

## TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON EMERGENCY PLAN

1. Residents need to remain alert to upcoming serious weather warnings and take appropriate steps to prepare for long-duration power outages. A long-duration outage is considered one that lasts 48 hours or more.
2. During long-duration power outages, a warming center will be opened during the daytime hours. The Westhampton Elementary School will be used as a gathering place for warm beverages and snacks. This center will provide charging areas for town residents' battery-powered equipment (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.), and will serve as a place to visit with neighbors and receive daily status updates from emergency response officials.
3. Any resident in need of overnight shelter will be asked to go to the regional shelter in Northampton. That shelter is for all area residents. The Town of Westhampton is not equipped to provide overnight shelter in town. The Town's emergency response team will try to organize transportation to and from the regional shelter if necessary.
4. The Emergency Management Director, Highway Superintendent, and Selectboard are collaborating with Eversource officials to update Eversource's Westhampton maps. This will ensure the Town's priority buildings (Public Safety Complex and Highway Garage) are identified and information is accurate.
5. It is important to remember that during an emergency, it can be very dangerous to take volunteer efforts into one's own hands. All response should be under the control of our Emergency Management Director. Residents are advised to help neighbors, but leave large-scale help to the town's trained teams.
6. Westhampton emergency personnel will do everything possible to keep the town's roads open and safe during emergency situations, such as long-duration power outages. The Selectboard will compile a list of volunteers who are prepared to operate the warming center mentioned previously. These volunteers are equipped to cook without power, they have time to staff the warming center, and they may be asked to serve on a team designated to visit residents to check on well-being. Town officials and emergency response professionals anticipate the need to implement this plan for long-duration power outages will be rare; however, it is very important that all town residents are informed and prepared should a need to use this plan arise.

The Selectboard and the Town's emergency responders are aware that Westhampton residents are very independent and may prefer not to ask for help. In an emergency, all residents are urged to ask for or accept assistance from neighbors and emergency responders in the interest of everyone's safety and well-being.