

Important Contact Information

The police department realizes how important your phone calls are and has created this pamphlet to aid you in the use of our automated phone system. The information in this pamphlet will provide you with a better understanding on how the automated phone system works.

If your calls are an emergency, please remember to always dial **9-1-1**. By dialing **9-1-1**, the dispatcher at the Somerset County Communications Center automatically receives the phone number that you are calling from and your location. This information is important should the line become disconnected or you are unable to speak. **9-1-1** calls are not answered by the automated system.

When you call the police department on one of our regular lines, you will hear a pre-recorded greeting. If your call is an emergency, you will be asked to hang up and dial **9-1-1**. If you require police assistance and it is a non-emergency, you will be instructed to press "0". Your call will be routed to a dispatcher at the Somerset County Communications Center. Even if no option is selected, your call will always be answered by a dispatcher. After dialing the police department's phone number, residents with rotary phones do not have to do anything other than to wait momentarily for the dispatcher to answer. To avoid the pre-recorded message entirely, residents can always call the communications center directly by dialing 474-6386.

If you need a copy of a report, contact the secretary by dialing 474-6908 or 474-3570. As soon as you hear the automated message, press "122". If there is no answer at the extension, she may be on the phone or away from her desk. Leave a message and she will return your call. The same applies if you wish to speak to any other member of the department. You just use a different extension number. To obtain an officers extension number, listen to the automated message and follow the instructions. For example, to contact the police chief, you hear by pressing "2" on your keypad, you get the directory for Police Administration. You will then receive my extension number (123). Pressing "5" brings you back to the main menu. If you already know the officer's extension number, you may press it at anytime.

Welcome to Skowhegan

Whether you are new to our community or an established resident, we have put together a pamphlet that we hope will answer some of your questions concerning Maine law and local ordinances. This also gives us a little chance to become better acquainted. Educating the community and "working together" allows us the time and resources to provide you with quality public services. Please feel free to call us if you have any other questions or concerns.

Our Mission

The Skowhegan Police Department is committed to delivering quality services to all citizens in our community. By maintaining order, fairly and consistently enforcing laws, and protecting individual rights, we seek to raise the quality of life for all.

About Our Department

The department's full-time staff consists of a chief, deputy chief, two sergeants, seven police officers, one detective, and a School Resource Officer. Our part-time staff consists of five reserve officers, one parking enforcement officer, a secretary and two Animal Control Officers.

Excluding most holidays, the department is open for walk-in complaints and business Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Regardless of the time or day of the week, a uniformed officer is always on-duty to respond to your request for service or an emergency.

The department is located at 225 Water Street. Our primary entrance is located at the rear or south west corner of the Municipal Building.



Skowhegan Police Officers circa 1960

THE SKOWHEGAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



COMMUNITY POLICING INFORMATION GUIDE

**"WORKING WITH THE
COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE
OUR QUALITY OF LIFE"**

<http://www.skowhegan.org/departments/police-home.asp>

skowpd@skowhegan.org

Frequently Asked Questions

May I walk my dog in the downtown area or in my neighborhood? Yes, but your pet should be leashed at all times. Unless it is your own property, it is a violation of town ordinance not to clean up after your pet. Please keep our sidewalks, trails and parks clean so that others may enjoy them.

My neighbor's dog is constantly barking and keeping my family awake. Is there anything I can do? Yes, please call us. The town has an ordinance which prohibits a person from owning, keeping or harboring any dog which disturbs the peace.

My child loves to skateboard. Is skateboarding a crime? Skateboarding is not a crime but it is a violation of the town's ordinance for any person to ride or operate a skateboard, roller blades or bicycle on the sidewalks in the downtown area, Monday through Saturday, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. A "state-of-the-art" skateboard park is located at the Community Center and open daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. Remember to always wear a helmet and other protective clothing when engaging in this type of activity.

My car's inspection sticker expired two months ago. I have an appointment to get it inspected at a local garage. Is it alright to drive there? Come to the police department with your vehicle's registration and insurance information. A police officer will gladly issue you a permit so that you can legally drive your motor vehicle to a designated inspection station. The permit only allows you to drive the vehicle to an inspection station and is valid for two days. There is no fee.

I am moving to Florida for the winter and I am concerned that my home will be burglarized. Will the police department check my property? Yes, an officer will check your property as part of their regular patrol duties. Unfortunately, having the police check your property doesn't guarantee that your home won't be burglarized. Officers will be on the alert for any suspicious or unusual activity at your residence. To request a property check, just contact us. You will need to provide the department with the dates that you are going to be away, the name and phone number of a local contact person, the names of people who are allowed on your property and a phone number where you can be reached. ***It's that easy!***

Am I required to have my headlights on when using my windshield wipers? Yes, but only during those times when your wipers are in constant use.

I like to shop in the downtown area. Where and how long can I park without receiving a ticket?

That is a good question. Generally, most of the parking in the downtown area is limited to two hours. FREE all day parking is permitted in the central and northern portion of the Municipal Parking Lot. For those shoppers who expect to be out of their vehicles for just a few minutes, 15 minute parking zones are conveniently located on Commercial Street, Madison Avenue and Elm Street. For safety reasons, it is a violation to park on or too close to a crosswalk, in front of a fire hydrant, in a designated yellow zone, or against the flow of traffic. Handicap parking stalls are located north and east of the Chamber of Commerce building in the Municipal Parking Lot. Vehicles with visible handicap placards are allowed to park in stalls double the legal allotted time. To assist in the removal or plowing of snow, all night parking is prohibited from November 1st to May 1st between 12:00 a.m.-6:00 a.m. Motor vehicles are not allowed to park on any street or in any town owned parking lot during these dates and times.

Can I transport my dog in the back of my pickup truck? You may not transport a dog in the open portion of a vehicle on a public way unless the dog is protected in such a manner that prevents the dog from falling, jumping or being thrown from the vehicle.

I have read in the newspaper about children being abducted by family members or turning up missing. What can I do to help protect my child? In partnership with SAD#54, the police department provides officers and utilizes volunteers from the Lions Club to fingerprint and photograph children. We provide this service to every student enrolled in kindergarten. Upon completion, the Child Identification packets are provided to the parents at no cost. The packets may be useful to a police officer should the unimaginable occur. Parental consent is required. This service is also provided at the police department during normal business hours. The department does not retain a copy of the material.

Does Skowhegan have a curfew? Yes. It is unlawful for anyone under the age of 18 years of age to knowingly remain in or upon any public place between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m. The ordinance also applies to minors who may be in a motor vehicle without parental supervision regardless of whether or not it is stopped, parked or mobile. It is also unlawful for a parent or guardian to knowingly allow or permit a minor to be in violation of this ordinance.

What can we do to help protect our community?

You can be our "eyes and ears". If you observe something in your neighborhood that appears "suspicious", please call us with your concerns and provide us with the best details available. It can be helpful to have your name and phone number when you call but it isn't always necessary. The police department will respond to anonymously reported calls. If you would like to leave an anonymous tip for the detective, please call our "Hot Line" at 474-6915.

We have children that play near the streets and it just seems people are driving too fast. What can I do?

Speeding is the most common concern for residents in any community, not just Skowhegan. Speeding can result in property damage, personal injury, fines, license suspensions and insurance premium increases. In response to this issue, the department provides additional traffic enforcement, whenever possible, in specific problem areas. Realizing that speeding is a community problem and not just a police matter, we have promoted programs that encourage more citizen involvement such as *Keep Kids Alive Drive 25* and the Citizen Radar Program. As a tool to get drivers to comply with speed limits, the department will deploy an unmanned police vehicle in target areas or a StealthStat. A StealthStat is a device that covertly records vehicle speeds and time. A StealthStat enables the department to make better use of its resources by showing us when speed enforcement is most needed. Depending upon the seriousness of the violation and the driver's traffic history, officers are instructed to issue summonses rather than warnings for speeding. *Keep Kids Alive Drive 25* yard signs and applications to participate in the Citizen Radar Program are available at the police department.

We live in town and my son likes to go swimming. Is he allowed to jump off the swinging bridge? No.

Jumping off any bridge in Skowhegan is prohibited.