

1. Introduction, Description of town agencies

The Town of East Haven is comprised of 12 square miles with direct access to Long Island Sound. The Town also has the Farm River and associated flooding issues mainly tied to rainfall events with some effect from the rise and fall of the tide at its outlet. The fact that we have a coastline also exposes us to weather issues related to tropical storms, hurricane tidal surges, and extreme winds with the associated tidal flooding. The majority of our power transmission lines and communication lines are located above ground exposing them to wind and ice damage.

As far as man-made disasters go we do have some exposure in that we have a very busy interstate highway (I-95) bisecting the town as well as an important link in the railway system for the northeast between Boston and New York. Either of these could initiate a transportation related large scale incident. We do have air traffic within town as Tweed New Haven Regional Airport supports both commercial and general aviation and lies substantially within our borders.

The public safety departments of our town consist of the fire and police departments and also the public works department. The fire department is classified as a combination department in that there are both career and volunteer members. The career department has 49 employees with a minimum of 10 firefighters and an incident commander always staffing the stations/equipment and an active roster of approximately 50 volunteer members that respond to calls. In addition to this we sponsor a Boy Scout explorer post with trained members able to complete limited emergency operations and an active Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) with a trained and committed membership that cover both support and additional emergency functions. The fire department has a large variety of equipment at our disposal ranging from fire engines and ladder trucks to extrication and water rescue boats along with an all-wheel drive surplus army truck, various power saws and other items to give us the tools to deal with whatever foreseeable incident may arise. The police department has a staff of over 50 officers working on shifts that protect the town and are constantly deployed throughout the town in cruisers staying aware of conditions and events. The public works department is staffed by full-time workers with expertise in heavy equipment and tree work as well as snow removal and general labor. The mayor's office would play a leadership role in coordination with the Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Management Director in the event of a large scale emergency. The Town of East Haven is a member of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). This group shares funding from the state Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security used to prepare with equipment and training the first responders of the City of New Haven and the six adjacent towns. We have a signed mutual aid agreement with the other six agencies.

2. Town Authority in Declared Emergencies

The Town of East Haven has an Emergency Operations Plan in place signed by the Mayor, approved by the Town Council and it does extend the duties and powers of the Mayor and/or his designee in the event of a declared emergency. In the event of an emergency the public will be notified and kept informed as events unfold and situations

change. We will utilize our Reverse 911 system as a primary notification which calls the telephone numbers in the areas predicted to be affected. This system will still broadcast in the event of a power failure and if you have one standard phone (able to work without AC power e.g. Not cordless or battery powered) you can receive messages. We can utilize the Government Access Channel on the cable TV system (Channel 20 on cable), and new this year a “crawl” located on the town website www.townofeasthavenct.org to update as well where we can use the judgment of your elected and Emergency Operations personnel to determine what is necessary for our citizens to know and concentrate on our town only. In a large power outage event we can resort to the many emergency vehicles equipped with speaker systems that will travel through your area as conditions permit. If the event manages to interrupt our communications systems for a longer period of time we will post emergency vehicles at major intersections so that a call for assistance can be relayed to our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and help can be dispatched.

Evacuation of Homes

Please understand that if in a declared state of emergency the mayor orders an evacuation it is very important that the public comply immediately. We will never issue an order for people to leave their homes unless it has been determined to be absolutely necessary. Shelter locations will vary according to the incident and predicted impact on our community and will be provided in the information issued prior to the incident. If an order is issued to evacuate and some of our citizens fail to comply please understand that if these people change their mind during the height of the incident and request our assistance it may not be possible for us to respond. This is because we must take into account the safety of our limited number of personnel and resources and balance this against the dangerous conditions that would then be encountered unnecessarily. Please make yourself familiar with at least 2 routes to relocate if an evacuation order is given. Your standard route of travel and an alternate route if the primary one is blocked (example fallen tree or downed wires).

Items to take with you.

A travel kit with personal identification for all family members, cash, credit cards, car keys, prescription medications, pet supplies, flashlights, spare batteries, important family documents(insurance policies). Be aware that most shelters will not be able to take in pets so try to have arrangements made with friends or relatives to care for them. Make arrangements with a friend or relative in another area or state to contact and give your location to if evacuation is necessary. Be sure everyone in your family knows who to contact and if you are separated when the event occurs this contact person will become the key to knowing where everyone is.

Shelter Information and Locations

Many people would prefer to stay with relatives or friends and not in a public shelter. This will be possible if plans are made in advance as long as a suitable location is chosen where the same hazard would not exist.

Public shelters will be set up and opened as conditions require with our primary shelters being in the town owned schools.

East Haven High School 35 Wheelbarrow Lane
East Haven Middle School/Carbone School 67 Hudson Street
Elementary Schools

Notification will be made as to which shelters will be open prior to the event on Public Access TV, town website <http://www.townofeasthavenct.org> and East Haven Fire Dept website, www.easthavenfire.com as well as local radio and TV stations. In a power outage situation, portable or car radios can be utilized. WPLR 99.1 FM, WELI 960 AM are two local stations.

Pets

In the event that you have to evacuate your home and you have pets, the best idea is to try and find a friend or relative that lives out of the danger zone. This will be better for the pet any way because the pet won't be stuck in a cage or kennel the entire time. If you don't have any friends or relatives that will be willing to take your pet in, then you will have to find a local shelter. Where ever you have to put your pet you should bring some of the following items; ownership papers, medical records, prescription if on any, contact information, photo of pet. Items you might want to bring for the pet is bedding, collar that has identification tag and license, three day supply of food and medication. You will want to include or give any other special information that the people at the shelter might need to know. There are pet friendly hotels out there you just have to find them.

Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Smoke detectors save lives if correctly used and maintained. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that you replace your batteries in your smoke detector annually. A good way to remember when to change them is when you move the clocks. If you hear it "chirping" that means its time to change the battery. You should have at least one smoke detector on every floor; you should also have one in bedrooms. The newest building codes require them in every bedroom and on each floor and also that they are interconnected so that in the event of activation all of them sound together.

Carbon monoxide detectors save lives just as smoke detectors do. It is not uncommon to have high enough levels of Carbon monoxide present in a home to affect your health. High levels of CO can render you unconscious or even kill you. While permanent cooking and heating appliances are inspected when installed in a home for proper ventilation and operation, temporary measures utilized during a utility outage may cause increased dangers. The fire department will try to answer questions you may have during an emergency event as to the safety of alternative heating and cooking methods. An ally you should have in these circumstances is your smoke and CO detectors. They will warn you of a problem before it become life threatening. When testing either smoke or carbon

monoxide detectors always follow the manufacturer's guidelines. If you have a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector activate in alarm mode leave the area right away and call the fire department. Don't stay in the building under any circumstance. Smoke detectors also have a low battery warning indicator which usually sounds a short chirping sound. This means that it is time for a battery change. There is a higher chance of hearing this shortly after a power outage when the combination AC/battery detectors with a weak battery will begin to sound the low battery chirp.

Escape plans are essential for families to have. Everyone in the family should know two ways out of every room in their house. If you have to leave and it's smoky stay low to the floor because that is where the best air to breath is located. A window can be a second means of escape providing that you have a fire escape ladder if located on an upper floor. Your family should also have a predestinated meeting spot. Once outside call for help and DON'T go back into the house.

General Fire Safety

The following is a section devoted to fire safety. In the event of a power failure people will be utilizing alternative means of lighting. If proper precautions are not taken these methods e.g. candles can add a host of new hazards. One of the best tools to have on hand in an emergency is a flashlight. This takes the gives the occupant time to get accustomed to the lack of power. They are much safer and don't impose any additional fire hazards. Don't use your stove as a heating device because this can be very dangerous for several reasons. Residential stoves are not designed for continuous sustained use and are not ventilated properly for heating. Outdoor gas and charcoal grilles are an excellent means of cooking and often available but they must remain outside. Never run or use any gasoline powered tools in your house because the byproduct of that is carbon monoxide. When using your chimney make sure the damper is open and the flue is clear. This will allow the smoke and fumes to leave the chimney and prevent it backing up into your house.

Staying in your Home

In many cases although we may have an emergency declaration you will be asked to stay in your home unless you are in an area deemed to be unsafe. As a town we must be self reliant for the first 72 hours after an incident occurs. This is possible if every household has enough water and food to maintain themselves and their pets on hand at all times. Some options are canned goods, freeze dried foods (back packing supplies) MREs (meals ready to eat, available on-line or at Army Navy stores). The shelf life of these items must be noted, a hand operated can opener needs to be kept in the home, and an alternative method of heating the food should be available if relying on electric appliances (perhaps a gas grille but used outdoors only). The MREs have a shelf life of 5years if stored properly.

Distribution of State or Federal Supplies

In the event that supplies are requested and obtained from state or federal agencies for an incident lasting more than a few days distribution points will be set up. These will be open during daylight hours only to distribute to the public in a “drive through” manner. To utilize these distribution points you can pull up in your vehicle and open the back or trunk area. Do not exit the vehicle as the proper allotment will be loaded for you and you can leave the area. This will allow us to process vehicles in a timely fashion. Our predetermined site for the POD (point of distribution) is the East Haven High School on Wheelbarrow Lane off of Route 80.

Citizen Volunteer Organizations

East Haven has a **Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT)**. The members of this team have received training in many areas involving disaster situations such as first aid, sheltering management, and traffic control and commodities distribution along with other related tasks. This group fills a void that exists especially during large scale incidents where standard public safety staffing can not fulfill all the necessary operations. The team is seeking more members and contact can be made through the fire department website or the business office at fire headquarters.

Important Contact Numbers

Mayors Office	203-468-3204
Fire Department	203-468-3221
Police Department	203-468-3820
Public Services	203-468-3327
Human Services	203-468-3298

East Haven Town Web-Sites

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN
WEB PAGE SITES**

INTERNET ADDRESS

<http://www.townofeasthavenct.org>

mayor.towneh@att.net

www.easthavenpolice.com

www.easthavenfire.com

www.easthavenrec.com

www.easthavenchamber.com/

www.leaplibraries.org/ehaven/

www.east-haven.k12.ct.us

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Official Town Municipal Site
(Links to other town sites)

Mayor April Capone Almon

EH Police Department

EH Fire Department

EH Recreation Department

EH Chamber of Commerce

Hagaman Memorial Library

EH Public Schools

