



TOWN OF MILFORD
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

~ 2011 REPORT ~

2011 was a year of training, updating plans, organizing, attending meetings, and of course working hard to help protect the community, citizens, and businesses of Milford. This year we completed the last portions of a FEMA grant that provided some necessary equipment and upgrades to our emergency systems, we had 6 additional members trained in the State Emergency Operations Center communications systems, and updated the Town's Emergency Operations Plan based on changes in Milford as well as feedback from past incidents.

This year we had two events that required an elevated level of response, Hurricane Irene in August and the October Nor'easter. While Irene wasn't a significant event for Milford, it was a good primer for what we faced in October. It also reminded us all that a distance as small as 50 miles can make all the difference. Portions of Vermont and the White Mountains are still impacted by that storm with repairs extending into 2012. Outside long lines at gas stations, Milford fared pretty well in "Snowtober" all things considered. A big thanks goes to Rick Riendeau and his amazing crew at the Public Works Department and all Police Department staff for all their hard work.

We have two requests for our citizens this year:

1. The OEM is primarily a volunteer organization under the Director (who is also the Fire Chief). We rely upon volunteers to not only help in emergency events but also in critical roles in planning and preparation, working the actual emergency as well as mitigation and recovery planning. If you are interested in seeing how you can assist the OEM, please give us a call at 249-0680.
2. We have spent many hours in improving our messaging outreach to our community, but we are still working on finding the best way to communicate to everyone when the situation arises (especially during power outages).
 - a. Please register your email and/or phone for updates from Nixle. Nixle is a free service that allows us to send messages of importance to you at www.nixle.com, sign up for Milford NH Fire Department messages.
 - b. If you use Social Media, we are enabling our Social Media networks and used Facebook with great success in October. Find us as Milford Fire Department and "Like" us.
 - c. We will continue to use the Town website (www.milford.nh.gov) and PEG messages.
 - d. Please keep in touch as we enable other communications avenues in 2012.

Thank you again for a great, safe year in 2011,

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Kelly Jr., Director and Chief of Department