

PRESS RELEASE

Merrimac Fire Department
www.merrimacfire.com

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Safety Tips...After the Winter Storm

*The Merrimac Fire Department reminds you to clear your exterior
furnace exhaust vents and fire hydrants of snow*

MERRIMAC, MA – With the nearly two feet of snow that has recently fallen across New England, furnace air intake and exhaust vents may become covered by snow drifts. “Those residents with new high-efficiency furnaces and water heaters that vent through the wall (not into a chimney) should be wary of a buildup of snow or ice around the vent,” according to Merrimac Fire Chief Ralph Spencer. “The newer equipment provides great savings in terms of efficiency, but a blocked vent could cause the heating system to malfunction by shutting off or, in extreme cases, lead to the accumulation of carbon monoxide in the home,” says Spencer..

The recent snowfalls have increased snow cover throughout the New England region and, coupled with windy conditions, could result in conditions that could cover furnace exhaust and air intake vents as well as clothes dryer vents.

“Residents of mobile homes should also make sure that any exterior exhaust pipes are clear of snow,” according to the Chief.

“Another reminder is for residents to clear fire hydrants located near their homes of snow, making it easier and quicker to locate them in the event of a fire,” says Spencer.

Finally, it is important to test the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms located within the home to verify they are working properly.

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