



Office of
Health Department
Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

TO: Provincetown Board of Health and all concerned
FROM: Eileen U. Andrews, C. H. O. *E. Andrews*
DATE: September 30, 1985
SUBJECT: Hurricane "Gloria" Emergency responses

On Friday morning, September 27, 1985, an alert on the forthcoming hurricane showed a very dedicated and responsible group of citizens here in the Town of Provincetown. The Town Manager was available to all and checked with each area and was on call constantly. All department heads designated as responsible crisis personnel proved to be worthy of the stations assigned them. The Fire Chief, Engineers and volunteers from the fire, rescue and junior auxiliary were on alert and prepared for the possible emergency. The Building and Wiring Inspectors, as well as the staff of the Public Works departments, were on the road around the clock on the lookout for dangerous incidents. The police department was well-staffed both at the desk and on the streets alerting the townspeople of the forthcoming dangers, especially along the shoreline. I am sure it was very comforting for many.

The Red Cross prepared food for the three emergency shelters that were opened to the public who were evacuated from their homes due to the possible forthcoming dangers from the storm.

The shelters located at the Community Center on Bradford Street, the Veterans Memorial School on Winslow Street and the Grace Gouveia Building on 26 Alden Street were filled with evacuees, a balance of all age groups, and some took advantage of the sleeping facilities offered them due to the loss of electricity in the entire town and the possible dangers outside due to the continuous high winds through the evening which tore down trees and live electric wires, which were flying about.

Compliments go to Earle Chaddock, Civil Defense Director, who prepared for the evacuation centers including sustenance, food and beds. In addition, in 1984, Earle distributed information on emergencies prepared by the Civil Defense, from the manual listing organizational assignments and responsibilities which I am sure many found useful when referring to assignments.

All the departments were well-covered. The Health Department was covered on a 24-hour basis. As designated Public Health Manager I stayed at Town Hall and responded to all emergency calls to the Health Department, including assurance on the Building and Wiring Inspectors awareness and availability. The Town Nurse, Alice Foley, was alerted and on call for any emergency needs. Medical providers were prepared to take care of their registered clients. Alice Foley visited each of the evacuation centers to assure that any medical or psychological needs were covered.

Fortunately, the storm's direction changed and it went inland and slowed itself down, the storm and winds that reached

our area arrived approximately two hours after the high tide sparing us from serious flooding. It was comforting to realize that we were spared devastating damage to citizens and property caused by the storm's change in direction, and as comforting to realize that emergency procedures were in working effect, and that the citizens took advantage of the shelters for protection, as well as the fact that everyone seems to be aware of the availability and will follow the guidelines if ever an emergency should befall us.

The day after the storm was a very busy time for all departments. I shall report for the Health Agent. I was on duty over the weekend and will state that every retail store and food service establishment was inspected, the concerns of all by cleaning food and storage areas and disposal of all questionable foodstuffs was most rewarding and assuring. Touching base with all I found that in such an emergency a lack of concern could have caused severe illness if such measures were not taken to **PR**otect the public. However, the report from this department is that there was much food disposed of and it was the sincere feeling of all that the health and well-being of the public was of primary concern to all.

C.C. Board of Health
Town Manager
Selectmen



1985
*Hurricane
Gloria*

E Report #1A

Town of Provincetown

MASSACHUSETTS 02657

(617) 487-3900

October 9, 1985

To: All Town Employees
From: The Board of Selectmen

The Provincetown Board of Selectmen want to express their heart-felt praise and thanks to all the Town employees for their extraordinary efforts in executing measures to prepare for Hurricane Gloria.

It is reassuring to know that the citizens of this town were being cared for by such capable and responsible people. A special thanks goes to those personnel who worked round the clock to combat the havoc wreaked by the high winds and power outages.

It is an honor for the Board to be the representatives of such a fine group of people.

In Gratitude,

*Edward M. Rudd, clerk
Board of Selectmen*

Edward M. Rudd, Clerk
Board of Selectmen

EMR:ajs

