

Emergency Preparedness at Newtown Meeting: Notes and recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee June 2019

We are increasingly aware that the frequency of emergencies is increasing, demanding a more formal response at NFM.

- A. Weather emergencies (snow, tornados, hurricanes, wind, rain, fire...) These are often very local, indicating a need to care for individuals. The Meeting already has a strong care-of-members system in place through Care & Counsel.

The committee recommends using this existing system to respond. The community is reminded that we are *all* part of the care team when needed.

Recommendations:

1. Make sure members/attenders know that this is a function of C&C and how to contact the Clerk.
 2. Maintain a list of vulnerable members (health or mobility concerns, no family nearby), especially those living in the greater community. Those living in residential communities have emergency coverage there.
 3. When possible, contact these vulnerable people ahead of the storm to ensure they have sufficient food, power and heat alternatives, medication, and a back-up plan for sheltering in place for 3-5 days.
 4. Use technology to create a visual map of member residences that can be checked quickly for a localized emergency.
 5. Make sure the e-blast system is fully functional so everyone gets alerts.
- B. Emergencies at the Meetinghouse. These include natural disasters (ie sudden wind storm), fire, health and intruder when members are present.
- a. Fire –We have many doors downstairs for quick exit. We have an annual fire inspection and are in full compliance. Neither fire drills nor roll books seem practical.
 1. Teachers and childcare should be instructed annually on how to evacuate classes quickly (Will is a resource) and should clear rooms as they leave.
 2. Childcare should have the cell # of the adult in charge who is onsite should they need assistance.
 3. An outdoor Assembly Area should be designated (and signed?) and publicized-B&G
 - b. Natural- we use the eblast system to alert people when it is not safe to attend meeting (snow).
 1. Designate a safe space in the building (tornado) and publicize

- c. Health- We have a wheelchair, first aid kit and an AED onsite, as well as several healthcare professionals among attenders. We can't make health/life decisions for someone.
 - 1. Call 911.
 - 2. Encourage CPR and First Aid training for all members. Make sure everyone knows where the AED and First Aid kits are.
 - 3. Allow professionals to make decisions.
- d. Intruder – Nancy & Peter & Marj attended recent workshops. Will did a walk-through with the Police Chief. Noted that there have been no threats at NFM. His recommendations are included:
 - 1. Maintain good relationship with police. Tell them if we do an event that could attract problems so they can be alert/present.
 - 2. Only unlock one door except during summer.
 - 3. Have first person in building do a walk-through.
 - 4. Greeters are also screeners- have 2 people on, check with each other if someone seems questionable, call 911.
 - 5. Review key access. Remind all of importance of locking up.
 - 6. B&G should review responsibilities and processes with outside users.
 - 7. Current advice is to run, disperse.

More likely is someone who is intrusive to the worship

- 1. Create a plan for de-escalating. Other meetings have designated and trained individuals who can intervene. W&M should discuss. Again, anyone in community can be designated.
- 2. See if Peace Center can provide de-escalation training.

In the end, no one can predict how an emergency situation will occur. We will respond in the best way we can at the time, and be patient and support each other for doing our best.

This plan should be reviewed periodically as our awareness grows.

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