

# MUTUAL AID

## *A Key to Emergency Management*

Three important elements when planning for an emergency are:

1. Identify hazards that may impact a municipality,
2. Identify risks from these hazards,
3. Identify resources available to respond to the hazards.

Planning may show that a municipality has insufficient resources for an effective response. Therefore mutual aid can be an invaluable part of the emergency response plan

Fire and police professionals have used mutual aid for decades in their response to emergencies. Public Works can benefit as well.

The NH Mutual Aid for Public Works Program can assist municipalities when responding to many situations. They can utilize Mutual Aid in any emergency situation where their own personnel cannot handle the event. This includes natural and man-made emergencies. The program enables municipalities to borrow equipment and personnel to guarantee a more effective response.

The New Hampshire program for Public Works Mutual Aid is the only statewide program in the country. Currently 27% of NH municipalities are taking advantage of this program. Each has made it a meaningful part of their community emergency management plan.

Created in 1998, the governing board includes representatives of the Governor's Office of Emergency Management, Road Agents Association, NH Public Works Municipal Engineers, Fire Chiefs Association, Police Chiefs Association, New Hampshire Municipal Association, Municipal Managers Association, and the UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center.

Since the program's inception, many others have taken notice. Notably the Governor has included it in her recent report on *Assessment of New Hampshire's Preparedness and Security*. The New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management has awarded a grant to the program.

Emergency Management officials throughout the country have asked the UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center for

information. There has been increased national interest in this program since the events of September 11, 2001.

Road managers might be reluctant to bring the adoption of mutual aid to the Selectmen or City Council. Recently it came to the attention of the UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center that selectmen in one town had been waiting for their Road Agent to bring the adoption of this program forward. The new Road Agent was pleased to see the enthusiasm of the selectmen for the program.

Municipalities liking more information may contact Kathy at the UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center. She will send an informational package and can arrange an informational session on request.

Towns currently enrolled in the New Hampshire Public Works for Mutual Aid Program:

Alexandria	Gorham	New Ipswich
Allenstown	Grantham	New London
Alton	Greenville	Newbury
Andover	Groton	Newmarket
Bartlett	Hancock	Newport
Bow	Henniker	North Hampton
Bridgewater	Hinsdale	Northfield
Charlestown	Hooksett	Ossipee
Chesterfield	Hudson	Pembroke
Danbury	Lancaster	Pittsfield
Deerfield	Lempster	Rye
Derry	Litchfield	Seabrook
Dorchester	Loudon	Sharon
Dover	Lyme	Springfield
Dublin	Mason	Sutton
Enfield	Merrimack	Swanzey
Exeter	Middleton	Temple
Farmington	Milford	Walpole
Franklin	New Boston	Warner
Gilford	New Castle	Washington
Goffstown	New Durham	Woodstock

