



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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BOSTON MARATHON EDITION

The 119th Boston Marathon, New England's largest sporting event, will be held on Monday, April 20, 2015. Thirty thousand (30,000) registered runners will run the 26.2 mile course that starts in Hopkinton and passes through Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley, Newton and Brookline before reaching the finish line on Boylston Street in Boston. This year, estimates are that 1,000,000 spectators may line the streets to watch the marathon. The Boston Marathon also will be telecast live on local and national (cable) networks.

Race Information

Start times

Mobility Impaired	8:50 a.m.	50 participants (plus guides)
Push-Rim Wheelchairs	9:17 a.m.	70 participants (plus 6 duos)
Hand Cycles	9:22 a.m.	18 participants
Elite Women	9:32 a.m.	40 participants
Elite Men & Wave One	10:00 a.m.	7,500 participants
Wave Two	10:25 a.m.	7,500 participants
Wave Three	10:50 a.m.	7,500 participants
Wave Four	11:15 a.m.	7,500 participants

Road closures and reopening (estimated)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Close</u>	<u>Open</u>
Hopkinton	7:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.
Ashland	7:15 a.m.	1:20 p.m.
Framingham	8:30 a.m.	1:55 p.m.
Natick	8:30 a.m.	2:45 p.m.
Wellesley	8:30 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Newton	8:45 a.m.	4:45 p.m.
Brookline	9:15 a.m.	5:40 p.m.
Boston	Variable	7:00 p.m.

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

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

Media Interest

The BAA has issued over 1,250 media credentials to approximately 200 media outlets worldwide. The credentialed media will come from over 20 countries on six (6) continents (Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, South America, and North America). All of the major U.S. television networks, radio networks, and news/sports publications will be covering the event. Additionally, there are a number of media outlets that have continent/worldwide coverage. Last year, as a result of the 2013 bombings, the BAA issued over 2,200 media credentials. The level of media interest this year is consistent with the interest traditionally experienced prior to last year's Marathon.

Safety and Security Planning

Multi-jurisdictional public safety planning for this year's Boston Marathon has been underway since last September. Like last year, working groups were formed to focus on aspects of public safety planning, including: Law Enforcement Tactical Operations (SWAT and Special Emergency Response Teams), Intelligence and Investigations, Explosive Ordinance Detection and Disposal and CBRN, Course Disruptions, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Coordination of /Mass Casualty Resources, Communications, and Training and Exercises. Over the last seven months, hundreds of representatives from local, regional, state, federal, private sector and non-profit agencies and organizations have participated in planning meetings, training sessions, and exercises. Additionally, the working groups prepared operational plans that have been folded into the Multi-Jurisdictional Boston Marathon Public Safety Coordination Plan.

Pre-Marathon Training and Exercise Programs

With guidance from the Training and Exercise Working Group, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Massachusetts State Police (MSP), Massachusetts Department of Fire Services (DFS), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Boston Police Department, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board, New Mexico Tech, Texas A&M Engineering (TEEX), and Louisiana State University offered the following training programs in February, March and April of this year for public safety personnel supporting the Boston Marathon:

- Initial Law Enforcement Response to Suicide Bombing Attacks
- Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents
- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Awareness/Bomb Threat Management Workshop
- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Counterterrorism Workshop
- Law Enforcement Protective Measures for (CBRNE) Incidents
- Incident Command System (ICS) 300
- Incident Command System (ICS) 400
- Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device Detection
- Site Protection Through Observational Techniques (SPOT)
- Behavioral Observation Suspicious Activity Recognition (BOSAR)
- Law Enforcement Field Force Operations (FFO) (focused on managing protestors and civil disobedience)

- Police and Fire Field Force Extrication (FFE) (focused on managing protestors and civil disobedience).

Over 700 police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics attended these training courses (16 separate classes) leading up to the Marathon.



Training Videos

In advance of the 2014 Boston Marathon, MEMA worked with a project management team to produce two training videos. The first is a roll-call training video for police officers and other public safety professionals working public events like the Boston Marathon. The video emphasizes the importance of staying alert and vigilant during public events, and highlights possible indicators of suspicious activities and the steps that may be taken if an officer sees or responds to suspicious activity or suspicious or abandoned packages. While this video was created for the Boston Marathon, it is generic enough to be used as a training tool in advance of any planned public event. In preparation for the 2015 Boston Marathon, the roll-call training video has again been distributed to the many law enforcement agencies that are supporting the Boston Marathon.

The second training video is geared towards the more than 10,000 volunteers who will be deployed by the BAA along the Marathon course. This video highlights possible indicators of suspicious activities and urges volunteers to immediately report suspicious conduct, and suspicious or abandoned bags, to the police.

Digital copies of the roll-call and volunteer video can be obtained by contacting MEMA's Chief of Staff, Jennifer Ball, at Jennifer.ball@state.ma.us.

Marathon Public Safety Functional Exercise

On March 25, 2015, MEMA hosted the 2015 Boston Marathon Functional Exercise at the State Emergency Operations Center in Framingham. This was the first time the pre-marathon exercise was played as a functional exercise. The Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) fully stood up, supported by 210 representatives from 60 agencies and organizations including the BAA and the public safety agencies of the eight host cities and towns. Each host city and town also stood up its Emergency Operation Center (EOCs) to participate in the exercise. The functional exercise allowed the MACC and EOCs to exercise protocols and procedures around communications, resource requests, mutual aid and deployment of tactical resources, information sharing, maintaining a common operating picture, and effective multi-jurisdictional decision making. Hosting this exercise a month in advance of the Marathon provided an opportunity for planners and working groups to identify and address planning gaps and refine the operational plans for Race Day.

See Something Say Something Campaign

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and MEMA, in partnership with the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, continue to promote the statewide *See Something Say Something* public awareness campaign as a way to encourage the public to report suspicious behaviors to the police. *See Something Say Something* is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiative that emphasizes the importance of reporting suspicious activity, including behaviors indicative of, or a precursor to terrorism. The initiative highlights the important role the public plays in maintaining a safe environment and preventing terrorism.



Working with DHS, MEMA has printed and distributed *See Something Say Something* signs, banners and posters to the eight cities and towns that host the Marathon. These signs and banners will be deployed along the Marathon route to increase public awareness and vigilance. Additionally, Clear Channel Outdoors has again volunteered to use its digital billboards in the greater Boston area to promote the *See Something Say Something* campaign in the days leading up to the Boston Marathon.

MEMA is also encouraging the use of a *See Something Say Something* public awareness video that was produced in advance of the 2014 Boston Marathon in partnership with the State Police and the Boston Police Department. The video highlights indicators of suspicious behavior/activity and encourages the public to immediately report suspicious activity to law enforcement. Agencies and organizations can access the video from MEMA's website:

<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/see-something-say-something.html>.

Race-Day Operations

On April 20th, emergency operations centers (EOCs) and/or command posts (CPs) will be operational in all eight cities and towns that host the Marathon. Additionally, a number of agencies will stand up tactical operations/coordination centers, including MSP, the MBTA Transit Police Department, Massachusetts National Guard (MANG), FBI, Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Boston Medical Intelligence Center, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Boston Police Department, Boston Fire Department, and Boston Emergency Medical Services. The Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) will connect all of these EOCs, command posts and operations/coordination centers to provide public safety coordination, situational awareness and resource support across the eight cities and towns that host the Marathon.

Multi-Agency Coordination Center

MEMA will host the Public Safety Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for the 119th running of the Boston Marathon. Starting at 5:30 a.m. on Monday April 20, 2015, over 220 individuals representing more than 60 local, regional, state, federal, private and volunteer agencies and organizations will staff the MACC. The MACC will remain operational until sometime after 6:00 p.m. when all multi-jurisdictional public safety operations have ended.

The MACC will work with local, state and federal emergency operations centers to maintain situational awareness and a common operating picture, facilitate multi-jurisdictional decision making, ensure effective communication and coordination between the BAA and public safety, meet all

resource and mutual aid needs, and coordinate multi-jurisdictional public safety operations (including law enforcement tactical operations, intelligence and investigation activities, EOD/CBRN, and emergency medical services and mass casualty response support).

The MACC will operate under the Incident Command System (ICS) and will be organized within functional sections, branches, and units/groups. These groups will report to the MACC Manager. A Unified Coordination Group (UCG), comprised of executive level representatives from MEMA, Federal Bureau of Investigation, State Police, Department of Fire Services, National Guard, Department of Public Health, Department of Homeland Security/Federal Coordinator, will guide and advise the MACC Manger.

Information Sharing, Situational Awareness, Common Operating Picture

Within the MACC's Planning Section, the Situation Unit will be responsible for sharing situational awareness and maintaining a common operating picture on Race Day. The Situation Unit will use several tools to accomplish these tasks: Situational Awareness Statements and Urgent Matter Reports, WebEOC, ArcGIS Online, and periodic briefings.

Situational Awareness Statements and Urgent Matter Reports

The Situation Unit will disseminate Situational Awareness Statements and Urgent Matter Reports on the status of the race and significant events. These text-based reports will be disseminated by email via a large email distribution list that has been created for this year's Marathon. The intent is to provide public safety partners across the course with frequent and timely information.

WebEOC

WebEOC will function as the primary platform for tracking and sharing information for the 119th Boston Marathon. To ensure situational awareness across all jurisdictions and disciplines, emergency operations centers, command posts, and the MACC will post information about all significant events to WebEOC

ArcGIS Online

The GIS Unit within the Planning Section of the MACC will support and facilitate planning and decision-making through the development of mapping products and services that will be available through ArcGIS Online. Mapping products will be developed utilizing pre-populated geospatial information and live data feeds, as well as new data sets as needed for incident operations. Graphic products will include situation maps, briefing maps, and live, interactive web mapping. The GIS Unit is also able to produce ad hoc mapping products to support EOC's and command personnel as needed.

Through ArcGIS online, emergency operations centers, command posts, and mobile users will have access to numerous static layers (maps showing static Marathon related information) *and* layers displaying the following real-time information:

- Significant incidents and events that are entered into WebEOC will be mapped in real-time to ArcGIS Online. By viewing ArcGIS Online, users will see incidents and events as icons on a map. By moving the cursor over the icon, the user will have access to the information about the incident that has been entered into WebEOC;

- The locations of the vehicles escorting the lead male runner, lead female runner and lead wheelchair participant, and the location of the trail vehicle, will be shown in real-time on a map on ArcGIS online;
- The density of runners crossing the timing mats every 5 kilometers along the course will be displayed on a map in ArcGIS Online;
- The locations of staged or deployed ambulance strike teams;
- The locations of staged or deployed groups of emergency buses.

Periodic Briefings

In advance of, and again on the morning of April 20th, the MACC will publish a schedule of briefings. Briefings will be conducted for all personnel assigned to the MACC. All emergency operations centers, command posts, and other command/coordination centers will be invited to participate in all MACC briefings via a dedicated conference call bridge and/or a Video Telecommunication Conferencing (VTC) system.

Public Warnings and Emergency Notifications

The MACC will have three primary methods to communicate emergency information to the public on April 20th: Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and Massachusetts Alerts (MEMA's free Public Alerting App). During the Marathon, public warnings and emergency notifications may be issued because of severe weather, fire, hazardous materials incidents, or any situation that poses a threat to life, property, and safety. In addition, MEMA will coordinate with the BAA, State Police, and the host cities and towns to utilize other alerting systems to disseminate emergency information to the public. MEMA will also utilize the Joint Information Center (JIC), including its Social Media Unit, to disseminate information via traditional media, websites, and social media platforms.

- **Emergency Alert System (EAS):** MEMA is authorized to activate the EAS, a national warning system for television and radio broadcasts to communicate with the public during emergencies.
- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA):** WEA is a component of EAS. MEMA is authorized to push emergency messages to mobile/wireless carriers. WEA-enabled phones have the ability to receive these free emergency alerts. The emergency message will automatically appear on the phone accompanied by a special tone and vibration. For more information, please visit <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/wireless-emergency-alerts-wea.html>.
- **Massachusetts Alerts:** is a communication tool used by MEMA to disseminate critical information to smartphones. [Massachusetts Alerts](#) is powered by a free app that is available for Android and iPhones. This state-of-the-art tool significantly enhances MEMA's ability to communicate with the public during emergencies. In a matter of minutes, MEMA has the ability to highlight an area on a map and then push messages, images, files, and audio messages to Smartphones that have the app and are located within that area. During the Boston Marathon, MEMA will use *Massachusetts Alerts* to share important public safety and emergency information about severe weather, course disruptions, and other emergency situations with runners and spectators. To learn more



about *Massachusetts Alerts*, and for information on how to download the free app onto your smartphone, visit: www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp.

Joint Information Center

During the Boston Marathon, the MACC will host a Joint Information Center (JIC) comprised of public information officers (PIOs) from a number of public safety agencies. The JIC will include on-site and virtual components. The on-site component of the JIC will be located within the MACC and will include PIOs from a number of agencies and organizations. The virtual JIC will use email to coordinate the work of more than 30 other PIOs of local, regional, state and federal agencies supporting public safety operations during the Boston Marathon. During the Boston Marathon, the JIC can be reached at 508-820-2002.

Media at the MACC will be housed in a Media Tent located on the upper parking lot of MEMA Headquarters. The media will be provided opportunities for escorted tours of the MACC and JIC staff will provide periodic briefings for the media, as necessary, in the tent area, including updates on weather, medical treatment numbers, road closings/openings, etc. If any incident occurs, more formal briefings will be held.

As part of the JIC, the MACC will also host an on-site social media unit comprised of representatives from a number of agencies and organizations. The unit will provide information to the public (and media) through Twitter and other applicable social media platforms and will coordinate with social media contacts from other agencies to ensure coordinated and consistent public safety messaging.

Boston Athletic Association Race Operations Center

The Boston Athletic Association Race Operations Center will again operate at a location in the immediate area of the finish line in Boston and provide direction and control to BAA staff, volunteers, and contractors supporting the Marathon. The operations center will be activated for the duration of the Marathon, and serve as the central logistics hub for resources to support Marathon race operations, including medical tents and transportation. The MACC and the BAA Race Operations Center will be in direct communication with each other throughout race day. A BAA liaison will be in the MACC, and MEMA will have a liaison in the BAA Race Operations Center.

Public Safety Plans: MACC Coordination Plan

The MACC Coordination Plan is a comprehensive plan that details the organizational structure and functions of the MACC, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the agencies and organizations supporting the MACC.

The MACC Coordination Plan details how the MACC will maintain a common operating picture, manage resource requests and support the eight host cities and towns, coordinate with the BAA's Race Operations Center, and coordinate multi-jurisdictional public safety operations including the coordination and deployment of law enforcement tactical resources (Special Weapons and Tactics/Special Tactical Operations (SWAT/STOP) Teams, Special Emergency Response Teams, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Detection Teams. The MACC will also support and coordinate law enforcement intelligence and investigations operations, and EMS and mass casualty resources along the course.

The MACC Coordination Plan, and its attachments, also details the public safety interoperable communications plan; the operational plans of the 8 host cities and towns, key supporting regional,

state and federal agencies, and the Boston Athletic Association; and the plan for managing course disruptions, including detours, suspensions and cancellations of the race.

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.

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