

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

"2009" the year that pigs flu! Most memorable for 2009 will probably be the swine flu and all that surrounded it. In short I would like to commend our areas health department for doing a great job with setting up clinics in our area schools and clinics for our high risk population to administer H1N1 shots. This is and will remain an area for concern for the future. If over 50% of our work force is out for any reason it will affect us all in many ways. Shaftsbury has been working on a Continuity of Operations plan where a three person backup plan for all areas of operation has been devised in an effort to keep business as usual in such an event.

Vermont 211. Utilizing 211 in an event of a disaster can be a vital source of information. 211 has been designed to offer comprehensive information to the public about many things such as relief services, shelters and food, progress reports, evacuation and traffic issues as well as rumor and information control. 211 can also be of service in a time of need with information on food pantries, heat assistance, and warming shelters, etc.

This year we will be updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hazard Mitigation Strategies and Measures alter the hazard by eliminating or reducing the frequency of occurrence, avert the hazard by redirecting the impact by means of a structure or land treatment, adapt to the hazard by modifying structures, or avoid the hazard by stopping or limiting development. Upon completing this plan the door will be open for FEMA funding in the event of a disaster.

The Vermont Rapid Response Plan has been changed by the state this year to Basic Emergency Operations Plan. This new plan has a little more depth and utilizes the ICS structure to manage any incident. We are currently engaged in updating this plan.

VEM Calendars and Disaster preparation handbooks will be available at town meeting and at our town clerk's office. A special thanks to our Fire Department, Vermont State Police, Norshaft First Responders, and our Highway Department for all that you do! If you know someone with special needs, please be sure to check on them this winter as the temperatures dip and things become more difficult. A strong community is one that looks after its own.

Respectfully Submitted

Gerald Mattison, Emergency Management Director