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Town of Durham  
Fire Hydrant Ordinance  
**[Proposed]**

## **Statutory**

Pursuant to C.G.S. Chapter 7-148(c)(4)(B), the Town adopts the following fire hydrants ordinance

## **Purpose**

To purpose of this chapter is to authorize the Town of Durham (the “Town”) or its designated agent or agents to regulate the installation, location, operation, and maintenance of fire hydrants within the Town.

## **Fire Hydrant Regulations:**

- A. The Board of Selectmen may, in consultation with the Durham Volunteer Fire Company, Durham Fire Marshal and the Durham Department of Public Works, adopt and enforce regulations regarding the specifications for and the location, operation and maintenance of all fire hydrants within the Town as necessary and/or recommended.
- B. Any property owner that is required to install a private or municipal fire hydrant shall install said fire hydrant in a manner which is in full accordance with the Fire Hydrant Regulations. The Building Official of the Town shall not issue a building permit or certificate of occupancy to an applicant until the Fire Marshal confirms compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

## **Out of Service Fire Hydrants; repair of fire hydrants on private property**

- A. Fire hydrants that are out of service shall be clearly marked by the Durham Center Water Company.
- B. The Fire Marshal may order the repair of a defective fire hydrant on private property and bill the cost of such work to the owner if the Town incurs costs associated with the repair of the defective fire hydrant.

## **Tampering with fire hydrant equipment prohibited**

Fire hydrants and fire apparatus and equipment required by this chapter shall not be removed, tampered with, or otherwise disturbed except for purposes of: extinguishing a fire; training; recharging, repairing or flushing a fire hydrant; when required by the Durham Center Water Company or when permitted in writing by the Fire Marshal.

## **Clearing of fire hydrants.**

- A. All private property owners whose property contains or abuts a public or private right of way containing a fire hydrant shall continuously maintain the area around the fire hydrant and keep the area clear of weeds, rubbish and any other obstructions which might prohibit access for use and/or maintenance of the fire hydrant. Landscaping or decorations shall not obstruct or hide any fire hydrant from clear view, nor prohibit access for use and/or maintenance of fire hydrants.

- B. It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct access to any fire hydrant by placing, locating or permitting any debris, building material, personal property or other obstruction which may interfere with the use of a fire hydrant. Parking, placing or locating any motor vehicle or boat within 10 feet of a fire hydrant is prohibited.
- C. All private property owners whose property contains or abuts a public or private right of way containing a fire hydrant shall remove snow and ice abutting the fire hydrant that has accumulated higher than a point four inches below the bottom of the lowest outlet on any fire hydrant within 24 hours after the cessation of a snow or ice storm. A perimeter of 3 feet around the hydrant should be cleared including a pathway from the hydrant to the street.

### **Violations and penalties.**

If the property owner, person, or entity in possession of private property that includes a fire hydrant fails to remove snow and ice around such hydrant within 24 hours after the cessation of a snow or ice storm or otherwise violates any provision of this ordinance, such person shall be subject to the penalties of Section 1-10 of the Town Ordinances. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day of neglect or refusal to comply with any of the provisions of this article. If the First Selectman orders the removal of the snow and ice, as provided for herein, the property owners, persons, or entities in possession and control of such hydrant shall be billed for the expenses of said removal in addition to the penalties provided in this section. The First Selectman may engage an independent contractor to provide this snow or ice removal service.

### **Effective Date**

Ordinance shall become effective on the date on which a notice of the ordinance has been published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Durham.