



# 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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## **2017 Boston Marathon Preparations**

Multi-jurisdictional planning for the 2017 Boston Marathon began last November with a meeting of the Boston Marathon Public Safety Steering Committee. In January, planning moved into high gear with the first meeting of the large Boston Marathon Interagency Public Safety Committee and initial meetings of six Public Safety Working Groups. These meetings enable information sharing and coordinated plan development amongst the Boston Athletic Association, the 8 host communities, and the dozens of regional, state, federal and private sector agencies and organizations that support public safety operations on race day. As in the past, MEMA will host the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for this year's Boston Marathon which will be held on Patriot's Day, Monday April 17, 2017. The MACC will host over 250 people from more than 50 agencies. More information regarding this year's race is available at [www.baa.org](http://www.baa.org).



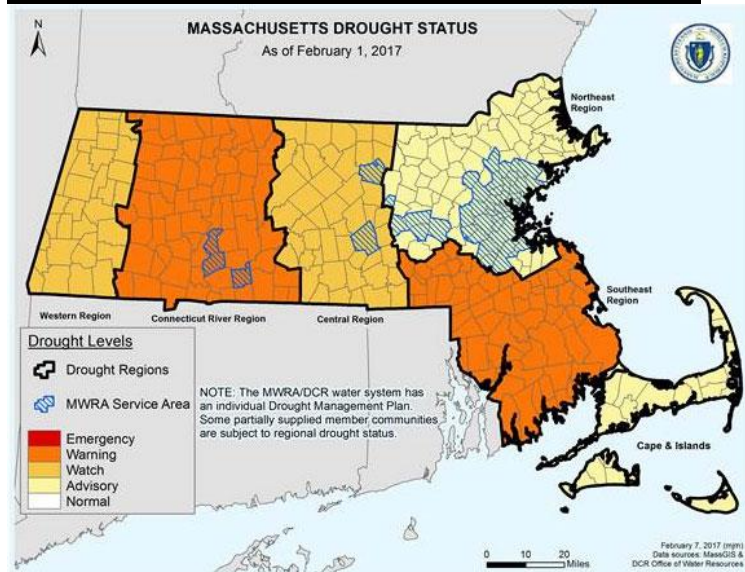
## **Baker-Polito Administration Warns Public of the Dangers of Thin Ice**



With recent unseasonably warm weather conditions occurring throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MEMA and our public safety partners are warning the public of the potential dangers of thin ice on the state's many lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers.

"Ice can be deceiving because it freezes and thaws at different rates and ice thickness can vary depending on currents, springs, depth, and debris in the water," said MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz. "Residents should skate on bodies of water only after there has been a prolonged freeze and steps have been taken to ensure the ice is sufficiently thick. Always remember, 'when in doubt, don't go out' on the ice." Press Release & Ice Safety Tips: <http://bit.ly/2j9OT5V>

## Areas of Commonwealth Experience Improved Drought Conditions, Below-Normal Precipitation Amounts Continue Across State



While many areas of the state experienced moderate levels of precipitation in January, large portions of the state continue to experience a water deficit.

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) announced a Drought Warning for the Connecticut River Valley and Southeast Region, unchanged from the month of January; a Drought Watch for the Western Region and Central Region, down from a Drought Warning in the month of January; and a Drought Advisory for the Northeast Region and Cape and Islands, down from a Drought Watch for the Northeast Region in the month of January, and unchanged

for the Cape and Islands. The warnings and advisory are the result of recommendations by the Commonwealth's [Drought Management Task Force](#) which is comprised of state, federal and local officials and is led jointly by EEA and MEMA.

"The recent rain and snow is helping water systems recover from the prolonged drought, but a complete recovery is still a long way off," said **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Director Kurt Schwartz**. "The public is encouraged to continue indoor water conservation measures and to begin thinking about ways to reduce outdoor water use this coming spring and summer."

The state continues to intensely monitor and assess the drought situation, and any associated environmental and agricultural impacts. Furthermore, the state asks the public to be mindful of the amount of water they are using, and to reduce indoor water use, address leaks as soon as possible, and for larger buildings and businesses to conduct water audits to ensure they identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation. All these steps will greatly help reduce water use to ensure essential needs such as drinking water and fire protection are being met, habitats have enough water to recover, and to stretch our water supplies into the spring. For additional details, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/pr-2017/drought-conditions-improve-in-areas-of-commonwealth.html> or <http://www.mass.gov/eea/drought/>.

### Massachusetts First Silver Jacket Project

In January, a kickoff meeting was held for the US Army Corp of Engineers' (USACE) FY17 Interagency Flood Risk Management Project for the Town of Charlemont. This project is being managed by the Massachusetts Silver Jackets Team. This team is comprised of representatives of federal and state agencies that support comprehensive and sustainable actions to reduce flood risk within the Commonwealth. The Charlemont project promotes shared responsibility for flood risk management by prompting actions in support of risk reduction. This will be achieved by developing a Flood Risk Action Plan and an updated Evacuation Plan for the town through a coordinated effort between MEMA, USGS, Mass DCR, USACE, and the Town of Charlemont. More information on the Massachusetts Silver Jackets Team can be found at: <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Massachusetts>.

### **MEMA Planner Barbara Legatowicz Retires**

Barb Legatowicz, a planner at MEMA and the Animals in Disaster Coordinator, recently retired after 24 years of service with MEMA. We wish Barb a long, healthy, and happy retirement!!

Barb, pictured here with her dog Dottie, is a strong pet preparedness advocate and her final message was to urge residents to prepare their pets for emergencies.

To learn more about preparing your pets for emergencies, visit: <http://bit.ly/2jwIEdC>



### **Quarterly ESF Team Meeting**

On January 18th, MEMA held the quarterly meeting of the Emergency Support Function (ESF) Team at MEMA HQ in Framingham. Updates were presented regarding the Commonwealth's Mass Care and Sheltering initiative and reviews of the Massachusetts Emergency Support Function Annexes. Ongoing and upcoming planning initiatives also were discussed, including the Statewide Training and Exercise Working Group. During the meeting, the attendees participated in a Contingency Diagram exercise, which identified potential problems that might be encountered during SEOC activations. The next quarterly ESF meeting will be held on June 7, 2017.

### **MEMA Staff Updates**

Cris Flores has been hired as a part time dispatcher in our Communications Dispatch Unit.

### **Update from the Massachusetts SERC**

MEMA is the lead agency for coordination of the Massachusetts State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Broadly, the mission of the SERC (and Massachusetts Emergency Planning Committees) is to implement the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act ([EPCRA](#)) and mitigate the effects of a release or spill of hazardous materials.

The SERC conducts an EPC-certification application process, and EPCs that elect to submit an application must demonstrate how they will carry out their responsibilities under EPCRA.

At its January meeting, the SERC reviewed and approved applications from the Emergency Planning Committees from Berkley, Braintree, Athol and Norfolk. As a SERC-certified EPC, these entities are now eligible to receive U.S. DOT Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant funds which are administered through MEMA.

For more information, visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/serc/>

## **Featured MEMA Webpage: Training and Exercises**

In an effort to highlight MEMA's resources that are available to the public safety community, we feature a MEMA webpage each month. This month we are highlighting the [Training and Exercises webpage](#).

Training and exercises are a vital component in helping emergency response agencies and their communities strengthen public safety and preparedness capabilities. Each year, MEMA works to create a comprehensive Training and Exercise Plan (TEP) that guides MEMA's training program and highlights the training needs of the emergency management community. MEMA strives to enhance the emergency preparedness of its communities through this comprehensive all-hazard training and exercise program.

The Training and Exercises webpage includes details about training classes offered by MEMA, links to the training calendar and the Training Registration System (TRS), exercise information, and details of conferences hosted by MEMA. Visit the Training & Exercise webpage at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/training/exercises/> for more information.

## **MEMA Field Deployment Highlights**

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

- January 12-13 & 16-18: MEMA supported the Municipal Police Training Committee for their Applied Patrol Procedures Training, offered to University of Massachusetts and Massachusetts Environmental Police Officer recruits at the Brockton Fairgrounds. MEMA's Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) 1 provided a platform for instructors and controllers to record, review and debrief students before, during and after critical training exercises. MEMA also provided 50 portable cache radios for use by students, instructors and controllers for the training.
- January 14: MEMA supported Foxborough Police (FPD) and Fire (FFD) with the use of MEOC 2 to serve as a Unified Command Post and a data communications system at the New England Patriots Football Game. The use of the MEOC also provided situational awareness and the ability to link the various communications systems and platforms across agencies.
- January 22: MEMA supported Foxborough Police and Fire with the use of MEOC 2 to serve as a Unified Command Post and a data communications system at the NFL AFC Playoff Game. Gillette stadium was at capacity with an attendance of 65,000 fans and multiple VIP's. The MEOC served FPD, FFD, National Guard 1st Civil Support Team, and MSP.
- January 25: MEMA provided the City of Boston with 50 cache radios in support of the annual homeless census. The census is important in compiling the data necessary for city government and private charities to respond to the critical needs of Boston's homeless population over the winter months.



## **MEMA Training Update**

During the month of January, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 135 students in 5 offerings of 4 different courses:

- *ICS-300 Incident Command System in Auburn & Spencer*
- *Emergency Operations Center Management and Operations in Ipswich*
- *Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) in Westborough*
- *Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards & Post earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings (P-154/ATC-20)*

For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities, visit: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

## **Latest Federal Disaster Assistance Totals for the 2015 Blizzard**

The Disaster 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 January 31st, 2017, 1069 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA, totaling more than \$75.4M in federal aid reimbursements to local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits (75% of the \$99.5M eligible project costs).

## **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 For 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); **MEMA Website** - [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema);

**Massachusetts Alerts app** - [www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp](http://www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp)

