



# MEMA REPORTS

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MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

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## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS)**

On October 3, 2011, MEMA began training communities on the new Resource Management System (RMS). The MEMA RMS is a NIMS compliant resource inventory and tracking tool. The primary function of RMS is to help search for resources statewide and support Mutual Aid between communities. RMS offers an electronic inventory system and provides users resource visibility and tracking capabilities throughout all phases of an incident. Other features of RMS include a reference library and live chat. Communities are encouraged to contact their MEMA Regional Training Coordinator to schedule RMS training.

## **MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION**

- On Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, President Obama issued a Major Disaster Declaration for Berkshire and Franklin Counties. Under the declaration, Individual Assistance and Public Assistance disaster benefits are available to individuals, families, businesses, state and local government, and certain non-profits.
- On Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, the President granted Governor Patrick's request to expand the Major Disaster Declaration to provide Public Assistance for Hampshire and Hampden Counties. The results of Preliminary Damage Assessments conducted in these two counties had revealed that allowable Public Assistance costs exceeded the applicable population-based thresholds for a Major Disaster Declaration.
- Preliminary Damage Assessment teams have surveyed impacted communities in Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Norfolk, and Plymouth counties, and analysis suggests that damages in these counties also exceed the minimum PA thresholds. Accordingly, Governor Patrick has formally requested that the Major Disaster Declaration be expanded to provide PA for these five counties. MEMA is awaiting a formal decision from FEMA on the Governor's request

## **HURRICANE IRENE ASSISTANCE CONTINUES**

The deadline for homeowners, renters, and business owners in Berkshire and Franklin Counties to apply for federal disaster assistance under the Individual Assistance Program to cover damage and losses from Hurricane Irene is November 2<sup>nd</sup>. To date, almost 1,400 have registered for aid with over \$7.5M distributed through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) programs.

## **WAYS TO RECEIVE HELP UNDER THE INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Individuals and businesses in Berkshire and Franklin Counties can still register for Hurricane Irene Assistance by November 2<sup>nd</sup> in the following manners:

**Telephone** - 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY at 800-462-7585. Those who use 7-1-1 or Video Relay

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Deval L. Patrick, Governor  
Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant Governor

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, Secretary of Public Safety & Security  
Kurt Schwartz, MEMA Director

Service (VRS) can call 800-621-3362. Multilingual assistance is also available.

**Internet** - [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).

**Smartphone or tablet** - [m.fema.gov](http://m.fema.gov).

**FEMA App** (android phones download) - [market.android.com/details?id=gov.fema.mobile.android](http://market.android.com/details?id=gov.fema.mobile.android)

### **ONE DRC REMAINS OPEN**

Only one of the six Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) opened jointly by MEMA, FEMA and the Small Business Administration in Berkshire and Franklin Counties to assist the survivors of Hurricane Irene through the registration process remains open. It is located at the Developers Finance Corp. Bldg. 430 Main Street, Williamston. Of the almost 1,500 visits to the DRCs, over 800 visited the Williamstown locations.

### **IRENE APPLICANT BRIEFINGS**

The Pre-Landfall Emergency Declaration issued by President Obama on August 26<sup>th</sup> provides 75% reimbursement for expenses related to Emergency Protective Measures for **ALL** cities and towns in the Commonwealth, as well as state agencies. Examples of emergency protective measures may include overtime for additional staffing, opening of shelters and emergency operations centers, emergency debris removal to open roads/sidewalks and restore access to critical infrastructure, or emergency rentals of equipment. MEMA has asked all cities and towns to submit completed Request for Public Assistance (RPA) forms to initiate the reimbursement process. Applicant briefings have taken place for counties not covered by the Major Disaster Declaration in order to explain the process for state and local governments and eligible private non-profit organizations to receive 75% reimbursement for expenses related to emergency protective measures taken before and immediately after Irene's landfall (between August 26<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>).

### **ESSEX COUNTY RECEIVES SBA ASSISTANCE**

Portions of Essex County continue the clean up following the flash flooding event of October 4<sup>th</sup> when some areas received over six inches of rain. Teams consisting of MEMA and US Small Business Administration personnel surveyed impacted areas based on information gathered by the local EMDs and other local officials. The teams looked at both businesses and residences to ascertain the damage level that would qualify for SBA programs. Based on the results of the data collected on October 7<sup>th</sup>, Governor Deval Patrick requested and subsequently received an SBA Disaster Declaration for Essex County. Residents and businesses affected by severe storm and flooding that occurred on October 4<sup>th</sup>, can now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the SBA. The declaration covers Essex County and the neighboring counties of Middlesex and Suffolk in MA and Hillsborough and Rockingham counties in NH. Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA's customer service representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about the disaster loan program, explain the process, issue and help individuals complete their applications. The Center will be located at Salem City Hall until the close of business on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Hours are Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9AM-5PM; Thurs. 9AM-7PM & Sat. 9AM-2PM. Individuals and businesses unable to visit the Center may obtain information on loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired) or by sending an email to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). Completed applications should be returned to the Center or mailed to: SBA Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. Those affected by the disaster may also apply for disaster loans electronically from SBA's website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is December 12, 2011. The deadline to return economic injury applications is July 13, 2012.

## **FIRST NATIONWIDE TEST OF EAS**

On Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM EST, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS is a national alert and warning system established to enable the President of the United States to address the American public during emergencies. The National Weather Service, governors and state and local emergency authorities also use parts of the system to issue more localized emergency alerts. Similar to statewide EAS tests that are conducted frequently, the nationwide test will involve broadcast radio and television stations, cable television, satellite radio and television services and wire line video service providers across all states and the territories of Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and American Samoa. For more information and FAQs, go to [http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas\\_info.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas_info.shtm).

## **EPZ SIRENS TO BE SOUNDED**

As part of their preparedness planning, the Nuclear Power stations that impact Massachusetts will be conducting annual audible tests/demonstrations of the emergency sirens located within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone communities around each plant. Pilgrim Station in Plymouth will conduct its test on November 10<sup>th</sup>, with Seabrook Station in Seabrook, NH planning to have an audible siren demonstration on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM to help familiarize citizens with the sound the siren makes and serve as a reminder that the sirens are sounded to direct citizens to their local EAS stations for specific information. More specific details will be forthcoming.

## **2011 SO. NEW ENGLAND WEATHER CONFERENCE**

This year's Southern New England Weather Conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at Meditech Corp, 7 Blue Hill Road, Canton, MA. The purpose of the conference is to enhance professional development and communication among private and public sector meteorologists, teachers, emergency management officials, and weather enthusiasts. This year's presenters will include Chris Darden, Meteorologist in Charge of the Huntsville, AL National Weather Service Forecast Office to discuss their tornado outbreak, Dr. Mike Hayes, Director of the National Drought Mitigation Center, Bill Murtagh from the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, as well as a multi-faceted discussion on the Winter Storms of December 2010 and January 2011 from meteorological, emergency preparedness, and media perspectives. For the full agenda and registration information, go to <http://www.sneweatherconf.org/index.shhtml>.

## **BC PREPARES FOR THE WORST**

Boston College Emergency Management officials utilized the month of September (National Preparedness Month) to better prepare students, faculty and administrators to face an unexpected crisis. The events of late August (Va. Earthquake and Hurricane Irene) helped to drive the importance of personal preparedness home. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, BC Director of Emergency Management & Preparedness John Tommaney led an Alumni Stadium evacuation drill, which involved university officials, key athletics administrators, public safety officials from local and state police, fire and service agencies, and some 450 student volunteers, who took part in the mock evacuation. Throughout September, representatives of various university offices staffed tables offering tips, suggestions and safety demonstrations at bus stops, building lobbies, dining halls and scheduled student events. More info at the BC emergency website at [www.bc.edu/emergency](http://www.bc.edu/emergency) and <http://www.bc.edu/publications/chronicle/FeaturesNewsTopstories/2011/news/prepare090811.html>.

## **SEPTEMBER TRAINING REPORT**

During this past month, an additional 50 individuals received training through MEMA in the following subject areas *ICS-300*, and *ICS-400*. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

## **NATIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY FRAMEWORK**

The [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#) is a guide that enables effective recovery support to disaster-impacted States, Tribes, Territorial and local jurisdictions. It provides a flexible structure that enables disaster recovery managers to operate in a unified and collaborative manner. It also focuses on how best to restore, redevelop and revitalize the health, social, economic, natural and environmental fabric of the community and build a more resilient Nation. The National Disaster Recovery Framework is consistent with the vision set forth in the [Presidential Policy Directive \(PPD\)-8](#), National Preparedness, which directs FEMA to work with interagency partners to publish a recovery framework. It is the first framework published under the Presidential Policy Directive reflecting the core recovery capabilities by supporting operational plans as an integral element of a National Preparedness System. It is a first step toward the PPD-8 objective to achieve a shared understanding and a common, integrated perspective across all mission areas—Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery—in order to achieve unity of effort and make the most effective use of the Nation’s limited resources.

## **NEW HURREVAC2010 TRAINING VIDEO AVAILABLE**

The National Hurricane Program Resource Center website has recently added a new topic entitled ‘Setting User Preferences’ to its HURREVAC Training Video Series. This 18-minute-long video explains how to configure HURREVAC2010 for local use by downloading state-specific plug-in, specifying local areas of interest, and setting default map extents. For this video and a list of all available in the series, go to <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/nhp/index.cfm?pageid=122&navid=47>. Then right-click on the link for the video you are interested in, “save target as”, and save the file to your computer. The videos are in .mp4 format. If you do not have an .mp4 player on your computer, one can be downloaded for free online.

## **FEMA APP AVAILABLE FOR ANDROID USERS**

As Hurricane Irene threatened the East Coast, FEMA went mobile (again). FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate wants to share new ways to get information about how to prepare for and recover from hurricanes and other disasters on your mobile devices. The new FEMA App will allow you to 1) Check off the items you have in your family’s emergency kit. 2) Enter your family emergency meeting locations. 3) Review safety tips on what to do before, during and after a disaster. 4) View a map of shelters and disaster recovery centers across the U.S. and 5) Read FEMA’s latest blog posts. When FEMA built the app, they kept the disaster survivor in mind, making sure much of the information would be available even if cell phone service is not, so there will be the ability to access important information on how to be safe after a disaster. So as Administrator Fugate has stated, the app can be downloaded today in the [Android market](#). Also, look for FEMA app for Blackberry version 6 devices and iPhones in the coming weeks. For additional information about the FEMA App and receiving FEMA Text messages, go to <http://blog.fema.gov/2011/08/new-digital-tools-fema-app-and-text.html>.

## **FEMA VIDEOS FOR SPREADING PREPAREDNESS**

During National Preparedness Month ([we wanted to share a collection of web videos](#)) FEMA put together a group of preparedness videos that can be linked to or embed directly on a website. The videos make this simple point: whether you’re a business owner, employee, educator, student, parent or concerned citizen, simple steps can be taken today to get every organization, school, community or family better prepared before a disaster strikes. Check out a few of our short preparedness videos and [see the full list in our multimedia library](#). For the FEMA Blog with more information on the videos, go to <http://blog.fema.gov/2011/09/videos-for-spreading-emergency.html>.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES VOLUNTEERS SITED AS ‘HOMETOWN HEROES’**

BankFive and radio station WSAR recently named the Fall River Special Services Volunteer Unit as ‘Hometown Heroes’. The Unit, comprised of volunteers from Fall River and surrounding communities,

was recognized for their efforts to ensure public safety. The Special Services Unit is an 18-member, all volunteer organization that operates as part of the Fall River Fire Department and Emergency Management Agency, under the command of Deputy Chief and Emergency Management Director Richard Aguiar. These volunteers are on-call 24/7, among their many duties, they respond to all working fires to assist Fire Fighters, EMT, Police and those displaced and needing assistance. The 'Hometown Hero' program has been in place since 1993 to recognize individuals in for heroic deeds, acts of kindness, and selfless efforts to make the SouthCoast a better place. For more information, about the award, go to <http://www.heraldnews.com/community/x149331133/Fall-Rivers-Special-Services-Unit-nets-Hometown-Heroes-award>.

## **2012 HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM**

MEMA and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) have announced the opening of the FEMA 2012 Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Program. These federally-funded hazard mitigation grant programs provide significant opportunities to reduce, minimize or eliminate potential damages to public and private infrastructure from natural hazard events. Funding for hazard mitigation plans and projects can reduce overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal disaster assistance for disaster recovery. State & local governments, tribal organizations and certain private non-profits are eligible to apply with projects that can include storm-water, drainage and culvert improvements, property acquisition, slope stabilization, infrastructure protection, seismic and wind retrofits, structure elevations, etc. Funding reimbursement is typically 75% federal share, 25% non-federal match of eligible project costs (in most cases), with in-kind services being allowable as part of the non-federal match. To be eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation project grants, applicants must have a locally adopted and FEMA-approved Local Natural Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201) by the FEMA-established deadline. Detailed grant briefings and technical assistance opportunities are available prior to application deadline. The State-established deadline for complete, full grant applications is 3:00pm Friday November 4, 2011.

In addition to the pre-disaster mitigation funding provided through FEMA's unified HMA, there is also additional post-disaster mitigation grant funding currently available (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program [HMGP] – Section 404) as a result of the federal disaster declaration for the January 2011 severe winter storm event. This HMGP funding is available to all communities in the Commonwealth that meet the sub-applicant and project eligibility requirements. For more details, on Mitigation Programs: [http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eopsterminal&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Homeland+Security+%26+Emergency+Response&L2=Hazard+Mitigation&L3=Hazard+Mitigation+Grants&sid=Eeops&b=terminalcontent&f=mema\\_disaster\\_recovery\\_hazard\\_mitigation\\_grant\\_program\\_hmgrp&csid=Eeops](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eopsterminal&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Homeland+Security+%26+Emergency+Response&L2=Hazard+Mitigation&L3=Hazard+Mitigation+Grants&sid=Eeops&b=terminalcontent&f=mema_disaster_recovery_hazard_mitigation_grant_program_hmgrp&csid=Eeops).

## **NEDRIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The NorthEast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) will be holding their 20th Annual Conference on October 25-26, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency, 1 Goat Island, Newport, RI. This conference provides industry best practices and an opportunity to meet and share ideas and experiences with peers. NEDRIX is a non-profit organization, formed in 1991, that provides continuity and crisis management professionals access to real time governmental agencies' information during a crisis or event. This is accomplished through their Public/Private Sector (PPS) Directive and their automated notification tool, NEDRIX Notify. Through NEDRIX Notify\* NEDRIX has the ability to coordinate bi-directional communications bringing the latest incident assessment to their members and providing any business impact back to the governmental agencies.

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