

e-News 21 Feb 2010

Indian Lake to Update FEMA Emergency Operations Plan

Indian Lake, like all municipalities, has an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to be implemented in the event of a large-scale emergency or disaster. The point behind an EOP is preparedness; taking the time to think things through in advance, documenting those thoughts, and perhaps even conducting drills so that if an unfortunate event occurs the preplanning can be implemented quickly and methodically.

A major overhaul to our EOP is mandated this year. The last EOP was created in 1997; the current effort will be the first major upgrade since 9/11/2001 and will include many lessons learned. FEMA has provided a comprehensive template, which needs to be customized.

We will need to assign an Emergency Management Coordinator, a Deputy EMC, select an Emergency Operations Center, and other items. In the past, our Mayor has been our EMC, however Mike Miscoe does not wish to take on this task. Similarly, no one on Council wishes to assume this leadership role, so it has fallen on my shoulders for the time being.

If you have interest or experience and would like to help with the EOP, or even take on the EMC or Deputy EMC leadership role, your help will be greatly appreciated. Drop me an e-line.

Shanksville Volunteer Fire Company (SVFC) - IMPORTANT

SVFC needs our help so they may continue to help us. The first need is urgent: **Driveways are snow-bound and emergency vehicles cannot get even close to some homes.** We actually had an alarm (luckily false) that could not be serviced due to an unplowed driveway. Even though you may be elsewhere, or perhaps your property is only a summer residence, it is an important responsibility to keep your driveways cleared and your home accessible to emergency vehicles.

The other need is continual: Revenues are down and costs are up. The Borough contributes each year, as do other localities and groups. It's not enough. Personal contributions are encouraged, and supporting hoagie sales and fish-fries can be win-win; we all have to eat... Please join me, and other Council members in supporting the Shanksville firefighters.

Flood Insurance - A MUST read...

Sure; you're a half-mile up on a mountain... Who needs flood insurance, right?? The answer is surprising and if you are not aware and careful you might get caught in a coverage gap in 2010 and beyond.

This is a second-order effect on us, a follow-on to the re-engineering of the dam. The next phase of the dam work is adding height and a secondary spillway to protect downstream homes, and the dam itself from an over-the-top breach. This raises the floodplain, however, and puts many

lakefront properties at some greater potential risk.

In 2010 new floodplain maps are being created and new flood-severity/likelihood zones are being created. This **WILL** impact Indian Lake and its residents/property owners. Indian Lake will be required to pass a Floodplain Ordinance identifying the new rules, covering the Borough from any associated liability, and ensuring that our property owners are aware and up to speed. Web sites, drawings, tools, and community outreach plans and presentations are being developed by the State and County for this federal (FEMA)mandate. These materials should be available late-spring or over the summer which should make for optimal info-exchanges with our non-resident property owners. What we get between now and then we will post, either directly or via links, on the Borough web site.

This is another major task I have inherited personally, by default. If you would like to offer assistance [including leadership/ownership] on this one, I would be **most** appreciative.

More on the Dam Weather

Paul Cornez reports that the snow has pretty much halted progress. Though it may not seem like it, there has already been considerable melting and run-off, and the valve had to be opened late last week for a day to control the level a foot or so until we can finish the grouting. The current estimate is 22 March. What we really need is about a dozen days of sunny, warm (mid-twenties...) weather. Blame Phil.