



# 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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## **Governor Baker Proclaims September 'Emergency Preparedness Month'**

To highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and planning for individuals, families and communities, Governor Charlie Baker has [proclaimed September to be 'Emergency Preparedness Month'](#) in the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) will promote public preparedness throughout the month. These efforts are part of a nationwide preparedness campaign to encourage all Americans to take simple steps to better prepare themselves, and their friends and families, for emergencies at home, work and school, and in their communities.

To help individuals and families prepare during Emergency Preparedness Month, MEMA will promote four key preparedness messages: 1) [Be Informed](#), 2) [Develop an Emergency Plan](#), 3) [Build an Emergency Kit](#), and 4) [Get Involved](#) in community preparedness and resilience. MEMA will also stress the importance of considering the unique preparedness needs of children, pets, seniors and people with access and functional needs. MEMA's website, [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema), features resources to help prepare for emergencies and information about the hazards common in Massachusetts. MEMA will also share emergency preparedness tips on Twitter and Facebook and will support various emergency preparedness events across the state.

## **Hurricane Season Lasts Through November 30<sup>th</sup>**

While the Atlantic Hurricane Season began June 1st, most tropical storm systems that have impacted New England have struck during the months of August and September. It is important for Massachusetts residents to be prepared before a hurricane or tropical storm approaches. Until the end of hurricane season, MEMA will continue to feature hurricane preparedness topics on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, on the [MEMA website](#) and on digital billboards across the state. We ask you to join us in encouraging residents and businesses of Massachusetts to prepare for hurricanes and tropical storms by determining if they live or work in a [hurricane evacuation zone](#), making [family emergency plans](#), building an [emergency kit](#), and staying [informed](#).



## **Join Massachusetts Animal Preparedathon in September**

Join Massachusetts Animal Preparedathon in September by taking actions to be prepared for emergencies and have your pet prepared as well. Massachusetts Animal Preparedathon encourages pet and animal owners to create an emergency supply kit that includes items for both you and your pets, and include pets in your family emergency plans. Make sure your pet's tags are up-to-date and securely fastened to your pet's collar, consider microchipping your pets and have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.

Massachusetts's Animal Preparedathon is a team effort lead by the State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team (SMART), along with Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Animal Coalition, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association, Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

For additional, pet preparedness information visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/be-prepared/pets/> or <http://smartma.org/preparathon/>.

## **Register For the 2017 Great Northeast Shakeout**

At 10:19 a.m. on October 19, 2017, 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 2017 *Great NorthEast ShakeOut!* Last year more than 43 million people were registered in *Great ShakeOut* earthquake drills worldwide. So far this year, over 19 million individuals have registered worldwide and over 160,000 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 fifth year that the Northeast states have been organized as an Official ShakeOut Region. FEMA and state emergency management agencies are coordinating recruitment across the entire region. More details can be found at <http://shakeout.org/northeast/>.

## **Public Assistance Project Success in Newburyport**

During the winter of 2015, the City of Newburyport experienced significant problems with their sewer system on Plum Island. The sewer system is a unique air-vacuum type system, rather than the conventional gravity fed sewer system. It relies on valves to open and close which allow for the disposal of waste throughout the system. Due to the unprecedented snow, ice buildup, and extraordinary cold during the winter of 2015, the sewer system became largely inoperable. Crews struggled to repair the system due to deteriorating weather conditions and struggled to locate the more than 600 different valve pits where individual valves were located just a few feet underground. During 'blue sky' weather, problems with valves took considerable time to identify and repair due to the lack of individual alarms in each valve pit. Newburyport staff would walk the roughly 1.5 mile stretch of land to identify the problem valve.

Thanks to a FEMA Public Assistance Grant, offered through the FEMA-4214 disaster declaration, the City of Newburyport was able to repair all sewer system damage, and, through 406 mitigation, purchase and install individual alarms for each of the 600+ valve pits. The City also developed a GPS software application that assists staff in locating each valve pit, signal repeater, and 'candy cane' within 6 inches of accuracy. Each alarm wirelessly transmits any trouble codes to a nearby repeater, which sends the code to a central computer. With specialized software, staff can identify the exact problem valve and dispatch maintenance quickly and efficiently.

These upgrades to the air-vacuum Plum Island sewer system allow the City to respond to all trouble codes exponentially faster than before and the GPS software application helps staff to accurately locate

all sewer system components regardless of weather conditions. The City of Newburyport is confident that with their new capabilities, staff will be able to expeditiously address valve troubles, regardless of weather or circumstance.

**Hazard Mitigation Grants Available**

MEMA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced the availability of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [2017 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant \(PDM\) Program](#), and [2017 Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) Program](#) funding. The 2017 PDM and 2017 FMA grants are nationally-competitive annual grant programs. FEMA opened the FY 2017 application period for both grant programs on August 14, 2017, and the State application deadline is October 16, 2017.

These federally-funded Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs (PDM and FMA) provide significant opportunities to reduce, minimize, or eliminate potential damages to property and infrastructure from natural hazard events. Funding for hazard mitigation plans and projects can reduce overall risks to the population, structures and infrastructure, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal disaster assistance for disaster recovery. For more information and grant briefing details, visit the above grant webpage links or <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/grants/>.

**MEMA Training Update**

Upcoming MEMA trainings with open seats:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Location</b>
9/25	Emergency Operations Center Management and Operations (G775)	Somerville
9/26-28	ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	Easthampton
9/29-10/1	Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer	Bourne
10/3-4	Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program	Westfield
10/3	Basic Sheltering Concepts (Shelter-100)	Oak Bluffs
10/4-5	ICS-400: Advanced ICS	Natick
10/5	Basic Sheltering Concepts (Shelter-100)	Bridgewater
10/11-13	ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	Mansfield

To view a full calendar of training opportunities and register for classes, see MEMA’s [Training Registration System calendar](#).

During the month of August, MEMA’s Training and Exercise Unit hosted 62 students in 2 course offerings:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Location</b>
NIMS-700/ICS 100	Boston
Event Security Planning for Public Safety Professionals (MGT-335)	Agawam

To date in 2017, 1,736 students have taken MEMA supported classes. For additional MEMA Training opportunities go to: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/training/>.

**MEMA Field Deployment Highlights**

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

- August 4-5: MEMA supported Sturbridge, Bourne and MetroLEC during the Pan Mass Challenge. MEMA provided communications support, logistics support and a Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) throughout the 2-day event to enhance public safety capabilities for the communities involved.

- August 5: MEMA supported Stockbridge during its Mercy Sunday II-Latino event. An MEOC was utilized as a unified command post by Stockbridge PD, Stockbridge FD, Stockbridge EMD and elected officials, MA State Police, Berkshire County Sheriff's Department, County Ambulance and EMS, Berkshire Regional CERT, and Fairview Hospital. MEMA also provided cache radios to support communications interoperability.
- August 10-11, 14-16: MEMA supported the Municipal Police Training Committee in Brockton for Applied Patrol Procedure Training. An MEOC was utilized as an audio/visual briefing area for the officers and evaluators participating in the training.
- August 26: MEMA supported Mendon during their 350th Anniversary Block Party. An MEOC was utilized as a unified command post for the event.

### **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 August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, 1,147 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA, totaling more than \$81.8M in federal aid reimbursements to local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits (75% of the \$108M 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)

