

Power failure protocol for Hebron Seniors

In the event of a power failure in town, the Town Manager and Emergency Management Director will work with Public Works and Eversource to determine the extent of the failure and the expected time of power restoration. If it appears that power will be out for an extended period, and there are hazardous temperatures forecast (very high or very low), the Town may open shelters. Information about shelter openings will be posted on the Town website and Facebook pages and may also be posted on the digital sign in front of the firehouse on Main Street. The Housing Authority will also be notified of any plans to open a shelter so they can notify residents of the Stonecroft senior housing complex. ***Any person with a medical emergency related to the power outage – heat exhaustion/stroke, hypothermia, or the failure of electrically-powered life support devices – should call 911 for immediate assistance.*** Seniors needing transportation to a shelter should contact the Senior Center to arrange transportation on a senior bus during regular operating hours. (In the event that Hebron senior bus transportation is not available for seniors who are in *imminent danger* to their health or life due to a power outage *and* have no access to personal transportation, the town may request additional transportation resources from first responders or other local, regional, or state agencies.)

Short-term/small area event

The Town may open a warming/cooling shelter in the meeting room of the library during limited hours daily. The warming/cooling shelter will provide a heated/cooled space as well as electrical outlets for charging cell phones and other small devices.

Long-term/wide area event

- A. If RHAM High School has power, the Town may open an overnight shelter in the high school. This shelter may provide any combination of cots, showers, bathrooms, and food for people unable to remain in their homes and would be open 24 hours a day.
- B. If RHAM High School does not have power, the Town may work with our neighboring communities to provide shelter in their generator-powered facilities. These facilities may also provide any combination of costs, showers, bathrooms, and food for people unable to remain in their homes and would be open 24 hours a day.

Other options

If the weather is appropriate for residents to stay in their own homes, the CERT team may be activated to check on at-risk residents and/or deliver services directly to those residents. Services could include welfare checks, emergency food deliveries, etc. depending on circumstances.

Notes

- Residents with home oxygen concentrators should maintain an adequate supply of oxygen tanks at home to sustain them for a period of time without electricity.
- Residents should plan to bring their own bedding (blankets/pillows/etc.), medications, and any special foods needed for dietary restrictions to any overnight shelter.
- While town-operated shelters will be able to provide basic needs, they will not be as comfortable as a private residence. Whenever possible, residents should have arrangements in place for sheltering with friends/relatives because this would be a much more comfortable environment.
- Updates on power restoration time estimates will be posted on the Town Facebook page throughout the incident.
- The town's primary obligation is to provide services to those in imminent danger to their health or life. People in that situation should call 911 for assistance. Those who are in a stable situation should plan and make appropriate arrangements to either shelter in place in their homes or move to a safe location via personal vehicle.