



**NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION**



# The Role of the Local Health Officer 101

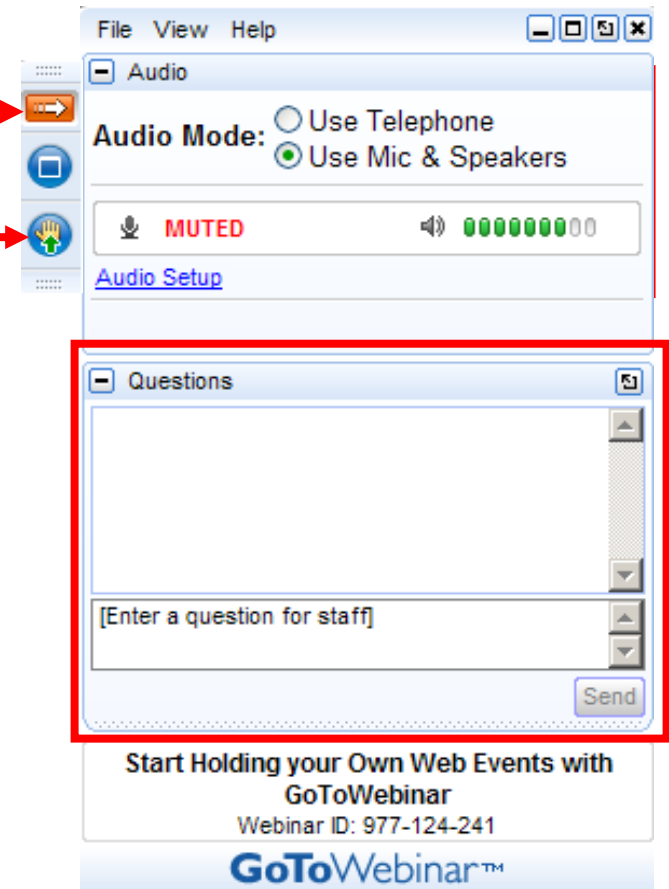


**Dennis Roseberry, Code Enforcement/Health Officer, Town of Farmington**  
**Brian Lockard, Health Officer, Town of Salem**

**October 17, 2018**

# How to Participate Today

- Open and close your Panel
- Submit text questions
- Q&A during today's session
- Pop quiz for your entertainment



The screenshot displays the GoToWebinar interface. At the top, there is a menu bar with 'File', 'View', and 'Help'. Below it, the 'Audio' panel is visible, showing 'Audio Mode' options: 'Use Telephone' (unselected) and 'Use Mic & Speakers' (selected). A 'MUTED' indicator is present next to a microphone icon, and a volume level indicator shows several green bars. Below the audio panel is the 'Questions' panel, which is highlighted with a red border. It contains a large text input area with the placeholder text '[Enter a question for staff]' and a 'Send' button. At the bottom of the interface, there is a promotional banner that reads: 'Start Holding your Own Web Events with GoToWebinar Webinar ID: 977-124-241 GoToWebinar™'. Red arrows point from the text in the list to the 'Panel' icon in the audio panel and the 'Submit question' icon in the questions panel.



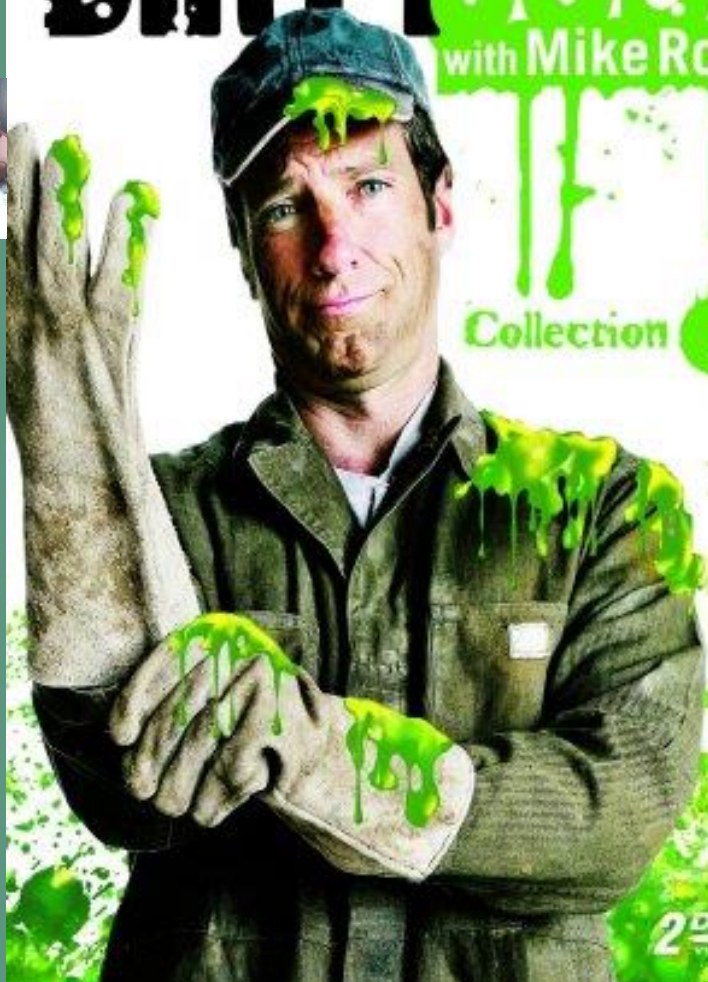
Discovery CHANNEL

# DIRTY JOBS

with Mike Rowe

Collection 1

2 DVD SET



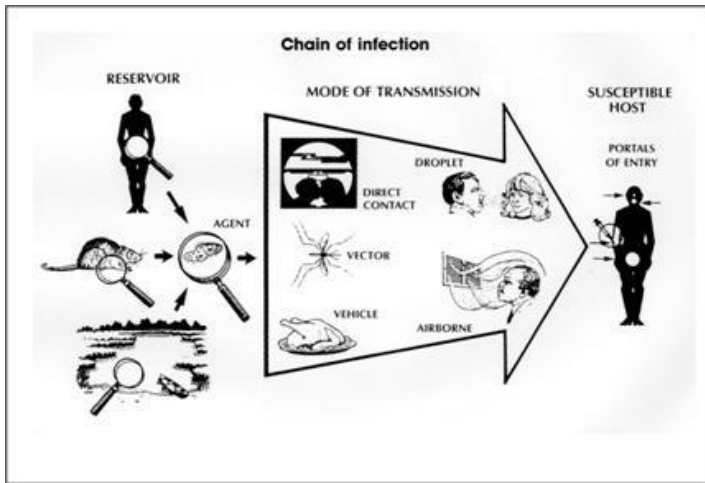
The Complete Season One

# HOARDERS



New Hampshire  
Health Officers Association

# Role of Health Officers



- They work to break the 'chain of infection' for food, water, septic and housing
- They work to stop infestations of rodents, insects & bed bugs
- They educate, inspect & enforce

# Who Supports Health Officers?

- Town Board of Selectmen (BOS) who form the local board of health
- NH Health Officers Association (NHHOA). Via guidance, policy, and 2 training days each year
- NH DHHS Health Officer Liaison Program (DHHS), Via appointments, consults, and training manual
- NH DHHS & NH DES



# Who are the Health Officers?

- Over 300 individual officers and deputies. (All 234 NH municipalities & a few unincorporated places)
- Empowered to enforce health laws
- Empowered to inspect schools, daycare, foster care and adoption homes
- Often cross-trained with code enforcement



# Common Health Issues

- Minimum rental housing standards, water leaks and mold
- Nuisances. If a nuisance noise, odor and waste is a public health threat
- Dilapidated buildings & hoarding
- Vermin such as bed bugs, insects, rodents
- Septic Issues
- Restaurants, if self-inspecting community



# A “Small” Trash Problem at a Rental Property







# When did New Hampshire Municipalities Get Responsibility to License Junkyards at Local Level?

1. 1955
2. 1960
3. 1965
4. 1970
5. 1975



# Appointments

- RSA 128 provides authority
- Each municipality nominates a health officer, and the NH DHHS appoints them
- The local 'Board of Health' is made up of the Health officer and BOS
- Health officers “shall enforce... laws and rules”
- Can serve temporarily for another town
- May enter private property, not “living quarters”

# What Laws do They Enforce?

- RSA 48-A: Housing Standards for leaks & mold, heating, insects & rodents, sewage, safety
- RSA 147: Nuisances like trash, noise, odors, infestations, and any injurious risks
- RSA 155: Dilapidated & Hazardous Buildings (Hoarding?) Board of Selectmen/City Council
- RSA 485 & 147 & 48-A: Septic Systems
- Other laws – Inspection of Schools, Daycare, Foster Homes, Drinking Water, Air Quality, Asbestos



# Housing Standards



- RSA 48-A
- Minimum housing standards
- Rental units only, not private property
- Cities & towns may have local regulations
- RSA 540:13 Bed Bugs

# An Unsanitary Apartment with Syringes and Bodily Fluids



# Nuisances



- RSA 147
- A nuisance is defined by the health officer
- Local codes or regulations may provide support
- Refer to Public Health Nuisance Guidance Document:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/holu/manual.htm>



# Dilapidated Buildings

- RSA 155
- Health officer may assist code officials to determine habitability





# Health Inspections

- Schools
- Child Care Facilities
- Foster Homes
- Adoptive Homes
- Massage, Body Art, Beaches, Mosquito Control, Pools





# Duties of the Health Officer

- Inform, Educate & Empower Citizens
- Inspect & Diagnose Problems
- Enforce Laws

# Famous Case Studies

- Hoarding fire, Salem NH
- Unsanitary homes, one involving several young children, another with a deceased family member, Salem, NH
- Town of Farmington



# Irving Street Home Prior to Explosion and Fire



# Health Officer Manual

- A training and response tool for towns
- Over 70 individual chapters on health issues
- 6 major topic areas
  - Infectious disease
  - Environmental hazards
  - Emergency response
  - Inspections
  - Enforcement
- Source: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/holu/manual.htm>

# Educate – Inspect - Enforce

## Contact Information

- Brian Lockard, Salem Health Officer
- 603-890-2050 or [blockard@salemnh.gov](mailto:blockard@salemnh.gov)
- Dennis Roseberry, Farmington Health Officer
- 603-755-2774 or [rosed@metrocast.net](mailto:rosed@metrocast.net)
- NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Public Health Protection, Health Officer Liaison Unit (HOLU)
- [www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/holu/index.htm](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/holu/index.htm)











# Sharing Ideas: *Shaping the Future*

2018 Annual Conference

Wednesday and Thursday, November 14 & 15, 2018

Manchester Downtown Hotel, Manchester, NH



# Check out NHMA's Publication

Member Price: \$45.00

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Part Two: Beyond Zoning: Remediating Other Violations

Chapter 1: Building and Fire Code

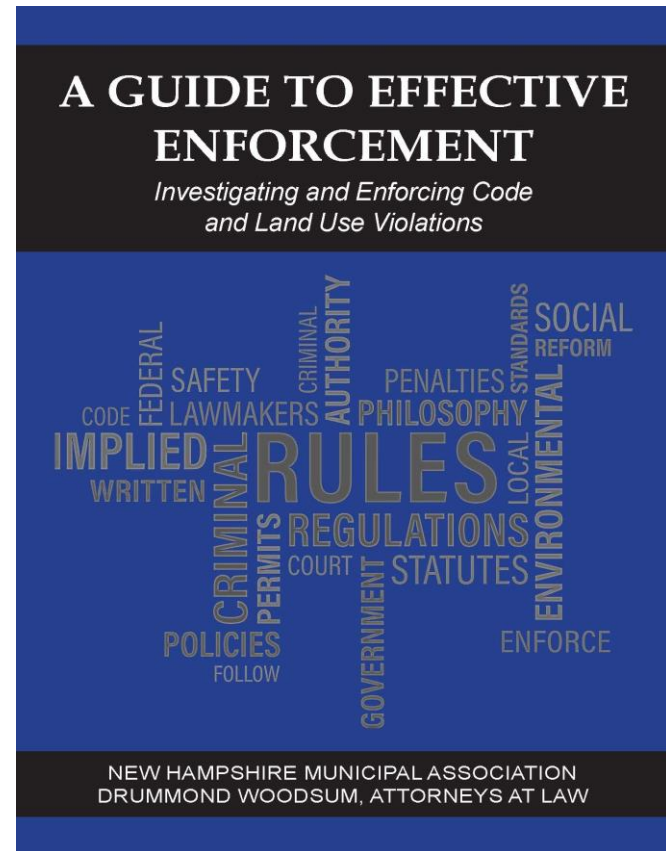
Chapter 2: Junkyards

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<http://www.nhmunicipal.org/shop/index.php/product/a-guide-to-effective-enforcement-investigating-and-enforcing-code-and-land-use-violations-2018/>



New Hampshire  
Health Officers Association



THANK  
YOU

*for attending  
our webinar  
presentation  
today!*

## Mission Statement

The New Hampshire Municipal Association is a non-profit, non-partisan association working to strengthen New Hampshire cities and towns and their ability to serve the public as a member-funded, member-governed and member-driven association since 1941. We serve as a resource for information, education and legal services. NHMA is a strong, clear voice advocating for New Hampshire municipal interests.

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