

# OTISFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Effective Date: November 1, 2006

To: Otisfield Residents

From: Mike Hooker, Fire Chief

**RE: New Home Construction – Life Safety Issue  
Electrical Shut-off / Disconnect Switch**

On behalf of the entire Otisfield Fire Department, I would like to congratulate you on the building of your new home, and say WELCOME to our community. Whether you're a first time resident, summer home resident, or converting to a new home, I'd like to take a few moments to review a new life saving and structure saving consideration with you, **"prior to the actual start of construction"**.

The Planning Board, Ordinance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Fire Department are asking you to consider the **"installation of an electrical shut-off switch"**. This switch would allow our Fire Department to respond to a fire call at your structure, and immediately disconnect power. Why? Because the time it takes for Central Maine Power to respond to the call, arrive on the scene, and disconnect power to your site is simply too late for the structure and it's inhabitants. This is not their fault, but just a matter of the distance they must typically travel. As you know, Otisfield is a very rural community, and during an emergency situation, time is of the essence. The following is a brief overview of the process:

1. The installation of this "shut off / disconnect switch" is performed by the Master Electrician and approved by Central Maine Power, prior to occupancy.
2. This switch is encased in a box with a lock on it, to protect it from tampering. You will have the only key.
3. Should the Fire Department need emergency access, we will cut the lock with bolt cutters, and immediately "shut off / disconnect" the power to the structure.

NOTE: This process allows us to more quickly ensure the safety of the Firemen entering the structure, to more quickly assess the location of possible inhabitants, and to focus on the structure fire itself. All without the fear of electrocution from "live power" both outside and inside the structure.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the phone number below or contact our Code Enforcement Officer at the Town Office or at 539-2360.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this very important life safety issue.



Mike Hooker  
Otisfield Fire Chief  
207-272-8783