

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2017 was a year that highlighted disasters and the need for emergency planning across the United States. Floods, fires, hurricanes and storms brought headaches and heartaches to millions of Americans as communities come to grips with disasters.

Here in Canaan we experienced 2 events that resulted in filing claims with FEMA that may result in recuperating funds spent for repairs to the town's infrastructure for the storms on July 1, 2017 and October 29, 2017. Both storms resulted in road damage and the October storm caused extensive flooding and traffic



It also provided the fire department and emergency operations staff, fire department members, Dillon Mock, John Hennessy and deputy emergency management director George Lazarus, Director Bill Bellion with an opportunity to get practice time using the new technology and reporting features of the Canaan Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This was the first time we opened the new EOC to be used for emergency operations and try out the new technology in a real

emergency response. It allows us to plan response to individual incidents, assign personnel to respond and track their progress. The fire department in return sends all reports back to the EOC electronically where response needs can be analyzed and immediate needs prioritized.



We were able to send damage reports, road closures, staffing levels, response reports to the New Hampshire Emergency Management Office and keep them informed on the situation in town. We could also make requests if needed for supplies and personnel to the state EOC.

Earlier this year, Highway Superintendant Bob Scott and Bill Bellion participated in a 1 ½ day workshop that will enable the town to send in damage reports and track costs directly to the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office to help us get FEMA funding for storm related operations. The electronic program will help the town office track costs of personnel time and materials needed to return Canaan's infra-structure to pre-storm status.

George Lazarus and Bill Bellion also attended the state Emergency Management Conference obtaining new information on emergency response programs, techniques and technology to help the town in future situations.

We also participated in hazard mitigation planning and have received the completed plan and approval by both the New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management and FEMA which keeps us eligible for grants and reimbursements for emergency response costs.

We will be continuing training on the technology in the EOC as 2018 continues to meet emergency management needs.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**William Bellion Emergency Management Director**  
**Samuel Frank and George Lazarus**  
**Deputy Emergency Management Directors**