



**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**  
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of  
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July 2008



Tornado damage to a home along Northwood Lake in Epsom, one of the hardest-hit communities

**TORNADOES STRIKE CENTRAL N.H. COMMUNITIES** – Tornadoes are not common in New Hampshire, however, they do occur. A storm that tore through a 40-mile long swath of the state on July 24<sup>th</sup> killed a Deerfield woman and caused destruction in 11 communities. Ironically, the state Emergency Operations Center was already open because of the potential for flooding with recent heavy rains. But activities in the EOC switched into high gear when the tornadoes, spawned by intense thunderstorms, struck just before noon.

In the first moments of the storm, Brenda Stevens, 57, was killed when her Northwood Lake home in Deerfield was flattened. Her husband and infant grandson were injured. Preliminary estimates by state and local officials indicated that about a dozen homes were destroyed and more than 200 received damage of some sort. In addition, power was knocked out to about 5,000 electric customers, thousands of trees were damaged or knocked down and local roads were blocked by downed limbs and power lines. Within hours of the storm, Gov. John H. Lynch toured the affected area, which stretched from Epsom and Deerfield northeast to Ossipee. The governor declared a State of Emergency in Belknap, Carroll, Merrimack, Rockingham and Strafford counties. The National Weather Service determined that Alton, New Durham, Freedom, Effingham and Northwood were struck by Enhanced Fujita Scale 1 tornadoes (86-103 mph). Deerfield, Epsom, Barnstead, Wolfeboro, Ossipee and Pittsfield suffered EF2 tornadoes (110-131 mph).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent personnel to assist with damage assessment. Joint FEMA and HSEM teams worked through the weekend to collect detailed information on the destruction. Governor Lynch is expected to request a Presidential Disaster Declaration to seek federal disaster assistance.

**SUMMER STORM STRIKES CHESHIRE COUNTY** – The tornadoes in Central New Hampshire were the most destructive weather events, but they weren't the only ones during the month. July got off to a wild start in Cheshire County, with severe thunder storms that brought high winds, rain and hail on the first day of the month. The wind brought down trees and limbs, knocking out electric power to 2,700 Public Service Company of New Hampshire customers and disrupting telephone service. The damage was concentrated in Hinsdale and Westmoreland, but trees were also downed in Keene, Chesterfield and other communities. Hinsdale's wastewater treatment plant operated overnight on its backup generator after losing power and the community's Emergency Operations Center was opened to coordinate the local response. Most utility services were restored the following morning. No injuries were reported.

**BILL TO IMPROVE STATE "MOVE OVER" LAW IS SIGNED** – Surrounded by law enforcement personnel and other first responders, Gov. John H. Lynch on July 8<sup>th</sup> signed into law House Bill 1235, which strengthens New Hampshire's "Move Over" law. The law requires drivers to reduce speed and stay clear of roadside incidents, such as motor vehicle stops by police, crashes or breakdowns. The original law was passed in 2005. The new bill specifies that drivers must yield to emergency vehicles with flashing blue, red or amber warning lights, which includes tow trucks and Department of Transportation vehicles. New Hampshire has had about half a dozen police officers seriously injured in recent years in roadside incidents.

**EMT ASSOCIATION SEEKING 9-11 RESPONDERS** – The N.H. Association of Emergency Medical Technicians is attempting to locate first responders from New Hampshire who assisted at the World Trade Center following the terrorist attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Kat Rickey, secretary of the association, says anyone who assisted at the scene, either in an official or unofficial capacity, may be eligible for health benefits or financial assistance. But there is a deadline of August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, for getting on the eligibility list. For more information, contact NHAEMT secretary Kat Richey at 435-8208 or [katnhaemt@aol.com](mailto:katnhaemt@aol.com).

**SEABROOK SIRENS TO BE TESTED THIS FALL** – Planning is underway for a full-scale test of Seabrook Station warning sirens to be carried out on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, at midday. A key component of the project will be informing the public well in advance that the siren sounding is only a test. The Seabrook warning system includes 121 sirens spread throughout the nuclear plant's 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone. About 90 of the sirens are located in New Hampshire communities; the rest are in Massachusetts. In the event of an emergency at Seabrook, the sirens would be sounded as a signal for residents to tune to radio or television to find out the nature of the emergency and what actions they should take. The sirens also have public address capability, and may be used to provide instructions directly. They may also be used to warn of other hazards.

**VY REDUCES POWER DUE TO COOLING LEAK** – The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is back at full power after a cooling tower leak forced it to reduce power output to 23 percent for about a week and a half. The leak, in a pipe joint in the plant's secondary cooling system, was at the rate of about 60 gallons per minute in a supply pipe that carries about 90,000 gallons per minute. The leak was not a safety problem by itself because the plant is cooled by cooling towers, water from the Connecticut River or both. The power reduction was necessary to keep water being returned to the river within temperature limits imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency to protect the ecology of the river.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission sent a team of inspectors to investigate the leak at Vermont Yankee. Also, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, a branch of the NRC, is considering Vermont Yankee's application for a 20-year extension of its operating license.

**HSEM GRANT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED** – HSEM has scheduled a series of workshops to help local officials with application procedures for Emergency Management Performance Grants and Hazard Mitigation Grants. In addition, information will be provided on federal hazard mitigation assistance programs, including eligible project and grant writing techniques. The hazard mitigation programs to be covered are Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grants, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Repetitive Flood Claim and Severe Repetitive Loss. Local officials responsible for application or managing any of these grant programs should attend.

The workshops will be held in Nashua on July 28<sup>th</sup>, Groveton on July 29<sup>th</sup>, Dover on July 31, Wolfeboro on August 18<sup>th</sup> and Laconia on August 26. For times and locations, visit the HSEM website: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/bem/>