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Media Contact:

Jill Healey Wurm

603.645.2606

jill.wurm@fairpoint.com

**FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS RECOMMENDS STANDARD PLUG-IN
PHONE AS IMPORTANT ITEM FOR STORM EMERGENCY KITS**

MANCHESTER, N.H. (December 16, 2009) – With last year’s ice storm still fresh in our minds and the start of the New Year just days away, FairPoint Communications is advising customers to restock their winter storm emergency kits with an important item that many overlook – a standard, non-cordless, plug-in phone.

While many communications providers experienced losses of commercial power during last year’s ice storm, FairPoint’s telecommunications network was backed up by batteries and generators to help ensure uninterrupted broadband and telephone service.

“New England winters can be harsh, resulting in power interruptions that can hinder communication. Cordless phones are often affected by such outages as is the ability to charge cell phones. A plug-in phone can ensure that you are able to stay connected and in contact with your friends and family or call for help, should the need arise” says Karen Mead, senior vice president of operations at FairPoint Communications.

So, as residents replenish the candles and batteries in their home or office emergency kit, FairPoint suggests adding a standard plug-in phone to supply lists. During severe storms and massive power outages, FairPoint voice mail customers have been able to store and retrieve calls while answering machines rely on commercial power and therefore may not work.

About FairPoint

FairPoint Communications, Inc. is an industry leading provider of communications services to communities across the country. Today, FairPoint owns and operates local exchange companies in 18 states offering advanced

communications with a personal touch, including local and long distance voice, data, Internet, television and broadband services. Learn more at www.fairpoint.com.

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