

CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

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ATTENTION Contractors & Homeowners

The new **TRENCH REGULATIONS** are now in effect

Effective **March 1, 2009**, the new trench regulations, established under **M.G.L. c.82A** and **520 CMR 14.00**, will now require a permit to be secured for any excavation that meets the definition of a trench as defined in **M.G.L. c.82A, s.4** and **520 CMR 14.02**:

TRENCH ~ An excavation which is narrow in relation to its length, made below the surface ground in excess of three feet below grade and the depth of which is, in general, greater than the width, but the width of the trench, as measured at the bottom, is not greater than 15 feet.

The following Town departments have been designated by the Selectmen as the *permit granting authority* in their respective fields:

Code Enforcement Director (Inspector of Buildings) – for all excavations relating to building construction

Fire Chief – for all excavations relating to installation or removal of underground fuel storage tanks

Public Works Director - for all excavations in public ways; for all excavations on private property relating to water, sewer and utility services; and for any and all other excavations not otherwise provided herein.

Please be advised that if your excavation project falls within the requirements of the new Trench Regulations then you will be required to submit a Trench Permit application for review and approval by the respective Town department.

For more information regarding the new Trench Regulations, including a FAQ list, please visit the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety website at www.mass.gov/DPS and under ***Programs and Services*** on the left-hand side of the page, click ***Trenches***.

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