



# SUGAR HILL FIRE & RESCUE

1141 Route 117 • P O Box 574 • Sugar Hill, New Hampshire 03586

Office of the Chief  
Allan R. Clark

December 31, 2008

## Re: Power Outages & Emergencies

Dear Fellow Property Owner:

The most recent ice storm that has devastated the electrical transmission lines in much of the southern part of the state has reminded me that the largest natural disaster threat that we face in Sugar Hill is the loss of power for an extended period of time. This threat has been identified and a plan to mitigate that hazard has been in place since 2005 and is now fully implemented.

The plan consisted of the following:

- ❖ Identifying the location of all NH Cooperative and PSNH Power Lines
- ❖ Installing a generator at the Fire Station
- ❖ Installing a generator at the Highway Garage
- ❖ Installing a generator at the Crapo Town Office Building
- ❖ Training the Fire Department on dealing with power lines
- ❖ Acquiring traffic cones, barricades & signage
- ❖ Joint training with Fire, Highway and Police Departments

In case of a wide spread extended power outage, the Crapo Building will be established as a staffed emergency warming center, which will be capable of providing a warm environment and limited meals. The Crapo Building can also be utilized as an emergency shelter with cots for overnight accommodations, if the need arises.

We are seeking volunteers who are willing to assist in staffing the Crapo Building during an emergency as the firefighters and police officers will likely be committed to providing emergency services. If you would be willing to staff the Crapo Building in shifts during an emergency, please give me a call at 823-5748.

Arrangements have also been made with the Sunset Hill House to provide emergency meals, showers and rooms during an extended power outage. They have recently upgraded their electrical system, which has the provision for accommodating an emergency power generator. In the past, the showers were used by many residents thanks to the generosity of the Henderson's.

In case of a major emergency incident, the Fire Station will become the Emergency Operations Center where local, state and federal resources will be coordinated. Should you not have telephone capabilities during such an emergency, the Fire Station will be staffed.

If someone has special circumstances, such as requiring power for a life sustaining machine, please contact me so we can be certain to make arrangements to provide the necessary support. In Epping, a 60 year old man that was dependent on life sustaining equipment died due to the power outage once his back up batteries were depleted. This could have been averted had the fire department been aware.

Should you have a generator be certain that it is properly connected to the wiring and that the generator is located outside in a well ventilated area. There were numerous cases of carbon monoxide poisoning due to improper use of generators during this past outage.

Please do not hesitate to contact your emergency services by calling 823-8123 should you require any assistance. It does not need to be a true emergency. Both the Fire Department and the Police Department are willing to help the citizens and visitors to Sugar Hill during a time of need. We encourage you to contact us.

On another matter, Police Chief David Wentworth and I have drafted an alarm ordinance that will be on the Town Warrant in March. The purpose of the ordinance is to provide guidance on the responsibility and requirements of having an alarm system that communicates outside of the property whether by an audible alarm or by communicating utilizing telephone lines.

The ordinance provides the ability to fine for more than three false alarms during a calendar year. The intent is not to fine, but to have some mechanism to be certain that problem alarm systems are promptly repaired. The full language of the proposed ordinance can be found on the fire department website at [www.sugarhillfd.org](http://www.sugarhillfd.org) or at the town offices. Should you have questions concerning the alarm ordinance, please contact either Chief Wentworth or myself.

Last, the outside burning regulations can be found at our website. A permit is not needed when there is snow covering the ground and burning is allowed at any time. Whenever snow is not covering the ground a permit is needed. Burning can then only be between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. unless it is raining and a permit is still needed.

In an effort to make the permitting process more convenient, burn permits in many cases can be obtained through our website. Please review the section on our website that deals with permits for more information.

Should you rent your property, please pass on to your tenants and guests. Have a wonderful winter and stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Allan R. Clark  
Fire Chief  
Emergency Management Director