

## **WAITSFIELD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 2011 Annual Report**

2011 was a busy year for Emergency Managers in the Valley. Between the May 20 flooding and Tropical Storm Irene on August 28, all phases of our training were put into action: Prepare, Respond, Recover, and Mitigate.

Whenever there are warnings for severe thunderstorms, heavy snowfall, high winds, icy roads, flooding, ice jams, extreme heat or cold and more, local Emergency Managers are monitoring the situation. We communicate with staff and volunteers in Fire, Ambulance, Roads, Town government, Law enforcement, and Vermont Emergency Management (VEM). We attend trainings as well as instruct, and are coaches or consultants for those who make decisions for the town.

Importance is placed on following the Incident Command System structure (ICS) to be eligible to receive state and federal monies for all four phases, especially response, recovery, and hazard mitigation. Emergency Management procedures link our town to outside resources when our own capabilities are overwhelmed, from the Vermont National Guard to FEMA.

We welcome you to learn more about emergency preparedness, and encourage further education and involvement. Take free online courses from the FEMA EMI Independent Study Program (ISP) including Are you Ready? (IS 22), Incident Command System (IS 100), Animals in Disaster (IS 10,11,111), and more.

Take a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class, join the fire department or ambulance crew, or simply make up a disaster kit for your family and pets with water, food, medications and an emergency plan.

Contact us with questions and suggestions for how we can all be more prepared. Hopefully we won't need it like we did in 2011!

Respectfully Submitted,

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