



MEMA REPORTS

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.

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SUCCESSFUL 2015 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

On November 4th, nearly 700 local, regional, state, and federal public safety, public health, and municipal officials, along with private sector emergency management professionals, gathered at the DCU Center in Worcester for MEMA's annual Emergency Preparedness Conference. This year the conference, entitled "Effective Leadership During Crisis" had an amazing lineup of informative and inspiring presenters. The day began with 'Responding to the Call: America's Terrorist Recruits' by

Oren Segal, of the Anti-Defamation League, which focused on the emerging terrorist threats facing public safety. Next, former Boston Police Department Superintendent-In-Chief Dan Linskey captivated the audience with 'Leadership Lessons Learned from the Boston Marathon Bombing: Leading Before, During, and After the Crisis'.



Linskey's presentation demonstrated the importance of training for crises and highlighted the need for leaders to project a calm confidence. In the next presentation, conference attendees were able to learn from the vast experience Mary Landry, USCG Rear Admiral (Ret.), brings to emergency response. Her presentation, 'The Evolution of Crisis Response in the US: Was the Deepwater Horizon Spill Response A Glass Half Full or Half Empty?', focused on the successes and lessons learned during the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill response, which impacted the Gulf Coast in 2010. Attendees also heard from David Purkey, Tennessee Homeland Security Advisor and Director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, who provided an overview of last summer's active shooter incident at two military recruiting centers in Chattanooga, TN where five soldiers were killed. Purkey's presentation, 'Bulletin from Chattanooga: Emergency Management Front and Center', focused on the leadership qualities that were displayed by first responders, commanding officers, and political leaders. The day ended with an insightful presentation, given by Dutch Leonard, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, which focused on understanding effective crisis leadership during times of routine and novel disasters.

There also were several Local Technology and Mitigation Showcases: 'Lua Mobile Application' by Lt. Eric Fricke, Public Information Officer, Newton Fire Department; 'Emergency Generators - Hazard

Mitigation Grant Program' by Lt. Neil Aspesi, Southborough Fire Department; 'Flood Control Projects' by Tom Jenkins, GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc., Springfield, MA; 'Emergency Operations Center in a Box' by Jim Barclay, Royalston Emergency Management Director; and 'Innovative Smartboard Uses' by Dennis Annear, Northwest Massachusetts Incident Management Team. All presentation slides are available on MEMA's website at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/training-and-exercise-unit.html>.

WEBEOC STATEWIDE EXERCISE TODAY

As part of MEMA's ongoing efforts to familiarize and train users on the Commonwealth's WebEOC system, MEMA is hosting a WebEOC Exercise Thursday, November 12th for our public safety partners. This exercise is an opportunity for users to test out the boards and features of the system as well as practice entering information. MEMA personnel from the Regional offices and Headquarters will be able to assist users with any questions regarding the system's components.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD

The Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance application process for local communities, state agencies and eligible private-non-profits for the January 26-28 Blizzard continues to advance. As of the end of October, 1,307 Project Worksheets (PWs) were being processed from 659 applicants. The total project costs reflected in these PWs may exceed \$160 million. To date, FEMA has obligated over \$12M to local communities, state agencies and private non-profits. Details regarding the Disaster Declaration and application process for communities, state agencies and eligible private non-profits are available at www.mass.gov/mema.

THE GREAT NORTHEAST SHAKEOUT CONTINUES TO GAIN TRACTION

The ever-growing *Great NorthEast ShakeOut Earthquake Drill* was held on October 15 at 10:15 a.m. Participation in local, regional and state earthquake drills continues to grow annually. This year 43.8 million individuals were registered to participate worldwide (up over 17.3 million from 2014). The regional *Great Northeast ShakeOut* saw 400,000 individuals register (up by 130,000 from 2014) and take the opportunity to "Drop, Cover and Hold On". Additional details concerning *The Great Northeast ShakeOut* can be found at <http://shakeout.org/northeast/>.

TRAINING UPDATE

During the month of September, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 168 students in 8 different classes: *ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents*, *ICS-400*, *Guidance on Emergency Planning for Access & Functional Needs Populations*, and *EOC Management & Operations*. So far this year, 1,602 individuals have received training through MEMA programs. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: www.mass.gov/mema.

SEABROOK TABLETOP EXERCISE

On October 15, over 120 local, state, and federal emergency management, public safety and public health officials from MA, NH and ME met in Hampton, NH to take part in a day-long tabletop exercise of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station's Emergency Plans. The exercise focused on three key areas: 'Plume Response & Recovery, Re-entry and Relocation', 'Following State Transportation Assets from Staging, Requests, through Sheltering', and 'the Joint Information Center and the Development of a Virtual JIC'. This tabletop exercise is one of a number of 'practice' exercises that will take place in advance of Seabrook's federally graded exercise scheduled for early 2016.

FIELD DEPLOYMENTS

During the month of October, MEMA utilized its two Mobile Emergency Operations Centers (MEOCs), Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST), Mobile Field Tent (MFT), caches of radios and personnel to support multiple events across the Commonwealth:

October 15: MEMA supported a multi-jurisdictional exercise, focused on a response to a railroad incident involving 3 railcars carrying medium crude oil, leaking product into the Wachusett Reservoir. The MEOC2 and cache radios were deployed for this exercise. MEMA personnel participated in the exercise and provided communications support.

October 18: MEMA supported the Bay State Marathon, which is a qualifier event for the Boston Marathon. The MEOC2, MFT and cache radios were deployed for this event. The MEOC served as the command post and the inflatable field tent was used as a medical tent. MEMA personnel assisted with incident and patient tracking.

October 22: MEMA supported the 2015 Advanced Geographic Response Plan, Ram Island full scale exercise that simulated an oil spill off Mattapoisett Harbor. Local, state, federal and contracted agencies participated in the exercise. Several hundred feet of boom were deployed by the US Coast Guard and private DEP contractors to contain the simulated oil spill. The MEOC2 and cache radios were deployed for the exercise. The MEOC served as a unified command post for the agencies to coordinate operations; a video feed from the USCG was streamed in the MEOC to view the boom deployments. MEMA personnel participated in the exercise and provided technical and communications support. Additionally, the MEOC was able to receive and display live streaming video from the vessels on the water. These videos provided real time, accurate information, which helped incident commanders see and coordinate the response.

October 25: MEMA supported the Bristol, Plymouth, and Norfolk County Fire Departments during a tanker shuttle exercise that simulated a fire at the Raynham Park Dog Track. The fire departments worked together to move over 100,000 gallons of water via tanker shuttles at the Raynham Park Plaza. MEMA provided cache radios, technical expertise and training to the firefighters on radio interoperability. Through these assets, fire departments from the three counties were able to communicate with one another when no single radio system was shared among them all. Prior to the exercise, communications planning, including an ICS 205, was developed with the Fire Chiefs coordinating the exercise.

October 28: MEMA supported the annual Aircraft Crash Full Scale Exercise at Barnstable Airport. MEMA provided cache radios and participated in exercise play by providing communications support and guidance on available state assistance.

October 31: MEMA deployed a liaison to Salem's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Halloween. The event drew thousands of people; it is the largest Halloween celebration in the state with day and night time activities and a fireworks display.

MEMA STAFF UPDATE

MEMA recently welcomed two new employees to the Agency: Lorri Gifford will work as a Grants Management Specialist in the Project Management Office, and Michelle O'Toole will work as a Hazard Mitigation Grants Coordinator in the Hazard Mitigation Unit.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

Federal post-disaster hazard mitigation grants under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) are available as a result of last winter's federal disaster declaration. The final deadline for submission of complete grant applications is November 23, 2015. Additional details can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/mema/mitigation/grants-available-memo-august-2015-final-deadline.pdf>.

TIER II REPORTING

MEMA, per Governor's Executive Memorandum, has been designated as the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) in MA. For the 2015 Tier II Reporting Year, the MA SERC will require filers to submit reports via the Tier II Manager System. At this time, MEMA is requesting that filers register to use the Tier II Manager System. This change would only affect how Massachusetts Tier II filers submit reports to the MA SERC; this does not and will not change any MA Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) and/or Fire Department Tier II reporting requirements. For additional information,

please review MEMA's [Tier II Reporting: Reporting Year 2015](http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/emergency-info/haz-mat/serc/) memo which appears on the MEMA website at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/emergency-info/haz-mat/serc/>.

NOAA'S U.S. WINTER OUTLOOK ISSUED

On October 15, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued its U.S. Winter Outlook which is favoring cooler and wetter weather in Southern Tier states with above-average temperatures most likely in the West and across the Northern Tier. This year's El Niño, among the strongest on record, is expected to influence weather and climate patterns by impacting the position of the Pacific jet stream. Another factor that often plays a role in the winter weather includes the [Arctic Oscillation](#), which influences the number of arctic air masses that penetrate into the South and nor'easters on the East Coast. This seasonal outlook does not project where and when snowstorms may hit or provide total seasonal snowfall accumulations. Snow forecasts are dependent upon the strength and track of winter storms, which are generally not predictable more than a week in advance. NOAA produces seasonal outlooks to help communities prepare for what is likely to come in the next few months and minimize the weather's impacts. For more details on NOAA's outlook, go to <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/101515-noaa-strong-el-nino-sets-the-stage-for-2015-2016-winter-weather.html>.

SKYWARN® CLASS IN NOVEMBER

On Wednesday November 18, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. there will be a SKYWARN Class held at Belmont High School Auditorium, 221 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA, free of charge. No registration is required. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service (NWS). NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication to join the SKYWARN® program. For more information about the SKYWARN® program, go to <http://users.rcn.com/rmacedo/train.htm>.

MEMA'S MISSION STATEMENT

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses - - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, coordinating response operations, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover.

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