



# TOWN of FALMOUTH

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## **Memo to LPSSA Electricians, Plumbers, Installers/Excavators**

- RE: (1) Remote Sentries Must Be Installed**
- (2) Scheduling Grinder Pump Start-Up Inspection by FR Mahony**
- (3) Winterization of Grinder Pump Units**
- (4) Checking Elevations for Gravity Installations**

### **(1) Electricians – Remote Sentry Must Be Installed**

A “Remote Sentry” is being provided by the Town with each grinder pump unit. The Remote Sentry *must* be installed at each grinder pump property, at an indoor location where the property owner can see and hear it. The Remote Sentry sounds an alarm (and a small red light lights up on it) when the “High Level” is reached in the pump unit. When this alarm goes off, there is about 23 gallons of storage remaining in the pump unit before the wastewater backs up into the building sewer line (see the pump unit detail sheet for pump unit off, on, alarm and inlet levels). The Remote Sentry will alarm even when the power is out (which the Pump Control Panel will NOT), because the Remote Sentry’s alarm is battery powered. The batteries in the Remote Sentry should be changed once a year, for example when the property’s smoke detector batteries are changed.

### **(2) Scheduling Grinder Pump Start-Up Inspection by FR Mahony**

Please contact FR Mahony at (508) 765-0051 as soon as possible after pump installation to request/schedule an installation inspection (they call it a “start up inspection”) by FR Mahony. It has come to our attention that some inspections have not been requested until

two weeks after the low pressure connection was completed. An excessive delay in scheduling FR Mahony's installation inspection could cause warranty issues.

### (3) Plumbers – Winterization of Grinder Pump Units

Please see attached guidance document regarding winterizing grinder pump units if properties will be unoccupied during the winter season.

### (4) Plumbers/Installers - For Gravity Installations - Check Elevation Difference vs. Pipe Run Length

Before beginning work on a gravity sewer connection installation (and most importantly before abandoning the septic system), *check that you have enough elevation difference between the sewer line(s) leaving the building and the lateral stub to make the connection with sufficient slope.*

Determine the invert elevation (the elevation of the inside bottom of pipe) of each sewer line where you will intercept it (if possible) and the invert elevation of the lateral stub at the property line. *It is recommended that you remove the clean out cap at the property line and measure the actual elevation of the lateral stub invert, rather than relying on the depth below ground surface listed on the tie card.* Divide the difference between those elevations by the length of the pipe run to calculate the slope. The target slope is 2% and the minimum slope is 1% for a 4" gravity sewer service pipe.

*A carpenter's level (with a bubble vial) is not a sufficiently accurate way of checking for a minimum 1% slope.* It is recommended that you use a laser level at each fitting to re-check vertical distance remaining (and compare to remaining horizontal distance) as the work progresses. If a low point is left at a clean-out for example, this will likely be a problem spot for the property owner in the future.