

Winter 2016 Newsletter



President's Message

Here we are coming to the close of 2016, and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would like to wish all of our members and readers a Happy Holiday Season.

As leaders within our communities, we are often faced with the challenges that keep our citizens safe, healthy and secure while travelling. The most obvious to citizens is their streets and roadways, which in many cases now includes sidewalks for pedestrian traffic and dedicated travel lanes or paths for bicycle use.

Here in the City of Lebanon, our City Engineer and the Department of Public Works have worked closely with our Planning Department and community members on its Master Plan. Therefore, I want to share with you some of the hard work that has recently been completed in an effort to make our Community a safe and friendly place to live and commute on a daily basis.

The 2012 Lebanon Master Plan highlighted that Lebanon should become a pedestrian and bicycle friendly community and identified it as a key component for sustainable development and growth. The City has been moving forward by continuing to improve pedestrian and bicycling links throughout the community, improving existing infrastructure when feasible, and working towards adopting a Complete Streets policy.

In 2012, the City completed its first multi-use path, located adjacent to Mt. Support Rd. The multi-use path provides a needed pedestrian bicycle friendly link between downtown Lebanon and Dartmouth- Hitchcock Medical Center, the largest regional employer. The link also provides an alternative route for a transportation corridor that experiences heavy traffic. As development has grown around the end of the multi-use pathway, it has been vital that pedestrian and bicycle links follow the continued growth and many developers are contributing to the construction of such infrastructure due to the demands and expectations by the public. The City has recently submitted a grant application in order to continue the expansion of the multi-use pathway to the nearby Centerra Park and the Altaria development, which include a mixed use of offices, retail, and housing, and will connect to another proposed multi-use pathway, eliminating gaps in our current multi-use pathways.

Another project that will help connect Lebanon's two downtowns is the Mascoma River Greenway project. The effort is spearheaded by volunteers, with assistance from the City's Parks department and local businesses. The proposed project will provide an off-street pathway that is already used by pedestrians and cyclists in a corridor that currently doesn't provide safe alternative travel routes. At the same time both the Planning and Public Works departments are working on future infrastructure projects near the proposed Greenway. The City is gearing up for the 11th Combined Sewer Overflow separation project. Working together with our consultant Wright-Pierce, the City is using this project as an opportunity to improve sidewalks and by adding bike lanes, sharrows, and bike friendly signage in the roadways surrounding the Greenway in order to improve connectivity.

The City recently completed a Downtown Visioning Study with the assistance of VHB. Based on community input, the plan has identified several key infrastructure projects that will improve access and circulation of the current downtown. The plan includes altering the traffic flow into Hanover St. (NH Route 120), adding bike lanes and improving crosswalks along this same corridor. While the scope of the Downtown Vision is extensive, many of the proposed infrastructure projects will be broken into smaller projects, such as crosswalk improvements and improving way finding, which can greatly impact the safety and access to the downtown area.

By improving the downtown infrastructure and putting new value to the downtown area, the goal is that it will only help maintain and grow the economic vitality of the downtown, also helping the community as a whole. The continued improvement of transportation alternatives in Lebanon will also provide the connectivity that will positively impact the community and its citizens.

In closing, I hope that in a future newsletter each of you might share with those of us involved with Public Works, your community vision and plan for a safer travelling community. A special thank you to City Engineer Christina Hall and our Planning Office Planner Maggie Howard-Heretakis for their hard work in the City of Lebanon.

Happy Holidays,
Bruce Temple, NHPWA President 2016-2017
Assistant Director of Public Works, City of Lebanon, NH

Snow Plow Operator Safety – Advice for the Pros!

David A. Witham, CRM
Risk Management Supervisor
NH Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex³)

Their mission is to clear ice and snow. They need to be careful to avoid parked cars, vehicle traffic, children playing and countless other hazards. The weather will be bad and the hours will be long and the demands on their service are counted on by all of us. Needless to say, a snowplow operator's job is difficult!

Here are some risk management considerations to get through the winter plow season successfully and safely.

TRAINING & POLICY – Snowplow operators should be trained in the standard operating procedures and your organization should have a winter maintenance program. Operators should be familiar with their snowplow routes and equipment, ideally long before the snow starts flying. Think about the consequence of not identifying in advance that raised manhole cover or curb bump-out.

TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT - Trucks and equipment must be road worthy and ready to meet very demanding needs. Included should be a thorough and documented pre-trip inspection program. Drivers should never take a vehicle inspection lightly.

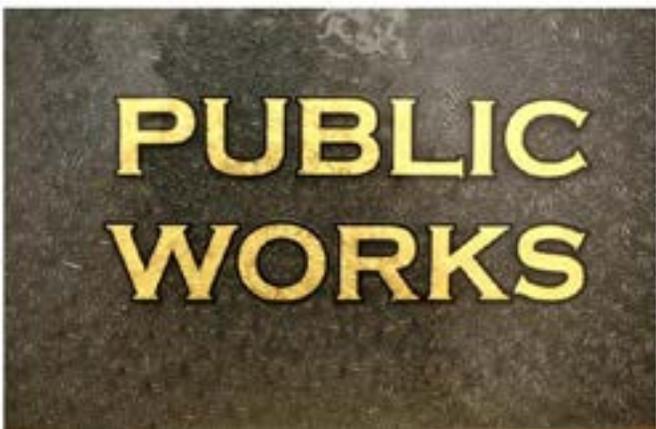
DRIVER FATIGUE - When snowplow operators are not getting proper rest, this can play a major role in accidents. Compound a fatigued driver with poor weather conditions and you can have the formula for disaster. All drivers should be made aware of the causes and symptoms of driver fatigue and how to best deal with it like establishing good sleep habits and eating healthy.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL – Employees should be routinely reminded about the importance of drug avoidance, including the use of certain prescription and over the counter drugs. Alcohol consumption is illegal prior to and during the performance of safety

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NH PWA Mission:

To be a highly visible professional organization that provides leadership to enhance the ethical, technical, administrative and educational development of all public works matters throughout the State of New Hampshire with the goal to enhance the overall service provided to the citizens of the State of New Hampshire.



1st Annual NH Public Works Plow Rally & Equipment Expo

[Scott Kinmond](#), CPM

Town Administrator, Town of New Durham, NH

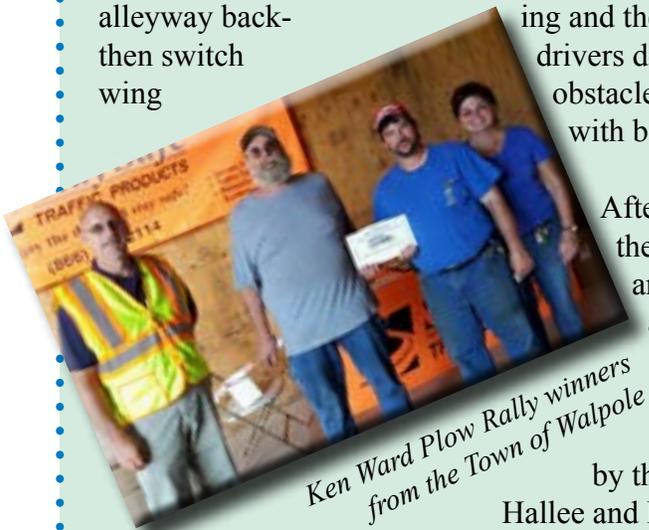
New Boston, NH- The New Hampshire Public Works Association was proud to sponsor the 1st annual NH Public Works Association Plow Rally & Equipment Expo at the Hillsborough 4H Fairgrounds. This year's Exposition hosted the Ken Ward Memorial Snow Plow competition and the Dana Wright Memorial Backhoe Competition. The event again had beautiful weather, and good participation with approximately 150 attendees from a cross the State.

The Plow Rally had twelve (12) municipalities and one (1)

NHDOT Patrol Shed (NHDOT Champs) coming from communities to the East to Dover and West to Keene, North to Plymouth, and South to Nashua. These two person teams competed in three (3) phases of testing: First: a written examination on winter maintenance operations and safety. Second: a pre-trip inspection of a plow truck and Third: plow truck operations practical. During the plow truck operation practical the teams each had to navigate a course of hazards, and vehicle maneuvers to test the teams skill in working together and their individual operator skill. The teams had to navigate simulated narrow streets with parked cars and mailboxes. The operators then had to use good driving skills with stop and turning maneuvers, then alleyway back-then switch wing and then forward serpentine to a front alleyway stop. The operators drivers do a backing serpentine, to a then a left hand sweeping turn, with obstacles. The teams are scored by how the negotiate the course, along with being timed in case of a tie.



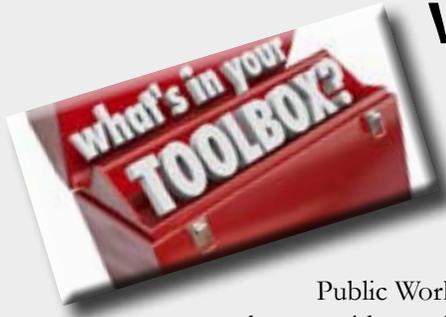
photo courtesy of Scott Kinmond



After the results were tallied, the winning Municipal team was from the Town of Walpole, consisting of Ken Silva and Ken Tompson and first runner up was City of Nashua, consisting of Eric Johnson and Robert Lajoie. The Municipal winners then squared off with the NHDOT team, consisting of Steve Hallee and Peter Miller. These two teams competing in the plow truck operator's practical course, which resulted in the state championship being won by the NHDOT Team from, the Turnpikes Division- champs Steve Hallee and Peter Miller.

NHPWA Immediate Past President Catherine Schoenenberger and NHPWA President-Elect and Plow Rally Coordinator Scott Kinmond presented the plaques and gifts certificates to the Municipal champion, First Runner up teams and the State Champions. The two teams will now travel to the New England Public Works Association Plow Rodeo to compete in the New England's Plow Rodeo finals representing the State of New Hampshire.

We would like to thank all the 2016 rally sponsors: Gold Sponsor- Liberty International and our event sponsors NHPWA, EW Sleeper, HP Fairfield, Chadwick-BaRoss, Inc., Renaissance Tree Service, Nortrax Equipment, Stay Safe Traffic Products, NHDOT, UNH T2 Center and Jordan Equipment.



What's in Your Tool Box?

Kürt D. Blomquist, PE

Public Works Director/Emergency Management Director
City of Keene, NH

Everyone who works in Public Works has a tool box. It maybe one with metal sides, a few scrapes and dents, and even that championship sticker on the side. It contains the tools of our trade, a hammer, wrench, or that flat edge shovel that fits perfectly under the man-hole cover. It can also be the rolodex or our cell phone with those contacts of just the right person when you have a question. We are always looking at our tool boxes and wondering if it complete. Do we have that right tool when we need it?

We have been very fortunate here in New Hampshire for it has been sometime since a major emergency event or disaster has happen. Superstorm Sandy in 2012 left approximately 200,000 residents without power, tree damage, flooding, and storm surge damage to costal communities. Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 was devastating to Vermont and to communities along the Connecticut River valley. In 2008 the state was impacted by an ice storm that left regions in New Hampshire without power for over fourteen (14) days, over 600,000 customers were left without power, and thousands of tons of debris was generated.

Our communities are impacted by small localized emergencies on a daily basis. In 2013 Lebanon and Westmoreland experienced over four inches of rain that cause significant damage, disruption of gas service to over 1,600 customers in Keene in December of 2015, Perflourooctanioc Acid (PFOA) contamination of water supplies in the Towns of Litchfield and Merrick in 2016. Even more localized event such as water main failures, hazardous material incidents, or forest fires can task a communities resources and compromise infrastructure.

Our Departments are task with more work then there are resources that are available and this is amplified during an emergency. Our residents and community leaders look to us as the Public Works professional to bring things back to "normal" as quickly as possible. So what do you have in your toolbox that you can call upon to assist you in responding and recovering from an unplanned event, natural or man-made disaster?

In 1998 the New Hampshire Public Works Mutual Aid Program was created from the experiences of several depart-

ments that had experienced an emergency and found there was not an organized way to obtain assistance from other communities. Mutual aid agreements are not new within the emergency service sectors. Fire and police departments have been using them for years to bringing in expertise and resources to assist during periods when local resources are taxed.

The New Hampshire Mutual Aid Program is set up for agencies to request and provide assistance during an emergency. It establish the processes for how an agency request assistance and what information that should be available to the providing agency, establishes the initial length of time of assistance, establishes how supervision will occur, outlines the responsibilities of the agency requesting and providing assistance, how cost are documented and reimbursed, to how insurances are managed. The program has continued to grow since its creation. In 2004 the New Hampshire Building Inspector Association joined the program. In approximately 2010 water and wastewater utilities, public and private, were incorporated into the program. Being a member of the program during a federally declared emergency can help a community in obtaining reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Assistance can also be made in events smaller than federally declared emergencies. Power is out and a generator is needed to run a pump station. A hazardous material incident that needs to have roads blocked and need for variable message boards or more barricades than your agency own. These types of emergency needs can be met through the program. All communities should have a method in which an emergency is declared. If a community declares an emergency they can reach out through the program to seek assistance. As a member you have access to equipment, people and expertise that can be brought to in during response and recovery activities. Cost of membership is \$25 per year for the program.

So, looking in your tool box, do you have a tool that is this multi-faceted? If you are interested and want to learn more you can go to New Hampshire Public Works Mutual Aid Program at <http://t2.unh.edu/ma>.

Kürt D. Blomquist, PE

www.ci.keene.nh.us

Snow Plow

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sensitive jobs. If drivers are called to plow snow soon after consuming alcohol, they must understand the consequences. Supervisors must be trained to recognize impaired drivers before they hit the road.

OTHER SAFETY ITEMS - Key among operator safety considerations is safe vehicle entry and exit. Climbing into the truck cab can be difficult especially when truck steps are slippery with snow and ice. Remember to use the 3-point contact method of climbing into/exiting vehicle cabs. And it should go without saying - Operators should wear their seat belt at all times!



EQUIPMENT BACKING – One of the biggest losses involving heavy equipment is a backing accident. Winter maintenance activities often require frequent backing maneuvers. Keep in mind that many objects can be hidden behind a snowplow truck. Remember the big blind spot behind the truck that cannot be seen with the use of mirrors.

There are many other safety considerations for safe snowplowing operations but these points are a great starting point so consider sharing them with your snow fighters.

Dave

David A. Witham, CRM
dwitham@nhprimex.org



Become a member of the NHPWA!

\$25 for Individual membership
\$100 for Group membership; Group includes entire Public Works/Engineering Department, firm or business.

To download the membership application form and to learn more about the NHPWA go to

www.t2.unh.edu/nhpwa

Calendar

March 2nd, 2017: NHPWA Technical Meeting, Concord, NH

May 18th, 2017: NHPWA Annual Meeting, Manchester, NH

May 25th, 2017: Mountain of Demonstrations, Sunapee, NH



NHPWA Board Members

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