

# Durham Fire Department

## F.A.Q. Regarding the Inspection of Gas Installations

- What codes do you enforce relative to gas installations?
  - The Town of Durham enforces the laws, administrative rules, and codes as adopted by the State of New Hampshire. [RSA 153:5 and 153:28, Saf-C 6000 and 8000, and NFPA 1, 54, 58, and 101]
  
- What do you require for permits and inspections relating to gas installations?
  - The Town of Durham has a permitting and inspection process that the Fire Department administers.
  - Permits are required prior to any work and can be applied for at the Fire Department located at 51 College Road.
  - If the project involves other work such as electrical or plumbing, additional permits and inspections are required through the Building Department located at 15 Newmarket Road.
  - Typically, two inspections are required; the 'rough gas' inspection which gas piping is inspected and tested prior to being filled with fuel gas, and the 'final gas' inspection which the appliance, clearances, venting, and operation are inspected and tested.
  
- What is required for buried gas piping?
  - All piping and fittings must be listed and approved for their intended use.
  - The piping must be a minimum of 12" below the surface of the ground (18" for areas subject to vehicular traffic or are in areas subject to digging/cultivating such as a garden) and laying in a bed of soft sand or other similar material void of rocks and debris.
  - Materials intended to be used to backfill the trench must be present during the inspection and must also be void of rocks and other debris.
  - Non-metallic piping must have a tracer wire present and installed before the rough gas inspection.
  - Caution tape must also be buried 4" above the piping to serve as a warning to future diggers.
  - Do not backfill the trench until the rough gas inspection has been successfully passed otherwise the trench will have to be dug back up.

*This guide is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of requirements for the installation of fuel gas piping systems, appliances, equipment, and related accessories. The purpose of this guide is to aid installers working in the Town of Durham in understanding the permitting and inspection process, as well as clarify some of the specifics that the code leaves the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to define. This guide does not supersede anything required by State Statute, administrative rule, or adopted code.*

For more information, please contact the Durham Fire Department at (603) 862-1426.