

THE DUXBURY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ZONE SYSTEM



The zone system was created as a way for residents to manage emergency conditions occurring in their neighborhoods in an organized and effective way. The concept was developed after the floods of 2011. It is designed to be used under worse case conditions until professional help arrives at the scene. Zone reporters, zone captains and the emergency management team comprise the system.

This is a work-in-progress. Additional suggestions and comments from Duxbury residents are welcomed.

Zone Reporters

Residents who have volunteered as zone reporters are the core of the system. They can be self-actuated or called into action by a zone captain or the emergency management team. If, for example, reporters open their doors one morning to discover a three inch layer of ice on the road & trees and the power shut down, their action would be to take care of their personal and household safety first. Then, if phone lines were working they'd report power outages to the electrical company. They would then check in with their zone captains either by phone or by attempting to safely make contact in person. If possible, they would check on vulnerable neighbors and assess general conditions in their areas then pass that information on to zone captains.

Zone Captains

Residents who have volunteered as zone captains are assigned to call the emergency management team or the town garage to

report conditions in their zone. This presumes that they are unable to travel out of their zones because of unfavorable conditions. If all lines of communication are down, they should use their portable narrowband radios to make contact. If radios aren't available, they should write down brief descriptions of conditions and needs in their zones and post them close to a likely point of contact. Once captains have made contact with the emergency management team. They should attempt to make contact with reporters who have not checked in. Follow-up calls are then made to the management team.

The Emergency Management Team

This team can be comprised of the selectboard chair, selectboard members, the road foreman, the emergency management coordinator, the service officer or others, depending on the type of emergency evolving. The team will field incoming calls from the zone captains and reporters then delegate resources to zones according to each zone's need. If necessary they will activate the Emergency Operations Plan, coordinate response with teams from surrounding communities and follow National Incident Management System guidelines based on emerging conditions.

The Purpose of The Zone System

The purpose of the zone system is to limit confusion caused by emergencies and to expedite resources to manage the harmful effects caused by them. The system should act as reassurance to everyone that help is underway. Incoming information to the emergency management team from outlying regions may be less frantic and more comprehensible if delivered by residents who see what is happening and understand their roles in helping manage effective response in their neighborhoods. In turn, the team should be able to coordinate response in a way that is not random but adaptable based on accurate reporting of conditions. The Emergency Management team should then be able to formulate a zone-based response determined by accurate reports from the field.

The Duxbury Emergency Preparedness Committee meets monthly Thursday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 in the Town office.

Citizens are encouraged to become involved in developing and implementing effective emergency procedures for our community.

We are currently looking for Zone 4 Captain:

Ledge, Wilder, Stevens Brook, Hideaway, Welch, Turner, Connoly, Webster, VT100 2067-2876

We are always glad to have additional Zone Reporters.

**ALWAYS CALL 911 IN CASE OF
LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY**

A list of important information to be compiled and reported.

Does the household have:

- Heat?
- Power?
- Skype available?
- An injury?
- An illness?
- Needed medications?
- Other concerns

Does the zone have:

- Flooding?
- Road damage?
- Road blockage?
- Culvert damage?
- Fallen trees?
- Hanging tree limbs?
- Downed power lines?
- Other areas of concern?