

Town of Pownal
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE
Adopted: March 10, 2007 @ Town Meeting
Amended June 17, 2019

Section 1. Purpose

It is the intent and purpose of this Ordinance to establish an Emergency Management Agency in compliance and in conformity with the provisions of Title37-B, MRSA, Section 781 et seq., to ensure the complete and efficient utilization of the Town's facilities and resources to combat disaster as defined herein.

Section 2. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation of this ordinance:

2.1 Emergency Management Agency.

"*Emergency Management Agency*" means the agency created under this ordinance for the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, other than functions for which military forces are primarily responsible, in order to minimize and repair injury and damage resulting from disasters or catastrophes caused by enemy or terrorist attacks, sabotage, riots or other hostile action, or by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or man-made causes. These functions include, without limitation, firefighting, police, medical and health, emergency welfare, rescue, engineering, public warning and communications services; evacuation of persons from stricken areas; allocation of critical materials in short supply; emergency transportation; other activities related to civilian protection and other activities necessary to the preparation for the carrying out of these functions.

2.2 Emergency Management Agency Forces. "*Emergency Management Agency Forces*" shall mean the employees, equipment and facilities of all town departments, boards, institutions and commissions; and in addition, it shall include all volunteer persons, equipment and facilities contributed by or obtained from volunteer persons or agencies.

Director. "*Director*" means the director of the Town of Pownal Emergency Management Agency, appointed as prescribed in this ordinance.

2.3 Disaster. "*Disaster*" means the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause including, but not limited to, fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil, spill or other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, epidemic, air contamination, critical material shortage, infestation, explosion or riot.

Section 3. Organization

The Pownal Select Board shall oversee the development and implementation of the Town's Emergency Operation Plan and will ascertain the Pownal Emergency Management Director's responsibilities, subject to the review of the Select Board, for the agency's organization, administration and operation. The Pownal Emergency Management Director may employ, subject to the prior review and approval of the Select Board, such permanent or temporary employees as he deems necessary and prescribe their duties. The Pownal Select Board shall review the existing operational organization to ascertain the agency's ability to cope with its responsibilities and shall approve the Town's Emergency Operations Plan.

3.1 Appointment of Director/Duties and Responsibilities.

The Pownal Select Board shall appoint and may replace the Pownal Emergency Management Director, who shall take an oath of office before assuming his/her duties, coordinate the activities of all Town departments, organizations and agencies for civil emergency preparedness within the Town, and maintain a liaison with other emergency management agencies, public safety agencies, and have such additional duties as prescribed by the Pownal Select Board.

3.2 Rules and Regulations.

The Pownal Emergency Management Director shall, subject to the review and approval of the Select Board, prepare such policies as may be deemed necessary for the administration and operational requirements of the agency, which policies must be approved by the Pownal Select Board prior to becoming effective.

3.3 Emergency Proclamation.

The Pownal Emergency Management Director shall have the power and authority, subject to the prior approval of a member of the Select Board, to issue a proclamation that an emergency exists whenever a disaster or civil emergency exists or appears imminent, provided, however, that if the Director is not able to reach a Selectman in a timely fashion to obtain such prior approval, a temporary proclamation may be issued on the Director's own authority, with continuation subject to obtaining a Selectman's approval at the earliest possible moment. If neither the Pownal Emergency Management Director nor the person designated to act in the Pownal Emergency Management Director's absence is available, then the following persons shall have the power and authority to issue a proclamation that an emergency exists, in the following order of succession: the Fire Chief and the Road Commissioner. A copy of such proclamation shall be filed within twenty-four (24) hours in the office of the Town Clerk. The Pownal Emergency Management Director shall be responsible for submitting a full report to the Pownal Select Board of all actions taken as a result of the declared emergency as soon as the Pownal Select Board can be convened.

3.4 Termination of Emergency.

When the Pownal Emergency Management Director or his successor as outlined above is satisfied that a disaster or civil emergency no longer exists, he shall terminate the emergency proclamation by another proclamation affecting the sections of the Town covered by the original proclamation, or any part thereof said termination of emergency shall be filed in the office of the Town Clerk. No state of emergency may continue for longer than five (5) days unless renewed by the Pownal Select Board.

3.5 Pownal Emergency Management Director's Duties and Emergency Powers.

During any period when an emergency proclamation is in effect, subject to the prior approval of a member of the Select Board, provided, however, that if the Director is not able to obtain such prior approval in a timely fashion, the Pownal Emergency Management Director may promulgate such regulations, as he deems necessary to protect life and property and to preserve critical resources within the purposes of this ordinance. Such regulations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Regulations prohibiting or restricting the movement of vehicles in areas within or without the Town;
- b. Regulations facilitating or restricting the movement of persons within the Town;
- c. Regulations pertaining to the movement of persons from hazardous areas within the Town;
- d. Such other regulations necessary to preserve public peace, health and safety.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority or responsibility of any department to proceed under powers and authority granted to them by state statute, town ordinance or the charter of the Town of Pownal. The Pownal Emergency Management Director or his designee may order the evacuation of persons from hazardous area within the town. The Pownal Emergency Management Director or his designee shall be authorized to request aid or assistance from the state or any political subdivision of the state and may render assistance to other political subdivision under the provisions of Title 37-B, M.R.S.A. The Pownal Emergency Management Director may, subject to the prior approval of a member of the Select Board, provided, however, if the Director is not able to obtain such prior approval in a timely fashion, obtain vital supplies; equipment and other items found lacking and needed for the protection of health, life and property during an emergency without following normal purchasing or formal bid procedures. The provisions of this section will terminate at the end of the declared emergency.

Section 4. Emergency Operational Plans

The Emergency Management Director shall prepare an all hazard emergency operational plan for the Town, which shall be submitted to the Pownal Select Board for approval. It shall be the responsibility of all municipal departments and agencies to perform the functions assigned and to maintain their portions of the plan in a current state of readiness. The Pownal Emergency Management Director in conjunction with all the town department heads shall review the town plan periodically.

Section 5. Immunity from Liability

All Emergency Management Agency Forces, while engage in Emergency Management Agency activities, shall be immune from liability, as set forth in Title 37-B, Section 822 M.R.S.A.

Section 6. Compensation for Injuries

All of Emergency Management Agency Forces shall be deemed to be employees of the state when engaged in training or on duty and shall have all of the rights of state employees under the Workmen's Compensation Act, as set forth in Title 37-B, Section 823 M.R.S.A.

Section 7. Violation of Regulations

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provisions of this ordinance or of the regulations or plans issued pursuant to the authority contained herein, or to obstruct, hinder or delay any Emergency Management Agency Forces as herein defined in the enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance or any regulation or plan issued hereunder.

Section 8. Penalty

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance or any rule or regulation promulgated hereunder, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and the costs of prosecution.

Section 9. Severability

Should any provisions of this ordinance be declared invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of other provisions or of this ordinance as a whole, it being the legislative intent that the provisions of this ordinance shall be severable and remain valid notwithstanding such declaration.

Section 10. Conflicting Ordinances, Orders, Rules and Regulations Suspended

At all times when an emergency proclamation is in effect, the orders, rules and regulations made and promulgated pursuant to this ordinance shall supersede all existing ordinances, orders, rules, and regulations, insofar as the latter may be inconsistent herewith.