

Emergency Management Annual Report for 2003

The Emergency Management program in Lincoln is based on developing and improving coordination with the various public safety agencies in Lincoln, the surrounding area and state agencies.

In the spring of 2003 Lincoln Emergency Management, with assistance from New Hampshire State Emergency Management, had a mock drill dealing with a mass casualty incident. The purpose was to evaluate our ability to deal with a major incident, multiple injuries and other issues that would strain our resources. It would also give us an opportunity to develop the Incident Command System that we have adopted to coordinate activities at the scene of an emergency.

The incident involved an overturned school bus on the Kanc with assorted injuries and fatalities. The students at Lin-Wood School should be commended for their participation and realistic portrayal of injured passengers. Others who deserve thanks are volunteers who portrayed parents, reporters and other actors on the scene. Our neighboring communities also responded to the drill by providing additional police, fire and ambulance services.

State evaluators observed this drill, and they provided us with high marks in our efforts and also provided input on how we could improve our performance.

Unfortunately, little did we realize the extent to which we would use this training! It was instrumental in our four-day search for Patric McCarthy and, during the same week, our attempt to rescue an individual who drowned at Lincoln Woods. While both efforts had discouraging and tragic results, many praised our performance in the search and rescues. Again, many in town pitched in and provided food, clothing and assistance. The spirit of volunteerism in Lincoln helped us tremendously in dealing with the challenges of that week. I would like to thank everyone for assisting us.

In 2004 we will be working further to improve our efforts in serving the community and we will be striving to improve our abilities for any future incidents.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore Smith,
Emergency Management
Director

