



# 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).

---

February 10, 2016

Volume 15, Issue 1

## **MEMA COORDINATES EMAC RESPONSE TO MID-ATLANTIC**

In response to requests for assistance, made through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), Massachusetts sent over a dozen pieces of heavy equipment and 40 operators and mechanics to Washington D.C. and Baltimore, MD. MEMA worked with MassDOT, Department of Conversation and Recreation, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and the City of Boston to coordinate Massachusetts' response to the EMAC requests. Front end loaders, truck-mounted snow blowers, skid steer/bobcats, support vehicles, a snow melter, equipment operators, and mechanics were escorted by the MA State Police to Washington D.C. and Baltimore where they worked for a week, helping the cities remove snow and recover from the January 22-23 snowstorm that severely impacted the Mid-Atlantic region. For more details on the EMAC assistance to the Mid-Atlantic, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/mema/massachusetts-responds.pdf>.



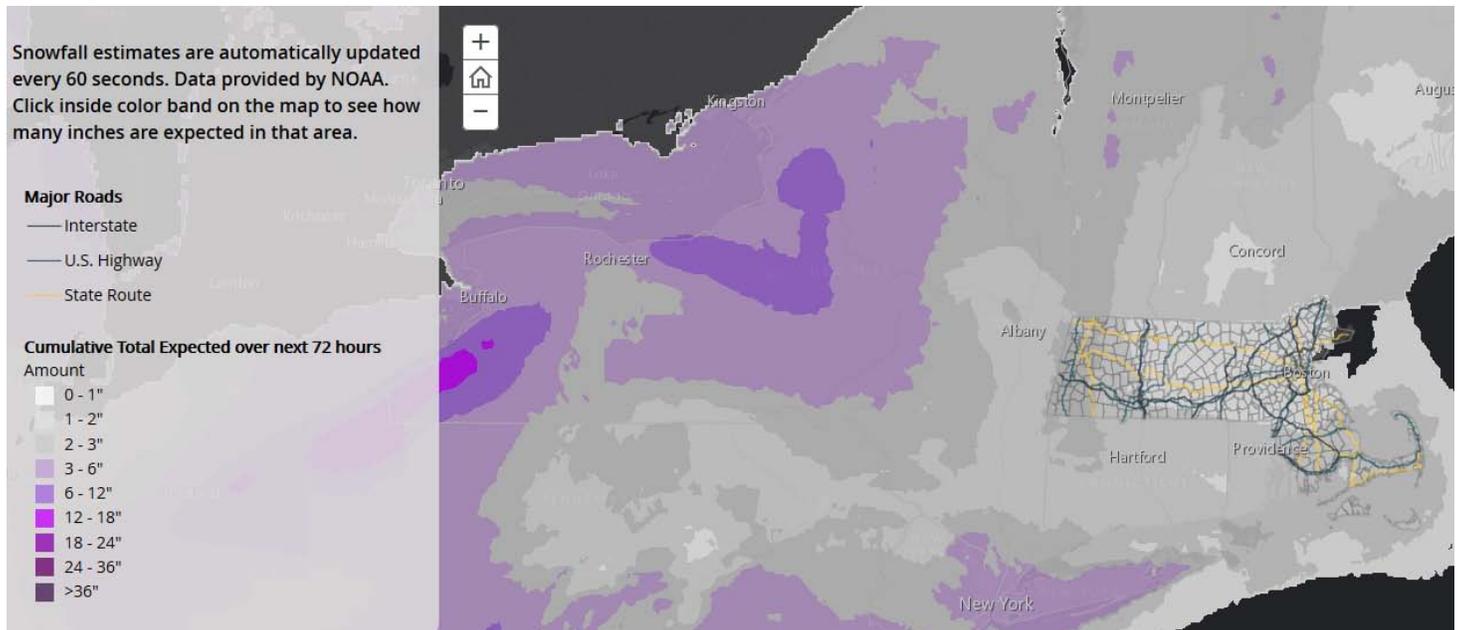
## **MEMA DEVELOPS NEW WEATHER RESOURCE**

MEMA has developed a great new weather tool that provides 'one stop shopping' for weather radar and forecast resources. Developed using live feeds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), it provides real-time information and incorporates maps that show a live weather radar, NOAA Warnings, Watches and Advisories, temperature and wind, river stages and flood forecasts, and 72-hour snowfall estimates. All of the information you need is in one location. This resource can be accessed from MEMA's website or with the MEMA Weather Resource direct link:

---

Charles D. Baker, Governor  
Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor

Daniel Bennett, Secretary of Public Safety & Security  
Kurt N. Schwartz, MEMA Director



## **2016 EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION CALENDARS ISSUED**

The annual public information calendars have been mailed to residents of the 18 Massachusetts communities located within the Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs) of the three nuclear power stations. The 2016 calendar is an important part of emergency planning, containing information that will better prepare families to respond to any emergency within the community, including hurricanes, flooding, chemical spills or large fires. Electronic preparedness information can be found on MEMA's website <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/emergencies/nuclear-power-plants/>.

These preparedness webpages have incorporated the important emergency planning and alerting information from the calendars into our website to enhance the ability of EPZ residents to easily access the information. The full calendars and audio versions of the emergency public information are available on MEMA's website as well.

The Massachusetts communities included in the Pilgrim EPZ are Duxbury, Kingston, Plymouth and portions of Carver and Marshfield; the Seabrook EPZ includes Amesbury, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Salisbury and West Newbury; and the Vermont Yankee EPZ includes Bernardston, Leyden, and portions of Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Northfield and Warwick. Those who have not received their calendars are encouraged to contact their local Emergency Management Director, a MEMA Regional office in Bridgewater, Tewksbury, or Agawam, or the Nuclear Preparedness Department at MEMA Headquarters in Framingham.

## **PREPARING FOR THE 2016 BOSTON MARATHON**

On January 21, MEMA Headquarters hosted the first of many 'All Member' Boston Marathon Inter-Agency Public Safety Committee Meetings. However, initial planning began last fall when MEMA and the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) kicked off the public safety planning for the 2016 Boston Marathon by meeting with the municipal and public safety leaders of the 8 cities and towns that host the race, as well as key state and federal partners. The major purpose of the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was to provide updates from the planning groups that have been diligently working to formulate a comprehensive and unified safety and security plan for this year's race. These efforts will continue well into the spring. As in the past, MEMA will host the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for this year's Boston Marathon. The MACC will host over 250 people from more than 50 agencies. More information regarding this great international event is available at [www.baa.org](http://www.baa.org).

## **HUNDREDS TAKE PART IN MASS CARE, SHELTERING AND EVACUATION TABLETOP EXERCISES**

During January over 400 Public Safety, Public Health, EMS, Transportation, Volunteer and Private Sector officials from across the Commonwealth took part in four Tabletop Exercises (TTXs) to test and validate the statewide Mass Care, Sheltering and Evacuations concepts of operation. A MEMA led exercise was held in each of our four regions. Communities were able to participate by playing the roles of an evacuating, pass-through and shelter community. Throughout the day there was great interaction and discussion, which will be essential to the completion of these plans.

## **HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN APPROVALS**

In the last month a number of communities across Massachusetts have received FEMA approval on their Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans. These plans are a comprehensive assessment of the natural hazards, current and future, that impact the jurisdiction. The risk assessment details potential losses in terms of built infrastructure and economic losses, as well as providing an overall vulnerability to each natural hazard. The plan also provides a layout of action items the jurisdiction hopes to undertake to lessen the effects of these hazards. Hazard Mitigation plans need to be reviewed and updated at least once every five years in order for the jurisdiction to be eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant funding. An approved mitigation plan also makes the jurisdiction eligible for points under the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS), which lowers the Flood insurance premiums that homeowners pay in the jurisdiction.

Congratulations to the following jurisdictions, who have received FEMA Mitigation Plan Approval in the last 60 days: Abington, Avon, Boston, Bridgewater, Dartmouth, East Bridgewater, Easton, Halifax, Hanson, Kingston, Middleborough, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Shutesbury, Stoughton, Wales, Whitman, and Wilbraham. For additional information: Hazard Mitigation Planning: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/mitigation/mitigation-planning>; FEMA's CRS Program: <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>.

## **FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE TOTALS ADVANCE**

The Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance process for local communities, state agencies and eligible private-non-profits for the January 26-28, 2015 Blizzard continues to advance. As of the end of January, 1,263 projected Project Worksheets (PWs) were being processed from 642 eligible applicants. The total project costs reflected in these PWs may reach over to \$145M. To date, FEMA has obligated over \$31M in federal assistance to local communities, state agencies and private non-profits. FEMA and MEMA project that 90% of the PWs will be obligated by the end of March, 2016. Details regarding the Disaster Declaration and reimbursement process for communities, state agencies and eligible private non-profits are available at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

## **FIELD DEPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

During the month of January, MEMA utilized field assets and personnel to support the following events across the Commonwealth:

January 4: MEMA supported the City of Lowell during the Donald Trump political rally held at the Tsongas Center. The Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) was used as a command post for the Lowell Police Department, Lowell Fire Department, MA State Police and the U.S. Secret Service. Additionally, MEMA provided cache radios for the event's public safety partners.

January 7: MEMA Local Coordinators responded to a Tier 3 Haz-Mat event at Dow Chemical in North Andover. An explosion at the plant triggered a release of a volatile chemical. MEMA Local Coordinators responded to gather situational awareness and help coordinate any resource needs. Other responding agencies included local Fire and Police Departments, Department of Fire Services, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), and MA State Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Units.

January 27-28: MEMA supported the City of Boston with 50 cache radios to complete a homeless census.

### **TRAINING UPDATE**

During the month of January, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 141 students in 8 different classes covering the following topics: *ICS-100*; *ICS-200*; *Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training*; *Debris Management Planning for State, Tribal & Local Officials*; *Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management & Operation*; and *Guidance on Emergency Planning for Access & Functional Needs Populations*. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **MEMA STAFF UPDATE**

William (Bill) Donahue has joined the MEMA staff as the Training and Exercise Unit Supervisor working within the Response & Field Services Section at MEMA HQ.

### **MEMA CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE DOWNLOADING MASSACHUSETTS ALERTS APP**

The free *Massachusetts Alerts* app continues to help keep residents of the Commonwealth alerted to severe weather (tornadoes, hurricanes, tropical storms, and severe thunderstorms) and other types of emergencies and disasters. Users receive real-time information, including: severe weather watches and warnings (users set their own preferences); Amber Alerts about missing children; critical information during disasters, such as evacuation and shelter-in-place information; shelter information; information about power outages; and tips to prepare for, and stay safe during disasters and public safety incidents. *Massachusetts Alerts* provides emergency notifications and public safety information based on your location, proximity to an event or incident, and the preferences you select.

*Massachusetts Alerts* is available for Apple and Android Smartphones and tablets. In addition to providing alerts and critical information about ongoing incidents and disasters, *Massachusetts Alerts* also provides preparedness tips and information, and directs users to online resources to help prepare for, manage, and recover from a wide range of natural, technological and man-made hazards that threaten residents of the Commonwealth. Alerts may include links to websites, informational bulletins or videos. You have the ability to share this information with others through your social media networks. To date, over 90,000 have downloaded the alerting app. Your privacy and identity are 100% protected, as no personal information is ever required. For more information, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/be-prepared/be-informed/massachusetts-alerts.html>.

### **MEMA'S SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE IS GROWING**

To date, MEMA has 67,400 Followers on our Twitter account, as well as 54,700 likes on our Facebook account, with additional folks coming onboard daily.

### **UMASS AMHERST DESIGNATED STORMREADY**

On January 7, the University of Massachusetts Amherst became the first public university in the Commonwealth to receive a *StormReady* designation from the National Weather Service (NWS). UMass Amherst joined Harvard, Boston College, Boston University, and Tufts, as well as 14 communities, one military site and one commercial enterprise, all of whom received a *StormReady* designation. To earn this designation a university must fulfill several requirements, including offering public weather readiness seminars, establishing an emergency operations center (EOC), developing a formal hazardous weather plan, and having the ability to receive weather warnings from multiple sources. For additional information about the *StormReady* program, go to <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>.

### **2016 NEDRIX SPRING CONFERENCE**

The NorthEast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) will hold their 2016 Spring Conference on May 11 at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, 101 Huntington Avenue, Suite 1300, Boston, MA 02199. For additional information, go to <http://www.nedrix.com/nedrix-events/2016-nedrix-spring-conference/>.

### **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).

