



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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SAVE THE DATE FOR 2015 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

On November 4th, local, regional, state, and federal public safety, public health, and municipal officials, along with private sector emergency management professionals, will gather at the DCU Center in Worcester for MEMA's annual Emergency Preparedness Conference. This year, the theme of the conference is Effective Leadership During Crisis. MEMA anticipates that over 700 people will attend this full-day conference. The complete agenda, along with registration details will be shared soon, but MEMA already has commitments from speakers who have extensive experience in crisis leadership.



REGISTER FOR THE 2015 GREAT NORTHEAST SHAKEOUT

At 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2015, millions of people will participate in the [Drop, Cover, and Hold On worldwide drill](#) to practice how to protect themselves 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. This year 23.8 million individuals have registered worldwide and over 270,000 have registered for this year's *Great NorthEast ShakeOut*. Participating is a great way for your family or organization to be prepared to survive and recover quickly from large 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/>.

A STRONG PLANNING EFFORT FOR HURRICANE JOAQUIN

In anticipation of the possible impacts of Hurricane Joaquin, MEMA spent the last days of September and initial days of October in full planning mode. After several days of conferring with the National Weather Service, MEMA coordinated and planned with its Emergency Support Function (ESF) Team partners for the possibility of landfall in Massachusetts. Together, MEMA, MA State Police (MSP), MA National Guard (MANG), Operational Services Division (OSD), Department of Public Health (DPH), American Red Cross (ARC), MA Volunteer Organizations that Aid in Disasters (VOAD), Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR),

Department of Public Utilities (DPU)), Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Department of Fire Services (DFS), MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT), MA Environmental Police, Department of Public Safety (DPS), Mass211, FEMA, MA Task Force 1, the Independent Oil Marketers Association of New England, MA Motor Transportation Association and Fuel Terminal Operators, United Parcel Service (UPS), Regional Transit Authorities, Fire Mobilization Committee, Fire Chiefs Association of MA - Technical Rescue Committee, and private sector partners (Eversource, Unitil and National Grid, Verizon, Comcast, AshBritt Environmental, and Witt O'Brien's) met in specialized planning groups to review responsibilities, anticipate potential challenges, and identify possible solutions.

The focused planning work done in the areas of, critical commodities, mass care and sheltering, transportation, debris management, power restoration, fuel supplies and distribution, communications, state staging areas, military support, federal assistance, search and rescue, and coastal flooding and evacuations, better prepared the Commonwealth for the impacts of a hurricane or tropical storm. Although we were fortunate that Joaquin spared New England, it is important to remember that our Hurricane Season is not over and we should remain vigilant and prepared.

MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH PROVES SUCCESSFUL

During the month of September, MEMA promoted *Emergency Preparedness Month* by focusing public messaging and activities on four themes: 1) Be informed, 2) Develop a plan, 3) Build a Kit, and 4) Get involved. These four themes were strongly promoted through traditional and social media by way of news releases, daily posts, media interviews, and at community events.

To initiate the effort, Governor Charlie Baker, through a formal proclamation, announced that September was '*Massachusetts Emergency Preparedness Month*'. These efforts were in conjunction with a nationwide effort to encourage all Americans to take simple steps to better prepare for emergencies at home, work and school.

Throughout the month MEMA utilized several platforms to promote preparedness, including Twitter, Facebook, MEMA's website, and the Mass.Gov Blog. MEMA also leveraged its partnerships with MassDOT and Clear Channel to share preparedness messages on highway message boards and electronic bill boards. MEMA worked with FEMA, Ready.Gov and the Ad Council to develop localized Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for both television and radio (English and Spanish). Through the assistance of MEMA's media partners and Local Emergency Management Directors, the PSAs received a great deal of play, particularly on local access television, community and private sector websites and Social Media platforms. MEMA also worked with Public Broadcasting System's 'Arthur' animated television show on their 'Shelter from the Storm' episode promoting preparedness, which aired in September.

Additionally, MEMA conducted a great deal of community outreach by attending and speaking at numerous local *Preparedness Month* events, as well as at large-scale events such as the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) in West Springfield, an MBTA event at South Station, an event at Boston's City Hall Plaza and a MassPort event at Logan Airport, to name but a few. Throughout the month, all citizens of the Commonwealth were encouraged to participate in citizen preparedness activities and asked to use the preparedness resources at www.mass.gov/mema to become more prepared, something we should practice year-round.

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. At the end of September, 1,284 Project Worksheets (PWs) were being developed from the 664 applicants. The total project costs reflected in these PWs may exceed \$156 million. To date, FEMA has obligated 112 PWs to the Commonwealth for a federal share of nearly \$7M for 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.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding is available. HMPG is post-disaster mitigation grant funding and is available statewide as a result of the 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>.

TRAINING UPDATE

During the month of September, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 162 students in 10 different classes: *ICS-100/NIMS-700*, *ICS-200*, *ICS-300*, *ICS-400*, *Basic Public Information Officer*, *Guidance on Emergency Planning for Access & Functional Needs Populations*, *Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program*, and *Overview for Executives/Senior Officials*. So far this year, 1,434 individuals have received training through MEMA programs. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: www.mass.gov/mema.

WEBEOC STATEWIDE EXERCISE ON NOVEMBER 12

As part of MEMA's ongoing efforts to familiarize and train users on the Commonwealth's WebEOC system, MEMA will be hosting a WebEOC Exercise on 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 components. Registration information and exercise materials will be sent out in the near future.

MEMA TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

MEMA's Training & Exercise Unit is pleased to announce the 2015-2016 Training Needs Assessment. This assessment ensures that MEMA has an accurate picture of the current and future training needs of the Commonwealth. You are encouraged to complete the assessment before the deadline of October 30, 2015. Your input is important to us and we appreciate your time and effort in completing the assessment. The assessment can be accessed utilizing the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MEMA2015>. If you would prefer a hard copy or have any questions regarding the assessment, please contact the Training & Exercise Unit at (508) 820-1408 or Mema.Training@MassMail.State.MA.US. Thank you for your commitment in building an even stronger emergency management program in Massachusetts.

FIELD DEPLOYMENTS

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

September 4-7: MEMA supported Ludlow's Our Lady of Fatima Festival. The MEOC2 and MCST were deployed to support radio and public safety communications.

September 19: MEMA supported Southbridge's Cops and Kids Event fundraiser. The MEOC1 served as a Unified Command post for the public safety operation.

September 20: MEMA supported the Josh Billings Triathlon. The MEOC2 was deployed to support public safety communications during the competition, which encompassed 5 towns in Berkshire County.

September 22 – October 2: MEMA supported Brookline's simulation training for numerous Metro-Boston police officers. The MEOC1 was deployed as a communications and briefing platform for the teams.

September 24: MEMA deployed MEOC2 to the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) for 'Massachusetts Day'; for a one day 'show and tell' for the general public.

September 26: MEMA supported Bridgewater State University's dedication to Martin Richards. The

MEOC2 served as a Unified Command Post; supporting communications and security of the event. September 27: MEMA supported Leominster's 100th Anniversary Parade. The MEOC2 served as the communications platform.

TIER II REPORTING

Per a Governor's Executive Memorandum, MEMA has been designated as the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) in MA. For the 2015 Tier II Reporting Year, the Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts SERC; this does not and will not change any Massachusetts EPC and/or Fire Department Tier II reporting requirements. For additional information, please review MEMA's Tier II Reporting: Reporting Year 2015 memo which is on MEMA's website here: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/emergency-info/haz-mat/serc/>.

MEMA HOSTS TRI-STATE DIRECTORS MEETING

On September 24, 2015, MEMA hosted the triannual Tri-State Directors Meeting at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Framingham. The Tri-State Emergency Management Directors or their representatives from MA, NH, VT, as well as CT and RI provided updates on recent state issues and accomplishments as it relates to nuclear preparedness. Several presentations were given, including the advances the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) tools in nuclear planning; status of the decommissioning process at Vermont Yankee; updates on other decommissioned Yankee Nuclear Plants in New England; National oversight of the decommissioning process; the utilizing the 'virtual' Joint Information Center; and the use of social media in a nuclear event. In addition, updates were provided by Pilgrim Station, Seabrook Station, Vermont Yankee, Yankee Rowe, FEMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

QUARTERLY ESF TEAM MEETING

On September 21, 2015, MEMA hosted the quarterly MA Emergency Support Function (ESF) Team Meeting at MEMA Headquarters. Updates were presented regarding the Commonwealth's Repatriation Plan and the ESF Annex. Upcoming initiatives were discussed, including Avian Flu; the Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan; the Commonwealth's Ethanol Response Plan; the 18-month Exercise Series and Hurricane Season Planning. Finally a comprehensive ESF-4 presentation on Fire Mobilization was given to the group by State Coordinator Chief David Frizzell of Belmont.

OCTOBER IS CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

We now live in a world that is more connected than ever before. The Internet touches almost all aspects of everyone's daily life, whether we realize it or not. Recognizing the importance of cybersecurity to our nation, President Obama designated October as *National Cyber Security Awareness Month*. National Cyber Security Awareness Month is designed to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity and increasing the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident. Go to <http://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month> for additional information about *Cyber Security Awareness Month* activities.

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. Presenters include Keynote Speaker Dan Waldschmidt – 'An Edgy Conversation about Disaster Recovery', Dan Sarazen – 'A Lightning Tour of Information Technology General Controls', Greg Snyder – 'How to Choose & Implement the best of Each Planning Guideline and Standard', and Dale Makowski – 'Best Practices for Implementing, Testing & Using a Cloud Based Communications System'. More

information can be located at <http://www.nedrix.com/nedrix-events/2015-nedrix-annual-conference/> on NEDRIX's updated website.

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

