TOWN OF BRIDGTON
CIVIL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ORDINANCE

The Town of Bridgton, Maine Ordains:

Article 1. OFFICE OF CIVIL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

Section 1. Short Title

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited and referred to as the "Civil Emergency Preparedness Ordinance of the Town of Bridgton." Authorized under Title 37-B MRSA § 781-834 as enacted by P.L. 1983, c. 460.

Section 2. Intent and Purpose

A. It is the intent and purpose of this ordinance to establish an office that will insure the complete and efficient utilization of all of the Town's facilities to combat disaster as defined herein.

B. The Bridgton Office of Civil Emergency Preparedness will be the coordinating agency for all activity in connection with Civil Emergency Preparedness.

C. This Ordinance will not relieve any Town Department of its normal legal responsibilities or authority, nor will it adversely affect the work of any volunteer agency organized for relief in disaster emergencies.

Section 3. Definitions

(1) The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation of this ordinance.

(A) Civil Emergency Preparedness. "Civil emergency preparedness" means the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, other than functions for which military forces are primarily responsible, to minimize and repair injury and damage resulting from disasters or catastrophes caused by enemy attacks, sabotage, riots or other hostile action, or by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or man-made causes. These functions include, without limitation, fire fighting, police, medical and health, emergency welfare, rescue, engineering, warning and communications service; evacuation or person from stricken areas; economic stabilization; allocation of critical materials in short supply; emergency transportation; existing or properly assigned functions or plant protection; other activities related to civilian protection and other

activities necessary to the preparation for the carrying out of these functions.

(B) Disaster. "Disaster" means the occurrence of widespread or sever 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, blight, drought, critical material shortage, infestation, explosion, said occurrence being of significant scope as to exceed the normal ability of the Town's resources to mitigate, respond to or recover from.

(C) Emergency. "Emergency" is defined as any event which threatens to or actually inflicts damage to people or property, and required immediate action to mitigate, prevent control, or from which to recover beyond the scope of the normal resource of the town.

(D) "Civil Emergency Preparedness Forces" shall mean the employees, equipment and facilities of all Town departments, boards, institutions and commissions; and, in addition it includes all volunteer personnel equipment and facilities contributed by, or obtained from, volunteer persons or agencies.

(E) Civil Emergency Preparedness Volunteer" shall mean any person duly registered, identified and appointed by the Coordinator of the Office of Civil Emergency Preparedness activity.

(F) "Director" shall mean the Director of the Bridgton Office of Civil Emergency Preparedness, appointed as prescribed in the Ordinance.

(G) Local: restricted to the geographic boundaries of Bridgton or Bridgton and the municipalities adjacent to it.

Section 4. Organized and Appointments

(1) An office of Civil Emergency Preparedness is hereby established within the executive department of the Town government and under the direction of the Town Manager.

(A) Organization. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to organize the Office of Civil Emergency Preparedness, utilizing to the fullest extent possible the existing agencies within the Town.

(B) Administration and operation.

(1) There shall be an executive head of the Office of Civil Emergency Preparedness, who shall be known as the Civil Emergency Preparedness Director. The Director shall be appointed by the Town Manger subject to approval by the Board Selectmen and work under the direction of the Town Manager.

(2) In addition to the Director, the office shall include such other assistants and employees as are deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the organization. Any necessary employee shall be hired by the Director with the consent of the Town Manager.

(3) The Office of Civil Emergency Preparedness shall operate according to this ordinance and regulations which shall be approved by the Bridgton Selectmen, and which may be amended from time to time by the Selectmen. No regulations or amendment shall be approved or adopted by the Selectmen during a declared emergency.

Section 5. Emergency Proclamation. Whenever a local disaster exists or appears imminent, the Town Manager, or in the event of his absence, the designated acting Town Manager shall, by proclamation, declare that fact and that an emergency exists in the municipality. A copy of the proclamation shall be posted in the same manner as the warrant calling a town meeting and a copy of the proclamation shall be filed with the Clerk. Local representatives of the media shall be contacted and informed about the proclamation as soon as possible.

Section 6. Emergency Powers and Duties.

(1) During any period when a local disaster has been proclaimed or when the Governor has proclaimed a disaster pursuant to 37-B § 742, the Town Manager or his designate may promulgate such regulations as he deems necessary to protect life and property and preserve critical resources. Such regulations may include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) Regulations prohibiting or restricting the movement of vehicles in order to facilitate the work of Civil Emergency Preparedness forces, or to facilitate the mass movement of persons from critical areas within or without the Town.

(B) Regulations pertaining to the movement of persons from areas deemed hazardous or vulnerable to disaster.

(C) Such other regulations necessary to preserve public peace, health and safety.

(2) The Town Manager may obtain vital supplies, equipment and other properties found lacking and needed for the protection of

health, life and property of the people, and bind the Town for the fair value thereof.

(3) The Town Manager or his designate may require emergency services of any Town Officer or employees. If regular Town forces are determined inadequate, the Director may require the services of such other personnel as he can obtain that are available, including citizen volunteers. All duly authorized persons rendering emergency services shall be entitled to the priviledges immunities provided by state law, the Town Charter and Ordinances for regular town employees and other registered and identified Civil Emergency Preparedness and volunteer disaster workers.

Section 7. Termination of Emergency. Whenever the Town Manager, or his designate, is satisfied that a local emergency or disaster no longer exists, he shall terminate the emergency proclamation by another proclamation. That proclamation shall be published in a local newspapers and posted in the same manner as the warrant calling a town meeting. Local representatives of the media shall be informed of the termination of the emergency as soon as possible.

Section 8. Duties of the Director of the Office of Civil Emergency Preparedness.

(1) The Director of the Office of Civil Emergency Preparedness shall be responsible to the Town Manager in regards to all phases of the Civil Emergency Preparedness activity. Under the supervision of the Manager, he shall be responsible for the planning, coordination, and operation of the Civil Emergency Preparedness activity in the Town. Under supervision of the Manager, he shall maintain liaison with the County, State and Federal authorities and the authorities of other nearby political sub-divisions as to insure the most effective operation of the Civil Emergency Preparedness Plan. His duties shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(A) Coordinating the recruitment of volunteer personnel and agencies to augment the personnel and facilities of the Town for Civil Emergency Preparedness purposes.

(B) Development of plans for the immediate use of all the facilities, equipment, manpower and other resources of the Town for the purpose of minimizing or preventing damage to persons and property; and protecting and restoring to usefulness governmental services and public utilities necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare.

(C) Negotiating and concluding agreements with owners or persons in control of buildings or other property for the Civil

Emergency Preparedness purposes and designating suitable buildings as public shelters.

(D) Through public informational programs, educating the civilian population as to actions necessary and required for the protection of their persons and property in case of enemy attack, or disaster, as defined herein, either impending or present.

(E) Conducting public practice alerts to insure the efficient operation of the Civil Emergency Preparedness forces and to familiarize residents with Civil Emergency Preparedness regulations, procedures and operations.

(F) Coordinating the activity of all other public and private agencies engaged in any Civil Emergency Preparedness activity.

(G) Assuming such authority and conducting such activity as the Manager may direct to promote and execute the Civil Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Section 9. Civil Emergency Preparedness and Basic Disaster Plan.

(1) A comprehensive Civil Emergency Preparedness Emergency Operations Plan shall be adopted and maintained by resolution of the Selectmen upon recommendation by the Town Manager.

Section 10. Violation of Regulations.

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance or of the regulations or plans issued pursuant to the authority contained herein, or to willfully obstruct, hinder, or delay any member of the Civil Emergency Preparedness organization as herein defined in the enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance or any regulation or plan issued thereunder.

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of this Ordinance, or any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than $100. dollars, and costs of prosecution or imprisonment in the Cumberland County Jail for a period of not more than ninety (90) days or both such fine and imprisonment, is the discretion of the Court.

Section 12. 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 13. Conflicting, Ordinances, Orders, Rules and Regulations suspended.

At all times when the orders, rules and regulations made and promulgated pursuant to this Article shall be in effect, they shall supersede all existing ordinance, orders, rules and regulations insofar as the latter may be inconsistent therewith.

Section 14. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect on the 1st day of July 1987.