



**City of Peabody, Massachusetts**  
**Office of the Mayor**  
**Michael J. Bonfanti**  
**Mayor**

*24 Lowell Street  
Peabody, MA 01960*

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March 30, 2006

Dear Peabody Resident:

The City of Peabody has been working closely with neighboring communities and state government to ensure that our community is prepared in the event of an emergency, whether that emergency be a natural disaster or weather-related event, an outbreak of an infectious disease, a chemical spill, a criminal act such as a terrorist attack, or some other emergency. Preparation for an emergency involves coordination across all levels of government, but the role of businesses and individuals in preparing for a disaster is also critical.

I'd like to highlight some of the steps the City has taken to date with respect to emergency preparedness:

1. Developed an emergency radio communications system
2. Developed an "All-Hazards" Emergency Response Plan, which includes planning for weather-related events, as well as biological, chemical, and radiological incidents
3. Developed an "Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan" and an "Emergency Dispensing Site Plan"
4. Developed an emergency shelter operations plan
5. Recruiting citizen volunteers to be available for emergency response and to assist in the distribution of vaccines
6. Developing an evacuation plan
7. Updating the emergency response plan for the schools
8. Developing an emergency stockpiling plan
9. Developing "Continuity of Operations" plans for City government, and encouraging businesses to do the same for their operations.

To help you prepare, the City of Peabody will begin distributing materials to help you and your family plan for an emergency. The materials being distributed today include a "Family Disaster Plan," and "Family Emergency Card," both of which were made available through the state's "MassSupport" program. In addition, we are distributing a brochure on the importance of handwashing, one of the easiest steps you can take to help minimize your risk of contracting an infectious disease, and some general information on protecting yourself against the flu.

Preparing to respond to an emergency is an on-going effort. The City will continue its planning efforts, and will be distributing additional information and resources to our citizens as they become available. In the meantime, please visit the City's website at [www.peabody-ma.gov](http://www.peabody-ma.gov) or contact my office at (978) 538-5700 if you need further information.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Bonfanti  
Mayor