

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

As per last year's Town Report the Emergency Management Department was awaiting a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$26,000.00. This grant was to be used to supply Newton Town Hall with a new air conditioning unit. We are very pleased to announce that in 2011 the Emergency Management Department did receive this grant. The Town Hall is now equipped with a brand new air conditioning/heating unit.

In June of 2011 we were able to send our Emergency Management Director, Lawrence Foote, to a one week training at the Emergency Management Higher Education Conference in Baltimore. Larry gained hands-on training directly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and fellow Emergency Management Directors as well as State Officials from the Department of Homeland Security. The Emergency Management Department believes in order to be sufficient in protecting our Residents in all types of emergencies, manmade and natural, we must be up to date and speed in all areas.

In late August we faced Hurricane Irene. With this storm the Town suffered high winds, power outages, downed trees and power lines. The Emergency Management Department submitted a quote to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to recoup funds that were used during the storm and post storm for clean-up. FEMA approved \$9,216.75.

Towards the end of October, Southern New Hampshire experienced a storm which gave us about three inches of snow and severe high winds. During this storm the Town had several power outages, closed roads, downed limbs and trees. The Emergency Management Department submitted a quote to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to recoup funds that were used during the storm and post storm for clean-up. We are awaiting a decision from FEMA.

In October, ten Residents attended a two day class in regards to Emergency Management, First Aid and CPR. During this two day class these Residents learned vital lessons in respect to Search and Rescue, Fire Safety and Terrorism. In addition to taking this two day class this group also had to complete National Incident Management System courses as well. This group of individuals now assists the Emergency Management Department when disaster or weather related emergency strikes in Newton. The first incident in which this team assisted was the snow storm we experienced in October. During this storm the Town lost power for several days and this group freed up other Emergency Town Officials by performing well being checks throughout the Town and delivering water to Residents in need. They also manned the shelter at Town Hall. Along with this two day training these individuals also became First Aid and CPR certified. The individuals that attended this class are now known in the Town as the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

As 2012 approaches the Emergency Management Department plans on applying for more Grants from the State. We will also have our Seabrook Plan evaluated again and will be part of a three day drill. We plan to continue and remain up to date on all training. One of the most important tasks will be working with our newly appointed Local Emergency Planning Committee. The Emergency Management Department along with the Local Emergency Planning Committee, promise to serve the Town of Newton and its Residents to the best of our ability. We look forward to serving you in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Lawrence B. Foote
Emergency Management Director