

**Statement of Rationale**

In the past few years, the Town of Wilton has been affected by several severe events, so far mostly weather related. These have caused widespread disruptions in the lives of many citizens as a result of the loss of such services as electric power and telecommunications. Seniors in Wilton have been among the most vulnerable and affected groups. Hurricane Sandy is a recent example of this type of disruption.

**Response**

The Board of Stay at Home in Wilton (SHWIL) has decided to develop procedures to address this problem for SHWIL members. These procedures are to be activated with the concurrence of the SHWIL president when an emergency has been declared for the Town of Wilton through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). In these circumstances, persons designated by SHWIL (contact persons) will each call a small and pre-agreed number of SHWIL members (calling list members) to determine their situations:

1. Contact persons will notify the SHWIL President that they have received the alert and are following the recommended procedures.
2. At the time an emergency is predicted, the initial contact will occur to alert calling list members to prepare for the event.
3. The follow-up contact will be immediately after the event either using: phone; internet; or in-person calling at the member's residence, where this is possible.
4. In most cases, SHWIL persons participating in this program will be organized by neighborhoods within Wilton.

In the initial contact, inquiries would be made regarding the member's preparedness for a range of outcomes, depending on the event. Questions should include:

1. Are you living alone?
2. Do you have family members in the area who can assist if needed?
3. Have basic provisions been made for food, water, and medicines?

The follow-up contacts would be focused on a series of questions, which may include:

1. Is there any significant damage to your home that precludes you from staying safely in your home?
2. Have you lost specific residential utility services?
  - Electric power
  - Telephone
  - Cable
  - Internet
3. Do you have difficulty in maintaining the temperature in your home?
4. Would you be willing to temporarily move to a town-provided shelter?
5. Are your medical service needs being met?
  - Prescribed medications
  - Nursing services
  - Physician services
6. Are your food and water supplies adequate for the time period of the expected area-wide recovery from the event?

**Support**

When a SHWIL member is found to have significant needs following the event that cannot be safely addressed by the designated contact person, that person would communicate these needs to the Fire and Police Departments, as follows:

1. Fire Department: For medical-related issues and shelter evacuation; Phone: 203-834-6247.
2. Police Department: To determine if a member is present in his/her house; Phone: 203-834-6260  
The Fire and Police Departments have the capacity, in accordance with state law, to assist Wilton residents who need help under conditions of a declared Town emergency.
3. Board members should make clear to the SHWIL member that, if a true emergency occurs, the SHWIL member should immediately call 911.