

ROAD BUSINESS

A newsletter for municipal employees, public and private road-related organizations, and citizens.

On the Road in NH: NH Public Works Mutual Aid

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Thanks to Chris Carazzo, Barnstead Road Agent, for completing an interview.



The town of Barnstead and surrounding communities were hit by a tornado in July 2008. The Barnstead Selectboard declared a local emergency and Governor John Lynch declared a state emergency.

Chris Carazzo, Road Agent in Barnstead, requested approval from the town selectboard to join New Hampshire Public Works Mutual Aid (NHPWMA) to assist in the aftermath of the tornado.

Upon hearing Carazzo's request to join Mutual Aid, the Selectboard was hesitant to adopt the program until they knew all of the facts about it, including the enormous benefits it provides to municipalities. Once they learned more about the program, they were surprised they town had not already joined.

Carazzo says his experience with Mutual Aid was excellent. He says joining was "perfect, easy and smooth." To join, Carazzo filled out the agreement and listed his equipment and faxed them to UNH T². To get assistance, Carazzo faxed letters to other towns and awaited responses.

Seabrook, Farmington, Loudon, and Bow were able to provide assistance to Barnstead. Seabrook provided trucks and personnel, Farmington provided a backhoe, and both Bow and Loudon supplied chippers and personnel.

The greatest task was cleaning up and hauling away the debris. "It was a mess. You couldn't get

around," says Carazzo.

Barnstead was able to get federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since the damage from the tornado was classified as an emergency.

Carazzo says that Mutual Aid is a good thing to have and recommends it to municipalities that have not joined.



See www.t2.unh.edu/ma for more information on NHPWMA
Picture source: Homeland Security and Emergency Management: http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/bem/PhotoLibrary/nh_tornado2008_pg11.htm

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