



**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**  
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of  
**Homeland Security and Emergency Management**  
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A resident paddles on Crosbie Street in Manchester in the wake of the September 6<sup>th</sup> storm.  
N.H. Department of Transportation photo

**HEAVY RAIN STRIKES AGAIN** – Heavy rain, part of the remains of Hurricane Ike, drenched southern New Hampshire during the weekend of September 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and for the third time this summer, the Granite State was struck by a major disaster. This time, the rain produced urban street flooding, with most of the damage in Manchester and Hooksett. Rainfall totaled 4.96 to 7.28 inches in less than 24 hours. The basement of Manchester Police Headquarters was flooded, knocking out radio communications and destroying vehicles and equipment. A neighborhood on Crosbie Street was inundated. Governor John H. Lynch requested a federal disaster declaration for Hillsborough, Merrimack and Strafford counties. If the declaration is granted, New Hampshire will have three active disaster operations responding to and recovering from weather events, beginning with the tornado on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Meanwhile, recovery efforts are continuing in counties affected by the tornado and the flash flooding of August 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. Applicant briefings were held during September in Laconia, Plymouth, Woodsville, Lancaster, Colebrook and Ossipee to help local officials with paperwork associated with applying for Public Assistance for flood damage.

And there may be more on the way. The National Weather Service is tracking three weather systems that may converge on New England this weekend (September 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>), bringing anywhere from 1-5 inches of rain. It's still too early to tell if these systems will cause problems in New Hampshire, but it would be a good idea to keep an eye on the forecasts and watch for communication from HSEM if things turn serious.

**HAM RADIO TO HELP HOSPITALS COMMUNICATE** – N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management has teamed up with the N.H. Hospital Association to provide ham radio equipment to each of the state's 26 acute care hospitals. The radio equipment will be used to provide backup communications during emergencies or when other means of communication fail. The equipment is being paid for with part of a hospital preparedness grant. HSEM and the NHHA are working the N.H. Amateur Radio Emergency Service, or ARES, to install the equipment and provide licensed operators. The radios may be used to communicate from one hospital to another or from hospitals to state and local emergency officials. The state Emergency Operations Center is already equipped to use amateur radio, as are some dispatch centers around the state.

Amateur radio has a long tradition of service during disasters. Ham radio operators have considerable expertise in communications technology and own their equipment. During many major disasters they provide the only means of communication in affected areas.

**N.H. SENDS HELP TO HURRICANE STRICKEN AREAS** – This year's active hurricane season hasn't had much direct impact on New Hampshire, at least not so far. But personnel from the state helped out in areas of the country that suffered damage from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Public Service Company of New Hampshire sent 15 line crews to assist Entergy Corporation customers in Arkansas. The utility sent another 13 crews to Upstate New York to aid National Grid. In addition to the utility crews, three members of the Concord Fire Department were deployed to the South on hurricane duty as part of a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team.

**FLOODED ALLENSTOWN HOMES TO BE BOUGHT OUT** – The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved five grants totaling \$2.1 million to assist the Town of Allenstown in purchasing 14 homes that suffered repeated flood damage. The grants, from the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, will pay for 75 percent of the cost of purchasing and demolishing the homes. The sites will be designated as open space and no future private construction will be permitted there. The homes to be purchased are near the Suncook River on Albin Avenue, Riverside Drive and Jillerick Road. Town officials have met with the affected homeowners to explain the acquisition process.

**THIS IS ONLY A TEST...** All 121 Seabrook Station emergency sirens in New Hampshire and Massachusetts will be tested on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The sirens will be sounded at 12:30 p.m. Emergency personnel from the state, local communities and the plant will monitor each siren to ensure that it operates. WOKQ and other Seacoast radio stations will carry announcements during the noon hour to remind listeners that the siren activation is only a test. Seabrook Station plans an extensive publicity effort prior to the test to warn residents that it will be taking place.

**2-1-1 ADVISORY PANEL MEETS** – New Hampshire’s 2-1-1 advisory committee met in Manchester on September 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss ways of effectively utilizing the service and to integrate it into the state’s emergency response resources as the program develops. 2-1-1 is a statewide information and referral service that provides information and assistance to people in need by calling 2-1-1. The project, which operates out of Public Service Company of New Hampshire’s call center in Manchester, received 1,765 calls from when it began operations on June 11<sup>th</sup> until the day of the meeting. The top five categories of calls were rent payment and rental deposit assistance, homeless services, temporary financial assistance, electric bill payment assistance and home heating assistance. The service currently has four trained call takers. More information on New Hampshire’s 2-1-1 program is available at [www.211nh.org](http://www.211nh.org).

Future plans may have 2-1-1 serve as the general public assistance number in the wake of major disasters in the state. During past disaster, *ad hoc* hotline numbers have been set up, staffed by personnel from E-9-1-1 or Department of Health and Human Services. Following the 2007 Nor’easter, staff took 3,900 calls for information or assistance.

**COOLING TOWER LEAK FORCES VY TO REDUCE POWER** – Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant reduced operating power to about 55 percent on September 17<sup>th</sup> so technicians would repair a leak in the plant’s secondary cooling system. The leak occurred in an expansion joint in a pipe that carries water from the Connecticut River to the east cooling tower. The leak of about 60 gallons per minute was in the packing material of the expansion joint. It was not related to structural problems that caused previous leaks in the tower. After technicians replaced the packing material the plant was returned to full power on September 19<sup>th</sup>. There were no safety issues related to the leak.

**HSEM WELCOMES NEW STAFF** – Lauren Hargrave has joined the Planning Section as a part time secretary. Lorri Sargent has replaced Fallon Reed as program assistant in the Operations Section. Fallon transferred to the Bio-Terrorism Section. Welcome aboard!