



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

January 2023 — 129th Edition

WFF Single Stream Recycling Program

Single stream recycling containers are easy to use. All recyclables can be placed in the same container without any sorting. Please **EMPTY or RINSE ALL CONTAINERS** before placing the item in the recycling container. Leaving food waste in a container or placing trash in a recycling container will result in the **entire recycling container contents being disposed of as trash!**

What Can Be Recycled at WFF?

- Plastic Containers or Bottles #1 or #2 type plastic
- Metal Food and Beverage Containers (cans)
- Aluminum Foil and Trays
- Glass Bottles and Jars
- Newspapers
- Cardboard
- Food Boxes
- Milk and Juice Boxes
- Paper Bags and Paper Wrap
- Phone Books
- Mail, Magazines, Mixed Paper, and Catalogs
- Soft and Hard Covered Books (no covers)



What Cannot Be Recycled at WFF?

Plastic grocery bags, styrofoam, and most plastic drink cups are not recyclable. Items that are soaked in food grease are **NOT** recyclable.



Photo credit: Wayne Redmond

These are **real** examples of items found in recycling containers that resulted in the entire contents of the container becoming trash.



eTrak is coming February 1, 2023

eTrak, the agency environmental compliance tracking system, will replace SHEtrak on February 1, 2023, as the NASA-wide system for tracking environmental inspections, audits, and findings. The system will send an email notice of findings along with a link to the finding. More information will be provided over the next month.



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

January 2023 — 129th Edition



Safety Tips



- ♦ Carjackings are on the rise, and most of us never imagine that we could be the victim of a violent crime. It's tempting to:
 - ♦ Start your car on a cold morning and let it idle while you run back into the house
 - ♦ Leave your car running while you run into a convenience store “just for a second”
 - ♦ Leave your car running while you drop off someone at the airport and get out to help with their luggage
 - ♦ Leave your keys in the ignition while you pump gas
 - ♦ Here are a few tips to help avoid carjackings:
 - ♦ Never leave your car with the keys in the ignition and/or with the engine running, even “just for a second”
 - ♦ Park in well-lit areas and be aware of your surroundings
 - ♦ Lock your doors when driving
 - ♦ Be suspicious of anyone sitting in a nearby car
 - ♦ Don't be afraid to ask for a security guard to escort you to your car
 - ♦ Don't stop for stranded strangers along the road. Note their location and pull over in a safe place to call for help.
-
- ♦ Here are a few safety tips on home battery storage:
 - ♦ Store batteries in original packaging
 - ♦ Use a battery organizer to keep batteries separated
 - ♦ Keep button batteries away from small children (choking hazard)
 - ♦ Recycle rechargeable batteries



*Find more information about types of batteries used in households and how to manage them, visit <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/used-household-batteries>



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

January 2023 — 129th Edition

Carbon Monoxide Winter Storm Warning!

Hundreds of people die accidentally each year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances (EPA data). According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), CO is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the U.S.

Winter snows can create drifts that block furnace and dryer exhaust vents, forcing carbon monoxide (CO) gas to back-up into homes. The heat from the exhaust may not melt the snow, especially after a power outage.

Use care when shoveling out a car. Make sure the tail pipe and undercarriage are free of snow before turning on the engine. Crack the windows to prevent CO build-up.

Carbon monoxide gas is produced whenever any fuel, such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned.

Carbon Monoxide is:

- Odorless
- Colorless
- Tasteless
- Poisonous

Appliances and CO Safety

If appliances that burn fuel are properly maintained and used, the amount of CO produced is usually not hazardous. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions that come with fuel-burning devices. During snowstorms, keep furnace and dryer vents clear.

However, **if appliances are not working properly or are used incorrectly, dangerous levels of CO can result.**

- Have a qualified service technician inspect your appliances yearly, before the heating season.
- Check vent pipes, flues and chimneys for leaks or blockages.
- Un-vented kerosene heaters are illegal in MA.
- Never use a charcoal grill indoors!
- Do not use a gas oven to heat your home.
- Don't leave a vehicle running inside a garage, even if the door is open. Fumes will build up quickly inside the home.
- Snow can block car tailpipes outdoors.
- Never use gasoline-powered engines (generators, chain saws, blowers, weed trimmers, mowers or snow blowers) indoors or near doors or windows.

(over) →



FireFactors

Office of the State Fire Marshal • www.mass.gov/dfs • (978) 567-3300



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

January 2023 — 129th Edition

Generators and CO Safety

- Place generators outdoors facing away from doors, windows and vents.
- Never use a generator inside a house, basement or crawl space.
- Never use a generator inside a garage, even if the garage door is open.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

CO enters the lungs and blood where it competes with oxygen normally carried by red blood cells. CO attaches to the cells 200 times easier than oxygen. Without oxygen cells begin to die.

Exposure to carbon monoxide can produce flu-like symptoms such as:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- Fainting

At higher levels, CO exposure can cause:

- Unconsciousness
- Death

What to Do If You Suspect CO Exposure

- Get out of the house or car and get fresh air.
- Call the fire department from outside or a neighbor's house.
- If you have symptoms, seek medical help immediately.

Sources of CO:

- *Furnaces and water heaters*
- *Chimneys and woodstoves*
- *Gas and oil fueled space heaters*
- *Blocked furnace and dryer vents*
- *Car tailpipes blocked by snow*
- *Generators*
- *Running vehicles*
- *Barbeque grills and camping stoves*
- *Gas ovens used for heat*
- *Gas tools such as snow removal and yard equipment*

Protect Your Family

- Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home, except unfinished basements or attics.
- Since 2006, state law has required carbon monoxide alarms in most homes.
- Locate CO alarms near bedrooms so family members will awaken at night.
- Alarms should be kept away from open windows or doors, excessively hot, cold or damp areas and "dead-air spaces" such as corners of rooms and peaks of ceilings.
- Do not place a CO alarm in a garage, furnace room, near the stove or fireplace.
- Change the batteries according to directions.
- Change the back-up batteries after a prolonged power outage.
- Know the difference between the alarm signal and the low battery alert.

Replace Aging CO Alarms

- Replace aging CO alarms every 5 -7 years according to directions.
- Newer model CO alarms have a 10-year sealed lithium battery that does not need changing. At 10 years, the entire device is replaced.



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

January 2023 — 129th Edition

Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

January 2023 — 129th Edition

Wood & Pellet Stove Safety

As the temperature drops outside, wood and pellet stoves may be fired up inside the home. What you may not realize is that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months.

- » Have a QUALIFIED professional install stoves, chimney connectors, and chimneys.
- » Stoves should be listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- » In wood stoves, burn only DRY, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- » Have your chimney and stove INSPECTED and cleaned by a certified chimney sweep every fall just before heating season.
- » CLEAN the inside of your stove periodically using a wire brush.
- » Allow ashes to COOL before disposing of them. Place ashes in a covered metal container. Keep the container at least 10 feet away from the home and other buildings.
- » Keep a CLOSE EYE on children whenever a wood or pellet stove is being used. Remind them to stay at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- » Stoves need SPACE. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- » INSTALL and maintain **carbon monoxide alarms** (CO) outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect the CO alarms. When one sounds, they all sound.

SMOKE ALARM SENSE

Install and maintain smoke alarms on **EVERY** level of your home, outside each separate sleeping area and inside each bedroom. For the best protection, interconnect the alarms.

When one sounds, they all sound. TEST all smoke alarms at least monthly.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Name of Organization

Contact Information Here