



SIMSBURY FIRE DISTRICT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
871 HOPMEADOW ST
SIMSBURY, CT. 06070



Michael B. Berry

Emergency Management Director

Tel 860-658-1971

Fax 860-658-5611

Email: mberry@simsburyfd.org

Emergency Management 2023 Year in Review

Here is the review of the 2023 year in Emergency Management.

The calendar year 2023 can be summed up into a couple subjects: cyber security, dam safety, changing weather patterns, and security and restoration of the power grid.

As we moved out of COVID and the Governors Executive Powers ended we started to adjust to the new normal. The winter of 2023 was a mild one and warmer conditions provided more rain than snow to the area. The river behaved and with water control measures upstream the water only came into the action stage a couple of instances. Emergency Management personnel participated in exercises and have a better understanding of dam safety and emergency operations during excessive rain periods. Mother Nature wasn't done and the storms she provided were shorter in duration but were much more powerful. These storms stressed the power grid and as power outages occurred the cooperation developed with Eversource provided the residents with better estimated and actual restoration times. The 2023 hurricane season was more active than normal however the state only received minor impacts from the storms. Heat waves in the summer prompted Emergency Management to take a look at the cooling center plans in the Local Emergency Operations Plan. Other annexes developed dealt with excessive cold planning, flooding, and cyber security.

Cyber security, there is a new buzz word, if we didn't have enough to worry about. Emergency Management personnel have been educated and work with state and federal sources to keep up on the latest cyber threats to federal, state, and local authorities. Emergency Management recommends taking a look at your own personal equipment and make sure your devices are up to date with the latest protections. Training has been provided to personnel on how to spot scams and fraudulent emails and to stay away from them.

In 2023 we lost Joe Barrett, Joe had been invaluable in the creation and management of our radio station WSIM. His passing left a hole however it gave the District an opportunity to take stock of where we stood and where we want to go with the radio station. Plans are being developed to recruit new personnel and a new station manager has been appointed. Along the lines of the radio station Emergency Management personnel have been active in monitoring and managing social media. These platforms have been used to provide timely and accurate



SIMSBURY FIRE DISTRICT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
871 HOPMEADOW ST
SIMSBURY, CT. 06070



Michael B. Berry

Emergency Management Director

Tel 860-658-1971

Fax 860-658-5611

Email: mberry@simsburyfd.org

information to residents in the time of need. They are also being used to provide Emergency Management education to the public.

In 2024 Emergency Management personnel will be getting back to training with table top exercises and we are looking forward to a town wide exercise in the future.

As always, "A prepared community is a safe community".

Monthly Summary of Emergency Management Activities is listed below:

January - The town was still under a State of Emergency for the pandemic COVID-19. The Office of Emergency Management continued to produce an Incident Action Plan weekly until the Governor ends his executive powers. The winter Of 2022-2023 continued to be a mild one.

February – The key words for the year was Cyber Security. Residents were advised to keep their computers up to date with virus protection and municipalities performed vulnerability assessments on their servers and systems.

March – The winter of 2022-2023 came to a close with lower-than-normal snowfall and the river behaved and stayed within its banks.

April – Spring rains brought concern with the river but it continued to stay within its banks. New annexes for the Towns Emergency Operations Plan consisted of subjects such as Extreme Heat and Cold Plans, Flooding Plans, and Cyber Security.

May – In May the Governors Executive Powers ended and brought the COVID-19 Pandemic to an unofficial close. Residents were requested to remain vigilant and continue proper hygiene protocols however the levels of infections diminished.

June – Mother Nature continued to show how she is adjusting and how storms are smaller in size but they impact with much more force. Emergency Management personnel attended a seminar with the national weather service and discussed the upcoming hurricane season.



SIMSBURY FIRE DISTRICT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
871 HOPMEADOW ST
SIMSBURY, CT. 06070



Michael B. Berry

Emergency Management Director

Tel 860-658-1971

Fax 860-658-5611

Email: mberry@simsburyfd.org

July – The town experienced its first heat waves and heavy rains brought the river to action stage several times. Extreme Heat Plans were put into effect and Eno Memorial and the Library were used as cooling centers. The Local Emergency Management Plan was reviewed and updated as necessary. Also past Emergency Management Performance Grants were reviewed and adjusted as necessary.

August – This month brought a new effort to get Emergency Management information out to the public using social media outlets.

September – This month brought rounds of thunderstorms and power outages. The communication with Eversource continues to improve and restoration times were reduced.

October – This month brought the 2023 State Emergency Preparedness Exercise and the Aquarion Dam Safety Exercise that dealt with the Tuller Dam in West Simsbury. Both exercises were well received.

November – This month we lost Joe Barrett, a major part of the WSIM radio station. A new plan needed to be drawn up on the future of the radio station. Talks included the appointment of a station manager to handle day to day operations of the station. Emergency Management personnel attended the 2023 Statewide Emergency Management Meeting and annual swearing in.

December – This month Mother Nature provided several storms that caused power outages and flooding. Emergency Management worked with all Public Safety partners to safely navigate the storms. Eversource worked with Emergency Management personnel to get power restored and social media platforms were used to keep residents informed and updated.

2023 was a year filled with familiar threats but sprinkled with a few new ones. Plans for 2024 include updating the sheltering plan, providing more education and awareness on cyber threats, and continuing to educate the public on how to prepare themselves and their families in the event of disasters. Emergency Management will continue to adapt WSIM as an effective means of communication for town residents. We will be looking for new support and new on air personnel for the station.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.



SIMSBURY FIRE DISTRICT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
871 HOPMEADOW ST
SIMSBURY, CT. 06070



Michael B. Berry

Emergency Management Director

Tel 860-658-1971

Fax 860-658-5611

Email: mberry@simsburyfd.org

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Berry

Emergency Management Director
