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From: Kristine Durocher [ctsinger@att.net]

Sent: Saturday, October 01, 2011 3:29 PM

To: AfterIreneCT

Subject: Hurricane suggestions

We were without power here in Thompson for 7 1/2 days. On Wednesday my daughter found one of the roads to 84 from here still blocked, and a neighbor found a road blocked on the following Friday.

Why did CL and P take so long to get the restoration process going?
Why were the trees in such bad shape and poorly maintained?

As we try to improve things for the future, I think we need to address both of the above. I also think that:
It was great that officials used the Internet to warn people, give shelter and emergency information.

However, some people do not own/know how to use computers, including some of the more vulnerable, like many elderly. Also, in Putnam, I am told the roads to the shelters were blocked (we have to do something about those trees!!)

I would like to see communities add to their emergency plans a piece that includes knowing where our most vulnerable live, and having a plan to notify them off Internet.

Since Northeast CT seems to be the last to be restored, due to its rural nature--and I agree it makes sense to restore the most populated areas first--then something should be in place to alleviate the hardship that creates for rural areas--since many do not even have water when the power goes out, and many do not have generators. Perhaps a water delivery system can be initiated in severe storms and we could have travelling generators to periodically keep refrigerators cooled.

Finally--these trees!--it should be more clear cut as to who is responsible for keeping them maintained. We also seem to need a state or community plan for mass removing non-dangerous ones from the road in situations such as this--(maybe the people who plow for towns can plow the trees off the road. I heard that some people did exactly that with their plows.) A shelter does no good if people can't get to it.

Thanks for asking for our suggestions,
Kristi Durocher