



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Office of State Fire Marshal
52 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0052

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH E. THOMAS
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

December 21, 2021

ABANDONED BUILDINGS - PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

To All Maine Code Officers and Fire Inspectors - A request for assistance in your communities:

In light of the recent tragedy involving three fatalities from a fire within an abandoned structure, the Fire Marshal's Office and Building Codes program would like to provide this letter regarding abandoned buildings. As a reminder, there are potential hazards that may exist in your respective communities relative to abandoned buildings, as they can become a nuisance, and if unsecured, allows entry for someone seeking shelter or other activities.

The intent of this notice is to raise awareness for the existence of these potential outcomes as you are the best boots on the ground to help avoid another tragic event. Please take a little time to review your records of any known abandoned buildings and consider taking a ride by to determine if any are not properly secured. This is simply a public service that we all strive to achieve in our duties to protect the safety of our fellow citizens. The importance of this effort will allow for the opportunity to notify the owners of the buildings of their responsibility to make their buildings safe, so that we may possibly avoid these unfortunate headlines in the future.

Thank you in advance for your efforts in this matter with the hopes of all of us and others having a truly safe and happy holiday season.

Paul A. Demers
State Building Official

Richard McCarthy
Assistant State Fire Marshal

PREVENTION * MITIGATION/ SUPPRESSION * LAW ENFORCEMENT

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 45 COMMERCE DRIVE, SUITE 1, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330
(207) 626-3870 ADMINISTRATION/ INVESTIGATIONS (207) 287-3659 TDD
(207) 626-3880 INSPECTIONS/ PLANS REVIEW (207) 287-6251 FAX
(207) 626-3876 BUILDING CODES DIVISION