



A highlight of last month's Open House at EAFD was seeing the monitor in action. Staff photo: Bob Bussey

East Andover Fire Department

By Chief Rene Lefebvre
East Andover Fire Department

The weather for late summer and early fall has been warm and dry. A very nice contrast from the soggy spring we thought would never end. We also know that the good weather may turn for the worst as we head deeper into the hurricane season.

Now is a good time to look at our emergency preparation kits that we have had stored for a year. You remember those. The plastic boxes

the most part we are a safety-minded group, and some of the silliness that I see people do to themselves does not happen in Andover very often.

But I must admit this H1N1 or swine flu has me somewhat concerned. I have tried to keep up with all the latest information. I do understand about the importance of hand washing. However, if we have a lot of unwell people, that is going to be a challenge.

Should we stay at home and worry? Never – that accomplishes nothing. Be proactive with your own health, and stay informed. Getting vaccinated is an individual choice; however it is best to discuss your options with your health care professional. For what it's worth, I will be raising my sleeve and getting the shot. I'm a wicked baby when sick. [For more information about flu and vaccinations, see the article on page 1.]

The laws that govern how towns spend money are cast in New Hampshire bedrock and are equally inflexible. For that reason, signing a contract to reserve a fire truck is impossible. So we are all hoping that the truck we want is still available in March.

Our goal is to purchase a truck that will meet the town's needs at the best price. We are nothing if not determined, and perhaps a bit stubborn. We will end up with a great machine.

It seems that the fall is a time to prepare. I know by now you must consider me a pest, but there are a couple more things we must do.

Please clean your chimney and have your heating appliance serviced. I won't go into the dangers of a dirty heating system; you know what they are. But two very good reasons for servicing your system are 1) safety for your family, and 2) saving dollars.

Look at it this way. You can either see the heating service van in your yard ... or me and the guys with our new big red truck.



John Collette tends to the chowder at the EAFD Open House last month. John worked with Stephen Barton for about a month building the new kitchen in the firehouse. It can be powered by a 15Kw generator, making the station suitable as a shelter should the need arise. Staff photo: Bob Bussey



Diane and Jeff Miller's four-year-old twins, Michael and Brenden, watch an EAFD firefighter attach a draft coupling. Staff photo: Bob Bussey

with all the "stuff" packed away for an emergency.

Please dust them off and open them up and inspect your food and equipment. Replace all the food stocks with fresh. The canned foods are fine, but why not use them now and replace with new? The water bottles, batteries, and cereals should also be replaced.

Test the flashlights and radios to be sure they work. Check the expiration date on your medical supplies.

It takes very little money to freshen or start an emergency supply kit; the peace of mind and safety they offer are well worth the cost. For more information on the items that should be in your kit and other useful emergency preparedness information, go to Ready.gov.

One of my goals as your fire chief is to help our community prepare for and deal with emergencies or events that threaten our people or homes. For

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