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FREEBORN &
MOWER COUNTIES,
MINNESOTA

FREE
Resident
Guide

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2-3	LOCAL AREA EVENTS
4-5	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
6	DODGE COUNTY HISTORY
7	FARIBAULT COUNTY HISTORY
8	FREEBORN COUNTY HISTORY
9	MOWER COUNTY HISTORY
14-15	PARKS & RECREATION
16-17	LOCAL AREA ATTRACTIONS
18-19	HUNTING SEASONS
20-21	DNR LICENSE CENTERS
22	FISHING SEASONS
30-31	AREA TRAILS

Scan the QR
Codes to go to
the individual
county pages.

Dodge County



Faribault County



Freeborn County



Mower County



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Get Active!!!

- Yard Work
- Gardening
- Walk the Dog
- Bike Ride
- Swimming
- ANYTHING!!!

Go Outside and Do SOMETHING!

Anything to get your heart rate up,
and your blood flowing...

YOU'LL FEEL BETTER and it's good for your health!

LOCAL AREA EVENTS

JANUARY

Gourmet Food Auction | Albert Lea
Winter Crazy Days | Albert Lea
Bridal Expo | Albert Lea
All Member Art Show | Albert Lea

FEBRUARY

The Big Freeze | Albert Lea
FarmToy & Truck Collectibles Show | Albert Lea
Big Island Historical Faire | Albert Lea
Fat Tuesday Party & Parade | Albert Lea
Spring Barrow Show | Albert Lea
"SuperHole" Ice Fishing Contest | Albert Lea
Paint the Town Pink | Brownsdale
Austin ArtWorks Gallery | Austin
Wine and Canvas | Austin

MARCH

March Madness Cattle Show | Albert Lea
Home Based Business Show | Albert Lea
KATE Home & Rec Show | Albert Lea
Spring Craft Fair | Albert Lea
Kids Fishing Expo | Albert Lea
BBQ Chicken Feed | Albert Lea
St. Patrick's Day Feast | Blue Earth
KBEW Better Living Show | Blue Earth
Firemen's Pancake Breakfast | Easton
Shamrock Open | Austin
Easter Egg Hunt | Mantorville
Mulligan Stew Dinner | Mantorville
ArtRocks Jam Session | Austin
4th Annual Austin Area Free Baseball Clinic | Austin

APRIL

Family Fun Festival | Albert Lea
Fountain Lake 5k Run & Tiger Trot | Albert Lea
Blue Grass Festival | Albert Lea
CityWide Garage Sales | Blue Earth
Community Easter Egg Hunt | Easton
Electrifying Minnesota | Austin
Taste of Nations Dinner | Austin
6th Annual Taste of Mower County | Austin
Douglas Wood Earth Day Celebration | Austin

MAY

100 Mile-Bike-A-Thon | Albert Lea
Old Car Company Cruise | Albert Lea
CityWide Clean Up | Blue Earth
I-90 Speedway Race | Blue Earth
Memorial Day Program | Bricelyn
Bella Music Fest | Geneva
Spring Fling | Mantorville
Farmer's & Artisan's Market | Mantorville
Art Guild Anniversary | Mantorville
Mini-Gaming Tournament | Austin
Used Book Sale | Austin

JUNE

Old Car Company Cruise | Albert Lea
Eddie Cochran Car Club Weekend | Albert Lea
April Sorenson Memorial Half Marathon | Albert Lea
Junior Regional Cattle Show | Albert Lea
Alden Morin Lake Days
I-90 Speedway Race | Blue Earth
Art in the Park | Blue Earth
Friendship Days | Easton
Freeborn Days
Freedom Run & Ride | Minnesota Lake
Mantorville Stagecoach Days | Mantorville
15th Annual Three Rivers Flea Market | Austin

JULY

Old Car Company Cruise | Albert Lea
Shinefest Tractor Ride | Albert Lea
I-90 Speedway Race | Blue Earth
Art in the Park | Blue Earth
Musical Children of Eden | Blue Earth
Giant Days Festival | Blue Earth
Faribault County Fair | Blue Earth
Children's Theater & Pie Social | Bricelyn
Plunder Fest | Geneva
Ermole Days | Elmore
Hayward Days | Hayward
CityWide Rummage Sales | Hayward
Festag | Minnesota Lake
Dodge County Fair | Kasson
3rd Annual Clean Water Festival | Austin
Freedom Fest | Austin

AUGUST

Old Car Company Cruise | Albert Lea
Freeborn County Fair | Albert Lea
Big Island Barbeque & Competition | Albert Lea
MN-IA Arabian Horse Show | Albert Lea
Cowboy Mounted Horse Shoot | Albert Lea
Shinefest | Albert Lea
I-90 Speedway Race | Blue Earth
Art in the Park | Blue Earth
Woodcarvers & Quilt Expo | Blue Earth
Crazy Quilt Days | Blue Earth
Firemen Dance & Pork Feed | Bricelyn
Borderfest | Emmons
Glenville Days
Kernel Days | Wells
Motofest | Winnebago
National Night Out
Veterans' Memorial Car Show | Austin
Austin ArtWorks Festival | Austin

SEPTEMBER

Old Car Company Cruise | Albert Lea
Autumn in the Village | Albert Lea
Fall Craft Show | Albert Lea
Harmony Junction Show | Albert Lea
Vintage Snowmobile Swap Meet | Albert Lea
CityWide Garage Sales | Blue Earth
Frostbite | Frost
Harvest Fest | Geneva
USC Community Picnic | Wells
Patriot Day | Wells
Farming of Yesteryear Threshing Festival | Wells
16th Annual Big Iron Truck Show | Mantorville
51st Annual Marigold Days | Mantorville
Zumbro Bend Rendezvous | Mantorville
70th Annual National Barrow Show | Austin
Lyle Fall Fest | Austin
MN Statewide High School Mountain Bike Race
Fall Harvest Celebration | Austin

OCTOBER

Big Island Rendezvous & Festival | Albert Lea
Mall-O-Ween | Albert Lea
Ride the Broom Down Broadway | Albert Lea
Boo Bash | Easton
Fall Festival | Mantorville
Dodge County Historical Society Wine Tasting | Mantorville
And That's My Story | Austin

NOVEMBER

Holiday Craft Fair | Albert Lea
Ice Fishing Expo | Albert Lea
Taste of Heritage Festival | Albert Lea
A Holiday Stroll | Albert Lea
Festival of Trees | Albert Lea
Holiday Sampler on the Town | Blue Earth
Green Giant Scarfing | Blue Earth
Old Fashioned Christmas | Mantorville
Merry Tuba Christmas | Austin

DECEMBER

A Christmas Gathering | Albert Lea
Live Drive-Through Nativity | Albert Lea
Christmas Tree Lighting | Albert Lea
Christmas in the City | Albert Lea
Toy & Model Railroad Show | Albert Lea
Dinner Theater Nuncrackers | Blue Earth
Pancake Day | Bricelyn
Santa Days | Easton
Driller MMA Fight | Austin

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

DODGE COUNTY

Administration.....	(507) 635-6239
Assessor	635-6245
Attorney	635-6275
Court Administration.....	635-6260
Emergency Management.....	635-6132
Environmental Services.....	635-6273
Fairview Care Center.....	374-2578
Finance.....	635-6240
Information Systems.....	635-6239
Minnesota Prairie County Alliance.....	923-2900
Public Health/Service Center.....	635-6150
Recorder/Abstractor.....	635-6250
Recycling Center/Transfer Station.....	634-7875
Sheriff's Office.....	635-6200
Soil & Water Conservation District.....	374-6430
Veteran Services.....	635-6140
Victim Services.....	635-6266

FARIBAULT COUNTY

Assessor.....	(507) 526-6201
Attorney	526-4564
Auditor	526-6211
Building & Grounds	526-6250
Central Services	526-6273
Court Administration	526-6273
Drivers License Bureau	526-6234
Extension Service	526-6240
Highway Department	526-3291
Human Services	526-3265
Planning & Zoning	526-2388
Probation Office	526-6281
Recorder	526-6252
Sheriff.....	526-5148
Soil & Water	526-2388
Transit	526-7433
Treasurer.....	526-6260
Veterans Services	526-6268

FREEBORN COUNTY

Assessor.....	(507) 377-5176
Attorney	377-5192
Auditor	377-5121
Building & Grounds	377-5188
Central Services	377-5116
Court Administration	377-5163
Drivers License Bureau	377-5299
Emergency	911
Extension Service	377-5660
Highway Department	377-5188
Human Services	377-5400
Planning & Zoning	377-5186
Probation Office	377-5137
Recorder	377-5130
Sheriff.....	377-5210
Soil & Water	373-5607
Transit	379-9869
Treasurer.....	377-5121
Veterans Services	377-5184

MOWER COUNTY

Assessor.....	(507) 437-9440
Attorneys.....	437-9428
Auditor/Treasurers.....	437-9456
Board of Commissioners.....	437-9549
Correctional Services.....	437-9454
Coroner's Office.....	434-2605
Court Administration.....	437-9465
Emergency Management.....	437-9483
Health & Human Services.....	437-9701
Human Resources.....	437-9549
Police Department.....	437-9400
Public Works.....	437-7718
Recorders Office.....	437-9446
Recycling & Household Haz Waste.....	437-9551
Sheriffs Office.....	437-9400
Veterans Services Office.....	434-2712



Dodge county is around 24 miles long and 18 miles wide, located in the Southeastern part of Minnesota. It is home to around 20,000 residents and its county seat is Mantorville. The Northern part of the state is rolling hills with loose soil, making it a good area for growing grain. The Southern part of the county is flat with wet lands making it good for raising cattle. Dodge county is one of the seven counties in southern Minnesota with no forest ecosystems. It has the oldest working court house in Minnesota, built out of locally quarried limestone in 1865. Originally the area was inhabited by American Indians and was a common area for hunting and battles between the Sioux, Sauk and Fox Indians. The first white person to the area is unknown. The original founders were mainly settlers from New England in the early 1800's. By 1857 the population was around 4000 people. Dodge County was named after Henry Dodge, the twice governor of Wisconsin.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE – pop. 1,996
CLAREMONT – pop. 548
DODGE CENTER – pop. 2,670
HAYFIELD – pop. 1,340

KASSON – pop. 5,931
MANTORVILLE (county seat) – pop. 1,197
WEST CONCORD – pop. 782
**Populations are approximate.*



Faribault County was established in 1855 and named in honor of fur trader Jean Baptiste Faribault. Early industry was led by agriculture as settlers arrived to farm the fertile soil and raise cattle. Blue Earth was selected as the county seat and communities were founded near railways and waterways. Schools, churches and businesses were established to meet the growing needs of its residents and by 1900 its population had reached 22,055. Today Faribault County is home to approximately 14,506 residents.



*F*reeborn County was established in 1855 and named in honor of territorial representative William Freeborn. Early industry was led by agriculture as pioneers arrived to farm the fertile soil and raise cattle. Albert Lea was selected as the county seat and communities were founded near railway stops, lakes and rivers. Businesses, churches and schools were established to meet the growing needs of its residents and by 1900 its population had reached 21,838 and the area continued to prosper. Today Freeborn County is home to approximately 31,002 residents.

*M*ower County was named after John Edward Mower who was a member of the Minnesota Territorial Legislature in the 1850s. The first house built was a log cabin in 1853 by Hunter Clarke. Around 1855 the population started booming and gained close to 500 residents that year. There was an abundance of stone for building through out the county making it easy for new settlers starting over in a new area. In 1856 Mower County had enough residents and was established a county. By 1859 the county had reached nearly 4,000 residents mainly consisting of Norwegians. The county has 708 square miles of mainly prairie land with many streams running through it. The current population is around 39,000 people and the county seat is Austin.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Summer Energy Saving Techniques

Conduct an energy assessment to find out where you can save the most. This will allow you to see where the biggest problem areas are.

Windows

- Close curtains during the day to block sunlight and open them at night.
- Plant trees, shrubs, or vines to help shade your home.
- Apply solar window film to windows.

Adjust Your Thermostat

- When you're home and awake, set your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature.
- When you're out of the house, turn your thermostat up. You can save 1-3 percent per degree, for each degree the thermostat is set above 72 degrees, depending on the outside temperature.
- You can set a programmable thermostat to keep the temperature where you want day and night.

Maintain Your Cooling Systems

- Schedule service for your cooling system.
- Do regular maintenance to keep your cooling system operating efficiently.

Fans and Vents

- Keep inside air vents clear from furniture and other objects.
- Run energy efficient ceiling and whole-house fans to circulate the air.
- Use the bathroom vent to remove the heat and humidity after showering.

Appliances and Electronics

- Try not to use the oven on hot days. Cook on the stove top, microwave, or grill outside.
- Keep your fridge and freezer full. The refrigerator will run less often.
- Air dry dishes in the dish washer.
- Wash laundry with cold water and air dry.
- Unplug electronics when not in use.

Lighting

- Use light emitting diodes "LED's". They use less energy and have a longer life span, plus they produce less heat than incandescent and CFL bulbs.

Winter Energy Saving Techniques

Windows

- Open curtains during the day to allow sunlight in and close them at night.
- Tape a clear plastic sheet or film to the window frames.
- Install insulating drapes or shades on windows.

Adjust Your Thermostat

- When you are home and awake, set your thermostat at the lowest comfortable temperature.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat down about 12 degrees for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating bills.
- You can set programmable thermostats to keep the temperature where you want day and night.

Air Leaks and Insulation

- Seal the air leaks on the inside and outside walls of your home. These can be holes for pipes and wires, gaps around chimneys, or unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.
- Check your attics insulation. Depending on what climate you live in there are different insulating products and thickness that work best for your area.

Maintain Your Heating Systems

- Schedule service for your heating system.
- Do regular maintenance to keep your heating system operating efficiently.
- Furnace - Replace your furnace filter once a month or as needed.
- Fireplace - Clean the flue vent regularly and the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically to ensure that your home is heated efficiently.

Lower Your Water Heating Costs

- On average 18% of the energy consumed in your home is from the water heater. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to a setting around (120°F). This will save energy and can help prevent burns.

Lighting

- Use light emitting diodes "LED's". They use less energy and have a longer life span.

ICE SAFETY GUIDELINES:



THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS 100% SAFE ICE!!!

Did you know?

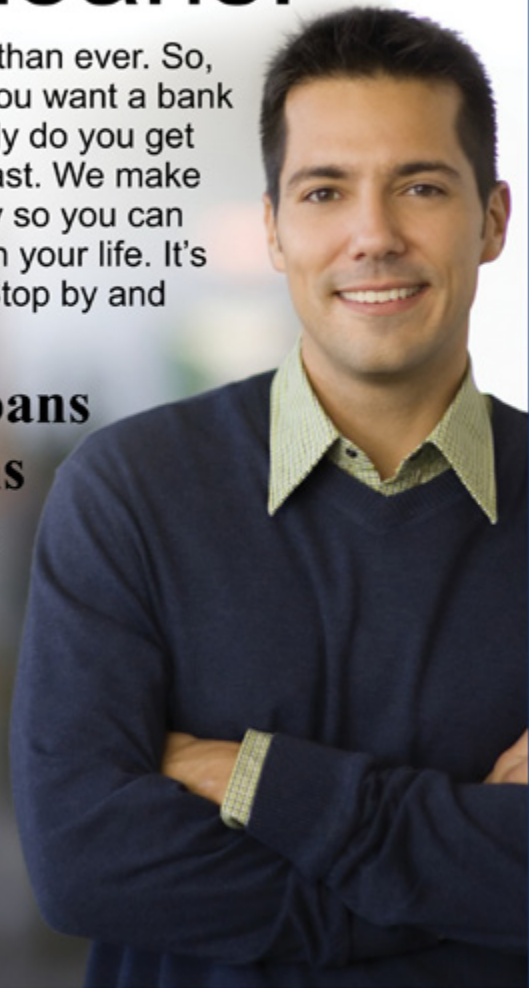
- Ice always forms unevenly. It can be 2 feet thick in one spot, and just a few inches thick a couple feet away.
- The most dangerous ice is formed over flowing water. It's especially dangerous near streams, culverts and bridges. Also, the faster the water is running, usually means the weaker the ice will be.
- Snow insulates the ice and slows the freezing process. The added weight of the snow reduces the strength of the ice. Also, ice that is closer to shore is usually weaker than ice farther out.
- Cracking and rumbling ice isn't always bad. The ice expands and contracts as the temperature rises and falls.
- Fish and birds/wildlife can also effect the ice. Schools of fish can bring warm water from the bottom of lakes, and open holes in seemingly thick ice.
- **ALWAYS BE CAUTIOUS WHEN YOU ARE ON ICE!**



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ARROWHEAD POINT COUNTY PARK

267th St. | Alden | (507) 377-5186
Arrowhead County Park features a boat launch, fishing opportunities, swimming beach and picnic areas.

FORESTVILLE/MYSTERY CAVE STATE PARK

21071 Co Hwy 118 | Preston | (507) 352-5111
Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park features an underground geological area, fishing & horse trails.

JOHN A. LATSCH STATE PARK

US-61 | Minnesota City | (507) 932-3008
John A. Latsch State Park features hiking and fishing.

LAKE LOUISE STATE PARK

12385 766th Ave | Le Roy | (507) 352-5111
Lake Louise State Park features paved trails for biking, running and walking, horseback trails, swimming, fishing and picnic areas.

MYRE BIG ISLAND STATE PARK

780th Ave. | Albert Lea | (507) 379-3403
Myer Big Island State Park features a campground, boat launch, fishing opportunities, recreational trails, picnic areas and rentals for canoes, kayaks, boats, life jackets and snowshoes.

PICKEREL LAKE COUNTY PARK

Hwy. 69 | Emmons | (507) 377-5186
Pickerel Lake County Park features a boat launch, fishing opportunities and picnic areas.

PIHL'S COUNTY PARK

570th Ave. | Wells | (507) 553-5864
Pihl's County Park features a campground, boat launch, fishing opportunities, playground equipment, horseshoe pits, disc golf course, mini-golf course and picnic areas.

PILOT KNOB STATE PARK

2148 340th St | Forest City | (641) 581-4835
Pilot Knob State Park features picnic areas, hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, fishing, ice skating and snowmobile trails.

RICE LAKE STATE PARK

Rose St | Owatonna | (507) 455-5871
Rice Lake State Park features camping, picnic areas, hiking, cross country skiing and snowmobile trails.

ST. NICHOLAS COUNTY PARK

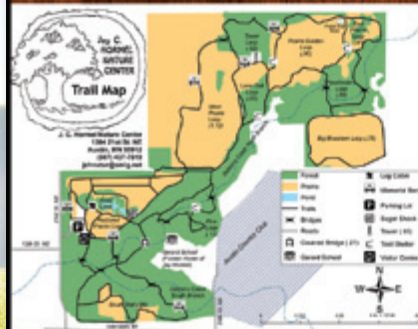
South Shore Dr. | Albert Lea | (507) 377-4320
Nicholas County Park features fishing opportunities and picnic areas.

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Digital rendering of the new Interpretive Center

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10:45 AM Spirited Traditional Worship
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AREA ATTRACTIONS

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ALBERT LEA ART CENTER

224 S Broadway Ave. | Albert Lea |
(507) 373-5655

ALBERT LEA CIVIC THEATER

147 N Broadway Ave. | Albert Lea |
(507) 377-4371

ALBERT LEA FAMILY YMCA

221W Main St. | Albert Lea | (507) 373-8228

ALBERT LEA CITY ARENA

701 Lake Chapeau Dr. | Albert Lea |
(507) 377-4374

ALBERT LEA FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

321 James Ave. | Albert Lea | (507) 373-3328

ANTIQUES OF THE MIDWEST MALL

218 SWashington Ave. | Albert Lea |
(507) 377-8212

CHATEAU RACEWAY

54219 266 St | Lansing | (507) 433-4578

DEER CREEK SPEEDWAY & CAMPGROUND

105 Main St S | Grand Meadow |
(507) 754-6107

ELMORE MUSEUM

108 S Henry St. | Elmore | (507) 943-3403

ETTA C. ROSS HISTORICAL MUSEUM & VILLAGE

324 E 6th St. | Blue Earth | (507) 526-5421

FILLMORE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

202 Co Rd 8 | Fountain | (507) 268-4449

FREEBORN COUNTY MUSEUM

1031 N Bridge Ave. | Albert Lea |
(507) 373-8003

GIANT MUSEUM

113 S Nicollet St. | Blue Earth |
(507) 526-2916

GREEN GIANT STATUE PARK

1126 Green Giant Ln | Blue Earth |
(507) 526-3001

GREIBROK FARMS

Oakland Township | (507) 433-4880

HISTORIC FORESTVILLE MUSEM

21899 Co Rd 118 | Preston | (507) 765-2785

INTERNATIONAL OWL CENTER

126 E Cedar St | Houston | (507) 896-6957

JAMES B. WAKEFIELD HISTORICAL MUSEUM

405 E 6th St. | Blue Earth | (507) 526-2916

JAY C HORMEL NATURE CENTER

1304 21st St NE | Austin | (507) 437-7519

JOLLY GREEN GIANT STATUE

1130 Giant Dr. | Blue Earth | (507) 526-2916

KIESTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 222 | Kiester | (507) 294-3249

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARK AND MUSEUM

3603 236th Ave | Decorah | (563) 735-5916

LITTLE RED BARN

1126 Green Giant Lane | Blue Earth |
(507) 526-3001

MINNE-SOY-TA NICE

120 E Main St. | Glenville | (507) 448-2752

MOWER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1303 6th Ave SW | Austin | (507) 437-6082

NIAGARA CAVE

29842 Co Rd 30 | Harmony | (507) 886-6606

PELICAN BREEZE II

531 Meadow Ln. | Albert Lea |
(507) 383-2630

ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH STONE HOME

60659 200th St. | Wells | (507) 553-5505

STORY LADY DOLL & TOY MUSEUM

131 N Broadway Ave. | Albert Lea |
(507) 377-1820

WILD INDIGO PRAIRIE SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA

580th Ave | Austin | (507) 831-2900

WINNEBAGO AREA MUSEUM

16 S Main St. | Winnebago | (507) 893-4660

WYKOFF BALSAM FIR SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA

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259-5800

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HUNTING SEASONS

For general information on firearm safety training call: 1 (888) 646-6367 or (651) 296-6157.

Contact the MN DNR for specific zone areas/dates:

Online: www.dnr.state.mn.us, Toll Free: 1 (888) 665-4236.

You can purchase hunting and fishing licenses by phone: 1 (888) 665-4236.

Small Game - Rabbits, Squirrels season 09/17/16 - 02/28/17	Youth Waterfowl Day-Tentative 09/10/16
Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Badger, Opossum (South) Hunting & Trapping 10/22/16 - 03/15/17	Waterfowl season opener-Tentative 09/24/16
Raccoon, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Badger, Opossum (North) Hunting & Trapping 10/15/16 - 03/15/17	Sandhill Crane season-NW zone-Tentative 09/10/16 - 10/16/16
Crow Hunting (3rd season) 09/01/16 - 10/31/16	Ruffed and Spruce Grouse, Hungarian Partridge season 09/17/16 - 01/01/17
Crow Hunting (4th season) 12/15/16 - 12/31/16	Sharptailed Grouse season 09/17/16 - 11/30/16
Fall Turkey season 10/01/16 - 10/30/16	Woodcock season 09/24/16 - 11/07/16
Bear Baiting start date 08/12/16	Prairie Chicken Hunt Lottery Deadline 08/19/16
Bear season 09/01/16 - 10/15/16	Prairie Chicken season 09/24/16 - 10/02/16
Statewide Wild Rice Harvesting 08/15/16 - 09/30/16	Take-a-Kid Hunting weekend 09/24/16 - 09/25/16
Snipe and Rail Hunting season 09/01/16 - 11/07/16	Antlerless Deer and Special Hunt Lottery Deadline 09/08/16
Mourning Dove season 09/01/16 - 11/09/16	Deer Hunt - Special Youth Deer season 10/20/16 - 10/23/16
Early Canada Goose season 09/03/16 - 09/22/16	Deer Hunt - Archery season 09/17/16 - 12/31/16
Pheasant season 10/15/16 - 01/01/17	Deer Hunt - Firearm season - 1A 11/05/16 - 11/20/16
	Deer Hunt - Firearm season - 2A and 3A 11/05/16 - 11/13/16

Deer Hunt - Firearm season - 3B
11/19/16 - 11/27/16

Deer Hunt - Muzzleloader season
11/26/16 - 12/11/16

Fisher and Pine Marten-north of I-94 and US Hwy
10 only
11/26/16 - 11/30/16

Bobcat - Hunting & Trapping-north of I-94 and US
Hwy 10 only
11/26/16 - 01/08/17

Furbearer Trapping - Beaver - north zone
10/29/16 - 05/15/17

Furbearer Trapping - Beaver - south zone
10/29/16 - 05/15/17

Furbearer Trapping - Mink and Muskrat - north
zone
10/29/16 - 02/28/17

Furbearer Trapping - Mink and Muskrat-south
zone
10/29/16 - 02/28/17

Furbearer Trapping - Otter - north zone
10/29/16 - 01/08/17

Furbearer Trapping - Otter - south zone
10/29/16 - 01/08/17

**At the time of publication not all of the 2016-2017
Minnesota Hunting Seasons were available.
Contact www.dnr.state.mn.us for more information*

Check out YOUR NEW County Web Page!!!

1. Go to: www.LincolnMarketing.us
2. Type in the county you wish to visit & BOOM!!! You have everything you need!

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- Maps • Resident Guides
- Residential Services
- Important Phone Numbers
- Hunting/Fishing Seasons & More

10 Tips for Green Thumb GARDENING

Don't like all the dirt in your fingernails while you work in the garden? Before you go out, run your fingernails across a bar of soap and you'll effectively seal the undersides of your nails so dirt cannot accumulate. Then, after you are all done gardening, use a toothpick or nailbrush to remove the soap and your nails will be sparkling clean.



Spray vegetable oil on your string trimmer to help prevent jamming or breaking (Treat before installing string in trimmer).



Make a convenient measuring tool out of a long handled garden tool by laying it on the ground next to a tape measure. Use a permanent marker to copy the inches and feet. Next time you are spacing plants you already have a dual-purpose measuring tool in your hand!

Write the names of your plants (with a permanent marker) on the flat parts of stones of any size and lay them in front of your plants for natural looking markers.



The next time you boil or steam vegetables, use the leftover water to water potted patio plants, and you'll be surprised at how the plants grow with "vege-soup."



You can use leftover tea and coffee grounds to help acidify the soil of acid-loving plants like azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, gardenias and blueberries. A light sprinkle of about 1/4 of an inch applied once a month will help keep the pH of the soil on the acidic side.



You can use chamomile tea to control damping-off fungus, which often attacks young seedlings quite suddenly. Just add some tea to the soil around the soil of seedlings once a week for healthy plant.



Here is a really quick way to dry out your herbs: Just lay a sheet of newspaper on the seat of your car, arrange the herbs in a single layer, then roll up the windows and shut the car doors. Your herbs will be dry in no time!



Use your blender to grind up egg shells. Just like a mother bird chews up worms for the baby birds making the food easier to digest, grinding eggshells makes it easy for your garden to absorb the calcium egg shells retain.



Animals (cats especially) seem to think all of the hard work you've put into your garden looks like a huge litter box. To keep them from pooping on your basil and other plants, strategically place a few plastic forks around your plants to deter them from destroying your fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables.



You can purchase hunting and fishing licenses, cross-country ski passes and snowmobile trail stickers through the Electronic License System. Online www.dnr.state.mn.us, Toll Free: 1 (888) 646-6367
Or visit one of the ELS agents available throughout the area:

DODGE COUNTY

DODGE CENTER

D C HARDWARE HANK
14 3RD AVE SW
DODGE CENTER, MN 55927
(507) 374-6344

KASSON

KASSON HARDWARE HANK
11 4TH ST SE
KASSON, MN 55944
(507) 634-2771

KASSON LIC BUR DEPUTY REGISTRAR #95
13 W MAIN ST
KASSON, MN 55944
(507) 634-2061

MANTORVILLE

CASEY'S GENERAL STORE #2831
320 N MAIN ST
MANTORVILLE, MN 55955
(507) 635-5626

FARIBAULT COUNTY

BLUE EARTH

WAL-MART #983
1210 GIANT DR
BLUE EARTH, MN 56013
(507) 526-4766

BREEN'S TRUE VALUE

115 S MAIN ST
BLUE EARTH, MN 56013
(507) 526-2876

WELLS

WELLS TRUE VALUE
33 S BROADWAY
WELLS, MN 56097
(507) 553-3713

GOEMANN'S STATION

10998 STATE HWY 22
WELLS, MN 56097
(507) 294-3118

WINNEBAGO

ROERIG HARDWARE & APPLIANCE
4 MAIN ST N
WINNEBAGO, MN 56098
(507) 893-4113

Freeborn County

ALBERT LEA

WAL-MART SUPERCENTER #1020
1550 BLAKE AVE
ALBERT LEA, MN 56007
(507) 377-2998

STOP & GO FOODMART
701 S BROADWAY AVE
ALBERT LEA, MN 56007
(507) 377-1481

HYVEE FOOD STORE #1019
2708 N BRIDGE AVE
ALBERT LEA, MN 56007
(507) 377-2257

HART BROTHERS WEAPONRY
18322 US HWY 69
ALBERT LEA, MN 56007
(507) 377-0201

CLARKS GROVE

GOPHER STOP SOUTH
498 MAIN ST E
CLARKS GROVE, MN 56016
(507) 256-4444

Mower County

ADAMS

ADAMS BUILDERS SUPPLY
205 COMMERECE ST SW
ADAMS, MN 55909
(507) 582-3210

AUSTIN

ANKENY'S MINI MART #5
1400 14TH ST NW
AUSTIN, MN 55912
(507) 433-5510

RUNNINGS #32
1400 18TH AVE NW
AUSTIN, MN 55912
(507) 433-7434

WALMART SUPERCENTER #4257
1000 18TH AVE NE
AUSTIN, MN 55912
(507) 434-8159

ACE HARDWARE
1417 1ST AVE SW
AUSTIN, MN 55912
(507) 437-8261

GRAND MEADOW

HINDT HARDWARE HANK
112 S MAIN ST
GRAND MEADOW, MN 55936
(507) 754-5066

LEROY

LEROY CLASSIC STOP
230 W MAIN
LEROY, MN 55951
(507) 324-5402

FISHING SEASONS

Species	Season	Possession Limit
Walleye and Sauger	5/14/16 - 2/26/17	6 combined, not more than one walleye over 20"
Northern Pike	5/14/16 - 2/26/17	3, not more than one over 30"
Muskellunge	6/4/16 - 12/1/16	1, minimum size 54"
Northeast zone, north and east of US Hwy 53 from Duluth to International Falls and Pelican and Ash lakes in St. Louis County.		
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	5/14/16 - 2/26/17	6 combined
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	5/14/16 - 5/27/16	Catch-and-release only
Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass	5/28/16 - 9/11/16	6 combined
Largemouth Bass	9/12/16 - 2/26/17	6
Smallmouth Bass	9/12/16 - 2/26/17	Catch-and-release only
Crappie	Continuous	10
Sunfish	Continuous	20
Rock Bass	Continuous	30
White Bass	Continuous	30
Channel Catfish	Continuous	5 in combination with Flathead Catfish, only 1 fish over 24"
Flathead Catfish	4/1/16 - 11/30/16	2, only 1 fish over 24" in combination with Channel Catfish
Perch	Continuous	20 daily and 40 in possession
Bullhead	Continuous	100
Whitefish and Under-Utilized Fish	Continuous	No limit
Smelt	Continuous	No limit
Including Lake Superior and St. Louis River		
Lake and Shovelnose Sturgeon	3/1/16 - 4/14/16	Catch-and-release only, no tag needed
Including Lake Superior and St. Louis River		
Lake and Shovelnose Sturgeon	6/16/16 - 4/14/17	Catch-and-release only, no tag needed
Paddlefish	No open season	

*Contact the MN DNR for specific zone information by calling:
1 (888) 646-6367 or go to www.dnr.state.mn.us



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The winter can be tough for everyone. During these months you find yourself dealing with cold temperatures, ice, and snow. Here are a few ways to make your winter safer and more enjoyable.

Prevent slips and falls on ice.

- Wear cleats on your boots or shoes while outdoors.
- Take your boots or shoes off when indoors. They may have snow or ice on the bottom making them slick on smooth surfaces.
- Salt and sand driveway and sidewalks or have someone do it for you.
- Step down when getting out of a car or off a curb instead of stepping out.

Keeping warm

Before going outside in the wintertime you need to prepare yourself to prevent things like hypothermia or frostbite. Warning signs of hypothermia include, lots of shivering, cold skin that is pale or ashy, feeling very tired, confused and sleepy, feeling weak, problems walking, slowed breathing or heart rate. Warning signs of frostbite include, skin that's white or ashy (for darker skin) or grayish-yellow (for lighter skin), skin that feels hard or waxy, and numbness. Dress in Layers when going outside. For the best results, wear polypropylene or another man-made fabric next to the skin, a knit middle layer, and a man-made outer layer. Never stay in the cold if you have wet or damp clothing, it cools the body more quickly. Depending on the temperature or wind chill you may want to cover all exposed skin to reduce the risk of hypothermia or frostbite.

Carbon monoxide poisoning and fires

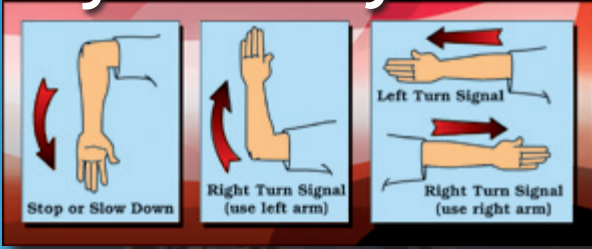
During the winter months the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning and fires is much greater due to the different heating methods used to stay warm. While trying to stay warm we are heating our houses with fire places, furnaces, electric heaters, and boilers. When one of these heating methods fail or stop working properly there are potential safety hazards.

- Make sure carbon monoxide detector and fire alarms are working properly.
- Have fireplace and chimney cleaned or furnace and boiler inspected.
- Make sure electric heaters are working properly and not too close to anything flammable.
- Keep a fire extinguisher easily accessible in the areas of your home that have a potential fire hazard.
- Never try heating your home with things that are not made for it like, a stove, oven, or grill.

Winter Driving

- Don't drive in bad weather unless you have to.
- Never use cruise control on snowy, icy, or wet surfaces.
- Increase your following distance.
- Have a phone on you and let someone know your plans.
- Check your car or get it inspected to make sure things like the tires, antifreeze, window wipers, window washer fluid, oil, battery, and other components are up to date and working properly.
- Stock your car with emergency supplies like a first aid kit, extra warm clothes or blankets, jumper cables, shovel, window scraper, a warning device like a flare or caution lights and a material like kitty litter or sand in case you get stuck on ice.
- Keep your gas tank close to full in case you end up stuck or stranded and to prevent gas line freeze.
- Clear off the entire car for increased visibility.
- Never warm up your vehicle in an enclosed area like a garage.

Bicycle Hand Signals



Snowmobile Hand Signals

Communication is an essential part of safe riding. Hand signals are a practical way to communicate between other riders and traffic. Be sure to give easy to see and clear hand signals when snowmobiling. Hand signals should never be subtle, but always deliberate.



Read the owner's manual

- and know your vehicle thoroughly.
- Check your vehicle before you ride.
- Wear protective equipment and clothing.
- Don't lend your vehicle to unskilled riders.
- Supervise young or inexperienced riders.
- Never carry a passenger on vehicles meant for one rider.
- Do not operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Drive at speeds that are appropriate to trail conditions.
- Stay to the right on trails.
- Stay away from thin ice, open water and wetlands
- Know the weather forecast.
- Make sure headlights and taillights work properly.
- Maintain safe distances between other riders.
- Reduce your speed when riding at night.
- Yield to other motor vehicles and trail users.
- Young or beginning riders are encouraged to take a safety

Know Your ATV





Drink lots of Water!

- Always wear a properly fitting bike helmet as most serious injuries are to the head.
- Be sure your handlebars, seat and wheels fit snugly.
- Keep your bike in good shape by checking and oiling your chain, making sure your brakes work properly and maintaining your tire pressure.
- Always ride with both hands on the handlebars except when doing turn signals.
- When leaving a driveway, curb or alleyway always stop and check for traffic in both directions.
- Cross only at intersections.
- Use the crosswalk to walk your bike across busy intersections and follow the traffic signals.
- Never ride against traffic. Travel in the same direction as the cars.
- Whenever you can, use bike routes and avoid busy streets.
- Don't ride near parked cars as doors can open and cause accidents.
- Obey all traffic signs and traffic lights.
- When biking with friends, ride in a single file.
- Always pass other bikers or pedestrians on the left and say "On your left!" to make your presence known.
- Always use bicycle hand signals to alert traffic of your changing direction.

Be Cautious of Other Bikers

PRIVATE PROPERTY
NO TRESPASSING

Please respect private property and no trespassing signs. Stay on trails. Exercise extreme caution on all lakes and streams. Obey all state and local laws and ordinances. Do not operate snowmobiles/ATV's on county roads or state highways.

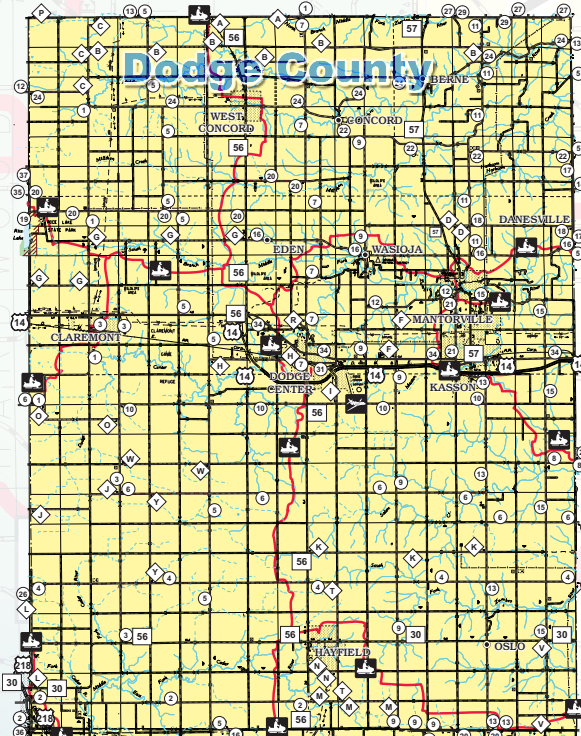








- Do not consume alcohol or take drugs prior to or during your snowmobile trip. Doing so increases your chances of injury or death.
- Slow down and don't cut to the inside of the trail corners. It's dangerous and illegal.
- If you snowmobile at night, don't override your lights.
- Always use the buddy system. Never ride off alone.
- Drowning is one of the causes of many snowmobile fatalities. Whenever possible, avoid the ice.
- Wear sensible, protective clothing designed for operating a snowmobile.
- Use a full size helmet, goggles, or visor to prevent injuries from twigs, stones, ice chips and other debris.
- Avoid wearing long scarves. They may get caught in moving parts of the snowmobile.
- Know the terrain you are going to ride. If unfamiliar to you, ask someone who has traveled over it before.
- Know the weather forecast, especially the ice and snow conditions.
- Be sure your snowmobile is in top-notch mechanical condition throughout the months of use.
- Familiarize yourself with the snowmobile you are driving. Thoroughly read the manual that accompanies the snowmobile.
- Do not pursue domestic or wild animals. That is not the conduct of a sportsman. Report such violations to the nearest law enforcement officer.

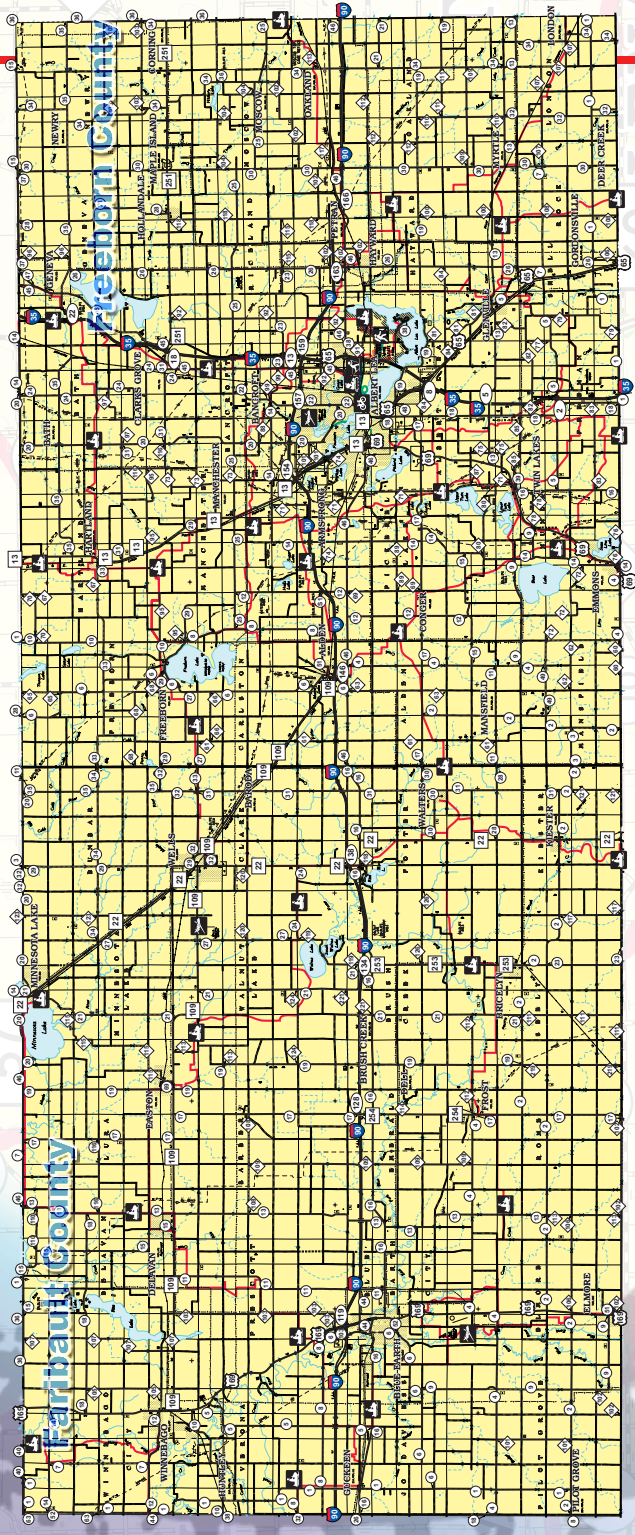
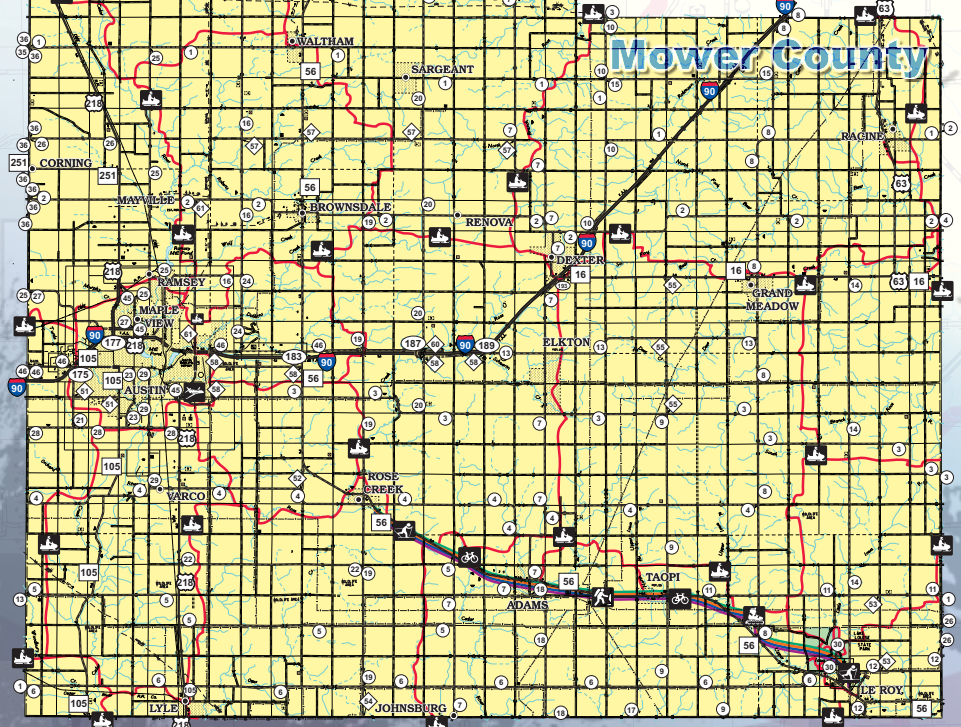
Slow Down!

Snowmobiling is fun. Going to the hospital isn't.

LOCAL AREA TRAILS



-  Snowmobile Trail
-  Bicycle Trail/Route
-  Equestrian Trail
-  Hiking/Walking Trail
-  Cross-Country Ski Trail
-  Airport Locator



-  Snowmobile Trail
-  Bicycle Trail/Route
-  Equestrian Trail
-  Hiking/Walking Trail
-  Cross-Country Ski Trail
-  Airport Locator

PARENTS:

- Teach your kids that an emergency is when you need help from a doctor, a police officer or a firefighter.
- Designate a safe place by your house that a child can go to if they need help right away.
- Have your kids memorize your address and phone numbers. They should also know your full name and where you work.

KIDS:

FIRE SAFETY

- If you or someone else is on fire - remember to STOP, DROP and ROLL. Wrap a blanket on the person to help put out the fire.
- If there is a fire, leave the house as fast as you can! Crawl on the floor to avoid smoke and if the door is hot, don't open it - find another way out.
- Learn all the fire exits in your house. Assign a safe place outside for everyone to meet in case of a fire emergency.

HOME ALONE

- Never tell anyone that you are home alone.
- If someone calls and asks for your mom and dad, tell them "They cannot come to the phone right now, can you please call back later?"
- Do not answer the door, unless it is someone that you know your parents have okay'd them to come over.



FIRST AID FOR INSECT BITES/ANAPHYLAXIS & POISON SAFETY

INSECT BITES/ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction from insect bites (latex, food and drug allergies can also cause Anaphylaxis). Typical symptoms include hives, the swelling of lips or eyes, swollen throat, drop in blood pressure, light headedness, confusion, nausea or diarrhea. If someone is having an allergic reaction from an insect bite seek medical attention immediately.

POISON PREVENTION

Teach your children about poison and how it can look like a food or drink. They should always ask an adult before eating or drinking anything. Have them learn the poison control phone number: 1-800-222-1222 and keep it programmed or posted near all your phones. Here are some prevention tips.

Lock up your poisons and medications. Keep them out of the reach of children, lock them up if possible. Make sure your children understand that medicine is not candy.

Follow directions carefully. Read your labels. Be sure to use and store all poisons and medications properly according to recommendations.

Keep your pets safe from household chemicals, too. Don't allow pets near areas that have just been cleaned with chemicals, such as freshly mopped floors or bleached bathtubs and sinks. Clean up any antifreeze/coolant spills. Pets like the flavor but they can die if they ingest it. Store poisonous foods or plants in areas that your pets cannot access. Call your local emergency veterinary hospital if you believe your pet has been poisoned.



FIRST AID FOR BURNS & CHOKING

BURNS

For minor 1st and 2nd degree burns smaller than 3" in diameter: Cool the Burn. Run cool water over the burned area for 5 minutes, or until the pain diminishes. Never put ice on a burn!

Bandage the burn with sterile gauze:

It is important to use loosely wrapped gauze. This will avoid pressure and the bandage protects blisters. NEVER put lotions, vaseline, ointments or butter on burn. Do not break any blisters, which can cause infection.

Take Aspirin, Ibuprofen, Naproxen or Acetaminophen to relieve pain:

Minor burns usually heal with these basic treatments. Be aware for signs of infection which may include: increased pain, redness, fever, swelling or oozing. If symptoms develop, seek medical help. Avoid tanning the burned area for at least a year. Protect the area with sun-screen outdoors. Avoid giving aspirin to children.

For 3rd degree burns/all major burns - DIAL 911

DO NOT run cold water over large severe burns - this can cause shock.

DO NOT remove burnt clothing.

Check for signs of breathing/coughing/movement.

If there are no signs of breathing begin CPR.

Elevate burned areas above heart level, if possible.

Cover the burn(s) with cool, sterile, moist bandages, towels or cloth.

CHOKING

Most people clutch at their throats when choking, an obvious symbol for help. However, if a person isn't giving that signal, be alert for these indications. Inability to talk, difficulty breathing or noisy breathing, inability to cough forcefully, skin/lips/nails turning blue, loss of consciousness.

The Red Cross recommends a "five-and-five" method for first aid: First give five blows between the person's shoulders with the heel of your hand. Second, perform the Heimlich maneuver (abdominal thrusts) five times. Alternate between five back blows and five abdominal thrusts until the blockage is dislodged.



IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911

Shop • Dine • Play • Stay



LOCALLY

...and support
the community
you live in!

you live in!
the community
you live in!