

## Emergency Management Agency

2019

### 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.

The town was fortunate to not experience any disasters or other significant events this year however we continue to plan and train both as a community and region. As the Emergency Management Director (EMD), I was accepted into the FEMA's "National Emergency Management Advanced Academy" conducted at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD. This program brings together EMDs from around the nation to collaborate and grow their skills to lead communities through disasters. This program runs over a Federal fiscal year and will be completed in 2020.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2020 budget the voters authorized the purchase of a radio repeater system for use by the town's first responders. Through a cooperative agreement we were able to install this repeater at Monadnock Community Hospital. This central location within Peterborough now allows Emergency Management, Fire, and Ambulance to communicate from virtually any location in town greatly increasing our ability to coordinate resources when responding to both emergency and non-emergency events.

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 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](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.redcross.org](http://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