



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
N.H. Department of Safety, John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305
1-800-852-3792
newsletters@hsem.nh.gov

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Sullivan Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Neil "Al" Henry and HSEM Director Christopher M. Pope.

HSEM photo

SULLIVAN CHIEF HENRY IS EMD OF THE YEAR – Sullivan Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Neil "Al" Henry has been named New Hampshire's 2008 Emergency Management Director of the Year by the Northeast States Emergency Consortium. Henry was nominated by HSEM Field Representative Jeremy LaPlante for proactive work on the town's Local Emergency Operations Plan. In updating that plan, Henry conducted a survey of his community and assembled a roster of potential volunteers who could help in an emergency and people who might need special assistance.

He also developed a special emergency plan for a dam upstream of his community that was showing signs of failure. That plan included the notification of town residents about the problem, evacuation routes and instructions for shelter operation. Congratulations, Chief!

VY BACK ON LINE – Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant is back on line after completing a scheduled outage for refueling and maintenance. The plant returned to the grid in the early morning hours of November 10th. It had been off line since October 19th. This was the plant's 27th refueling outage. More than 5,000 maintenance tasks, including inspections of the steam dryer, reactor vessel and containment structure, were carried out by plant personnel and contractors. VY's next refueling outage is scheduled for spring 2010.

In a separate incident, Vermont Yankee maintenance workers reported that a quart of hydraulic fluid was spilled into Connecticut River water at the plant's pump house on November 11th. The spill occurred during scheduled work on a hydraulically operated pump house gate. Plant officials said absorbent material was placed to absorb a small sheen at the pump house forebay, but no sheen was visible on the river.

SEABROOK EXERCISE SUCCESSFUL – The Federal Emergency Management Agency has given a favorable preliminary review to the Seabrook Station graded exercise, held on November 5th. The exercise scenario was based on a reactor coolant leak which led to a release of radiation. Evacuations (simulated) were ordered in four New Hampshire towns. Other protective actions were also ordered in response. All activities were coordinated among emergency officials in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and the plant. More than 400 people participated in the exercise. They were graded by 82 evaluators at 29 locations. FEMA will issue a final report on the exercise in a few weeks.

REGIONAL VETERINARY EXERCISE HELD – Animal health personnel from around New England responded to a simulated outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease at a New Hampshire dairy farm as part of an exercise conducted at the N.H. Fire Academy on November 18th and 19th. The exercise involved personnel from the N.H. Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services, other animal health officials from around New England and the state Emergency Operations Center.

The exercise response required the simulated slaughtering of 68 head of cattle at the dairy farm in Strafford County. Officials also set up a 10-kilometer quarantine and called in assistance from the National Veterinary Stockpile. Foot and Mouth Disease is a highly contagious disease of cattle and swine, caused by a virus. It also affects sheep, goats, deer and other cloven-hoofed animals. Humans can contract the disease, but it is not considered to be a serious public health problem. An outbreak can result in millions of dollars in losses to agriculture.

MILD QUAKE HITS CONWAY AREA – A minor earthquake struck the Conway area on November 18th, but no one seemed to have noticed. The quake, which was detected at 1:46 p.m., had a magnitude of 1.6. It was centered 8.9 kilometers NNW of Conway. It was detected on seismographs. There were no reports that it was felt locally and no reports of any damage.

RECOVERY WORK CONTINUES ON 2008 STORM DAMAGE – Last summer may seem like a distant memory as the holidays approach, but recovery projects from the summer storms are still underway. About 93 percent of Public Assistance projects related to the July 24th tornado have been funded. That work has so far brought more than \$1.2 million in federal assistance to communities in Belknap, Carroll, Merrimack, Rockingham and Strafford counties. Fifty-six percent of projects in Belknap, Carroll, Coös and Grafton counties related to flash flooding in July and August have been funded. That has brought federal aid to-date totaling more than \$1.1 million. For the September flood in Hillsborough County, 14 percent of projects have been funded, bringing \$30,000 in federal aid.

U.S.-CANADIAN EMERGENCY MANAGERS MEET – Members of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) met in Boston November 18th-20th to discuss international mutual aid, issues related to a potential U.S. and Canadian quarantine, operations of the U.S. Border Patrol and the region’s winter weather outlook. IEMG was created by a Memorandum of Understanding adopted by the New England Governors Conference and the Eastern Canadian Premiers in 2006 to provide for cross-border mutual aid and the discussion of regional issues. The group is made up of emergency management staff from all six New England states and the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

DES PROMOTES GUIDELINES TO PREVENT FLOODS – The state Department of Environmental Services has developed voluntary guidelines that local communities can use to help prevent future flooding. The proposed standards would limit new development in Fluvial Erosion Hazard (FEH) zones, where erosion along river and stream banks could lead to flooding. The FEH guidelines are expected to be finalized in the spring. DES intends that they be adopted on a town-by-town basis.



*Happy Thanksgiving from
N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management*