

Marine and Road Flares Disposal



Marine and road flares can be a problem to dispose of when outdated or no longer needed. The perchlorate, a salt-like substance made up of chlorine and oxygen, contained in flares poses a serious contamination risk for Cape Cod's sole source aquifer if disposed of on the ground. Since flares are not accepted at household hazardous products collections and should not be thrown in household trash, what is the best method of disposal?

Residents of all Cape Cod towns can dispose of marine and road flares through town fire departments, recycling centers or departments of public works. **A list of collection locations is on the back of this sheet.**

By Federal law, each recreational boat 16 feet and over must carry Visual Distress Signals (VDS). Currently, the only United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved VDS are pyrotechnic flares. All flares must have a clearly marked expiration date, which is 42 months past the date of manufacture. Recreational boaters are required to have a minimum of three "in-date" flares on board.

It is against the law to set off flares in a non-emergency situation (unless special arrangements are made with the USCG and local fire department). The Coast Guard does not recommend keeping out-of-date flares on board for emergencies.

With an estimated 250,000 out-of date flares generated annually by boaters in Massachusetts, it is essential that flares be safely disposed of at town collection locations.



Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
www.capecodextension.org
508-375-6690



Barnstable County
Fire Training Academy



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Barnstable County
Fire Training Academy



Marine and Road Flare Collection Locations

Barnstable Fire Department 3249 Main Street
8-4 Monday-Friday 508-362-3312

C-O-MM 1875 Falmouth Road, Centerville
24 hrs/7 days 508-790-2375

West Barnstable Fire Department 2160 Meetinghouse Way
24 hrs/7days 508-362-3241

Bourne Fire Department 130 Main Street, Buzzards Bay
24 hrs/7days 508-759-4412

Brewster Fire Department 1657 Main Street
8-4 Monday-Friday, call first 508-896-7018

Chatham Fire and Rescue 135 Depot Road
8-6 every day 508-945-2324

Dennis Fire Department 883 Main Street Rte 28, West Dennis
24 hrs/7days 508-398-2241

Eastham Fire Department 2520 State Highway
8-4 Monday-Friday 508-255-2324

Falmouth Fire Department 399 Main Street
9-4 every day 508-548-2325

Harwich Fire Department 175 Sisson Road 8-4 every day
speak with Captain before bringing flares into station 508-430-7546

Mashpee Department of Public Works 350 Meetinghouse Road
7:30-3:30 Monday-Friday 508-539-1420

Orleans Fire Department 58 Eldredge Park Way
8-4 Monday-Friday, call first 508-255-0050

Provincetown Harbormaster 24 MacMillan Pier
9-5 every day 508-487-7030

Provincetown Police Department 26 Shank Painter Road
9-5 Monday-Friday 508-487-1212

Sandwich Fire Department 115 Route 6A
24 hrs/7days 508-888-0525

Truro Transfer Station Off Route 6
7:30-3:30 every day 508-349-6339

Wellfleet Fire Department 35 Lawrence Road
24 hrs/7days 508-349-3754

Yarmouth Fire Department 96 Old Main Street, South Yarmouth
24 hrs/7days 508-398-2212

Yarmouth Residential Drop-off Area Gatehouse 7:30-3:30 every day
606 Forest Road, South Yarmouth 508-760-4804

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