EM NEWSLETTER

Feb. 2026

for the Emergency Managers, Public Safety Partners, and communities
of Northeast and Southeast Massachusetts

MEMA East Updates:

The next MEMA East EMD meeting will take place at MEMA Region 2 (20 Forge Parkway, Franklin, MA) on March 10, 2026, at 9 a.m. Additional details will be shared soon. This is a reminder that the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has developed a Winter Weather Preparedness toolkit to help you share important messaging about Winter Weather Preparedness with your community. The toolkit includes key messages, which can be tailored to write local press releases or talking points, as well as sample social media posts and graphics that can be used or adapted for your community. It can be accessed by clicking here.

EMD Spotlight
Hudson
Chief/EMD Jamie D

This month's EMD Spotlight is Hudson Fire Chief/EMD Jamie Desautels. Jamie Desautels is currently serving in his third year as Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director for the Town of Hudson. In this dual role, Chief Desautels is responsible for overseeing fire operations, emergency preparedness, and coordinated response efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. As he continues his leadership, Chief Desautels is looking forward to attending the Emergency Management Basic Academy to further expand his knowledge and skills. He is committed to ongoing professional development and strengthening emergency planning, response, and resilience efforts in order to better serve the residents of Hudson.

Chief Desautels noted he was extremely grateful for the work and support of the MEMA team helping update the towns EMD plan and upcoming EOC training. Chief Desautels says "It is very comforting to know that such a dedicated group of professionals are here to support our communities." Chief Desautels, thank you for your service and dedication to the EM community!

Training Update

Course: **WebEOC for local officials**

Date: February 9th, 2026

Location: MEMA East Franklin: 20 Forge Road

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Link to apply: https://public.eopsselearning.com/course/view.php?id=979

Introduction to WebEOC for Local Officials is a 2-hour training course focused on familiarizing Public Safety personnel with WebEOC for operational readiness.

Course: **CPOD: Commodity Points of Distribution**

Date: April 1, 2026

Location: MEMA East Franklin: 20 Forge Road

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Link to apply: https://public.eopsselearning.com/enrol/index.php?id=929

This one-day course was developed to support State and Local Emergency Managers on Points of Distribution (POD) missions and provide an in-depth training into the planning, operations, and demobilization stages of a POD mission.

Warming Centers

If you find the need to make warming centers available in your communities, remember, that they are not operated the same as shelters and do not require the same level of effort or resources to open and operate. Warming centers are not expected to house people overnight, provide meals or sleeping accommodations. It is a warm place to escape the cold outside or get out of a cold house for a few hours. Wi-fi, options to charge phones or laptops, possibly some light snacks and water are nice to offer but are not required. The following resource provides recommendations for municipalities in their operation of warming centers and outlines actions municipalities may take to help prevent health impacts caused by winter weather, including extreme cold. MEMA's Warming Centers Guidance. Scroll down for information on how to add them into WebEOC.

This is just a reminder that the Northeast Emergency Management Training & Education Center's new training portal is now up and running. Tutorial videos and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are available here: NEMTEC Website.

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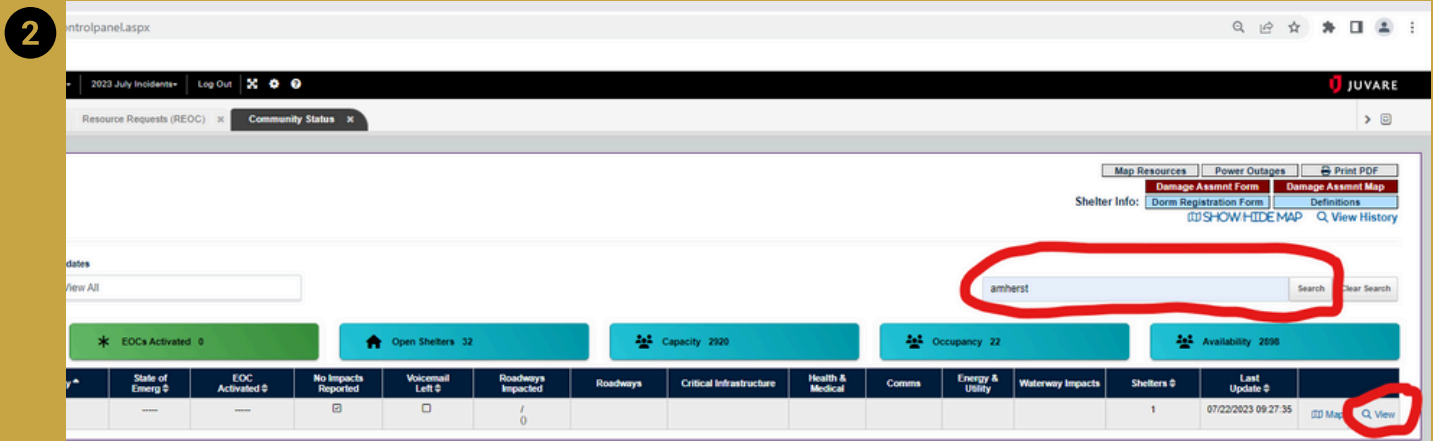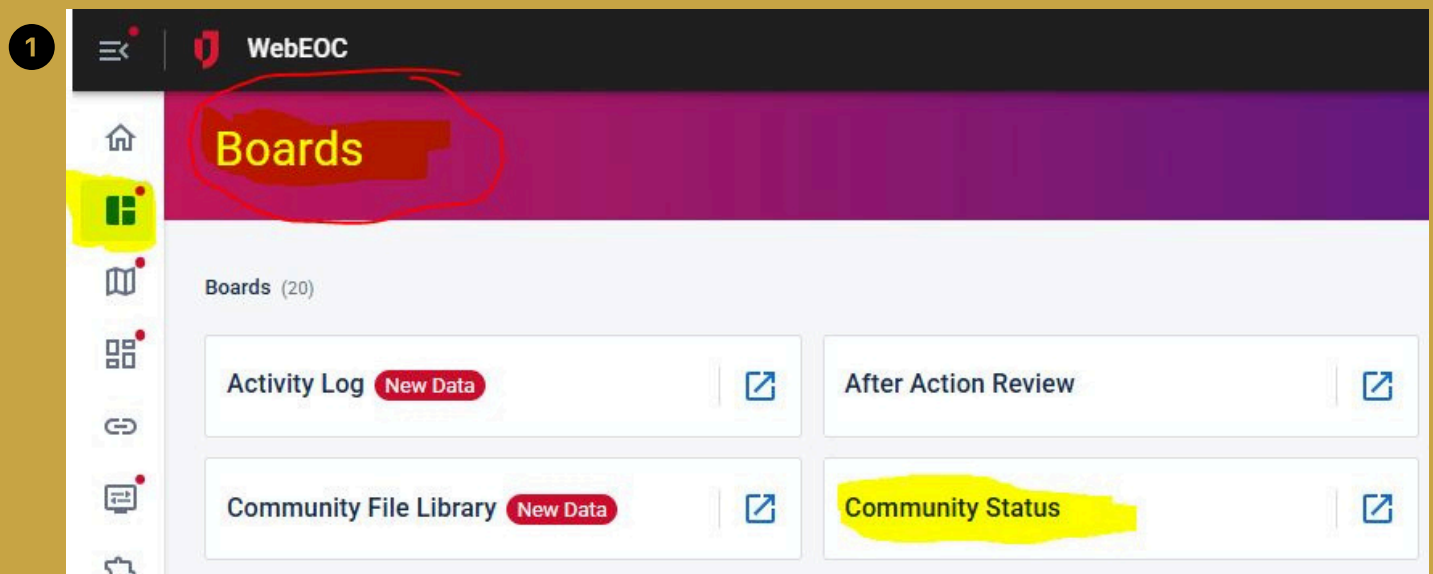NE: 365 East Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

Tips and Tricks
How to add a warming center into WebEOC:

If you open a warming center this week or any other times during the season, please be sure to enter the information on WebEOC for situational awareness.

The warming center information goes onto the "Community Status" board found in the "Boards" sub-menu. **(Pic 1 & Pic 2)**

1.   Scroll down to the "Shelters" section and click on "Add Shelter". **(Pic 3)**
2.   Fill out sheet and please remember to map the address location. **(Pic 4)**
3. If you do not see "View" for your community in the Community Status board. **(Pic 5)** change the Zoom setting on your browser window. Zoom out and it should show up for you.

Addition of this information is important for situational awareness on what is open and capacity. I hope these notes make the process easier for you. If you have any questions or difficulties adding a warming center to WebEOC, please reach out to your Local Coordinator.

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