



FRANKLIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2008, VOL. 1 ISSUE 2

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, TIM HARDY

In September we always look forward to meeting the public at the annual Franklin County Agricultural Fair here in Farmington. At our FCEMA trailer, fairgoers can stop by and look at our display and pick up some information to help them prepare for any unexpected disaster. There are family planning guides and lists to make "go bags" for making a quick and easy evacuation. This year, an added feature will be the new amateur radio communications capability in the trailer.

But the most important message that we want to share with the public is the need to be prepared for the winter ahead. Mainers are practical and self sufficient, but this year many may find it more challenging than ever to stay warm. Some people might need help who've never asked for it before. For assistance call Western Maine Community Action (645-3764) or Franklin County Emergency Management (778-5892).

What can people do to prepare? Who do they call for help? At this time there is a large group of area agencies and organizations working together to answer those questions. A brochure prepared by United Way will help guide people who need assistance this winter. Distribution will begin at the fair and then continue throughout Franklin County.

Be aware. Pay special attention to news programs on the radio and TV for ways to stay safe and warm for the winter days ahead. Start planning now for your source (s) of heat. Check to be sure everything is in good working order.

Most importantly, remember to check on neighbors. It only takes a minute to call or drop by to find out if they are ok.

NEWEST FCEMA PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CLYDE ROSS

Are You Prepared?

This is a common question we all think about. September has been set aside as "NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH" During the next months we all need to prepare for the unexpected; that is rapid changes of weather conditions, COLD WEATHER and its problems, the Flu season, loss of electrical power, frozen water pipes and any other unforeseen conditions.

You will need to have adequate HEATING FUEL, FOOD, WATER and other personal needs if the unexpected should occur. Now is the time to get your EMERGENCY supplies together.

When was the last time you visited with or called your NEIGHBOR? As we move toward the fall and winter, it would be a nice time to "get to know your neighbors". You could inquire if they have special needs or if they might need some help as the seasons come along. Checking in on them occasionally makes for better communications and comforts each of you.

For more information about being prepared, check the following websites: www.franklincountyema.org
www.ready.gov, www.maine.gov/mema or call Franklin County Emergency Management Agency: 778-5892

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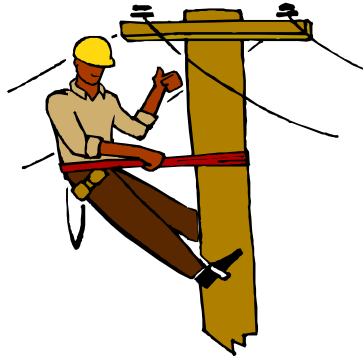
Keep an eye to the sky! Check your local weather forecast on line at: franklincountyema.org

Prepare for Fall

Fall in Maine is beautiful with changing of the foliage. It is also a good time to inventory your home for the up coming winter months.



- Update family disaster plan.
- Clean chimneys.
- Have propane tanks filled for back up cooking when power goes out
- Clean wood stoves and change furnace filters.
- Check back up supplies. (water, non - perishable foods etc.)
- Weather-strip windows and doors.
- Check Smoke Alarms, change batteries.
- If you have Fire extinguishers, make sure everyone knows how to use them.
- Post Emergency telephone #'s near your phone



Prepare for Winter

Winter in Maine is beautiful, but sometimes cruel. As we prepare for winter storms and chills, remember that winter can also bring violent storms, unexpected thaws and flooding as well as snow and ice.

Winter Storms and Power Outages

- Listen to weather reports. Take storm warnings seriously.
- Make sure you have extra batteries for your radio and flashlight.
- Have food and water on hand, as well as any medicines you or your family may need.
- Check fuel for camp stoves or propane for the gas grill. (Do not use in doors).
- Have extra blankets or sleeping bags.
- If you have a generator make sure you have fuel and it's in good running condition. **(DO NOT USE IN GARAGE OR CELLAR, EVER)**

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMA LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

The new franklincountyema.org web site was launched in July. Development of the site began with some rough sketches and ideas in the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency office. A web site designer, JP Fortier of Imagine Media was contacted to develop the site. He created a user friendly site with dramatic images to entice the reader to enter the site's menu and homepage highlights. The menu JP created gives readers the opportunity to meet the FCEMA staff. There's a place to check out local, state, and federal EMA news and a calendar for local meetings and community events. The preparedness page offers useful tips to help all citizens be better prepared *before* an emergency occurs. Web users can find information on local emergency shelters for people and pets. A registration form for individuals who might need assistance in an emergency is available. Contact information is included so that people can print and mail, Fax or E-mail the registration form. Individuals can also call the office to register over the phone. Finally, don't forget to check out the helpful links. There is even a link that kids will enjoy so they can be ready for any emergency too!

Go ahead, check it out at: franklincountyema.org

Maine Prepares

http://maine.gov/mema/prepare/prepare_winter.shtml

You'll find fact sheets, tips and news to help your family, school, business, community or service organization prepare for any emergency or disaster.

- Emergency preparedness starts with each individual and family. Businesses, schools and neighborhoods can also learn to be more resilient, more prepared to "weather the storm."
- For public officials, preparedness encompasses planning, training, exercise, public information and education, facilities and communication.
- For business owners it needs to include thinking about emergencies that could affect customer, supplier or employees.
- School administrators need to include local responders and parents in their preparedness steps.

We can never foresee everything that will happen in an emergency. But by preparing, we develop a resiliency that will allow us to respond effectively and recover quickly.

Also visit: http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/contact/citizen_services/safeandwarm.html

If you have an elderly neighbor, friend, or relative make sure they are Ok.



Cert News

Initial meetings have been held at the Franklin County EMA to organize a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Interested individuals met with Shelley Doak, a MEMA representative, on July 17. The 8 people attending that meeting received a packet of information from Shelley about forming a CART (Citizen Animal Response Team) or a CERT.

Members met again in August and decided to initiate a CERT with an emphasis on sheltering and volunteering in the community when and where needed for the Franklin County EMA. Since the Oxford County EMA is hosting the CERT Jamboree at the Bog Brook Training Facility in Giliad September 12, 13 and 14, the group decided that would be a good place to begin training. Plans were made by some members to attend and applications were submitted to director, Tim Hardy. Some members have also taken the IS700 (Introduction Class for National Incident Management System (NIMS)). This small group is looking forward to meeting each month and continue training.

In addition to the group whose focus is on sheltering, there is some interest in additional people joining who would like to volunteer for amateur communications. They have already begun volunteering by setting up equipment at the courthouse and the FCEMA trailer.

For more information on CERT or CART go to shelley.f.doak@maine.gov or www.CitizenCorps.gov

ABOUT US!

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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Franklin County EMA Director, Tim Hardy has been with the EMA for almost 5 years. He has a county emergency plan and a Pandemic Flu plan in place. Tim has assisted local communities with storm damage assessment and has obtained Federal Funding and Grants for Franklin County. He promotes and assists with coordination in preparedness trainings for first responders in local communities.



Deputy Director, Olive Toothaker has been with the Franklin County EMA for over 16 years. She developed and continually updates the county emergency plan. She has worked closely with Tim on the Mitigation and Pandemic plans. Olive works very closely with the county's local EMA directors. Olive is the county's "go to" person for NIMS information.

Clyde Ross, Public Information Officer, makes public awareness his number one priority. Clyde can be heard on local radio channel, KTJ reminding people to be prepared for all kinds of hazardous situations. Be sure to listen to Clyde's messages on the new FCEMA website: franklincountyema.org



The newest member of the team is Sylvia Yeaton, Special Projects Coordinator. Sylvia developed the project that identifies at risk individuals. She also speaks to the public about the project and ways individuals in Franklin County can be prepared for emergencies. She also writes the quarterly newsletter and contributes news and articles for the new website: franklincountyema.org



MISSION STATEMENT

The Franklin County Emergency Management Agency (FCEMA) will support and protect the citizens and visitors of our communities by helping to limit the effect of disasters. A County-wide plan incorporates all available resources to perform the four phases of emergency management:

Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

In addition, this plan strives to support a collaborative effort among local municipalities, state and federal governments, emergency responders, public works, hospitals, schools, public and private businesses, and the general population.

WHAT IS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?

Emergency Management is a community wide effort in preparing for emergencies. The FCEMA plan allows for a quick and effective response by using the four phases of emergency management:

Mitigation --- to eliminate or reduce the probability for disaster by assisting municipalities with proactive planning strategies

Preparedness--- save lives and minimize damages

Response --- immediate activities that provide emergency assistance

Recovery --- activities that return all systems to normal or to improved standards.

When local disasters impact Franklin County citizens an immediate response is primarily performed by first responders. If the man-made or natural disaster exceeds local and county resources, state and federal response agencies are activated. Although we can never foresee everything that might happen, potential emergency situations could be power failures, epidemics, drought, flood, severe winter or summer storms, wild-fire, search and rescue, terrorism, and a hazardous materials incident. Not only does the EMA respond to emergency situations, it has an active role in providing ongoing training and support for emergency personnel while also educating and informing the general public about emergency preparedness.

