



# NEWSLETTER

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## Sudbury Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

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**HURRICANE IRENE** left many without power, and the Fairbank Shelter was opened for two days, closing early Monday evening due to no longer being needed. CERT and MRC personnel staffed the facility, with food supplies provided by CERT members from their home pantries. One guest so appreciated the availability of the shelter that she sent a donation to Chief Miles for CERT in the amount of \$25.00.

**The OCTOBER NOR'EASTER** caused widespread power outages, anywhere from a few minutes/hours to several days. Again the Fairbank Shelter was opened by CERT, operating from Sunday afternoon thru Wednesday. Once again food supplies were provided from member homes and by Chief Miles, along with some items from an overnight guest. Many shelter guests were so appreciative of our efforts that they left cash donations, which totaled \$61.00. Funding remains a dilemma and is being looked into on several fronts.

That first night, we had 13 overnight guests, three the second night, and one the last night. Many, many residents visited during days and evenings to get warm, use WiFi and their computers (with some young people doing their homework), or to charge their cell phones. The Senior Center also had hot coffee and snacks available.

Members assisting the sheltering effort Sunday thru Wednesday included: Marie Royea, Lucille Dixon, Carole Flynn, Carol Williams, Steve Monteiro, John Stevens, George Maier, Beth Whitlock, John Seeger, Steve Weinstein, and Marilyn Ellsworth, plus Ed Lubar (former Brookline CERT member), Carol Bradford of MRC, and former CERT Chairperson Richard Simon. Several others were very willing to help but unable at the time. Cots were dismantled and supplies packed up at the end of our monthly meeting on November 2.

The shelter staff gained a lot of experience in solving issues as they arose, and we greatly appreciated the willing cooperation by both Senior Center and Park & Rec. staffs. Also, expertise was offered when needed by Sudbury's Building Inspector Jim Kelly, Wiring Inspector Art Richard, and Fire & Police personnel. The DPW also worked tirelessly throughout.

Additional help to residents was offered by Longfellow Health & Fitness; LSRHS; Park & Rec; and Goodnow Library in the form of electricity use, WiFi, and (except for the library) showers.

**A Baby Monitor** would be useful in the shelter dormitory, if anyone has a set languishing.

**Alternate Emergency Shelters List:** Carole & Lucille will undertake updating this list as soon as possible. ☺

### **WHEN TECHNOLOGY FAILS**

One major problem was that without power, most telephones would not function; hence, the Reverse 9-1-1 calls could not be received by many residents, nor could computers be accessed.

### **ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO CHECK IN ON and TALK TO NEIGHBORS!**

With such widespread outages, first responders and utility personnel were "out straight." Although we were fortunate not to have had this event happen mid-winter, it emphasizes the importance of residents being prepared to fend for themselves. In addition to our CERT Website (<http://cert.sudbury.ma.us>) documents, a plethora of readiness information is available online at such sites as ready.gov, fema.gov, MEMA on the [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) site, citizencorps.gov, BePrepared.com, and numerous others. ☺

**NOVEMBER CERT MEETING** attendees enjoyed the presence of former CERT Chair and LEPC Coordinator Richard Simon, who gave us an enlightening history of Sudbury's emergency preparedness efforts, from the beginning of LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) thru CERT. He also emphasized that when a really big event occurs, residents will need to rely on themselves, as first responders will likely be overwhelmed. ☹

### **TRAINING:**

Plans are being finalized to provide a Red Cross **Sheltering Course** and **Shelter Simulation Course**. It is recommended that all CERT members find the time to commit to these, as our sheltering efforts are very important in Sudbury. We will try to condense the hours as much as possible, so as not to impinge on members' other obligations. Notices will be transmitted via email, so stay tuned. ☺ ☹

### **CDC**

CDC Earthquakes website has been updated. In MOST situations, you will reduce your chance of injury from falling objects (and even building collapse) if you immediately:

**DROP! COVER! HOLD ON!**

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/>

### **SUDBURY PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE**

Since its inception, CERT has continued to educate Sudbury residents on Emergency Preparedness through many means, including our presence at the Sudbury Public Safety Open House held by the Sudbury Police and Fire Departments on Sunday, October 9, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at the SFD Headquarters on Hudson Road.

Aimed at teaching families about Sudbury's Public Safety services, the Open House also commemorated **National Fire Prevention Month**. Participants received safety tips from both Fire Department and Police Department personnel. Some of the exciting things planned included:

- Police, Fire and Rescue vehicles on display
- Residential Sprinkler Demonstration
- Auto Extrication Demonstration
- Papa Gino's Pizza and Coloring Sheets
- Toothprints
- Car Seat Installations

Sudbury CERT was invited to host a table, and Marie Royea and Marc Stern were able to attend, did some good PR work for CERT, and distributed preparedness brochures to both children and adults. The clement weather aided in a good turnout. ☹

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### **TRAFFIC RESOURCES**

MassDOT blog:  
<http://transportation.blog.state.ma.us/blog/>, or on  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MassDOT>

Traffic cameras: <http://www1.eot.state.ma.us/>

Logan updates: <http://www.massport.com/logan-airport/Pages/Default.aspx>, or on Twitter:  
<http://twitter.com/BostonLogan>

MBTA Service alerts:  
[http://www.mbta.com/rider\\_tools/transit\\_updates/](http://www.mbta.com/rider_tools/transit_updates/) or  
on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/mbtaGM>

### **WEATHER RESOURCES**

National Weather Service in Taunton:  
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/>

National Weather Service in Albany:  
<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/aly/>

### **MEDIA**

**Watch for the new series of monthly safety and preparedness tips being submitted to the *Sudbury Town Crier* and *Action Unlimited* entitled, “*Sudbury CERT says . . .*”**

## INFORMATION FROM FEMA / MEMA

[For details on the EMAC process, refer to the EMAC Web Site at [www.emacweb.org](http://www.emacweb.org).] ↪

### FEMA, FCC to Conduct First Nationwide EAS Test (*past tense at newsletter issuance*)



The United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have announced the first-ever national test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) will take place on Wednesday November 9 at 2:00 p.m. EST. *Press Ctrl and click on heading for full story.*

### Making the Most of EMAC

The premise of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact or EMAC is simple: No government – local, state or federal – has all the resources to respond to all disasters. In an emergency, EMAC allows governors to call upon valuable response and recovery resources from other states. If those states choose to provide help, they can do so, knowing that this issues of liability, reimbursement, licensure, workers compensation, etc. have already been addressed.

The steps to an EMAC deployment are very clear: after the governor of the affected state declares a state of emergency and the affected state asks for help from other member states - the EMAC process begins.

An EMAC Advance Team, or A-Team, works with the affected state to identify its needs, shares those needs with other states and determines resource availability and cost; the affected state completes requisition orders and finalizes cost negotiation; resources are sent to the affected state. Finally, the assisting state asks for and receives reimbursement. Throughout the process, various EMAC leadership teams interface and coordinate with state, regional, federal jurisdictions and other government entities.

### CALL 2-1-1 FOR NON-EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

MEMA and the Council of Massachusetts United Ways (COMUW) continue to promote Mass 2-1-1 as the Commonwealth's primary telephone information call center during times of emergency. The easy-to-remember 2-1-1 telephone number will be utilized as a 24/7 resource for human service and Public Safety/disaster response and planning agencies. It was designed, in part, to reduce the number of non-emergency calls made to 9-1-1.

This partnership offers citizens the opportunity for 'one-stop-shopping', with access to vital updated disaster information, numerous post-disaster programs, interpreter services, and call tracking of caller locations. Mass2-1-1 will also have the ability to act as the registration site for spontaneous volunteers and donations from the public during an emergency or crisis.

On a day-to-day basis, 2-1-1 is the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to health and human services Information and Referral. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember and universally recognizable number that makes a critical connection between individuals and families seeking services or volunteer opportunities and the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies. 2-1-1 makes it possible for people to navigate the complex and ever-growing maze of human service agencies and programs. By making services easier to access, 2-1-1 encourages prevention and fosters self-sufficiency.

Mass2-1-1 was created by The Council of Massachusetts United Ways on behalf of 22 local United Ways serving every community of the Commonwealth.

For more information about Mass2-1-1, go to <http://www.mass211.org/>. ↪

## [WHAT IS A GUBERNATORIAL STATE OF EMERGENCY?](#)

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is authorized under state law to declare a Gubernatorial State of Emergency upon the occurrence of a natural or man-made disaster. The law gives the Governor broad authorities to implement emergency measures to ensure the safety and health of the residents of the Commonwealth, take appropriate steps to mobilize state assets, and conduct other emergency business for the protection of the Commonwealth. *Press Ctrl & click on heading for full story.* ↪

## [DEALING WITH MOLD](#)

If a home has water damage from the flooding, mold could develop in as short of a time as 24 to 48 hours of water exposure and may continue to grow until steps are taken to thoroughly dry out the

premises and eliminate the source of moisture. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that mold can be recognized by wall and ceiling discoloration, and a musty, earthy odor. *Press Ctrl & click on heading for article.* ↪

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## [Get the Facts – Who Needs Flood Insurance?](#)

*FEMA Release Date: October 14, 2011. Release #:4028-032*

WESTFIELD, Mass. – Destructive flooding regularly occurs throughout Massachusetts, yet only about two percent of the state’s residents and business owners have flood insurance. Some may not be purchasing insurance due to a number of myths about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

“Sometimes people are given wrong information, such as their property isn’t eligible for flood insurance when it is,” says Mark H. Landry, Federal Coordinating Officer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. “I urge everyone to visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for current information on the National Flood Insurance Program.”

“Flood insurance helps Massachusetts residents protect their personal assets and their families’ overall financial security in the event of floods,” said Kurt Schwartz, Director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). “I urge people to educate themselves about their flood risk, flood insurance and make wise choices to protect their family’s financial health.”

**Myth:** You can't buy flood insurance if you are located in a high risk flood area.

**Fact:** You can buy flood insurance in Massachusetts through the NFIP no matter where you live, with a few exceptions, as long as your community participates in the NFIP. The NFIP is a voluntary program and not all communities choose to participate.

**Myth:** You can't buy flood insurance immediately before or during a flood.

**Fact:** You can purchase flood insurance at any time. There is, however, a 30-day waiting period after you've applied and paid the premium before the policy is effective.

**Myth:** Flood insurance is not available to renters.

**Fact:** Flood insurance can provide up to \$100,000 of coverage for the contents of any residential building; this includes the contents of a renter’s apartment or home.

**Myth:** You can't buy flood insurance if your property has been flooded.

**Fact:** It doesn't matter if your home, apartment or business has flooded. You may still be eligible to purchase flood insurance for property in Massachusetts except in a non-participating community.

**Myth:** Homeowners insurance will pay to repair and replace property that is damaged by flooding.

Fact: Unfortunately, many homeowners do not find out until it is too late that their standard homeowners policy does not cover damage due to rising or standing water from flooding.

Myth: Only residents of high risk flood zones need to insure their property.

Fact: More than 20 percent of claims are made from areas outside of mapped high risk flood zones. Even if you live in an area which is not flood-prone, it's advisable to have flood insurance.

Flooding can be caused by snow and ice melt, dam breach, extremely heavy rain fall or a hurricane. The NFIP's Preferred Risk Policy, available for about \$400 a year for full coverage, is designed for residential properties located in low-to-moderate flood risk zones.

Myth: Federal disaster assistance will pay for flood damage.

Fact: Before a community is eligible for disaster assistance, it must receive a federal disaster declaration. Declarations occur in less than 50 percent of flooding incidents. Even if federal disaster assistance is available, not everyone is eligible; when FEMA assistance is available, the amount may be less than needed to complete repairs and replace property.

The annual premium on an NFIP insurance policy will generally be far less expensive than repaying a disaster loan. Furthermore, if you are uninsured and receive federal disaster assistance after a flood, you must purchase flood insurance to be eligible for any future federal disaster aid.

Myth: Flood insurance is too expensive

Fact: As with any type of property insurance, the premium depends on the degree of risk for the particular property and the amount of insurance coverage

needed. To find out what your premium for flood insurance would be, go to the [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov) Web site and enter the address of your property.

NFIP provides a solid cushion of financial support that far outweighs assistance that may be received during a disaster declaration; NFIP assistance is applicable even without a federal disaster declaration.

To get the facts about the NFIP, go to [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. ☞

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*With memories of last winter's snow depths, the following bears repeating:*

## Winter Weather Preparedness Information

MEMA has issued information to help people prepare for another New England Winter Season. Attached is a list of items to be included in your Winter Emergency Car Kit, as well as your family's Winter Disaster Supply Kit, as well as the development of a Family Emergency Communications Plan.

“Now is the proper time for individuals and families to take the necessary steps to ensure their safety both on the roads and at home during the upcoming Winter Season,” said MEMA Director Don Boyce. “Winter weather can present challenges that can be made easier with some basic preparedness planning.”



## SUGGESTED WINTER EMERGENCY CAR KIT

Keep the following items in your car in case of emergency during a Winter Storm:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Charged cell phone
- Basic first-aid kit
- Necessary medications
- Pocket knife
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Extra clothes (include rain gear, mittens, socks)
- High-calorie, non-perishable foods (dried fruits, nuts, canned food)
- Non-electric can opener
- Container of water
- Shovel
- Sand for generating traction
- Tire chains or traction mats
- Basic tool kit (pliers, wrench, screwdriver)
- Tow rope
- Road flares
- Brightly colored cloth to utilize as a flag

Ensure that your tires have adequate tread and keep your gas tank at least half-full. Keep a windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal. Check your windshield wiper fluid and keep your gas tank at least half-full. Plan long trips carefully, listening to the radio or NOAA Weather Radio for the latest weather forecasts and road conditions. Travel during the day, and if possible, try to take someone along with you.

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Those who already have an All-Hazard Emergency Preparation Kit, as MEMA continues to suggest, should be in fine shape already. Everyone should have some non-perishable food, bottled water, flashlights and extra batteries around the house, along with a portable radio or

NOAA Weather Radio in case of power outages or other emergencies caused by a winter storm.

Additional items that should be included on your Winter Weather Supply List are a freshly-stocked first-aid kit, essential prescription medicines, non-perishable foods (those that require no refrigeration such as canned goods, dried fruits and nuts), a non-electric can opener, water (one gallon per-person, per-day), baby-care items, extra blankets, sleeping bags and a fire extinguisher.

“Every household should develop a Family Emergency Communication Plan in case family members are separated from one another during a storm. That is a real possibility during the day if adults are at work and children are at school,” said Boyce. ☞

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