



Town of Boxford

**Boxford Fire Department
Chief Brian Geiger
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November 1, 2019

Alan Benson
Town Administrator
Town of Boxford
7A Spofford Road
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Mr. Benson

Regarding: Lockwood Lane Bridge

I wanted to take a brief moment to address the Lockwood Lane Bridge and how it impacts public safety. It is my understanding that the bridge will not be repaired until Spring of 2020 and that some of the residents in the Lockwood Lane or adjacent neighborhoods are concerned about emergency response.

I have reviewed the fire departments response times to Lockwood, Barnside, Haymeadow, Forrest, Sedgewick and Arrowhead Farm Road (see table 1) dating back to early 2017. After review, I am pleased to state that the response times are relatively identical. These stats indicate that the bridge closure has not created a diminished response from public safety.

I also understand that some residents are concerned that a fallen tree or telephone pole would cut them off from emergency services. Unfortunately, this statement is true for most of Boxford, as most residents would find themselves in a similar situation should their street become blocked by a large tree or telephone poll. For example, residents of Stonecleave, Tanglewood, Hollow Tree and Towne Road would be isolated if something blocked the road on Towne Road after Winding Oaks. Accessing residents is our first priority. Each vehicle has chain saws, chains and other equipment that can move trees if they are blocking the roadway.

I would like to remind the residents of Boxford that the Town and National Grid take a proactive approach when monitoring potential impacting storms. The Fire Department is staffed during the impacting hours (including overnight) and National Grid will stage response crews in Boxford prior to the start of a storm.

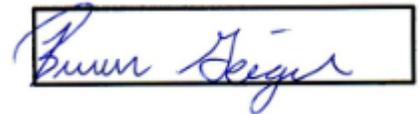
While we may not be able to prevent roads from being blocked, we are able to identify and prioritize our response to mitigate problems. Historically, the Boxford Emergency Management Team has made opening roads for emergency response its top priority.

I understand the hardship that the closure of the bridge has created but do not find its closure to be a negative effect on emergency response. I hope that this information can be helpful to any resident who may have concerns. Finally, I am happy to discuss specific response with anyone who still might have any concerns.

Table 1: LOCKWOOD LANE BRIDGE CLOSED ON 12/21/2018

DATE	TONED OUT	ARRIVAL	TOTAL RESPONSE
3/14/2017	19:22	19:32	10
11/28/2017	22:53	23:05	12
1/27/2018	23:47	00:04	17
3/15/2018	18:11	18:18	7
4/30/2018	08:23	08:26	3
7/1/2018	16:24	16:36	12
11/3/2018	14:53	15:27	34
12/10/2018	13:20	13:28	8
12/25/2018	07:24	07:33	9
2/5/2019	15:35	15:46	11
2/7/2019	12:02	12:08	6
2/25/2019	12:52	13:00	8
3/4/2019	09:06	09:16	10
4/25/2019	17:42	17:48	6
5/24/2019	16:34	16:44	10
10/23/2019	10:41	10:47	6

Sincerely,



Chief Brian Geiger