



# 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](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

---

August 5, 2015

Volume 14 Issue 7

## **CAPE COD EMERGENCY TRAFFIC PLAN**

Over forty (40) local, state and federal officials recently met for the annual review of the Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan (CCETP). MEMA, in coordination with the Massachusetts State Police (MSP), Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and local public safety officials on Cape Cod, may activate the Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan (CCETP) as a hurricane or strong tropical storm approaches the region to facilitate the movement of vehicles leaving Cape Cod in advance of the storm. Although developed to manage the egress of vehicles from the Cape in advance of a hurricane, this All Hazards Plan would be utilized to improve traffic flow off Cape Cod in a number of emergency situations. The CCETP is a traffic management plan; it is not an evacuation plan for the Cape. As a hurricane or tropical storm approaches Cape Cod, local officials will consider whether localized evacuations may be necessary and will issue evacuation recommendations or orders, as required. Depending on the strength and track of an approaching storm, local officials may order people in low-lying, flood-prone areas to evacuate to higher, safer ground. If evacuation orders are issued, regional shelters will be opened on Cape Cod to accommodate evacuees during the storm. Low-lying, flood prone areas on Cape Cod already have been identified and included within the Commonwealth's hurricane evacuation zones. To learn whether you work or live in a designated hurricane evacuation zone, go to the interactive [Know Your Evacuation Zone](#) map on MEMA's website. As a hurricane or tropical storm approaches, people in hurricane evacuation zones should monitor news broadcasts and weather forecasts and move to higher ground if an evacuation order is issued. Even if Cape Cod is threatened by a powerful hurricane, it is extremely unlikely that local or state officials would order an evacuation of the entire Cape. Except for residents of low-lying, flood prone coastal areas, most residents would be safe in their homes or in regional shelters. The latest version of the Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan is located on the MEMA website at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/home-sec-emerg-resp/emergency-response/ccetp/>.



## **FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROCESS ADVANCES**

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. At the end of July, 669 applicants had submitted formal 'Requests for Public Assistance' (RPAs). These

RPA's are the official notification of intent to apply for assistance. FEMA has completed initial kick-off meetings with most applicants and is now working to develop and write individual Project Worksheets (PW) to document eligible costs for applicants. It is projected that there will be more than 1,200 separate PWs associated with this disaster, and that total project costs reflected in these PWs may exceed \$170 million. These PWs document the scope of work and cost estimates for each project and serve as the basis for reimbursements to eligible applicants. Details regarding the Disaster Declaration and application process for communities, state agencies and eligible private non-profits are available at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF BELOW NORMAL HURRICANE SEASON**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center updated the 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook, which now cites a 90 percent chance of a below-normal hurricane season. In May NOAA predicted a 70% likelihood of a below-normal season. The 90 percent probability of a below-normal season is the highest confidence level given by NOAA since seasonal hurricane outlooks began in 1998. The updated outlook also lowers the overall expected storm activity this season. This includes a 70 percent chance of 6-10 named storms (formerly 6-11 storms in the initial May Outlook), of which 1-4 will become hurricanes (formerly 3-6 in May) and 0-1 will become major hurricanes (formerly 0-2 in May). Regardless of NOAA's below-normal storm activity outlook, it is important to remember that people along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts should continue to prepare and remain vigilant, especially now that the peak months of the hurricane season have started. Remember, regardless of the total number of storms – it only takes one storm to produce catastrophic impacts! For information regarding the 2015 hurricane season, go to <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/080615-noaa-increased-likelihood-of-below-normal-atlantic-hurricane-season.html>.

### **FEMA, AD COUNCIL LAUNCH 'PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES' PREPAREDNESS PSA**

FEMA and the Ad Council announced the launch of a new public service advertisement (PSA) to raise awareness about the importance of being prepared for emergencies. While the PSA targets all communities, "We Prepare Every Day" delivers a strong preparedness message by showing people with disabilities taking charge to prepare themselves and their families for emergencies. It emphasizes the *Ready* Campaign's four building blocks of preparedness - Build a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed, and Get Involved. The PSA (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/107805>) provides equal access to all viewers and includes open captioning, a certified deaf interpreter, and audio description for viewers who are blind or have low vision. The launch of the PSA coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The PSA is available for download on the Ad Council and FEMA YouTube channels, as well as within the FEMA media library (<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/>).

### **FIELD DEPLOYMENTS**

During the month of July, MEMA utilized its Mobile Emergency Operations Centers (MEOCs), Mobile Satellite Trailers, caches of radios, and personnel to support multiple events across the Commonwealth:

July 4: MEMA supported the public safety operations for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations in Boston, Pittsfield and Springfield. This included deploying both MEOCs, the Mobile Satellite Trailer, staff, and cache radios.

July 9-11: MEMA supported North Attleboro's public safety operations for their annual Kids Day fundraiser. MEOC1 served as the Command Post. Communications support was also provided.

July 24-26: MEMA supported Lowell's public safety operations for the annual Folk Festival. This included deploying MEOC1 and staff to support the Command Post, providing communications support, and deploying the Mobile Field Tent to support the Medical Group.

July 26-27: MEMA supported the public safety operations in Springfield during U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan's funeral.

July 31-Aug 2: MEMA supported Sturbridge and Bourne during the Pan Mass Challenge. The MEOC2 served as the Command Post in Sturbridge and communications support was provided to both communities.

### **TRAINING UPDATE**

During the month of July, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 85 students in 5 different classes: *Basic HURREVAC*, *Preparing & Reviewing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans*, *Awareness*, and *Massachusetts Emergency Management Director Essentials-101*. So far this year, 1,224 individuals have received training through MEMA programs. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Regardless of why the climate is changing, the challenges posed by climate change such as more intense storms, frequent heavy precipitation, heat waves, drought, extreme flooding, and higher sea levels, could significantly alter the types and magnitudes of hazards faced by communities and the emergency management professionals serving them. To aid decision-makers and help prepare emergency managers to respond to these evolving hazards, FEMA is working to provide easy access to their climate change products. These products contain information under such headings as 'Tools & Data' (Hazard Mitigation Assistance & Sea Level Rise' Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment, Sea Level Rise Tool and a Flood Elevation Calculator, etc.), 'Knowledge & Capacity' (Risk Mapping, Assessment & Planning, Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, Climate Change & Adapting to Climate Change, etc.), 'Strategies & Policies' (Strategic Foresight Initiative - Long Term Trends & Implications for Emergency Managers, Impact of Climate Change & Population Growth on the National Flood Insurance Program, National Climate Assessment 2014, etc.) and publications (DHS Climate Action Plan, Addendum (2014), President's State, Local, & Tribal Task Force on Climate Preparedness & Resilience, Recommendations to the President (2014), Executive Order 13690: Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, etc.) This, plus more can be found on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/climate-change>.

### **NEDRIX PLANS ANNUAL OCTOBER CONFERENCE**

The Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) is planning their annual 3-day conference for October 26-28, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency, Goat Island, Newport, RI. Information can be located at <http://www.nedrix.com/nedrix-events/2015-nedrix-annual-conference/> on NEDRIX's updated website.

### **REGISTER FOR THE 2015 GREAT NORTHEAST SHAKEOUT**

At 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2015, millions of people worldwide will practice how to [Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#) if an earthquake occurs. You are invited to join them by participating in the 2015 *Great NorthEast ShakeOut!* Last year more than 26.5 million people were registered in *Great ShakeOut* earthquake drills worldwide. Participating is a great way for your family or organization to be prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes. This is the third year that the Northeast states have been organized as an Official ShakeOut Region. FEMA and NESEC are coordinating recruitment across the entire region. More details can be found at <http://shakeout.org/northeast/>.

### **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.

**FOLLOW MEMA AND GET IMPORTANT EMERGENCY INFORMATION:**

***TWITTER*** - ([www.twitter.com/MassEMA](http://www.twitter.com/MassEMA)), ***FACEBOOK*** - ([www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA](http://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA)), ***YouTube*** - ([www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA](http://www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA)), the ***MEMA WEBSITE*** - [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema), ***READY MASSACHUSETTS*** - [www.mass.gov/mema/ready](http://www.mass.gov/mema/ready). And do not forget to download ***Massachusetts Alerts*** app – ([www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp](http://www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp)).

