

Watchwords by Officer Tom Hanshaw
March 25, 2011

No one ever wakes up in the morning, planning to call 9-1-1 before the end of the day. In fact, most emergencies arrive quite unexpectedly and without warning. An emergency can be very traumatic to those involved, especially when the situation involves a medical emergency with a family member. Getting help quickly is the goal of using 9-1-1 and no one should ever hesitate to call if you believe you may need emergency services. In the event you require an ambulance, are reporting a fire or in need of immediate police services, call 9-1-1.

Providing the best response possible is the task of public safety officials in every City and Town. Emergency personnel are trained and prepared to handle whatever situation arises, day or night. They also work closely with various community partners to protect residents and serve their needs. Some residents have special needs that emergency responders should be aware of before arriving on the scene. In order to provide public safety officials with that information, residents with special medical needs are encouraged to submit a "Disability Indicator Form," which is handled through Verizon and available at the Police Station and Senior Drop-In Center. Forms can also be obtained by contacting Ms. Janet Nicolsaisen, the Amesbury 9-1-1 Municipal Coordinator at 978-388-1217 or by checking the MA 9-1-1-web site.

The "Disability Indicator Form" provides dispatchers with critical information as soon as a call is answered. Codes will be displayed on the computer screen to identify various medical conditions and assist with communication. All information collected is confidential and will appear only on the dispatcher's screen when a call is made from your address. The information remains on file until you request a change or ask to have it removed. You must notify the 9-1-1 Municipal Coordinator to make changes. Persons with the following conditions are encouraged to complete and submit a "Disability Indicator Form:"

- "LSS" Life Support System: has equipment to sustain their life.
- "MI" Mobility Impaired: is bedridden, wheelchair user or has another mobility impairment.
- "B" Blind: is legally blind
- "DHH" is Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
- "TTY": communication via the phone may be by TTY.
- "SI" Speech Impaired: has speech impairment.
- "CI" Cognitively Impaired: is cognitively impaired.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Ms. Nicolaisen at the Police Station. An emergency can happen at any time and anywhere, so it's best to be prepared in advance. As mentioned, all information collected is strictly confidential and will not be shared with the public.

As we move into spring and the month of April, the annual winter parking ban also expires. Hopefully we have seen the end of snowstorms for awhile but anything is possible, especially after this past winter. The Mayor can still declare a snow emergency, in the event of a serious storm, so residents should monitor the forecast. During a snow emergency, on street parking is prohibited. It's also a good time to remind everyone that parking a motor vehicle on the sidewalk is illegal and dangerous. Motorists sometimes believe they are helping to make a condition safer by getting off the road but forcing pedestrians into the roadway is anything but safe.