EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This was quiet year with no major emergencies. We did have some minor flooding in April but there was no major damage.

We devoted quite a bit of time to updating our Emergency Operations Plan. An Emergency Operations Plan establishes a framework for local government to provide assistance in an expeditious manner to save lives and to protect property in the event of a disaster. The purpose of the Emergency Operations Plan is to facilitate the delivery of emergency response and to help deal with the consequences of significant disasters. What this really means is that we have to establish what disasters we are most likely to face and develop plans on how we will handle these emergencies with our local manpower because the local response is the first line of defense and maybe the second and third line of defense depending how quickly outside help arrives.

The most likely disasters we have identified are Flood, Drought, Extreme Heat, Wildfire, Earthquakes, Severe Winds and Extreme Winter Weather. However, we could also be subject to man-made disasters such as Arson, Chemicals Spills, Nuclear/Radiological Events, Terrorism, Disease Epidemics such as Small Pox or Avian Flu, Plane Crashes, Train Derailments or Multiple Vehicle Accidents.

The Plan details the various types of responses and outlines the duties of the Police Department, Fire Department, Highway Department and other local officials. Emergency Management directs the whole operation.

It is also very important for each household to be prepared for an emergency. The Red Cross recommends that at least 3 days worth of water and food be kept on hand.

Stanley Judge, Emergency Management Director