



City of Leominster
Emergency Preparedness
MMA January 19, 2024



we pride ourselves on being prepared for anything

- Millions spent on upgrading our water and wastewater system
- One of the first in the state to complete I and I separations
- Significant investments in sidewalks and paving.
- Repaired nearly every dam
- Repaired many culverts
- Completed our Climate Action Plan and our top two priorities are

September 11, 2023

Weather forecast:

9:00am – “Flood watch in effect with potential for some flooding”.

6:00pm – “Storms could be slow moving, expect some ponding on the roadways”.

Leominster Impact:

By 6:00pm in Leominster, all catch basins were overflowing, every road was flooded.

By 9:00pm, we had collapsed roads, sidewalks, the downtown and every major intersection was under water, and the MBTA train tracks were undermined.



September 11, 2023

End Result:

- **Estimated 10 inches of rain in four hours.**
- **Certified as 1000 year storm**
- **1400 homes/businesses damaged**
- **\$35 million in city infrastructure damage**
- **3 months preparing MEMA/FEMA paperwork for disaster declaration – still pending.**



You can be ready!
Start now!

Have a place where all resources come together



- This is our Emergency Management Building at 3:00am the night of the flood. All local, state and federal resources knew to meet there.
- Doesn't need to be an emergency management building – could be city or town hall or other building.
- It is absolutely critical to have a command center with a back up generator, communications and supplies.

- Start now! Develop a press contact list.
- During the emergency, establish regular press conferences and info sessions with the press. Otherwise you will spend all day answering everyone's individual questions.
- Designate one person to coordinate and get out your message and information through every avenue.



Speak as one voice!

Know your area resources and neighbors

- You can't do this alone and you shouldn't.
- Have a point of contact for your neighboring communities.
- Do a brief assessment of the challenges you're facing and know what resources are most needed.
- Put out the message immediately that you need help. People are very willing to help.
- Depending on the emergency, call your state partners – MEMA, MassDOT.



Communicate



- People need to know when they go to bed at night that someone is in charge and keeping them safe.
- Establish a way to communicate with the community now so they are used to it (FB, emails, website, Code Red)
- Go LIVE on FB and give the status of the emergency
- Designate people to reach out to your business community
- Let people know where they can get up to date information
- If someone asks a specific question, chances are others are asking it to. Add it to a fact sheet and get it out there.

CITY OF LEOMINSTER

STORM DEBRIS COLLECTION

Saturday, September 16
Sunday, September 17
Doyle Field
9 AM - 1 PM
Rain or shine

- Damaged flooring
- Ceiling tiles
- Sheetrock/Drywall
- Boxes filled with paper, photos, magazines
- etc.

THIS COLLECTION IS FOR STORM DEBRIS ONLY

No electronics, no appliances, no mattresses, no bulk items, no tires, no propane tanks, no furniture, no yard waste

Dean Mazarella
September 12, 2023

EMERGENCY RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

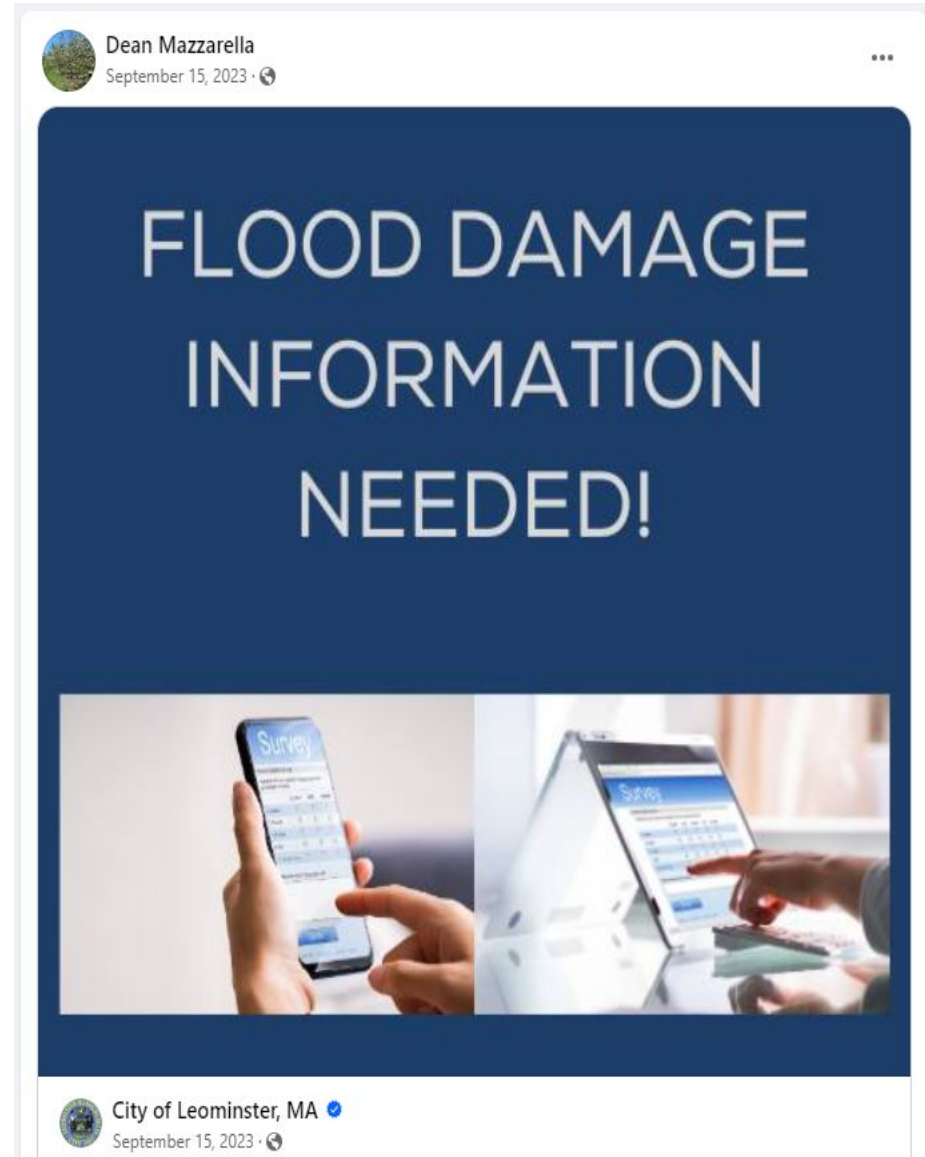
MASSHIRE RAPID RESPONSE CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AFTER ANY FORM OF DISASTER OR EMERGENCY.

Business owners can learn more at:
<https://bit.ly/3XZsoVP>

Information gathering

Depending on the emergency, designate a small team of people to gather and manage damage information.

As resources become available, you will be able to direct the resources to the best place based on your information.



Don't start planning when you're in the middle of it! Start today!

