



Fighting Fires, Saving Lives, and Promoting Safety.

Jeffrey J. Winward
Fire Chief

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Jeffrey J. Winward, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: **2/13/2018 - C. Nuon** - Req. City Mgr. Provide A Report To City Council Regarding Emergency Management Plans (I.E. Flooding, Natural Disasters, Etc..) For The City.

Lowell Emergency Management Plans

The Lowell Emergency Management Team is comprised of representatives from many different departments in the City. When important decisions need to be made regarding a major emergency, the Tier I Emergency Management Team collectively makes those decisions. During a major emergency, the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) gets activated, and the necessary members of the Tier II Emergency Management Team staff the EOC.

The Tier I Team is comprised of:

City Manager
Fire Chief
Police Superintendent

The Tier II Team is comprised of department heads or their designees from each city department. Major emergencies are managed at an incident command post in the field, and the incident is supported by the Emergency Management Team in the EOC. As the incident grows, the teams in the EOC and in the field grow with our local, state, county, and federal partners. Our local partners include: Trinity EMS, Lowell General Hospital Paramedics and Emergency Management, Pridestar EMS, UMass Lowell Emergency Management, Police, and EMS, National Grid, Enel, and Lowell School Department officials. Our county partners include: the Middlesex County DA's Office, and the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office. Our State partners include: MEMA, MA State Police Troopers, Bomb Technicians, and Fire Investigators, DEP representatives, NEMLEC, and the Department of Fire Services State Haz Mat Team. Our Federal partners include: FEMA, the EPA, the National Guard Civil Support Team, the National Park Service, and the FBI. Our Non-Governmental Agency partners include: the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.



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We have mutual aid agreements and a statewide mobilization plans to bring in fire, police, and EMS resources from communities across the Commonwealth as needed. These agencies and many others are brought into the City to assist with the four phases of Emergency Management: Planning, Response, Mitigation, and Recovery. These resources are managed using the Incident Command System at a Unified Command Post in the field, and in the EOC.

The day to day operation of emergency management is handled by our Emergency Management Office. I am the Director of Emergency Management, and we have two deputy directors - George Rose and Paul Lachance. George and Paul write and manage all of our Emergency Management plans. They network with and develop relationships and agreements with leaders from all of the other public safety agencies and department heads in and around the City, and with other Emergency Managers in the region. They attend meetings and conferences with these leaders, and they have developed a great network of resources.

We have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the City. It is a very large document, and it includes plans for all major emergencies - large structure and wild fires, major flooding, terrorist incidents, blizzards, civil unrest, hazardous materials incidents, and mass shootings. We have predetermined locations for shelters and evacuation routes. We have worked with school officials, Lowell Police, Trinity EMS, and other agencies to develop emergency plans for mass school shootings. Each year, we prepare Emergency Plans for the Folk Festival, Winterfest, the Baystate Marathon, and other planned events.

For a major flood in the City where the Merrimack River overflows it's banks, our plan would include:

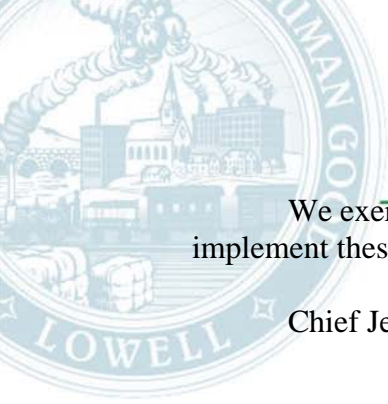
- Monitor the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service website several days before the flood to estimate the projected river height. We would compare that height to previous flooding heights, and then estimate potential flood damage.
- <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?gage=LOWM3&wfo=box>
- Closely monitor local weather forecasts.
- Notify Enel to lower the bladder dam at Pawtucket Falls before the flood happens.
- Prepare and fill sandbags ahead of time.



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- Erect portable dams at Beaver Brook to prevent flooding in East Pawtucketville.
- Activate and fully staff the EOC. Track all emergency calls through MEMA's WebEOC.
- Notify residents of potential flooding and expected damage via traditional and social media, City website, CivicReady, and local television and radio stations.
- Encourage those in danger to evacuate. Send DPW dump trucks and Fire Department boats into flooded neighborhoods to evacuate people from homes that are flooded.
- Instruct evacuees to bring essential items, such as clothing, cell phones, cash, credit cards, and medications with them.
- Provide busses from LRTA or School Department to evacuate those without transportation.
- Open and staff shelters, as needed, at the Lowell Senior Center and the Lowell High Gym. Staff with police, firefighter/EMTs, Health Department staff, Red Cross volunteers, custodians, and kitchen staff. Request extra cots and blankets from MEMA.
- Animal control officers will manage pet evacuations.
- Salvation Army will provide food and water to emergency workers.
- Emergency Management will check hospitals and nursing homes. We will assist with any emergencies in their facilities.
- Water and wastewater staff will be dispatched to water and sewer problems.
- National Grid Gas and Electric will be dispatched to utility emergencies.
- DPW will deploy sandbags as needed to affected areas. We will request extra sandbags from MEMA.
- UMass Lowell staff will manage student evacuations.
- Request National Guard troops to assist if flood becomes a multi-day event.
- After water recedes: Fire Department will respond to hazardous materials incidents; Building Department will inspect damaged buildings; Recycling Coordinator and DPW will manage trash removal; Police Department and National Guard will manage security and slowly return people to their homes; Emergency Management will work with FEMA for reimbursement.
- Perform After Action Review, and write an After Action Report. Use lessons learned for future Emergency Management planning.



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We exercise this and other emergency plans with our partners on a regular basis, and implement these plans as needed.

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The City of **LOWELL** *Alive. Unique. Inspiring.*