Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Mammoth Lakes Firefighters Association and Mammoth Lakes Police Officers Association with the assistance of Mammoth Lakes Women's Club on Sunday night, March 25, at The Bistro, Snowcreek Athletic Club, 5-8 P.M.

Early entries include Hot Mamas Chili and Slow Lava Chili. Contest entrants receive free admission. Contact "The Chili-Man" for detailed entry information. dwatson@mammothlakespd.org

Expect much hilarity with celebrity judges, "People's Choice" award and Chief Watson's challenge to fellow public safety officers for a side competition. There will be prizes and raffle for a "Gateway Getaway" and other great items.

Come in from the cold and join your friends for a rib-sticking dinner including chili, coleslaw, cornbread and dessert. No-host bar and music by local band Good Livin'.

The March 25th event is a fundraiser for the Mammoth Gateway Community Project.

Donations are tax-deductible: \$25 donation/adult, \$10 donation/child (10 and under) Detective Doug Hornbeck has tickets: dhornbeck@mammothlakespd.org Seating is limited.

Event admission donation can apply toward a personal brick paver (\$125 installed) at the south "MAMMOTH LAKES" Gateway monument. www.mammothgateway.org

Guide Dog Puppy Raising – March 27

Guide Dogs for the blind are hosting an informational meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at the First Presbyterian Church (585 N. Main Street) beginning at 6:30 p.m. Come meet cute Guide Dog puppies, and learn about our local club – Eastern Sierra Guide Puppies. For more information please contact Jim Russell or Betsy Thomsen at (760) 920-8892 or betsythomsen@hotmail.com.

Chamber Music Unbound Presents "The Young and the Restless"

On **Saturday, March 31, 2012**, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Chamber Music Unbound presents The Felici Piano Trio in concert performing "The Young and the Restless" at the Cerro Coso Community College. Music is by Brahms, Chen Yi and Mendelssohn. 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.

Time to Train for the Toughest race in the Most beautiful Place!

The June Lake Triathlon is 16 weeks away. Have you started training yet? Join the High Sierra Triathlon Club for the season opener dinner tonight, Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 6:00pm at the Bistro at Snowcreek. Meet fellow athletes and start your training with camps and club workouts. June Lake Triathlon Training Camps start

April 2nd and Triathlon Club swim workouts meet every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. at Snowcreek. If this is your first triathlon, or your 20th, the June Lake Triathlon is a fun, challenging and spirit-filled event. Race date is July 7, 2012 in June Lake, CA and REGISTER by March 31st before registration fees go up! Registration is limited to the first 500 athletes who sign up, so hurry and get your spot at June Lake!

2012 Mammoth Invitational

From **April 13-15**, the Mammoth Invitational is your opportunity to ski or ride Mammoth Mountain's incredible terrain, race gates, or work on radical turns under the expert guidance of well-known US national and Olympic ski, snowboard and free ride team athletes and professionals – all while helping kids of all types; under-privileged, athletic, academic, talented... and yes, just our fabulous kids! At night, the rhythm changes with great food and entertainment – live and silent auctions, Heroes+Kids – a chance for the kids to meet their heroes one-on-one and Casino Royale the night where the grown-ups get to play. Please visit <http://www.mammothfoundation.org/> to register or for more information.

KIDAPOLOOZA 2012!

Organizers are thrilled to announce that the main entertainment for KidApolooza is children's bilingual recording artist, Jose Luis Orozco. KidApolooza is presented by the Mono County Office of Education and the Inyo County Superintendent of Schools. With further support from the Mono County Child Care Council, this great event will also feature a family photo booth, interactive and fun displays, games, a bicycle rodeo, clowns, animals, and many other things fun and good.

KidApolooza is a one-day event celebrating kids, family togetherness, wellness, literacy, social and environmental responsibility. It is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Mammoth Creek Park in Mammoth Lakes. It is FREE and open to the public. Families in the Eastern Sierra are encouraged to pack up the family and attend! All retail businesses, services providers, and non-profit organizations that share the values of KidApolooza are welcome to participate, have an interactive booth, or sponsor the event. For more information on this event, or on being a participant or sponsor, please contact event manager Sandra Di Domizio at (760) 709-6744 or sandrad@greenfoxevents.com.

Recreation Highlights

Easter Play Day & Community Egg Hunt – April 6

This Recreation Department activity is fun, festive, and free! On Friday, **April 6, 2012** come join the Mammoth Lakes Easter Bunny and Recreation staff from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center (on Forest Trail) for springtime crafts and the “not to be missed” Community Easter Egg Hunt. Activities begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. with the Egg Hunt beginning at 3:30 p.m. Don't be late! Bring your own basket to fill with goodies. Prize eggs will be hidden for each age grouping. Toddlers through elementary aged kids are encouraged to attend. For more information or to volunteer please call John at (760) 934-8989 x234.

Youth Sports Funding Applications Close March 23 @ 5:00PM

The Town of Mammoth Lakes awards funds annually to youth sporting organizations who are in need of additional funding to supplement organized, non-profit, youth sporting programs operating in and around Mammoth Lakes. Applications are now

available from the Recreation Department Office located in the Minaret Village Mall, above Giovanni's or online at: www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us. To be considered for funding, an application must be completed and submitted to the Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Department office by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 23, 2012**. To obtain additional information, or assistance, please contact Stephanie Daniel at (760) 934-8989 ext. 237 or sdaniel@ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Open Gym Basketball – Ends March 25

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. 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 – Ends March 25

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. The cost is only \$2/player per session with the completion of a Town waiver. 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.

Mammoth Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League is Underway!

The Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League is underway. Scheduled every Monday and Wednesday evening at the MMS gym, the League concludes on April 16, 2012. 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.

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!

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

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!

Recreation Events & Activities in Town...

"Ease Back into Swim" Workouts

Join HSTC every Thursday morning at the Snowcreek Athletic Club in the indoor pool from 9:00 a.m. for an ease back into the pool and get your swim on! Now's the time to dust off those cobwebs from your fins and swim cap - get in the water and get a head start on your triathlon training!

Range of Light Group Ski/Snowshoe Outings

The Range of Light/Sierra Club Ski/Snowshoe outings are on Thursdays and Sundays. A Winter Survival Workshop is scheduled Saturday and Sunday February 25 and 26, 2012. The monthly meeting and program is at the ML Library on Tuesday, February 24 with a film on Ansel Adams. Please visit nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup for additional information.

Sports & Recreation Calendar

- On-going Gymnastics/Tumbling Program at the Community Center
- On-going Zumba Fitness at the Community Center
- On-going Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League (Mon. & Wed.)
- On-going FREE winter instructional basketball league for 1st and 2nd grades
- March 1 Youth Sports Funding Applications OPEN
- March 17 Oakley Week
- March 21 HSTC Season Opener
- March 22 Mammoth Nordic fundraiser at The Tap
- March 23 Youth Sports Funding Applications CLOSE
- March 23 Mammoth Nordic Festival begins
- March 23 5th Annual Mammoth Winter Biathlon
- March 24 Unbound Series - Rail Jam
- March 24 Mighty Mite World Championships
- March 25 Mammoth Gateway Project Five-Alarm Chili Cook-Off
- March 26 FIS World Criterium Masters
- April 1 Mammoth Marathon
- April 3 Village Championships
- April 6 FWRA Championships
- April 10 Village Championship FINALS
- April 10 Recreation Commission Meeting
- April 13 2012 Mammoth Invitational presented by Alaska Airlines

- April 15 June Mountain Closing Day
- April 16 Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center Closing Day
- April 17 U.S. Professional Ski Patrol Olympics
- April 20 Spring Fest
- April 21 DSES Slide-a-Thon
- April 21 MMST Mogul Bash
- April 21 FW Speed Finals
- April 21 Volcom's Peanut Butter & Rail Jam Championships
- April 22 Active Brodown Showdown
- April 22 Annual Pond Skim and Spring Fest Party
- April 23 DSES Springtacular

Public Service Announcements

Measure U Spring "Test" Award Now OPEN

The highly anticipated Measure U spring "Test" award application period opened on **Monday, March 12, 2012** and will close on **Wednesday, April 11, 2012** at 5:00 p.m.

It is the goal of Town Council to synchronize both Measure U and Measure R funding cycles with the Town's annual budget cycle and CIP process. Acknowledging that the current funding cycles are not aligned, and that it may take a couple of attempts to fully synchronize all the cycles, including the seasonal construction cycles, a 2012 Measure U Spring cycle was introduced to do a test alignment with the adoption of the Town's budget.

The Measure U or "Mammoth Lakes Mobility, Recreation and Arts & Culture Utility Users Tax Ordinance" was adopted by the Mammoth Lakes Town Council on March 17, 2010, and approved by the voters of the Town of Mammoth Lakes on June 8, 2010.

The Ordinance states: *"On or after July 1, 2011 all proceeds of the tax and imposed hereunder shall be accounted for and paid into a special fund designated for use by the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and used only for the following purposes: Planning, construction, operation, maintenance, programming and administration of facilities and projects for Mobility, Recreation and Arts & Culture. Such tax proceeds shall not supplant existing funds used for the purposes set forth above."*

Applicants are required to specifically cite priorities identified in the following Town plans and/or documents:

- 2007 Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan
- Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- Draft Mobility Plan
- Draft Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Trail System Master Plan
- RecStrats II – Implementation Strategy

Information

Additional information regarding the 2012 Measure U spring "Test" award, including details of the 6 Step application process, can be directed to Stuart Brown Recreation Manager & Public Information officer at (760) 934-8989 ext. 210 or online at: <http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us>.

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.

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 mmoscowitz@mammothlakespd.org.

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.