

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2021 was a year when the planning from previous activities became the basis for many of our public service community operations. This year we organized the planning for the Covid vaccination clinics. With 6 to 8 firefighters, we were able to successfully manage the flow of residents who wanted to receive vaccinations at the Mascoma Community Health Center. Given the weather conditions of planning for clinics in March and April, we were able to provide staff to make these events run smoothly.



It involves communications, getting traffic signs, working with the staff at the MCHC, finding additional staff to help register and administer vaccines. We also need to rotate staff who are outside for long periods to enable them to warm up and then go back to their assignments. We were fortunate also to get help from the highway department for plowing parking lots and getting traffic signs set up, and then returned, to state agencies. This is where the cooperation needs to be built and utilized to make emergency and planned events happen.





We found that residents were very thankful for our efforts to facilitate the vaccine clinics in Canaan and did not hesitate to express their thanks. Setting up the traffic logistics brings the fire department, police department and ambulance together in a effort to benefit the community and very much typifies the emergency management structure. Emergency management also is responsible for coordinating the acquisition of necessary personnel protection equipment for EMTs and firefighters from the various state agencies. Getting the needed supplies requires working with NH Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and making contact through phone calls, emails and Zoom meetings to get the equipment.



The emergency management department has been initiating contacts to start an update and review of our Emergency Management Plan and eventually our hazard mitigation plan. Both of these plans will require meetings and the cooperation of town departments to create and update our plans. The end result will be plans that will enable Canaan to continue to respond to future events in an organized and effective manner. Even though emergency management functions primarily during weather related and other events, it has been a gratifying experience to work through these incidents with the members of the fire, highway, police department and town office to bring normalcy out of unplanned incidents.

William Bellion
Emergency Management Director