



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 30, 2010**

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### **Residents Reminded That TMHD Permits Are Needed To Repair Septic Systems**

The Trumbull Monroe Health District (TMHD) would like to remind residents that a permit is required for any septic system repair, however minor. The Health District has received reports that septic repairs are being performed illegally and wants to remind property owners of this requirement. The permit is an important protection for the homeowner as well as the licensed septic installer. Permits for minor repairs such as replacing a tank cover, distribution box or section of pipe cost \$10.00. Patrice Sulik, TMHD Director of Health explains “The purpose of this requirement is to protect the public’s health and environment by preventing the contamination of ground and surface waters, including well water.” In addition, the Health District maintains documentation that any work on your septic system was performed properly by licensed professionals. This becomes especially important in the event of a house sale or if there is contamination on your property or a neighbor’s property. Typically, the licensed septic installer will procure the permit, but if the property owner has questions about the permit process, they can contact the Health District directly at 203- 452-5195. Permits for emergency-type repairs will be processed the same day the Health District is notified.

To protect and prolong the life of a septic system, it is necessary to have the tank pumped and cleaned every three to four years to remove the solids. Proper maintenance of the septic system will help to avoid having sludge block the pipes that allows the liquids to move on to the leaching field. Failure to routinely pump and clean the septic tank may result in the clogging of your

leaching fields and cause the system to fail. If the tank contains an outlet baffle, more frequent maintenance may be required.

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The mission of the Trumbull Monroe Health District is to protect the health of residents, and to prevent disease. For more information on the Trumbull Monroe Health District call 203-452-5195, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or visit our website at [www.tmhd.org](http://www.tmhd.org).