

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY TOWN OF NORWELL

POLICY

In the event of an emergency, crisis, or unexpected set of circumstances demanding immediate action to maintain the health and well being of the community, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen (BOARD OF SELECTMEN) can, under state authority, declare a "State of Emergency". A written declaration of a "State of Emergency", signed by the Chairmen of the BOARD OF SELECTMEN will be sent to the Regional and State Directors of Emergency Management, who in turn will send it to the Governor.

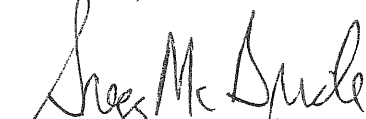
The Declaration shall state that it has been determined the incident poses an imminent and reasonable danger to public health, safety or general welfare of the people of Norwell. The document will also describe the extent of the emergency situation in relation to its detrimental impact on the public and of the property of the community. The Declaration shall contain the essential elements and specifics of the emergency and state, "that the community has exhausted, or can be expected to exhaust local resources/mutual aid assistance, and cannot handle the emergency without state/federal assistance." The State's Emergency Management Director will recommend to the Governor whether the aid requested is justifiable.

The declaration does not directly affect the operation of private enterprise. A declaration may be accompanied by a request to stay off the roads, to release employees early, or to request a staggered arrival at work in order to promote public safety.

PROCEDURE

- If it is practical/possible, the Chairman of the BOARD OF SELECTMEN should make an attempt to convene an emergency meeting of the BOARD OF SELECTMEN and the town's public safety management personnel; e.g. the Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief, Highway Superintendent, and Police Chief. (Emergency meetings can convene without posting.)
- If possible, the BOARD OF SELECTMEN should vote in an open meeting on the Declaration. If the situation makes this meeting unworkable, then the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen has the state authorization to sign the Declaration.
- In the absence of the Chair of the Board of Selectmen in consultation with remaining available Board of Selectmen members, then Emergency Management Director is authorized to make the Declaration. Emergency Declaration Form is attached for action.
- The Declaration of a "State of Emergency" may be undeclared by the Town of Norwell's Director of Emergency Management.

October 10, 2012



Gregg McBride, Chairman