

Emergency Management Annual Report 2008

Another very active weather year. We had a record snow year and a major ice event in December that caused significant tree damage throughout the Town. The December storm left everyone in Town without electrical power for a period of time (some for up to 10 days) and many lost communication capability for even longer. The entire southern part of NH was declared major disaster area enabling us to apply for emergency funding to cover the majority of the cost incurred associated with opening the roads and debris removal.

Again, the Franconia Volunteer Fire Department was extremely active during the ice storm. They assisted in opening roads, provided assistance as necessary refueling and in some cases repairing generators, doing house to house checks, and a variety of other tasks too numerous to list. Again the volunteers of the Fire Department went above and beyond. Super job and many thanks to all.

We also need to thank the entire highway department again for all that was done during and after the December storm. They also went above and beyond attempting to keep the roads open and safe for emergency traffic. Once more with accurate and detailed records, the Town will be able to apply for Federal and State assistance for the clean up and debris removal.

Special thanks must also be expressed again to Franconia Sand & Gravel, D.H. Hardwick & Sons, and Yankee Pools for immediately coming to the aid of the Town. They all called the highway garage asking, "what do you need me to do, what can I help you with and where do you need me to go". They were all kept busy for several days removing downed and damaged trees and debris from roadways. Great job!!!

With the help of Betsy Hardwick, Selectman; Larry Kullgren, Fire Chief; Steve Bell, Police Chief; and Gary Paige, Road Agent; the Franconia Emergency Operations Plan is being updated and should be completed by March, 2009. The plan was originally developed about 12 years ago but needed to be updated to comply with Federal and State requirements.

I'm always available to answer questions regarding natural disasters, emergency services, etc. Don't hesitate to call me at 547-3300 or 620-5065.

Anyone interested in becoming Deputy Emergency Management Director? We are looking for a volunteer. If interested contact either the Selectmen or myself.

Don't forget to post your house number so it can be easily seen by emergency personnel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul A. St. Cyr,

Director