



Town of Mammoth Lakes

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Town News

Week of February 13, 2012

News from the Town Manager

Town Council Meeting – Feb. 15

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 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.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Responds to MLLA

Since April 2011, the Town of Mammoth Lakes has been negotiating with Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition (MLLA) in an attempt to reach a settlement of the judgment MLLA obtained against the Town arising out of the Hot Creek development project. As part of those negotiations, the Town has made full, complete and ongoing disclosures of all of its financial and operational information to MLLA. Frequent closed session discussions have taken place among Town Council members and staff to develop and present to MLLA payment proposals that the Town could afford, keeping in mind its obligation to provide essential municipal services to the community and visitors.

On December 1, 2011, the Town made a multi-million settlement offer to MLLA – an amount that the Town currently feels it cannot afford to pay, in light of the worsened fiscal conditions since early December. On December 14, 2011, MLLA requested an even larger payment.

On January 19, 2012, the Town withdrew its December 1, 2011 offer, writing to MLLA: *"In light of current fiscal realities, the Town has determined that it needs to more closely analyze and assess pertinent issues with financial implications, including the ongoing efforts to reach a resolution with MLLA. The Town has begun the development of a global restructuring plan, which will address the various fiscal issues impacting the Town."* The Town's January 19, 2012 letter further stated that another settlement offer would be presented to MLLA after February 1, 2012. Since then, the Town has continued to work on a sustainable plan to both pay MLLA and satisfy its other fiscal obligations. Frequent closed session discussions continued.

In the meantime, it is MLLA that decided to abruptly stop settlement discussions with the Town. To the Town's surprise and dismay, MLLA filed a petition with the State Court on February 2 (and served the Town on February 6) to demand payment of the full \$42 million legal judgment. MLLA then went to the local media and accused the Town of bad faith negotiations. All of this was done without an advance notice to the Town, or any indication that MLLA was about to cease the settlement process. Sadly but clearly, MLLA is the one acting in bad faith.

The Town will, after careful consideration of its obligations to the citizens, businesses and taxpayers of the Town, submit to MLLA in the near future another settlement proposal that the Town can afford consistent with its stewardship of the public's funds.

Notice of Municipal Election – June 5

A Municipal Election will be held in the Town of Mammoth Lakes on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 for the purpose of electing two members to the Town Council. The Councilmembers presently occupying these offices are Jo Bacon and Skip Harvey. The term of office for each seat is four years. Councilmembers are paid \$300 per month. Candidates must be registered voters and reside within the Town. Nomination Papers will be available from the Town Clerk starting on Monday, February 13, 2012. The deadline for filing of Nomination Papers is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 9, 2012. Citizens interested in running for a seat on the Town Council are encouraged to contact the Town Clerk, Jamie Gray, at (760) 934-8989, extension 267 for further information. The Town Clerk's Office is located in Minaret Village Shopping Center, Old Mammoth Road, and is open from 8:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, holidays excepted.

Notice of Vacancies: Building Advisory Committee/Board of Appeals

Notice is hereby given that four terms of office will become vacant on the Building Advisory Committee/Board of Appeals. The terms of this office are four (4) years, expiring on April 1, 2016. The Building Advisory Committee/Board of Appeals meets quarterly. Interested parties should file an application with the Town Clerk on or before **Monday, February 27, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.** Application forms may be obtained at the Town Offices, Minaret Village Shopping Center; or by writing to P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; or by phoning 934-8989, ext. 267; or by visiting the Town's website at www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us.

Projected Average Resort Occupancy

Friday, February 10, 2012 - Saturday, February 11, 2012 = **48%**
(72% same weekend in 2011, down 24% in 2012)

Sunday, February 12, 2012 - Thursday, February 16, 2012 = **27%**
(37% same midweek in 2011, down 10% in 2012)

President's Weekend Friday February 17 - Sunday, February 19, 2012 = **54%**
(as of Thursday, February 9, 2012)

Calls for Service/Officer Observations

167, including 1 business/building check

Crime Incident Reports

37 reports, including 13 arrests

Traffic Stop/Citations/Traffic Collisions

39 stops; 13 citations; 11 parking citations; 0 skate park citations; 4 collisions

Animal Control Incidents

6 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 and Collection - February 10, 2012 Update

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 - 126 total enforcement cases (up from 101 prior report)

- 27 new cases (up from 22 prior report)
- 46 Closed cases (cases are periodically monitored to ensure continued compliance)
 - 30 cases determined to be legal use with valid business and/or TOT certificate
 - 13 cases transient rental activity abated, business and/or TOT certificate obtained
- 49 Open Cases
 - 24 cases under investigation and/or notice of violation letters in progress (up from 20 prior report)
 - 17 notice of violation letters issued, awaiting reply by responsible party
 - 2 cases administrative citation letter issued, awaiting reply and abatement (up 1 from previous report)
 - 10 cases on hold because ad has been removed from web or states only monthly rental permitted
- 69 New Business Tax Certificates (Since August 8, 2011)

Zoning & Revenue Administrative Citations - Town staff, in consultation with the Town Attorney, are now issuing 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. Please watch for press releases about citations on February 17 and 24, 2012.

What's Next?

- On February 15, 2012 Town Council will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to Municipal Code Chapters 1, 3 and 8 about "Nuisances" and "Revenue and Finance" to clarify and simplify fines and recovery of attorneys fees related to processing administrative citations and misdemeanors and nuisance abatement.
- 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.
- 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**.

Community News

Lend Me a Tenor - Lends a Hand to Local Non-Profits...

Ken Ludwig's hysterical play--a door-slamming, dress dropping farce with mistaken identities, mischievous misunderstandings, and compromising positions, runs **February 9-26, 2012** at the Edison Theatre (100 College Parkway, across from Cerro Coso College). Mammoth Lakes Repertory Theatre in cooperation with Mammoth Lakes Foundation is also lending a hand to local organizations. \$2.00 from every ticket sold on the following nights is being donated back to local organizations. You can show your support for culture and your favorite local organization, by attending Lend Me a Tenor on these nights:

Feb. 9 - Playhouse 395 Bishop
Feb. 16 - June Lake Loop Women's Club
Feb. 17 - Mammoth Nordic
Feb. 23 - June Lake Loop Women's' Cub
Feb. 24 - Mammoth Nordic

Chamber Mixer – Feb. 14

The Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce is hosting the next monthly mixer on Valentine's Day: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 between 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The event will be at the Tap, catered by Toomey's, DJ'd by AV Special Events. Bring your business cards and come "mix it up" with your community All business owners and professionals are invited.

Yodler Grand Reopening Presidents' Weekend

Mammoth's legendary après ski bar and restaurant is back and better than ever with a brand new menu crafted by Executive Chef Marc Mora. Featuring an innovative take on Bavarian cuisine and an exciting après ski scene with a touch of European charm, The Yodler is the perfect place to meet up with friends and family after a long day on the mountain. Brand new Happy Hour from 3 to 5pm daily offers \$5 Daily Import Drafts, free "Yodler Munchies" and great times for all!

Recreation Highlights

We Want to Hear From You!

The Recreation Department in partnership with Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD) and the Mono County Office of Education (MCOE) are investigating programming options and/or activities for use this summer at the Multi-Use/Ice Rink Facility. Please tell us what you want to see and/or do at the Multi-use facility this summer! Complete the short online survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DT6FS7L>, or complete a survey at the Recreation Department Office in the Minaret Village Mall located above Giovanni's. Please call (760) 934-8989 ext. 222 for additional information. We look forward to hearing from you!

FREE Winter Instructional Basketball League for 1st and 2nd Grades

Join recreation staff and coach William for exciting basketball basics on Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 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. Coach William recommends you purchase your child a youth size basketball. The extra time with a basketball will help greatly with ball handling and dribbling skills. We are committed in getting our local kids on a basketball track that will take them all the way to high school and beyond. Lastly, we still have room in our growing youth basketball program – encourage your children's friends to come on out on Thursday nights, it's free! 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. Hoop it up!

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.

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.

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.

\$5.00 Monday's 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!

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 lunch-time (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.

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.

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 - \$5.00 February's!

Party yourself into shape for only \$5 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., with NEW times on Friday. Join Kaysie on February 10 and 24, 2012 for only \$5.00!

Recreation Events & Activities in Town...

Chocolate Mountain Snowshoe or Hike – Feb. 12

For the sixth year in a row, Friends of the Inyo will lead a 7-mile round trip hike or snowshoe up Chocolate Mountain in the Piper Mountains Wilderness. Conditions will determine footwear (as well as difficulty) for this hike, mostly on an old closed road, with 1,500' elevation gain and loss up. Chocolate Mountain is a true island in a sea of desert, looking out over Deep Springs, Eureka and Fish Lake Valleys. Meet 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 12, 2012 at the Big Pine Campground at the junction of Hwys' 168 and 395. Bring food and drink for the day, clothing for warm or cold, a pack to carry it all, and footwear appropriate to the conditions. If snowshoes are required, please bring your own, also FOI has a few pair to loan with advance reservation. If it is snowy, this will be a strenuous walk, but as it's an out-and-back, we can turn around anytime. For further information, email todd@friendsoftheinyo.org or call (760) 873-6500.

Nike Chosen Tour

Come out for the spectacle of snowboarding that is the Nike Chosen Tour. On Saturday, February 18, 2012 ride with Nike team athletes under the lights or just come out to see the show. Riders will compete for a piece of the \$5000 purse and a chance to be 'chosen' for a trip to Austria where they'll take on other winners from around the world.

Want to be one of the chosen? Post a video clip to [Mammoth Unbound](#) with the hashtag #ChooseMe! During the day, 60 riders will tackle the famous bottom jump

at Main Park and once night falls snowboarders will take to a custom rail pad lit up for a visual treat like you've never seen.

Range of Light Group Ski/Snowshoe Outings

The Range of Light/Sierra Club Ski/Snowshoe outings are on Thursdays and Sundays. A special outing is scheduled on Sunday, February 9, 2012 with Janet Carle in the Mono Basin Area and a Winter Survival Workshop Saturday and Sunday February 25 and 26, 2012. The monthly meeting and program is at the MML Library on Tuesday, February 24 with a film on Ansel Adams. Please visit nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup for additional information.

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, 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

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
- On-going: Men's 4 on 4 Basketball League (Mon. & Wed.)
- On-going: Winter Instructional Basketball League for 1st & 2nd Grades begins
- Feb. 11: Unbound Series – Boarder/Ski X
- Feb. 12: FOI hosted Chocolate Mountain Hike
- Feb. 12: Unbound Series – Slopestyle
- Feb. 14: Village Championships
- Feb. 17: Registration deadline for FAME
- Feb 17: Rescheduled Rick Conrado Memorial Masters SG
- Feb 17-20: Mammoth Film Festival
- Feb. 18: Nike Chosen
- Feb. 18: Kittredge Fun Cup
- Feb. 18-20: Presidents' Weekend Arts Festival
- Feb. 19: Jr. VC's
- Feb. 24-26: Shannon's Challenge – Far West J3 Wild West Series SG
- Feb. 25: Unbound Series – Slopestyle @ June Mountain
- Feb 27: 2012 Sprint U.S. Grand Prix
- Feb 28: Village Championships

Public Service Announcements

Mountain Pass Road Update

Due to current weather conditions, SR120 West, "Tioga Pass" closed Tuesday, January 17, 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 Moscowitz at (760) 934-2011 ext. 68 or at mmoscowitz@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/licenselistings_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.