



TOWN OF JAFFREY, N.H. FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Jaffrey Fire Department is reminding residents to keep the outside vents for furnaces, hot water heaters, cloths dryers, pellet stoves and other combustible gas producing appliances clear of snow. With the recent snow storms the vents can become blocked with snow and cause Carbon Monoxide (CO) to back up into the house. CO is a colorless, tasteless, odorless gas that can be a silent killer. Warning signs of CO poisoning are flu symptoms like, headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, drowsiness and confusion, but without a fever. If you or anyone in the home thinks they are being poisoned by CO leave the house or building at once, call 911 and stay out of the building until the fire department tells you it is safe to re-occupy. Your first line of defense to prevent or minimize CO gas is to properly maintain your home heating systems, fuel burning appliances, flues, vents and chimneys. Your second line of defense is to install a CO detector alarm on every level of your building.

The Jaffrey Fire Department is also reminding residents to keep all primary exits to their homes and buildings clear of snow so that all occupants can escape quickly in the event of a fire or other emergency. All windows and other means of escape need to be cleared to allow for a secondary means of escape in case the primary escape is blocked by fire. Keeping driveways, walkways, sidewalks and exits clear also allows emergency responders to access your building. It is also highly recommended that all roofs and elevated deck structures are inspected for excessive snow and ice buildup that could weaken the structural integrity of the structure.

Homeowners, property owners & contractors need to use caution when clearing snow from their building and properties. Snow being removed from roofs to the ground should not block any exits and extreme caution needs to be used around the Electrical Services and LP Gas Piping. Anyone plowing or pushing back snow banks also need to use caution and be aware of the location of Underground LP Gas Tanks and Overhead Electrical Services and Wires.

EVERYONE GOES HOME