



Three Rivers WET Team members rigged a high-line rope system from the bank of the Blackwater River to an island to rescue two kayakers stranded by the high water of Tropical Storm Irene. The lights in the upper left of the photo are on Cilleyville Road.



As the last weekend in August approached, Andover braced for a nearly direct hit from Tropical Storm Irene. At right, Ed Becker and Heather Makechnie take notes during one of several state-wide telephone conference calls held by the state Office of Emergency Management in preparation for the event.



Also in attendance at this particular teleconference were John Kinney, Andover EMS; Rene Lefebvre, East Andover Fire Department; and Dana Hadley, Town Administrator. Photo: Bob Bussey

Thanks to a slight shift in the storm's path, the town was spared a direct blow. Nonetheless, the Andover Emergency Operations Center was open throughout the event, coordinating efforts to manage a dozen or more blocked or washed-out roads, downed power lines, etc. Above: Valley Road is overrun by Sucker Brook. Photo: Jake Johnson

## WET Team Rescues Stranded Kayakers

### WET Team press release

On August 29, the Monday after Tropical Storm Irene passed through the area, the Three Rivers Water Extrication Technician (WET) Team was requested by the Andover Fire Department to assist in rescuing two kayakers from the Blackwater River at about 8 PM. At the time, a third victim was unaccounted for, though before the WET Team arrived he was found safe.



Two female kayakers were stranded on the island where the grist mill dam used to be, just upstream from where Cilleyville Road crosses the Blackwater. The river was very high and moving very fast due to all the rain from Irene.

The Three Rivers WET Team assembled at the Franklin Fire Station and responded in a full team deployment with two heavy rescue trucks, three boats, 13 Swiftwater Rescue Technicians, and two Chief Officers.

A successful rescue was made in darkness an hour after the team's arrival, assisted by about 25 Andover emergency personnel. The victims were treated and released at the scene with mild hypothermia.

High-line rope systems and in-water boat crews were used to perform this rescue. Seamless teamwork between the Three Rivers WET Team and the Andover Fire Department is what made this rescue successful.

Franklin Fire Department's Deputy Chief Kevin LaChapelle stated, "During these extreme flood conditions, it is not a safe time to engage in recreational water activities. This places public safety personnel and would-be rescuers in extreme danger and risk of injury or fatality."

### SSR from page 1

The goal of SSR is to make recycling easier for Andover residents, so less will go into the trash hopper and more will go into the recycling container. According to Transfer Station manager Reggie Roy, "The goal is to keep so much more recycling out of the trash hopper that

our reduced tipping fees will more than make up for the fact that we won't be selling our recycling anymore."

In addition to saving tax dollars on tipping fees, Reggie also expects to save money and improve service at the Transfer Station by eliminating some of the material handling that has to go on today.

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## Your Rx for Living Well

Are you thinking that your child should be on a diet? Restricting calories in a growing child could pose risks to his/her health. Good nutrition should be the primary focus, with 3 well-thought-out meals and 2 snacks a day. By minimizing junk food, eliminating sugared beverages, controlling portion sizes, and adding some physical activity to the mix, your heavy child will grow up to have a healthy weight.

Dr. Tara Thurston is a board-certified pediatrician at Newport Health Center, in collaboration with the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth. Dr. Thurston offers full-time, comprehensive care for your child from birth through adolescence in partnership with Cecilia Vicuna-Keady, APRN.



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