
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Peterborough's Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is headed up by fire chief Edmund Walker and is responsible for coordinating the town's response to major disasters. This includes natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and severe winter storms, and human-caused disasters, like chemical spills.

In January we went through a relative warm spell with significant rains that led to the break up of ice along the Contoocook River that led to the breakup of ice and significant flooding along Concord St., Summer St., and Sharon Rd. Although most of the flooding was short lived, there was significant damage and the Peterborough Police and Fire Departments were involved in the rescue of several occupants from several vehicles and houses.



As part of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget the voters authorized the replacement of the Fire Department Command Vehicle. Through an Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) we were able to increase the capabilities of the vehicle with the addition of a Mobile Data Terminal (computer), and a radio and in vehicle repeater.

Having up to date and accurate information is critical in any emergency. The town has put in place an email/text service for critical messages called NIXLE. This free system provides our residents, and other who frequent town, with critical information in the event of a local emergency. You can register for this free service on the town website. I would also encouraged you to sign up for NH Alerts, a free service of the New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Emergency and community messages are initiated by authorized public safety officials at the State level and severe weather warnings are initiated directly by the National Weather Service. Additional information is available at: <http://www.readynh.gov>.

I would encourage people to take an active role in their own personal preparedness. Numerous resources for both personal and business readiness can be found at www.ready.gov and www.redcross.org.

Please feel free to contact us if there is anything you feel we can do for you or your business to better prepare for an emergency.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund M. Walker

Emergency Management Director