

BOW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



The Bow Office of Emergency Management, in conjunction with the Bow Police Department initiated a shelter in place order through NH Alerts during the home invasion last month and some residents expressed concerns about not getting the word. To ensure residents are aware of emergencies pending in their neighborhood, I would encourage all residents to sign-up for NH Alerts.

NH Alerts is an automated notification system the Town & State can use to call up to 60,000 phone numbers per hour with a recorded message. NH Alerts can reach Bow residents and businesses by residential phone, business phone, cell phone, text message, email, social media, and through the NH Alerts mobile app.

Sign Up Today! This includes public safety notices issued by the Town of Bow & the State of New Hampshire as well as severe weather warnings directly from the National Weather Service. The single enrollment portal allows you to enroll in both the Town of Bow and the State of New Hampshire's emergency notification system. You cannot opt-out of emergency messages. These will include urgent updates on natural disasters, public health outbreaks, snow emergencies, water boil orders, evacuation notices, missing children, law enforcement activities, hazardous materials situations and any other incident requiring immediate action. You will only receive emergency messages that are applicable to your address. The service will make 3 attempts to contact citizens and will leave messages in voicemail boxes and on answering machines. Town officials can send a notification to the entire Town or to a selected area.

The only way to be sure your information is entered into the NH Alerts system is to sign up for the notifications. To include your information in the NH Alerts system visit: www.readynh.gov/. You will be asked to provide your phone number and home address so that notifications made only to selected neighborhoods will be accurate. You can also change your language preferences between English, French, and Spanish when signing up. Your information will only be used for emergency notification purposes. All residents in the NH Alerts database will automatically be enrolled to receive emergency notifications from the Town of Bow & the State of New Hampshire.

FREE SMARTPHONE APPS!

Android Devices: NH Alerts is available as a free App on your Android devices. Visit the Google Play Store and search NH Alerts.

Apple Devices: NH Alerts is available as a free App on your Apple devices. Visit the Apple Store and search NH Alerts.



SWARMS OF LOCUSTS

As I write this, at the close of February, Time has written that the "current swarms of locusts are the most serious outbreak in decades, affecting Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya Eritrea, Tanzania and Uganda." Notice that there is not one swarm, but several! One swarm has been measured to be 37 miles long and 25 miles wide. Such a swarm contains up to 80 million individual locusts. Locusts have been called the oldest and most dangerous migratory pest in the world. Desert locusts (about the size of your hand) will eat everything that is green.

The current swarms migrated from the Arabian Peninsula where there were ideal breeding conditions in the deserts of Oman, and they arrived on the African continent three months ago. The UN Food & Agricultural Organization has warned that by June the swarms could increase by 500 times. Although we in the Americas do not encounter swarms of locusts, they are not a rare plague in other parts of the world, and as noted in the Old Testament book of Joel, they have been periodically occurring since biblical times.

According to the UN, the increase in locust swarms is related to climate change. A study has linked a hotter climate and above average rain that pounded the Horn of Africa to more damaging locust swarms. (1)

So what is the 'medical' connection to these locust swarms? First, these swarms have the capacity to decimate crops, thereby threatening food security and livelihoods. A swarm of 80 million locusts can, in one day, consume crops that would provide food for 35,000 people. The longer the locusts do their damage, the greater the risk of a major famine.

Secondly, since the most readily available response is to treat with aerial pesticides, there is a real risk to the safety of human health as well as bees and other vital insects.

Maybe you will feel inclined to "help." There are many organizations that focus on helping people suffering from famine; here are three:

Mary's Meals (<https://www.marysmeals.org>)

Action Against Hunger (<https://www.actionagainsthunger.org>)

World Relief (<https://worldrelief.org>)

www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/locust-swarms-and-climate-change.

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