

Chimney Fire Danger Increases With March Weather Fluctuations

Spring is good time to check sump pump

Rene Lefebvre
Andover Fire Department

March is a transition month most years. The very worst winter has to offer often happens in early March with heavy wet snowstorms and, for the most part, the end of March starts to usher in the warmth of spring and mud season.

March also changes the way we operate our heating appliances. Modern oil burners keep the heat output the same and automatically adjust the time they need to run to keep the home warm. Propane and electric heating appliances operate pretty much the same. However, wood burning appliances take a little more thought.

We respond to several chimney fires in March because of warmer days. Wood stoves control their heat output with dampers that allow more or less air into the burn chamber. The more air, the hotter the fire will be. Less air, and a cool fire box will make more smoke that is very slowly going up the chimney.

This relatively cold, slow-moving smoke becomes the ingredient that makes creosote along the walls of the chimney. This flammable gooey mess only needs a few sparks from your wood stove to set the material in the chimney on fire.

Experienced firemen can smell a chimney fire as we approach your home by the unique odor. To prevent

this from happening, use much less wood each time and run a small hot fire during the spring heating season. The fire will warm your home and then burn off as coals with very little, if any, smoke. Most experienced firewood users are constantly making adjustments to the amount and kind of wood they burn depending on the weather.

One more point on wood stoves. If you "think" that you are having a chimney fire, you are! Call 911. We have lots of modern toys that will show us if you really do have a chimney fire. If you don't, we will go home. If you do, well, aren't you glad you called!

Get Your Sump Pump Ready

Another great fact of late March is that the snow is melting and the ground is thawing. The smell of sweet mud is in the air, along with ominous sounds of water trickling into your basement.

There is nothing nice about a flooded basement. Now is the time to lessen your risk by checking your sump pump. Clean out the pump end and test it while you have time to make repairs.

A great insurance policy is a brand new sump pump sitting on your shelf. You will be glad you did.

March is also the time of boiling sap to make golden maple syrup. This wonderful tradition is unique to our part of North America. Please get out and enjoy this special place we get to call home.

Stay safe!



Each of Four Offices in Town Building Has Specific Duties

It's a busy place; time management is crucial

Marjorie Roy, Town Administrator

There are only four offices in the Town Building, but an incredible number of responsibilities are conducted there. Of course, we all know that the Town Clerk-Tax Collector and the deputy register cars, handle elections, provide vital records, license dogs, and sell Town stickers, but did you know their office is the depository for all Town records? This includes historical records and today's records that will someday be historical.

The Zoning Administrator is also the Planning and Zoning Coordinator. Her office issues building and demolition permits, and mechanical permits when necessary. This is the place to go if you have questions about property setbacks, the Andover Zoning Ordinance, or Planning Board matters. This position also prepares and researches matters that are to come before the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The Select Board is the executive, managerial, and administrative body of the town. This does not mean the Select Board performs all of the tasks on

a day-to-day basis. It is appropriate for the Board to delegate the performance of day-to-day tasks to employees.

The Town Administrator is the chief administrative officer for the Select Board and is responsible for duties assigned by the Board. She coordinates, directs, and plans the workflow of the administrative functions of the Town and oversees the overall operation of the Town; manages the office of the Select Board; and acts as liaison between all elected officials, boards, commissions, departments, committees, employees, and the public.

The Bookkeeper is responsible for the financial operations of the Town and manages everything from payroll and accounts payable to IRS and state reporting, as well as maintaining the operating budget and collaborating closely with the Trustees of Trust Funds and the Treasurer. Currently, there are two people staffing the Select Board's office: the Town Administrator and the Bookkeeper.

As you can see, the offices are always busy. We enjoy visitors and appreciate their awareness of our need to manage our time effectively.

Job descriptions can be found on the Town website at Andover-NH.gov.



Andover Police Department January 2022

The Andover Police Department handled 200 calls for service during January 2022, including:

- Assist Citizen: 10
- Civil Issue/Stand-by: 3
- Death/Suicide: 1
- Dog Loose: 2
- Manner of Operation: 2
- OHRV Complaint: 1
- Road Hazard/Obstruction: 2
- Road Rage: 1
- Sexual Assault: 2
- Suspicious Circumstances: 4

- Theft: 2
- Traffic Accident: 4
- Traffic Citation: 7
- Traffic Warning: 42
- Warrant, Criminal/Civil: 2
- Welfare Check: 6

Arrests

- Zachary Banks, 20, Londonderry: Operating After Suspension; Operating After Suspension, 2nd; Operating Without a Valid License
- Audrey McLeod, 50, Andover: Bad Checks x 3



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