

Fall 2006

**Hingham
Municipal
Lighting
Plant
Newsletter**

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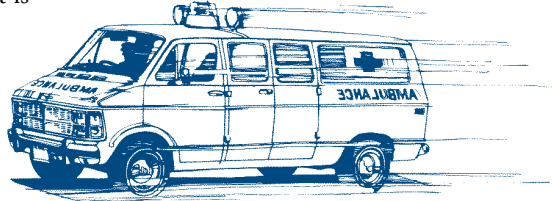
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Emergency Preparedness Exercise

The Hingham Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) recently held a Hurricane Table top preparedness drill attended by all Town departments and agencies. The theme was to prepare for the potential of a hurricane or emergency situation that could occur in the Town of Hingham. The Town departments, along with the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant spent a day reviewing scenarios, planning for events that could occur during an emergency and reviewing the communication protocols between departments and the information flowing to the general public. The consensus of the LEPC was to provide as much information to the public regarding preparation and emergency contact numbers. This newsletter and pamphlet is a condensed version of the information discussed at the LEPC meetings.



Information Regarding Emergency Preparedness

The following publication from the Federal Emergency Management Agency "Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness" is available through FEMA. To obtain a copy of this book you should call (800) 480-2520. The guide is also available at the following FEMA web site www.fema.gov/areyouready/

This book answers questions you may have on Why Prepare for a Disaster, General Preparedness Information, Natural Hazards, Technological & Man-Made Hazards, Disaster Public Education Websites and Independent Study Courses. The soft cover book contains 102 pages of information your family needs to prepare for emergencies. FEMA will mail only one copy per family. There is no charge for this important publication. We highly recommend that each family in Hingham obtain a copy.

Please feel free to call Hingham Emergency Management at (781) 741-1416 or (781) 749-2424 if you have any further questions about emergency planning.

Officially Designated Public Shelters

South Hingham

Hingham Middle School
1103 Main Street

Central/North Hingham

Hingham High School
17 Union Street

In the event you and/or your family need to utilize the above shelters, bring with you if possible:

- 1 sleeping bag and 2 blankets per person
- 1 pillow per person
- essential toilet articles, towels, toothpaste, medications, glasses ,etc.

To inquire if a shelter is operational or if you require transportation to a shelter, call Emergency Management at **(781) 749-2424**.

Emergency Phone Number and Guidelines

Life Threatening Emergencies (911)

1. Fire Dept. Business (781) 741-1480
2. Police Dept. Business (781) 749-1212
3. Emergency Mgt. (781) 749-2424

Fallen Trees, Limbs, etc. (Call in order)

1. Dept. of Public Works (781) 741-1430
2. Police Dept. (781) 749-1212

Electrical Power Problems (Call in order)

1. Hingham Light Plant (781) 749-0134
2. Emergency Mgt. (781) 749-2424

Other Important Numbers

- Aquarian Water Company (800) 928-3734
- Keyspan Gas Company (617) 469-2300
- Verizon Tel. Repair (617) 555-1611(residences)
- Verizon Tel. Repair (617) 555-1515(businesses)
- Comcast Tel. Repair (800) 266-2278(residences)
- Comcast Tel. Repair (800) 316-1619(businesses)



During hurricanes, blizzards, or other disasters, you should be prepared to be self-sustaining for a minimum of 72 hours. To help keep you as safe as possible, check the following and be prepared.

- Working flashlight (extra batteries)
- Portable radio (extra batteries)
- WATD-95.9 FM radio or Cable Channel 10 for local news.
- Charge any batteries you may need.
- 3 Day Supply of Food & Water
- Necessary Prescription Drugs
- Car gas tank full
- Supply of canned foods
- First aid supplies
- Fresh water in containers
- Ice to preserve refrigerated food
- Propane or charcoal for cooking

[You should also consider keeping an emergency survival pack in your automobile and one at work.]

Do's

- Stay calm
- Take in or tie down outside furniture
- Bring small loose items inside your home
- Be prepared to leave, if living in a low area
- Listen to radio and TV
- Use water sparingly until all services are restored

If you are evacuating your home during a hurricane or other emergency:

1. Turn off oil and gas burners and furnace
2. Cut off water service at meter
3. Leave note of whereabouts
4. Turn off electrical power at main switch.
5. Secure the house when leaving.
6. Take the 72 hr Emergency Kit

Do Not's

- Do not panic
- Do not use charcoal or propane for indoor cooking
- Do not touch ANY downed wires
- Do not run generators indoors or near buildings
- Do not go outdoors unless necessary during emergencies

Note: One of the greatest hindrances in restoring services is people sight-seeing on foot or in vehicles in problem areas. Remember that under certain circumstances persons interfering with emergency services to a stricken area are subject to arrest.

Things To Consider

1. If family member will need electricity for life support, contact the Fire Dept. or the Light Dept., in advance, whenever possible.
2. Report downed wires to Light Dept. directly.
3. Drive cautiously and only in emergency.
4. If trees are blocking your street, report it to Department of Public Works.
5. Report broken gas or water mains to the respective companies.
6. Make arrangements for salvaging frozen food if power is estimated to be off over 24 hrs.

Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant - Electrical Services

The Light Department does not staff for major outages. In emergencies cases, they depend on other municipal utilities, private electric companies and local contractors for additional help. Because of constantly changing situations during an emergency, it is impossible to predict accurately when service will be restored. Therefore, it is the homeowners' responsibility to safeguard against frozen food spoilage or other inconveniences as the result of power loss. When power is lost, turn off or disconnect all major appliances, pumps, etc. until power is restored. Power will be restored on a priority basis in the following order:

1. Health Care Facilities
2. Designated Shelters
3. Utilities and Town Facilities
4. Individual Homes and Businesses.

The Light Plant maintains a phone line, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for customer service, outage and emergency situations. Please call (781) 749-0134 for any Light Plant related issues.

Police and Fire Departments

Call 911 only in emergencies involving fire, health or life threatening situations.



Emergency Management

Call Emergency Management (781) 749-2424 for matters relating to shelters, evacuation, food and storm related emergencies.



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Department of Public Works and Landfill

The clearing of fallen trees, tree limbs, snow, or water, which obstructs vehicular traffic, is the Department of Public Work's top priority. Downed trees on town land will be removed by the town. Disposal of downed trees and other debris on private property is the responsibility of the homeowner and will not be picked up by the town. Remember that depositing private debris on town land and streets is subject to fines. The Town landfill is open for operation Thursday through Sunday, 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The landfill is closed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Holidays. During emergencies, landfill hours may be extended.

Schools

The decision whether or not schools will be in session will be made by 5:30 A.M. by the School Department. If classes are cancelled it is broadcast periodically by radio stations WBZ (1030 AM), WATD (95.9 FM), WBUR (90.9FM), WRKO (680 AM) and TV Channels 4, 5, 7 and 56.

(DO NOT CALL POLICE OR FIRE DEPTS, OR 911 TO INQUIRE ABOUT SCHOOL CLOSINGS).

Hingham Harbormaster

If a hurricane is coming and you have time to have your boat pulled, do so. There probably will be a long line at the boat ramp, so be patient and plan early. If your boat cannot be pulled in time check your lines and your insurance policy. Please do not go out during the storm to check on or save your boat. It will put you and others in danger.