

Lessons Learned In The December Ice Storm

By Jane Hubbard

Andover Emergency Operations

After many emergencies we often say things like, "I wish we would have got batteries for our flashlights," or "Why didn't we think of draining the pipes when we knew we wouldn't have power and it was below freezing?"

Well, here is a list of lessons learned to help us be better prepared and knowledgeable for the next emergency.

- Have several gallons of water and extra food in your home for unexpected emergencies.
- Maintain medical supplies to support you for up to seven days.
- If you know that bad weather is coming, fill up your bathtub or five-gallon buckets with water to help flush toilets when you are without power.
- Do not keep generators in an interior, unventilated space, like your basement. A good rule of thumb is 10 feet away from your home, with the exhaust pointing away from your home. You may also want to notify your electric company that you use a generator during power outages.

- Do not try to warm your home with unsafe methods such as unvented space heaters. If you can't safely keep your house warm, then you need to seek help from a neighbor or go to a shelter.
- If conditions are safe, check on your neighbors to see if they need food or shelter.
- Have a spare phone that does not require electricity (like an old dial phone).
- Keep a battery-powered radio to tune in to emergency information.
- Keep spare batteries.
- Do not put yourself in an unsafe situation by driving through flood water, moving downed power lines, etc.

The Town of Andover will have information available through the Town Office at 735-5332 or the Andover Fire Station at 735-5353.

Keep any of the supplies listed above in a box for use during emergencies. Cut this article out and tape it to your box for future use.

If you know you may require assistance during an emergency, please fill out the Emergency Needs Survey, available at the March 2009 Town Meeting, in a future *Beacon* article, or the Town Office.

For more detailed emergency planning ideas, visit NH.gov/safety.

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Andover Rescue Squad

By Philip Hackmann
Andover Rescue Squad

The recent ice storm brought friends, family, and neighbors together to help one another. After many days without power, many Andover and New Hampshire residents were grateful for the emergency services that were provided both near and far. During such an event it is amazing how we pull up our boots and manage with the situation at hand. Often it is putting others' needs before our own.

The efforts of Andover's town manager, emergency managers, fire departments, police department, town employees, and elected officials were monumental. One of the most fruitful efforts was a house-to-house welfare check of Andover residents. This was something that could only be accomplished in a small town such as Andover. If you were not home during this check, then you should know that members of both fire departments and the rescue squad went door-to-door checking on how those at home were fairing during the state of emergency. Usually the conversations were brief as so many homes were being checked.

During this recent ice storm, Andover's emergency managers put into use the All Hazards Plan and utilized it to guide actions taken during the response to the events. The emergency managers had much of the information needed readily available to them from prior planning that they had done. An Emergency Operations Center was opened in town to facilitate the collection of information and organize efforts to assist and care for residents.

During such an event, it is important to have as much knowledge of person-

al needs prior to the event occurring. Please consider contacting the emergency managers or town manager to let them know of personal needs that might be impacted during a natural disaster. What types of situations would benefit them during the preparation for emergencies? Individuals who have health care needs that require electricity such as special pumps, monitors, or oxygen are some good examples.

Another preparation is to register the types of home health care needs that you, a family member, or neighbor has with E-911. When a person with specific needs registers that information, it is relayed to safety personnel responding to a call for assistance. If you, a family member, or your neighbor might benefit from E-911 having this information, please contact Philip Hackmann at 934-3225 or Phil@proctornet.com.

Andover Rescue has two new members and one returning member. Jeff Clark and Jon Collette, also a member of East Andover Fire Department, have recently completed the lengthy process to become Emergency Medical Technicians at the Basic level. Heather Makechnie returns to Andover Rescue Squad as well. Thank you all for your work.

Lastly, please take the time to remove the snow and frost from your vehicles before heading out on the road. One of the common factors in collisions is the inability for a driver to see well. This also means removing the snow from the roofs, hood, and trunk of our vehicles. It can slide down and obscure your view, or it can fly off in sheets or as a flurry and decrease the visibility of others. Recently, ice sheets becoming airborne off the roof of a vehicle caused an accident.

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