

Westmoreland NH Emergency Management

Notes from Table Top Exercise - 27 March 2025

Meeting began at 3 pm

Present: Tom Finnegan, Scott Talbot, Bill Chase – Westmoreland Emergency Management

Joe Axne, Eversource

Joe Hoebeke, Eversource Community Relations

Courtney Jordan, Eversource Emergency Preparedness

Karen Fabis, Red Cross Northern New England CEO

Rich Stancliff, Red Cross Community Disaster Program Manager

Eric Fosterling, NH State Police Troop C

Steve Perrin, Maplewood

Mark Haywood, Westmoreland School principal

Bill McGahie, Westmoreland Selectman

Harry Nelson, Westmoreland Fire Chief

Danille Bishop, Cheshire County EMS

Elizabeth Curless, NH HSEM

Scott Lambertson, NH HSEM

Graham Gitchell, Westmoreland Deputy Fire Chief

Scott Talbot introduced the exercise – It was inspired by an Ice Storm which occurred in Maine in 1998.

He asked the group to respond as a team to a similar event centered in Westmoreland NH in the February of 2025.

Disasters may result from a natural occurrence, a technical event, or a man-made event.

When a disaster occurs, one should engage members of all organizations represented in the room today.

The selectboard may declare a disaster for the town.

Good records need to be kept in the event help/reimbursement is requested by the state or federal governments.

This disaster event occurred from 2/3/25 to 2.7/25.

Monday -2/3/25

Began with a National Weather Advisory at 4am – Storm from 6am to 3pm

1pm – Freeze rain warning – It will be a 4 day event – at that time there was 0.5 inches of ice

7pm -0.75 inches of ice – Cancel school

8pm – Eversource – expect power outages

9pm – Road agents ordered to stop – too much limbs and debris on the roads – 1.25 inches of ice
NH Alerts sent

10pm – NWS – expect 3.5 inches of ice

Tuesday – 2/4/25

12am – Eversource – widespread power outage

6am – State of NH declares a State of Emergency

11am – SAU29 closed until further notice – 2.5 inches of ice
Internet down

Wednesday – 2/5/25

3.5 inches of ice

25% of electrical infrastructure damaged

Continuity of Government is important

Need to establish Incident Command

Should have a Functional Organizational Chart

Need to document all expenses – have the town administrator involved

Fuel for generators will be a problem if the event is long – need to top off before major weather events

Food supply is an issue with long events

Need to have Emergency Contracts

Some homes/businesses may go for weeks without power – a real challenge for Eversource

Opening roads is a major concern – a huge amount of wood debris

Maplewood is a critical facility – transportation for a large number of people

NH State Police – 30 troopers for about 30 towns

Will need buses for transportation

Eversource sometimes sends out people to guard downed lines

Westmoreland uses warning tapes to warn of downed lines instead of traffic cones because traffic cones get stolen

There is concern for security and safety – Scott Talbot

Civilian population needs to be kept informed on a regular basis 2 – 3 times a day

Code Red is gone – Genesis is now available on cell phone

There is a free Genesis App

We need to reach town residents on how to connect

Also connection through the town website

October 30 – Scott says we will put the plan into operation

- Plan A and Plan B

Scott Lambertson, NH HSEM, says:

- Westmoreland's Emergency Operations Plan is a good general plan
- But we need a workshop to drill down and develop detailed plans
- Define state trooper role
- Ham radio operator role
- Where are the resources? – Nail it down
- Genesis – communicating tools
- Town messaging – shelters – road closures

Meeting ended 5:00pm

Bill Chase