

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2013 spared the town of Canaan of many of the natural disasters that constantly plague many parts of the country. We should not however let this good luck allow us to be unprepared. Have you checked your home and property for all the items you would need should our luck change? **Is your generator in operating condition? Do you have additional gas to run it for an extended period? Do you have extra batteries for flashlights, headlamps, portable radios for news and weather announcements to keep you informed during an emergency? Do you have a backup plan for heating your home and for cooking for extended periods should the electric power be out for several days?** There are many items to consider and it is worth the time, money and energy to plan now. Many of the items you would want may be in short supply when you would need them and road conditions may not allow you to travel to obtain them. You should adopt the “old Yankee attitude “of being self-reliant and also willing to help a neighbor if an emergency hits our town.

In emergency management, we think and plan for these events as much as possible within the time frames and budget given to us. We try to plan for contingencies and set up a framework to plan how town agencies will respond to all types of natural and man-made emergencies which could affect us. These frameworks, or support functions, are going to be the focus of our department as the **Emergency Operation Plan is revised in 2014**. During 2013 we investigated the hiring of a planning specialist who will help us revise our present plan to make it more effective and bring it into compliance with present government regulations and allow us to be eligible for emergency response planning, FEMA reimbursement for recovery costs and for acquiring emergency response equipment for our town. We have also pursued the possibilities **of obtaining funding for equipment for the new emergency operations center to be located in a training/ operations center in the FAST addition that is part of the Canaan Fast / Police Dept. renovation**. This will be a project to be completed with help from the police, fire and ambulance in early 2014 to create a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to function during storms or other emergencies. To get both of these goals accomplished we are working with the NH Dept. of Homeland Security to keep the process moving smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,

William Bellion

Emergency Management Director