



**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**  
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
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Allenstown public information officer Kelly Collins (right) gathers information at the command post during Allenstown's full scale exercise on Oct. 24. See story, page 2. N.H. Department of Safety photo

**PRESIDENT DECLARES H1N1 A NATIONAL EMERGENCY** – President Barack Obama has declared the H1N1 flu, also known as swine flu, to be a national emergency. The declaration, which was signed late on Friday, Oct. 23, allows the secretary of Health and Human Services to bypass federal regulations in order to speed the nation's response to the disease. Initially 120 million doses of H1N1 vaccine were expected to be available by mid-October, but as of last week only 11 million had been shipped to hospitals, doctors' offices and other health care providers. According to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly 100 children have died of the disease and there is significant flu activity in 46 states.

**ALLENSTOWN CONDUCTS EXERCISE** – Allenstown and surrounding communities conducted a full scale exercise on Saturday, Oct. 24, in which the town and mutual aid companies responded to a reported tornado in the Holiday Acres mobile home park. Police and fire commanders established a joint command post at the mobile home park. Officials also set up a shelter for people and animals at a church parish hall and a joint information center for news media at the police station. A heavy rain that fell most of the day added to the realism of the exercise.

Participating agencies were: Allenstown Police, Fire and Selectmen's Office, Pembroke Police and Fire, Epsom Police and Fire, Concord Fire, Capital Area Dispatch, Merrimack County Sheriff's Office, American Red Cross, Amateur Radio and the N.H. Divisions of Emergency Communications and Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

**PUBLIC HEALTH EXERCISE A SUCCESS** – Operation Rapid Rx, an exercise involving seven of the state's 15 All-Health Hazard Regions and five acute care hospitals, successfully tested the state's response to a major public health emergency. The AHHRs and hospitals were able to quickly establish clinics for mass distribution of medicines and medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile. The scenario for the exercise involved an anthrax outbreak, but a number of the clinics used the opportunity to distribute seasonal flu vaccine. The clinic at Nashua High School North vaccinated nearly 700 people. The clinic at Rochester Middle School was prepared with 500 doses of the flu vaccine, although only about 60 people showed up. The clinics worked through the procedures involved in processing large numbers of people in a short period of time.

Participating in the exercise on Oct. 16, 17 and 24 were All Health Hazard Regions in Concord, Manchester, Nashua, Derry, Portsmouth, Strafford County and Bristol/Franklin and Franklin Regional Hospital, Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover, Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough and Parkland Medical Center in Derry.

**NH211 BECOMES EM INFORMATION RESOURCE** – N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with New Hampshire 211, making 211 the emergency public information hotline during disasters. In each of the recent disasters, back to the Alstead flood of 2005, HSEM has had to establish an ad hoc hotline, staffed by personnel from 911 and the Department of Health and Human Services. Under the new agreement 211 will take over that responsibility, responding to inquiries about shelter locations, road closures and disaster assistance, among other issues. Procedures are being developed to ensure 211 has current information during a disaster. 211 staff have already been trained on WebEOC, the computerized logging system used by the state Emergency Operations Center.

New Hampshire 211 is a statewide information and referral service than can be reached from any telephone in New Hampshire. It has been in operation for more than a year, operating from the Public Service Company of New Hampshire call center in Manchester. For more information on 211, go to: [www.211nh.org](http://www.211nh.org).

**DBHRT ASSISTS IN WAKE OF MONT VERNON ATTACK** - The Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT) has been actively involved in the response to the recent murder of a mother and serious injury to her daughter. The towns of Mont Vernon, Amherst and Brookline requested that DBHRT assist in the planning and delivery of “Crisis Forums” in each of the towns affected by the tragedy. In addition to the public gatherings, DBHRT members have met with and provided support to the following groups: parents, school faculty, students, first responders, media personnel and community members. The crisis forums provided up-to-date, accurate information, reviewed typical reactions to traumatic events, coping strategies, available resources and a question and answer period. Over 400 people attended these forums.

**SEABROOK TO CONDUCT 2<sup>ND</sup> SIREN TEST** – The Seabrook Station nuclear power plant will conduct a test of its emergency sirens, an outdoor notification system, on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 12:30 p.m. It is the second system-wide test of the sirens in recent years. It is being carried out on a weekday when most people are at work or school. Last year’s test was done on a Saturday. Prior to the test, Seabrook Station is conducting a public information campaign to inform residents of the Seabrook Emergency Planning Zone that it is taking place and there is no real emergency. But it is also an opportunity to remind people of what they are supposed to do when they hear the sirens: to turn on their radio or television for information on what is going on and what they need to do to protect themselves and their families.

There are 121 sirens in the Seabrook Emergency Planning Zone, 94 of which are in New Hampshire and 27 in Massachusetts.

**N.H. HEARTSAFE COMMUNITIES NAMED** – Five New Hampshire communities have been designated HeartSafe under a program co-sponsored by the departments of Safety and Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the American Heart Association. Hampton, Derry, Manchester, Milford and Lyme received the designation. HeartSafe means that the communities have attained critical standards of emergency coronary care, such as the number of people who have CPR training and the number of automated external defibrillators available. At a State House news conference on Oct. 14, representatives of the communities received certificates and traffic signs indicating that they are a HeartSafe community.

**REGIONAL POWER USE DOWN DURING SUMMER** – Electric power consumption declined six percent last summer, compared to the previous year, due to the cool weather and poor economy. ISO-New England, the region’s power grid operator, predicted last June that electricity supplies would be adequate for the summer, assuming normal weather conditions. It predicted peak consumption of 27,875 megawatts (MW), but it never came close to that. The highest demand for the summer was 25,081 MW. The all-time peak demand was 28,130 MW, set on Aug. 2, 2006. The region has generation capacity of 31,225 MW.