

FIRE DEPARTMENT

First of all I want to thank all government agencies, local, state and federal, involved in the "Ice Storm Of 2008". Although we didn't have a formal disaster plan in place, everybody worked as a team to make the best out of a disastrous situation. The Emergency Operations Center was manned 24/7 for the majority of the storm and answered numerous upon numerous calls for service. The Fire Department, Police Department, Highway Department along with the New Hampshire National Guard went door to door on several occasions checking on our residents well being. I would also like to thank the businesses and residents of the town who provided coffee and food to the emergency workers throughout the storm. Once again thanks and let's hope this is a once in a lifetime event.

The Fire Department had an average year in 2008. The call volume was about average with no major structure or brush fires. Medical aid incidents are the majority of our responses. With the higher fuel oil prices and slowing economy, solid fuel permits have increased. Using alternative heating devices that are improperly installed poses a threat of fire and carbon monoxide. It is critical that every home has at least one smoke detector on each floor level, preferably interconnected. We also recommend the use of electric powered, battery backup, carbon monoxide detectors. Remember, all detectors should be checked monthly, according to manufactures instructions.

The Department held its 3 year election for chief in December with 2 candidates in the vying for the position. The vote resulted in a very unique outcome, a tie vote. There were no provisions in the department by-laws in regards of a tie. The results were given to the Board of Selectmen and after much discussion and an ice storm, the Board of Selectmen appointed William Ingalls to another 3 year term.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Fire Department and the residents of the Town of Newton for their continued support. If anyone has questions or concerns, do not hesitate to stop at the station or call 382-8811.

REMEMBER SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES, HOUSE NUMBERS SAVE TIME.

Respectful submitted,
William Ingalls
Fire Chief

CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Building Fire	3	Lock-out	2
Chimney or Flu Fire	1	Water Evacuation	2
Vehicle Fire	3	Water Problems	1
Good Intent Call	1	Smoke or Odor Removal	6
Medical Assist	1	Person in Distress	4
Rescue, EMS Incident Other	2	Unauthorized Burning	5
EMS Call, excluding vehicle ac	188	Cover Assignment, standby	19
Vehicle Accident with Injuries	12	Authorized Controlled Burning	3

Vehicle Accident w/o Injuries	7	Smoke Scare, odor of Smoke	2
Rescue or EMS Standby	7	False Alarm or False Call	1
Hazardous Condition, other	1	Smoke Detector Activation	5
Windstorm/Tornado Assessment	1	Detector Activation, no fire	3
Carbon Monoxide Detector	1	Alarm System Sounded	3
Carbon Monoxide Incident	7	Alarm System Sounded, no fire	2
Electrical Wiring/Equipment	2	Public Service Assistance	2
Power Line Down	7	Public Service	2
Arcing, shorted electrical equip.	5	Overheated Motor	2
			Total 313

**Calls for Other Service including inspections
and the ice storm 500+**

Respectfully submitted,
William Ingalls
Fire Chief

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2008, the Town of Newton participated in the Seabrook Power Plant emergency drill. There were two practical and the third was evaluated by the federal government. We passed with flying colors. I would like to thank all who made this drill a success as Newton again scored high marks. Special notes were made of Newton's efficiency and documentation records. I would also like to remind the resident's that every year you get an informational calendar from the State of NH. There is a lot of valuable information concerning evacuation instructions and other important things to aid you in the unlikely event of a power plant disaster. There is also an informational sheet within the calendar that should be mailed back to the State if there are any disabled people in your family or if you need help during an evacuation. This is important as this database determines who gets what assistance during a radiological emergency at the power plant. The Town of Newton will receive \$10,000 to drill and administer the Radiological Response Plan for the upcoming fiscal year in 2009 into 2010.

Newton's Emergency Management Plan, along with the help of the Police, Fire, Road Agent and the Town Hall Office Staff were tested in 2008 with the ice storm. The Town lost all communication with the residents for nine days. The power situation was a great test of what we can do in an emergency situation. We handled over 300 calls the first few days of the storm and the Emergency Operations Center at the Central Fire Station was open 24 hours a day for nine days. The Town went door to door several times that week to check on the residents. Although we had some weaknesses in different areas, we are working to correct them for future events.

The Town of Newton has no facilities to house people in the event of a large scale event. In turn we used the Sanborn Regional High School. There are plans to have our own shelter in town and we hope to have this in place by our next report. The Town has written agreements with the Red Cross to establish shelters for the residents of Newton however, there is no guarantee that they will establish one here in Newton. You may have to travel to a "regional shelter" where the assistance and scope of the disaster will dictate the shelter locations. Town Officials do support putting a shelter in Newton for our residents with a separate section dedicated to pets, which is good news for our residents.

There is only one backup powered building in Town and that can only house a few people. I will be working this year to power the Memorial School with a generator. The elementary school has a complete kitchen and should serve well as a shelter.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is located at the Central Fire Station. During a large scale event or disaster, this space is the focal point for the response team to contact local, state and other organizations to provide relief to our residents. It is one of the most important locations in town. For this space to work properly, we must have proper work stations, communications, and storage and sanitation facilities. When we lose power we must have water. This past storm the EOC did not have toilet facilities for 4 days which is a health hazard so as we go into 2009 I will be submitting for grants to have the water run on generator power. Even though I have only been Emergency Management Director for less than a year, it was a pleasure working with the following departments: Police, Fire and Town Hall Employees and of course our Elected Officials. I have high hopes for 2009 going into 2010.

Just in the short time I have been in office I included some needed equipment that was provided by the State of New Hampshire and Seabrook Station. Just to mention a few: a new laptop computer which has all the latest software to run an emergency center. It gives us the capability to have a State Emergency Operations Center online so we have a whole picture of what the state is doing on a minute to minute basis; we also had a new digital radio system installed in the EOC. The total for these 2 upgrades alone were \$7,300.00 - paid by the State.

If for any reason a town resident has a concern or question, please feel free to contact me day or night. My contact information is on the Town Website, at the Town Hall, the Fire Station and Police Station.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Foote
Emergency Management Director