

# MASON'S ISLAND FIRE DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND OTHER INFORMATION

## Fire Protection and EMT Service

MIFD has a contract with another local fire district for fire protection and emergency medical technician service. Emergency fire and EMT service may be reached by dialing 911. The fire station is within two miles of Mason's Island and is equipped with tanker trucks. To augment the need for water, water pipes have been installed at the north and south ends of the Ice Pond, which permits fire-fighting equipment to draw fresh water (when the pond is not frozen) to fight fires up to 1,000 feet from either hydrant. The cost of fire protection is one of the largest expenditures in the MIFD budget.

When calling for help, be prepared to provide the following information:

1. The specific location at which assistance is needed.
2. A brief description of the nature of the emergency and the response required.
3. The time at which the emergency occurred.
4. Your name and a callback phone number and, if a medical emergency, the name(s) of the victim.

## Roads

With minor exceptions, all roads and rights of way within the District are the property of the Mason's Island Company. All roads and rights of way are maintained by the District, under the direction of its Roads Committee. The Committee also is responsible for the installation of road signs, painted lines and speed bumps. The Roads Committee uses the Company as general contractor in providing these services.

## Traffic Advisory

Although (the) MIFD is authorized by State Law to hire police officers, it has not done so. The District is patrolled by the Town of Stonington Police.

The District's Traffic Advisory Committee is authorized to hire a Traffic Control Officer who is stationed at the Gate on summer weekends and holidays. His primary duty is to refuse entrance to unauthorized persons. The Traffic Control Officer is not a sworn police officer and does not have the power of arrest. Any infractions of the law should be reported to the Stonington Police.

**To better enable the Traffic Control Officer to recognize residents at the main gate, residents should display a Mason's Island decal on their vehicles. Decals may be**

**obtained from Rufus Allyn or from the chair of the Traffic Advisory Committee. When residents sell or trade-in their cars, they are asked to remove the decal in order to prevent access to the Island by non-residents who buy their old cars.**

**THE SPEED LIMIT ON ALL ROADS WITHIN THE DISTRICT IS 25 MPH. However, the narrow and curvy nature of some of the Island's roads frequently requires slower speeds.**

No unregistered motor vehicles of any type may be operated on roads within the District. Only persons with a valid operator's license may drive on the roads.

Overnight parking on roads is prohibited.

Observance of all traffic signs is required.

There are no sidewalks on the Island. Pedestrians are requested to walk facing traffic, and to wear reflective material and carry flashlights after dark.

### **Parks and Recreation**

All park and recreation areas are either the property of the Company or the District, and are maintained and operated by the District. In addition to the defined areas, there is a five-foot wide footpath right of way around the shores of the Ice Pond across private properties for the use of all property owners. The District maintains this path

In 1995 the Company and The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, Inc. entered into a conservation easement which prohibits development on a 46.5 acre tract of land abutting the east side of the Great Salt Marsh, including 17.5 acres of marsh land. Residents of the District are permitted to walk along trails and paths on this land and to enjoy the beauty of the woods and marsh.

### **Garbage Collection**

The Town requires that residents separate recyclables from other trash. Recyclables are to be placed in separate containers. Newspapers and cardboard must be tied in separate bundles or placed in brown paper bags. Boxes must be flattened and tied together. Garbage and non-recyclables, exclusive of household hazardous waste, must be placed in Yellow Municipal Plastic Bags, which can be purchased at local supermarkets and other stores. Fees from the sale of yellow garbage bags pay for the cost of disposal.

A private company under contract to the Town of Stonington handles trash collection. Collection is generally weekly. The collector picks up all yellow bags and recyclables at each house. Residents are encouraged to avoid placing their trash on the roadside. However, residents will need to tell the collectors where to find their refuse (i.e. inside a

basement door or shed).

MIFD receives numerous comments from residents whose neighbors leave trash and recyclables containers by the road or in full view for long periods of time. Residents are asked to put away promptly all trash and recycling containers. Residents who expect to be away on collection day are encouraged to ask a neighbor to place these objects out of sight.

The Stonington Transfer Station accepts all other refuse, including bulky waste such as furniture, mattresses, leaves, yard waste and other items for recycling. Reusable items such as household furnishings, books, and other products can be dropped off at the Reusable Shed at the Transfer Station. For current fees and hours of operation call the Transfer Station (535-5088).

The Town's instructions for recycling and garbage disposal are located at their web site [www.stonington-ct.gov](http://www.stonington-ct.gov).

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Electronics Recycling schedules are organized by the Town of Stonington. There are several days each year when Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling are accepted. To find out the date and location of the next Hazardous Waste collection call the Stonington Solid Waste Office (535-5099).

### **Docks and Mooring Areas**

Designated docks and waterfront areas within the District are the property of the Masons Island Company. Most property owners are given the right in their deeds to use such docks pursuant to the fees and regulations set by the Company.

The Company's docks are located at Allyn's Alley, at the foot of Plover Lane, at the end of East Forest Road, in Pogy Bay off of Skiff Lane and at the bulkheads in Pogy Bay and the Great Salt Marsh. The Company permits residents to dock small boats on a seasonal basis. It is the responsibility of the boat owner to provide and properly maintain appropriate dock lines, outhauls, blocks and ladders. Residents interested in renting dock space should contact Rufus Allyn. Small boats and dinghies may be stored at Allyn's Alley, Seagull Lane and Skiff Lane upon application to the Company for a permit.

Swimming beaches are not to be used for boat storage. A condition of the dock permit issued to the Company by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection prohibits storage or placement of boats on marsh areas.

There are official mooring areas off the east and southwest sides of the Island as shown on U.S. Coastal Charts. In 1995, a comprehensive harbor management plan was approved by the voters of the Town of Stonington which, among other things, sets

specifications for moorings and ground tackle and grants authority to the Harbor Master to (1) assign mooring locations, (2) issue mooring permits, (3) collect an annual fee of \$10 per mooring and (4) remove illegally placed moorings. It is the responsibility of boat owners to frequently check their ground tackle and mooring pennants for chafe and wear. Please note that the waters of the Town of Stonington, including the Mystic River, are a “no discharge” area.

### **Shooting and Trapping**

State Law prohibits the discharge of firearms within 500 feet of a dwelling or place of public gathering. This applies to the water as well as the land. In addition, the Company strictly prohibits the discharge of firearms or setting of traps on any of its property without its written permission and a State Hunting Permit. Infractions of these rules should be reported to the Stonington Police. The discharge of fireworks without a license is a violation of State Law.

### **Animals: Roaming Dogs, Rabies**

Roaming dogs are a nuisance and generate a considerable number of complaints by residents. Under State Law all dogs are required to be kept on a leash when off its owner’s property. Complaints about roaming dogs should be made directly to the Stonington Dog Warden or the Stonington Police Animal Control Officer. Upon receiving a complaint, the Dog Warden will bring a loose dog to the pound at Green Haven Road. The owner can retrieve the dog by paying a redemption fee. Redemption fees escalate significantly for subsequent infractions.

Barking should be controlled to avoid disturbing others. Residents who are sufficiently disturbed by barking dogs can complain to the Dog Warden. Excessive barking is treated as a nuisance under Stonington laws and owners are subject to fines. Subsequent violations are treated as misdemeanors and require a court appearance.

Dog owners are also subject to substantial fines for failure to maintain a current license or for failure to maintain a current rabies certificate and for biting.

Many residents and visitors to the Island have dogs, and dog waste has become a considerable nuisance and health hazard. The Town of Stonington has a “pooper scooper” ordinance, which requires dog owners to pick up after their pets and imposes a fine of \$35.00 per occurrence for failure to do so.

Raccoons, skunks and other nocturnal animals may be rabid. The appearance of these animals in daylight is a likely sign of rabies, and the Police should be called immediately. Animal bites, where the skin is broken, should be referred to the Stonington Health Officer or a physician.

## **Lyme Disease**

Like many coastal communities, Mason's Island continues to be prime habitat for deer ticks, the carriers of debilitating and deadly diseases such as Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, and babesiosis. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has conducted a study between 1999 and 2004 using bait boxes to control tick populations on Masons Island. This study resulted in a substantial reduction in the number of ticks on mice and drastically reduced the number of questing deer ticks on treated properties.

The bait boxes used in the study have EPA approval and are commercially available through pest management companies under the label Maxforce TMS bait box system. The bait boxes are the most effective and least environmentally damaging tick control method available as of this date. A less effective and potentially more environmentally damaging tick control method is the seasonal spraying of pesticides. The number of pesticide sprays required, ranging from twice per tick season to monthly, will depend on each property's risk for tick habitat. A third method, Daminix, still used by some pest control companies, has not been proven to have any effect in controlling tick populations and is not recommended.

MIPOA is investigating ways to continue a tick control program. Further information may be obtained from any MIPOA Board member. At such time MIPOA is unable to establish an Island-wide program, property owners will have to contract directly with pest control companies for tick control on their properties. Properties that are not treated with any tick control method can expect tick populations to revert in two years to the same high levels that existed before the study started, according to CDC researchers.