

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, WHY?

There are four basic steps in the Emergency Management goal: *Mitigation, Preparation, Response, and Recovery*. These are the focal points of survival for millions of people who will in one way or another be affected by a disaster in the near future. The City of Bridgeport's OEMHS examines these focal points daily to make sure that the lives and property of not only the citizens of the City are protected, but also the Emergency Service personnel who has the duty in helping minimize any potential loss of life or property during these horrific events. By examining these approaches, which in fact tie into one another, the chances of minimizing any potential threat and by making sure warnings get out in a timely manner to all, will in fact save lives.

TEAM PLAY

Before the rain starts, before the flakes fall, before the tide surges, there is an emergency management team watching, ready to activate people and equipment. The preparation phase for a major event may take hours or days to accomplish. That is why the City of Bridgeport has taken the proactive approach towards public safety so that during any incident we are not asking those questions such as "what do we do", "where will we go", and "who do we call". Questions that not only need to be answered by the Emergency Service Personnel before hand, but questions residents and businesses need to know also. That is why it is vital for all communities to pull together before an incident occurs so that we can minimize the loss of lives and property.

PREPARATION SAVES LIVES

At any moment nearly 1800 thunderstorms are in progress on the earth. New England experiences 30-40 earthquakes per year. New England ranks in the top 10 in the deadliest and costliest categories of hurricanes. We rank 13th amongst States that experience tornadoes. More deaths from lightning occur on the east coast than the west coast, 150 yearly. Whatever the emergency or disaster, when the word comes in, trained people or those who are properly prepared and are working together are ready to act, and ready to preserve lives that otherwise might have been lost. Please get prepared, because disasters know no gender, race, or religious belief and can occur at any time.