

Town of FALMOUTH HOARDING RESPONSE TEAM



The Response Team brings together several Falmouth Town Departments and agencies in a multi-disciplinary approach in order to:

- Provide a coordinated and collaborative response to community and/or resident concerns about hoarding that utilizes best practices
- Provide support in developing an individualized plan to address the hoarding problem
- Reduce potentially life threatening fire, safety and health situations for residents and/or first responders

SERVICES CAN BE ACCESSED VIA ANY HOARDING RESPONSE TEAM MEMBER*

Building/Inspectional Services Zoning Enforcement Officer:
508-495-7468

Fire Rescue Prevention Officer: 508-495-2533

Health Department Agent: 508-495-7485

Human Services Department Director: 508-548-0533

Senior Center Outreach Coordinator: 508-540-0196

***Other Town departments and partnering agencies as needed: Falmouth Police Department; VNA-Town Nurse; Natural Resources Officer; Elder Services of Cape Cod**

HOARDING ASSESSMENT:

People who hoard have difficulty discarding items (no matter their value), have problems with accumulation of clutter, and often have difficulty with excessive acquiring. Their living spaces become so cluttered that they can no longer be used for their intended purpose. As a result, residents face risks to their housing stability or their health from falls, lack of egress in emergencies and refuse.

HOARDING ASSESSMENT:

In order to ensure an accurate appraisal of a clutter problem, the Response Team utilizes best practices to assess health, safety and fire concerns. A brief assessment is made to determine the nature of the hoarding problem and to aid in developing a plan of action. The International OCD Foundation Clutter Image Rating scale is used as a visual measure utilizing a series of pictures of rooms in various stages of clutter (sample below)—from completely clutter free to very severely cluttered.



BURIED IN TREASURES SUPPORT GROUP is a self-help support group, which are regularly offered across Cape Cod including Falmouth. The Support Group is based on the book *Buried in Treasures: Help for Compulsive Acquiring, Saving and Hoarding* by

David F. Tolin, Randy O. Frost and

Gail Stekette. All who register will:

Receive support from others; Receive help

to develop strategies to declutter your

home; Work on ways to change problematic

acquiring and discarding behaviors. **Contact:**

Falmouth Human Services for more information

about this support group in Falmouth at 508-548-0533 or visit

Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force website for more resources at

www.hoardingcapecod.org

