



FRANKLIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 FRANKLIN

SPRING NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, TIM HARDY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR	1
COLLABORATION WITH STRONG	1
IDENTIFYING AT RISK POPULATION IN FRANKLIN COUNTY	2
SUMMER SAFETY REMINDERS	3
ABOUT US	4

Franklin County EMA has been taking a proactive approach to preparing for disasters. We all hope that there will not be a need for responding to disasters, but the reality is that unpredictable weather phenomenon, pandemic flu concerns, and manmade disasters do in fact occur and affect people in Franklin County .

One of the most important ways to be proactive is to be involved with various agencies and organizations. Public awareness is key to being prepared for any situation. Sharing information about preparedness at all levels is important. It is most important that the public know that being prepared begins with the individual. We are prepared to provide people the necessary tools to help *them* become prepared.



FRANKLIN COUNTY EMA COLLABORATES WITH STRONG HEALTH CENTER

Strong Area Health Center hosted a Round Table Discussion which included Franklin County EMA. Other organizations included the Franklin Memorial Hospital, the Town of Strong, MSAD #58, Maine Primary Care Association and HealthReach Community Health Centers, Mt. Abram, Western Maine and Strong Health Centers.

One purpose of the meeting was to become acquainted with participants to begin a community network of partners who would plan and respond in a pandemic flu situation. Discussions addressed the process of information coming from the CDC down to the local level. Individual organizations would be used "to fill in gaps and dovetail plans." Among those community members identified as key contacts was the Franklin County EMA office. The EMA is prepared to assist with communicating with the local EMA official, help with sheltering, and help identify and assist the vulnerable population in their area.

The Franklin County EMA 's objective is to communicate effectively with Franklin County agencies and organizations and be prepared to assist them should an emergency situation develop.

A follow up discussion regarding planning for a Table Top exercise will be held in August.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Better communication with Collaboration
- Identifying at risk population in Franklin County
- Keep an eye to sky for weather changes in the summer!
- Franklin County EMA office

SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR HIRED BY FRANKLIN COUNTY

In the summer of 2007, Franklin County director Tim Hardy, and Deputy Directory Olive Toothaker were reviewing the County's preparedness plan and decided that there needed to be some way in which to identify people who would be at risk and need assistance in an emergency situation. In November, with funds received from a Homeland Security grant, they hired Sylvia Yeaton to complete this project.

At risk individuals were identified as those individuals that would need assistance in an emergency. They could be elderly with mobility problems or someone who needed medical intervention on a daily basis. Or, it might be an individual with anxiety disorders that prevents them from reacting appropriately in an emergency. There were 6 levels of needs from which to choose. Sylvia developed a registration form that requested basic information about the individual, emergency contact people for that individual and a brief description of their disability. A data base of individuals grew as Sylvia distributed the registration forms to variety of agencies, public forums and individuals. A company in Farmington, the Center for Community GIS, was hired to map the data in Franklin County. Using these maps in an emergency will quickly let the EMA director know who and where the vulnerable population can be found in Franklin County.



The registration of individuals continues to grow. The result of the project has been that the EMA has a data base that will help many people in an emergency. The project has also begun to inform the citizens of Franklin County of the importance of being prepared for any emergency. By interacting with many service organizations and public agencies in Franklin County, the EMA office has strengthened its resources and created new ones. Ongoing public awareness campaigns from Franklin County EMA are planned to continue with these efforts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sylvia Yeaton, Special Projects Coordinator

140 Main Street, suite 1

Farmington, Maine 04938

E-mail: fncolepc@msn.com

P:207-778-5892

FAX: 207-778-5894

C:779-7600



PREPARE FOR SUMMER

Summer in Maine is too short, but glorious.

It also brings risks with it, heat, severe storms, or lightning strikes.



THUNDER STORMS

- If you see storm clouds or hear thunder, go inside right away.
- Lightning always accompanies a thunderstorm and lightning can strike the same place twice.
- Don't use electrical equipment or use a telephone during a thunder storm.
- If you are traveling stay in your automobile.
- If you are out doors when a storm strikes, best protection is to crouch in the open, keep twice as far from isolated trees as the tree is high.
- When boating, stay aware of weather changes. Head for shore immediately at the first signs of a thunderstorm.



EXTREME HEAT

Even though we do not get many days of extreme heat in Maine, we do get some. It is important to pay attention to weather predictions that call extended days of high heat and humidity.

- Stay indoors as much as possible.
- Eat well balanced meals, and drink plenty of water.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors.
- Never leave CHILDREN OR PETS in a closed vehicles.
- Make sure pets have plenty of water.



Close drapes or cover windows to keep heat out. Install temporary window reflectors (for use between

Keep an eye to the sky! Check your local weather forecast on line at:

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx>

While enjoying the summer season, keep in mind that it's never too early to prepare for winter. Plan ahead to stay warm this winter.

ABOUT US!

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

140 Main Street,
Suite 1
Farmington, Maine

Phone: 207-778-5892

Fax: 207-778-5894

Email:

thardy@fncome.com

otoothaker@fncome.com

fncolepc@msn.com



Franklin County EMA Director, Tim Hardy has been with the EMA for almost 5 years. He has a county emergency plan and a Pandemic Flu plan in place. Tim has assisted local communities with storm damage assessment and has obtained Federal Funding and Grants for Franklin County. He promotes and assists with coordination in preparedness trainings for first responders in local communities.



Deputy Director, Olive Toothaker has been with the Franklin County EMA for over 16 years. She developed and continually updates the county emergency plan. She has worked closely with Tim on the Mitigation and Pandemic plans. Olive works very closely with the county's local EMA directors. Olive is the county's "go to" person for NIMS information.

Clyde Ross, Public Information Officer, makes public awareness his number one priority. Clyde can be heard on local radio channel, KTJ reminding people to be prepared for all kinds of hazardous situations.



The newest member of the team is Sylvia Yeaton, Special Projects Coordinator. Sylvia developed the project that identifies at risk individuals. She also speaks to the public about the project and ways individuals in Franklin County can be prepared for emergencies.