



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



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## Emergency Management 2024 Year in Review

Here is the review of the 2024 year in Emergency Management.

The winter of 2024 was another mild one and warmer conditions provided more rain than snow to the area. The river came up in the winter and spring into the minor flooding stage a couple of instances. Emergency Management worked with the Police Department and the Highway Department to provide barricades when needed. Mother Nature wasn't done and the spring and summer thunderstorms she provided were short but powerful. These storms stressed the power grid, and as power outages occurred the continued cooperation and the use of the Eversource Hub provided the residents with better estimated and actual restoration times.

On August 2, 2024 the town was hit by a very powerful microburst. The storm knocked out power to over 40 percent of the town. Many trees were blown over, wires and poles were taken down and two planes were damaged at the airport. Emergency Management personnel along with the Unified Command set up at the Main Station and worked until power was restored. This storm would reshape the town for decades.

In the fall we suffered a drought and Emergency Management personnel worked with the Fire Marshal to promote burn bans to prevent brush fires. The Hawthorne Fire in Berlin claimed the life of a firefighter and Emergency Management personnel worked with the Region 3 Incident Management Team to coordinate a large multistate response.

This year's buzz phrase was "Voter Safety", this was a big election year and the focus was on voter security and making safe polling places. The state held their annual exercise on it and the registrars of voters were welcome participants. The election went off with no major problems. The 2024 hurricane season was less active than normal and the state only received minor impacts from the storms.

As fall turned to winter there were no major storms or blizzards.

Emergency Management personnel have been active in monitoring and managing social media. These platforms have been used to provide timely and accurate information to residents in the time of need. They are also being used to provide Emergency Management education to the public.

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

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Monthly Highlights of Emergency Management Activities is listed below:

January - The winter Of 2023-2024 continued to be a mild one. The flu made its appearance but vaccinations were available in large supply. The new manager of WSIM got to work.

February – Emergency Management personnel attended an exercise on the Goodwin Dam and worked with the Army Corps of Engineers.

March – The winter of 2023-2024 came to a close with lower-than-normal snowfall and the river came out of its banks a couple of times but no major flooding was recorded.

April – Exercises were discussed and personnel discussed having a storm preparedness one and cyber security one.

May – WSIM was inventoried and personnel are looking into possible replacement of hardware that has come to end of life

June – A storm knocked out power to 20 percent of the town. Eversource stumbled at first but was able to get power restored in a couple days. The State EPPI Exercise was held on Voter Security.

July – Cyber security came to the forefront as the virus protection company CrowdStrike put out an update that crashed computers around the world as well as in the department and Dispatch.

August – On August 2, 2024, a microburst hit the town. There was significant damage to the town and about 40 percent of the town was without power. Many trees were blown over and power lines were affected. A Command Center was set up at the Main Station and Public Safety personnel assessed the damage. Eversource sent a representative to the Command Center and an Incident Action Plan was put into effect. Roads were opened up and power was restored over a several days period. This is an incident that will take several years to recover from. Neighborhoods were changed forever.

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September – WSIM began to transmit EAS warnings over the air

October – Drought conditions dominated this month as well as the Hawthorne Fire in Berlin.

November – This month concentrated on winter safety and Social Media platforms.

December – The Hopmeadow St. fire dominated this month and Emergency Management personnel worked with the department, the district, and the fire company to provide timely and truthful information to the public.

2024 was a year dominated by weather but also included man made threats. Plans for 2025 include holding a Cyber Security multi-town exercise and continuing to educate the public on how to prepare themselves and their families in the event of disasters. Emergency Management will continue to expand WSIM as an effective and fun means of communication for town residents.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Berry

Emergency Management Director

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