

Report from Emergency Management

The first half of this years meetings were held at various locations throughout the state, looking for after actions report; from communities on problems dealing with the ice storm in December of 2008. There were many concerns from towns that felt the power companies were overwhelmed and could not handle the statewide affect of the severe power outages. One of the biggest concerns getting answers on how long the power would be out. The need for the public to receive better communication is something the state will try to handle. In Grantham, the need to set up a shelter did not arise but we did keep an eye open for the concern if needed. Grantham like most New England towns really came through with neighbors helping neighbors. We have to be especially attentive to shut-ins and those who cannot help themselves. Life support needs, medications, heat, food, water and all concerns we must deal with.

In June 2009 we started to ramp up our regional preparedness and response plan to deal with the swine flu, H1N1 a possible pandemic influenza that became a world wide effort. On June 23, 2009 I attended the Fifth Annual Conference for Emergency Management Directors with over 450 people from around the state in Manchester, NH. It was a very informative meeting and a lot was learned by all who participated.

On October 3, 2009 we held our third health fair at the Town Hall with an excellent turn out and did 223 seasonal flu shots. My thanks again to all who helped make it a success: Friends of New London Hospital, Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice, and Eastman Health & Safety people. Nancy Walters sure makes things easy for me. The date is already set for October 2, 2010 from 8-1 p.m. at the Town Hall. Hope to see you all there!

I believe there are five (5) companies who make flu vaccine and they can only make one vaccine at a time. So when they started making the H1N1 vaccine it put a halt to the regular flu vaccine pipeline. As some of you know, some people who were late and tried to get regular flu shots, there were short of no supplies available. There has been some discussion in our RCC meetings that this fall it might be possible to get one-shot vaccine, with regular flu and H1N1 combined. This will make it much simpler and easy to distribute.

In early fall at our regional planning session all 13 towns decided rather than all towns opening up their Points of Dispensing (POD) would first open up one in Lebanon for all towns to start there for the H1N1 vaccine distribution. On December 30th Grantham opened up a POD at the Town Hall and Canaan, Lyme and Plainfield opened theirs. Grantham held highest honors for 161 vaccines done and overall operation! A big thank you to all who helped make this a success: Alene Hastings, Jed Peterson, Sara Johnson, Wayne Small, Phyllis Katz, Jeanne Link, Stuart Gillespie, Jill Davis who volunteered their services. Without volunteers we are a boat with no paddles!

I meet monthly with Kristen Bitler, school nurse and Kurt Gerlger school principle at the Grantham Village School regarding Safety Committee concerns. Police Chief Walter Madore and Grantham Fire Department volunteer Jay Fountain also attend. We go over

emergency drills such as fire drills, off site evacuations, lockdown drills and review safety issues. It is all part of the town plan to stay focused to meet any needs of health and safety issues that might arise.

Besides opening up our POD for the H1N1 at the town hall, I also participated at the school here in Grantham for their vaccines distribution and three (3) different POD's in Lebanon at the School Street School.

The swine flu or H1N1 threat is not going to go away folks and it is possible that another out break will have to be dealt with this coming spring.

I would like to close with this comment; Grantham has a big need for a qualified health officer, hopefully a M.D. in preparing, responding and recovering from public health emergencies. This role and responsibilities are out lined in our town emergency plan. LPN's, or any nurse with background experience, employed or retired can help fill our needs as emergencies come up. I have a small list of emergency response volunteers, which some of you have signed up, but if you would like to pick up a recruitment form at the Town Hall and fill it out for me to have I would appreciate it. I would like to mention that the Select board approved the appointment of Ken Ryder as my assistant deputy EMD

I look forward to serving the Town of Grantham as your EMD and thank the Board of Selectmen and the staff at the Town Hall for the help I get during the year.

Respectfully Submitted

F. Robert Osgood

It's not what we accomplish in life and how much success we are able to achieve, but after all is said and done it's what we leave behind that is important.