

Bustins Island

Frequently Asked Questions and Important (Basic) Safety Information

Visit www.bivc.net for more detailed information in our *Owner's and Renter's Guide*.

Emergency Protocol Basics

1. You or another person on the scene must immediately call 911 to get Freeport First Responders on their way. Identify the nature of the emergency (Police/Fire/Medical) and that you are calling from Bustins Island Freeport. The caller should stay on the line with dispatch to relay information between dispatch and those at the scene.
2. The Island Truck (207-233-8368) must be alerted to meet the First Responders at the PUBLIC FLOAT and deliver them and their equipment to the correct location. If the truck is unavailable, someone must go to the public float to meet the First Responders. This is also the time to make sure enough neighbors are aware of the situation and can be directed to help.
3. There is a First Aid room under the Historical Society which has an AED, First Aid kits, Narcan nasal spray (Opioid overdose), stretchers, and oxygen tanks. The First Aid room has basic supplies—be sure you, your guests and/or renters bring their own medical supplies and prescriptions (including epi-pens). The Fire Barn has several vehicles including a user-friendly ATV (for emergency use only).
4. Every emergency is different. Time of day, weather conditions, on-island personnel, availability of private boats will vary. *With advice from the 911 dispatcher, you will have to make some judgement calls. Make them. You will be protected by Good Samaritan laws.*

Who do I call in an emergency?

Call 911--be sure to say you are calling from **Bustins Island FREEPORT**
Be sure the location/GPS setting on your cell phone is turned on.

Island Emergency Contacts 2022

Superintendent	Crawford Taisey 207-522-7850
Truck Driver/ERC	Matthew Rowe 207-233-8368
Lilly B. Phone	Captain/Crew 207-751-2283
First Aid Coordinator	Dr. John Abramson 978-314-5409

Have on-hand for emergencies:

Good flashlight with fresh batteries—not just a phone light
Headlamp—with fresh batteries
Disposable gloves for medical emergencies
Face masks—good for protection from smoke and illness
Bottled water—for those fighting fire

Uncontrolled fire is our enemy

There is no paid/formally trained fire department on Bustins; volunteers take great care of our equipment and work hard to share safety knowledge. All Islanders are counted on to practice fire prevention. To prevent fires on Bustins:

- Have your chimney cleaned and, if recommended, lined. At the beginning of the summer, check for animals and nests before using your fireplace or wood stove.
- Do not leave a fireplace or wood stove, gas lights, oil lamps, or candles burning unattended.
- Open fires, including fire pits and the burning of brush and leaves, are NOT permitted.
- Have enough smoke/carbon monoxide alarms in your cottage—one for each floor. Install fresh batteries at the start of each season or replace per manufacturer’s recommendation.
- Know where your fire extinguishers are located. Be certain they are in good working order. The dial should be on green. It’s wise to turn fire extinguishers over and back a few times after standing all winter. Review usage instructions with your entire household. Replace as recommended by manufacturer.
- Know locations of fire extinguishers and hand pumps outside your cottage and around the island.
- Attach outside hoses when you arrive. For those with pressurized water systems, outside hoses can be a first line of defense.
- Gas refrigerator systems should be cleaned regularly—especially older machines.
- Know your cottage number for identification purposes. Make sure that the number is posted on your cottage where it can easily be seen from the road.
- For two-story cottages, keep an emergency escape ladder on the second floor near an accessible window.
- Keep vegetation around your cottage well-trimmed (following state guidelines).

Fire alarms are located:

- Community House
- Fire Barn
- Ryan Cottage (A26)
- Silver/Johnson Cottage (CA1)
- Hunziker Cottage (E27)
- Ewing/DeBruyn Cottage (C9)

- Store Porch

Water Pump Stations are located:

- Leland Dock
- Ewing/DeBruyn Ice Pond
- Zook’s (old LaFleur) Well
- Leland Ice Pond

What do I do with my trash & returnables?

Visit www.bivc.net for the most current trash policies.

As always, we seek the cooperation of all island residents, guests, and renters. Our goal is to keep a clean and safe environment for all to enjoy.

Household trash is picked up weekly on every Sunday (Monday on holiday weekends) that the *Lilly B.* is running. **Absolutely no liquids, chemicals, or hazardous materials are to be disposed of in weekly trash bags**

- **PLEASE use only heavy-duty black bags.** No more than 25 pounds of trash per bag.
- Have your bagged trash outside next to the road by 1:00 pm on pickup days. **TWO BAG LIMIT per week per cottage.**
- There will be a \$10 per bag charge for each bag over the two-bag limit per cottage.
- **PLEASE ONLY PUT OUT TRASH THE DAY OF PICK UP.** If you need to make other arrangements, contact the truck driver/trash disposal coordinator 207-233-8368.
- A fee of \$15 will be charged for an off-day pick up. Any bag over the two-bag limit will be charged the regular \$10 per bag fee.
- If prior arrangements are not made, and trash is left out on any day other than Sunday, trash will be picked up regardless to prevent animals from getting into the trash and creating a larger problem for island residents. As a result, the cottage owner will be charged an additional \$25 for this service in addition to the standard \$15 rate and \$10/bag over the two-bag limit.
- The Island will provide CLYNK bags to remove returnable bottles and cans. Please note that these bags are not for recyclable waste. Only bottles and cans with a ME return deposit label go in the CLYNK bags. Please empty any unused liquids before bagging. These bags will be picked up along with the normal trash but are NOT considered part of the two-bag per week limit.
- The island truck driver/volunteers pick up the bags and transfers them to large rolling trash cans, which are then put on a special trash-only run of the *Lilly B.* on Tuesday mornings, rolled off on the mainland, and the contents are transferred to a private trash hauler. The trash cans are returned to the island for the next pickup. CLYNK bags are transported by the Island Trash Coordinator to the CLYNK station in Yarmouth.
- Currently Bustins does not have an effective way to handle recyclable waste. Islanders (owner/family/guests/renters) are encouraged to bring their recyclables off island. Disposal bins for recyclables are available at the following locations in Freeport:
 - West Street Fire Barn (West Street, behind police station)
 - Hunter Road (in front of Public Works Garage)
 - Transfer Station/Recycling Center (100 Hedgehog Mtn. Road)

Reduce your trash volume by doing the following:

- Remove large packaging and styrofoam from items if possible before you bring items to the island, and/or plan to remove these items from the island yourself.
- Compost garbage in a composting bin. Use a container that is animal-proof.
- Flatten or nest tin cans. Compact everything else as much as you can. Keeping volume down is extremely important.
- Separate ME returnable cans and bottles from trash, empty any remaining liquid, put them in CLYNK bags, and place by the roadside along with your trash.

- Do not put bagged yard waste out as trash, it will be rejected.
- Any household goods left on the roadside in front of your cottage are “up for grabs.” If items are not taken after several days, you must discard them by other methods. Be sure to mark the items as free.

Large Trash Pick-up

- The Island has periodic Large Trash Pick-up (typically every 3-5 years). The special collection allows for the removal of furniture and other large items that would otherwise be difficult to remove from the Island.
- **There may be fees on certain items.**
- Hazardous chemicals and waste are not collected by the Island; owners must make their own arrangements for proper and lawful disposal.

Island Truck, Lilly B & Public Float:

Island Truck: 207-233-8368

The island truck is operated by a Board-appointed driver whose primary role is to meet the island ferry’s scheduled trips and specials—generally between the hours of 8 am–8 pm. The purpose is to transport islanders’ luggage between the Public Dock and their cottages or vice versa. The truck may also be used as a ‘taxi’ service for islanders who need assistance getting to their cottage or to attend events/visit neighbors but need assistance due to limited mobility/health issues. **All truck services are available for a fee and are to be paid at time of service.**

Ferry: *Lilly B.* 207-751-2283

The *Lilly B.* carries 45 passengers and two crew, and operates on a fixed schedule from the weekend before Memorial Day to Columbus Day. Boat fares and schedule can be found on the boat, at the Store, and at www.bivc.net

Islanders can also arrange “specials”—additional runs between regularly scheduled runs or at other times—for a fee with the Managing Captain.

The Lilly B runs a tight schedule and will depart on time.

It is imperative that the Lilly B stays on schedule. All passengers must arrive punctually for their planned trip. **No exceptions.** We recommend arriving at least 15 minutes ahead of your planned departure to allow time to park and load your gear onto the Lilly B.

Lilly B reservation information:

- <http://bivc.net> Click on “Ferry Reservations”.
- Reservations can be made 15 minutes prior to the scheduled run.
- Cancellations must be 60 minutes prior to the scheduled run for refund.
- Round trip is same day only.
- Walk-up fares can be paid on the ferry.
- NO CASH--All sales with credit card. Pay online or on the ferry for passengers, pets and freight
- Dogs must be on a leash.

The use of the Bustins Island Public Float is restricted to the Bustins Island ferry and to the residents of Bustins Island and their invited guests.

The intended use of the Bustins Island float is solely for the loading and unloading of vessels, and for the mooring of private skiffs. No skiff or gear shall be stored on the float for more than one tide. Tie-ups at the float shall be limited as follows:

- Face: restricted for use of the Bustins Island Ferry and for the loading and unloading of passengers and freight by other vessels. ***Do not leave your boat tied at the front of the public dock.***
- Rear: for the tie-up of dinghys or skiffs under twelve (12) feet.
- Sides: for the overflow tie-up of skiffs under twelve (12) feet. For the temporary tie-up of vessels over twelve (12) feet, limited to forty-five (45) minutes.
- Public float does not mean public access to any dingy or skiff except in emergencies.

Use of the float by non-residents is allowed only with permission of the Harbormaster and/or the Island Superintendent. Public float usage from BIVC By Laws:

<http://bivc.net/docs/Bylaws/By-Laws%202017-08-05.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Bustins Island Village Corporation (BIVC)?

Every property owner is a member of the Bustins Island Village Corporation (BIVC). It is the governmental organization incorporated by the state of Maine in 1913 to run Bustins Island, and the BIVC gradually assumed ownership of and responsibility for island buildings and public property previously owned by the Cottagers' Association of Bustins Island (C.A.B.I.). Bustins Island is a self-governed entity that is part of the Town of Freeport and is funded by a portion of property taxes paid by Bustins property owners to Freeport. BIVC By-Laws and more can be found at www.bivc.net

What is the Cottagers' Association of Bustins Island (C.A.B.I.)?

The Cottagers' Association of Bustins Island (C.A.B.I.) was formed in 1905 to help coordinate fun family-oriented events and certain island services. Check the store porch for activities.

The tennis courts, golf course, children and young adult libraries are also part of the C.A.B.I. and are for all islanders to use and enjoy. The C.A.B.I. Annual Meeting occurs in July. The C.A.B.I. is funded by donations. It maintains a web page at www.cabustinsisland.wordpress.com contact: cabibustins@gmail.com.

Are there ‘quiet hours?’

- The use of power equipment before 8:00 am is discouraged. Please be courteous/respectful of your neighbors at both ends of the day.

Public Drinking and Smoking?

- *No drinking or open alcoholic containers* are allowed on Bustins public roads or paths per ME state law, or public buildings unless permitted by the BIVC. For safety reasons, there should be *no smoking on public ways or in wooded areas* of the island.

What do people do for fun on Bustins?

- Bustins is a great place to relax, read a book, watch a sunset/sunrise
- Walk around the island--it’s about 1.5 miles, discovering paths, beach combing
- There is a great tidal pool facing Little Bustins
- Tennis or golf
- Visit the Historical Society, Library or Nature Center
- Bikes are a way to get around--please maintain safe speeds; yield to walkers and to island vehicles on the road way. Please keep bikes off docks, public porches, and paths. For more details: <http://bivc.net/docs/Other/S%20-%20Bicycle%20Safety.pdf>
- People gather for games indoors and out
- Swimming
- Boating/kayaking for those that have them--please wear a lifejacket/PFD (required for each person in a vessel by ME state law, youths 10 and under are required to wear a lifejacket by ME state law)
- Fishing
- The C.A.B.I. sponsors many activities throughout the summer. Visit the store porch for the most up to date calendar & information; also visit the CABI website <https://cabustinsisland.wordpress.com>
- The Store Porch and the swings (Richardson Park) are popular places to socialize and find out what is happening

Is the well water safe to drink?

Yes. BIVC-owned wells are tested and information is posted on the island and also on www.bivc.net

- Many islanders have wells on their property, but there are several BIVC-owned wells located throughout the island.
- BIVC-owned wells are tested for bacteria and contaminants several times during the summer by the Water Commissioner, and a report is posted at the Store. To conform to state regulations, these wells can only be used on certain days. The well schedule is posted on www.bivc.net, at the Store and at the wells themselves. The Brewer well is only available when the others are not.

BIVC-owned wells are located:

- Next to the Store
- Across from the Ewing/DeBruyn Ice House/Old Ice Pond
- At the Community House
- At the Brewer Cottage

Where can I swim?

- Public dock (do not swim if the ferry or other boats are using the dock), Steamer dock (current can be strong at times) Pidges Cove (near the store), Nubble Beach. Most docks are private—but the shore is public.
- There is a rope swing for use at high tide. **The rope swing is neither sanctioned nor maintained by the BIVC or CABI; it can be dangerous. Use at your own risk and only at high tide. Please do not use alone.** Use only the nearby right-of-way for access to the shore and avoid crossing over private property.

Does my dog have to be on a leash?

- All Bustins property owners and dog owners should review the full Dogs Control Policy online at: <http://bivc.net/docs/Policies/102%20Dogs%20Control%20Policy%20v1.4.pdf>
- Property owners are responsible for the behavior of their own dogs, as well as their guests' and renters' dogs. Owners must be in control of their dogs at all times. This means that a dog must either be on a leash or in the immediate presence of a responsible person who can fully control the dog's conduct.
- **Dogs must be on a leash while on the *Lilly B.* and on public docks, floats, and runways.** *Owners are expected to pick up and dispose properly of feces left by their dogs on public property and on private property other than their own.* *
- Dogs that disturb the peace and safety of the island must be restrained. Any dog that bites a person must be immediately removed from the island.

Where are the public outhouses?

There are four public outhouses on Bustins. maintained by the BIVC and Superintendent, they are located:

- near the Store/Swings
- near the Brewer Cottage
- the Golf Course
- near the Community House.

Please leave outhouses as clean as you find them.

***ONLY toilet paper and human waste are allowed in outhouses—no sanitary supplies or dog poop bags. Our disposal trailer will be rejected if these or similar objects are found.**

Where/how do I get propane/service for my gas appliances?

- Delivery of tanks of propane and gas, and maintenance of appliances, are provided by private contractor. See store porch and www.bivc.net for more information.

As of 2022, gas equipment, delivery, and service: Vinal Energy 207-613-7460
vinalenergy@gmail.com www.vinalenergy.com

How do I send/receive mail on Bustins?

- People do still send/receive paper mail on the island. ☺
- The Post Office is located in the Store to the right as you enter the building. It provides seasonal mail service (usually mid June–Labor Day in September). Here you can purchase stamps, pick up daily mail and send outgoing mail, including packages.**
- Island families can be assigned a mail box, and incoming mail is sorted by name.
- The Bustins Post Office is open mornings, Monday through Saturday. Exact hours are posted on the Store porch and may vary from year to year.
- **Please plan to buy all your stamps for the coming year while on the island; the added income helps support our need to the USPS for this seasonal service.**
- The proper address to give to those sending mail to you on the island is:

Your Name
General Delivery
Bustins Island, ME 04013-9999

***Please ask the postmaster/mistress about proper delivery address for packages*

Is there WIFI available?

- No, the island does not have WiFi. Islanders rely on their own cell phone data plans and service from mainland towers. Coverage/service is not always 100% reliable.
- A workspace WiFi has been set up in the old school house by volunteers for those needing to work from the island. Donations for this service are appreciated, please talk to those on-site.

Where am I able to charge my electronics?

- There is a “public charging station” on the Community House porch. This is an honor system, please respect other users’ devices.

How do I find out about renting or purchasing a cottage?

- 99% is word of mouth--some information is posted on the island or listed online.