



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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MEMA's 2013 Statewide Emergency Management Conference - 'Building a Safer Tomorrow' Committee (L to R) MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz, Kenyi Suarez, Chris Besse, Barbara Legatowicz, Jeff Tedesco, NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Bob Thompson, Mike Russas, Katy Bellemare, Jaci Hamel, Andy Bagdonas, Rich LaTour, Jim Kersten, Sarah White.

STATEWIDE EM CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

MEMA conducted a very successful two-day conference for Emergency Management partners on May 28-29 at the DCU Center in Worcester. The 2013 Statewide Emergency Management Conference, entitled 'Building a Safer Tomorrow', brought together 500 attendees from a variety of disciplines across the Commonwealth to explore a wide spectrum of emergency management topics through 50-plus presentations. The conference provided an unparalleled opportunity to train and network with local, state and federal partners and practitioners from a variety of fields including emergency management, public safety, public health, communications, volunteer organizations, and business & industry, and provided a foundation for collaboratively building a safer tomorrow for the Commonwealth. Through interactive presentations, panel discussions, and demonstrations, almost 100 experts showcased and shared model practices, discussed planning and response tools and technologies, and shared lessons learned from recent events. Key Plenary Session presentations included: 'What if Sandy Made Landfall Farther North?' by Dave Vallee, Hydrologist-in-Charge, Northeast River Forecast Center; 'Lessons Learned: Minneapolis I-35W Bridge Collapse' by Rocco Forte, former Minneapolis Emergency Management Director; 'Hurricane Sandy: Lessons Learned in New York' by Greg Brunelle, former Acting Director, New York State Office of Emergency Management; and 'The Boston Marathon Bombings' by Kurt Schwartz, MEMA Director. A link to the presentations has been put on the right side of MEMA's Training and Exercise Page (<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/training-and-exercise-unit.html>) and the direct link is: <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B9Sc2bv5jliTRUdJRGp5WHFJVjA&usp=sharing>.

Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant Governor

Andrea J. Cabral, Secretary of Public Safety & Security
Kurt N. Schwartz, MEMA Director

WALCEK HONORED AS EMERGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Wareham Police Lt. John Walcek was honored as the 2013 Massachusetts Emergency Manager of the Year by the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) during the Statewide Emergency Management Conference at the DCU Center in Worcester on May 28th. Lt. Walcek, who is Wareham's deputy Emergency Management Director, was recognized for his efforts in organizing and coordinating a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for his town, which is comprised of personnel representing all local public safety agencies and resources. The Wareham LEPC plans for emergency response actions for storms, hazardous material situations, and various manmade and natural disasters. Working in coordination with the MA Maritime Academy EM Degree Internship Program, the Wareham LEPC was certified at the highest level of state certification by MEMA.

BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

At the request of Governor Deval Patrick, President Obama issued an Emergency Declaration under the Stafford Act for Suffolk, Norfolk and Middlesex Counties, the counties that are crossed by the Boston Marathon course, as well as were actively involved in the Bombing Manhunt. Bristol County was subsequently added, as well. The Declaration facilitates Direct Federal Assistance opportunities and provides reimbursement to municipalities, state agencies and certain non-profits for 75% of costs associated with providing emergency protective measures in response to the bombings. Governor Patrick also requested and received assistance from the Small Business Administration (SBA) which has made long-term, low interest loans available to the scores of businesses which were impacted by the 10-day, multiple-block lock of Downtown Boston around the crime scenes, as the investigation took place.

MA NATIONAL GUARD RECOGNIZED FOR MARATHON RESPONSE

General Frank Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau joined Major General L. Scott Rice, Adjutant General of the MA National Guard, in presenting awards to members of the MA and NY National Guard, on June 3, 2013. The award ceremonies, that were held on the Boston Common and at the MA State House Hall of Flags Room, recognized the service members who provided critical first response immediately following the Boston Marathon attacks that occurred on April 15. The MA National Guard quickly and efficiently responded to the Boston Marathon attacks with nearly 1,300 Soldiers and Airmen. More than 12 different Massachusetts Guard units and the Headquarters deployed in the Marathon attack response.

DHS SECRETARY NAPOLITANO VISITS MASSACHUSETTS

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano traveled to Boston where she met MA Secretary of Public Safety & Security Andrea Cabral, MA Undersecretary for Public Safety & Emergency Management and MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz, MA State Police Superintendent Colonel Timothy Alben, and other elected federal, state and local officials, as well as law enforcement and first responders, to reiterate DHS's on-going support and collaboration on issues including training and preparedness, and the need for continued information sharing at all levels of government to enhance public safety. "In the face of tragedy, the Boston community came together in a very special way, showing not just America, but the world, how a great city responds quickly, effectively, and comprehensively to an act of terrorism," said Secretary Napolitano. "As always, the Department of Homeland Security remains firmly committed to working with our partners here in Boston and across the Commonwealth to further enhance emergency response capabilities." In Boston, Secretary Napolitano delivered remarks at the Stephen M. Lawlor Medical Intelligence Center (MIC) and DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness, underscoring the importance of a unified and coordinated incident response built upon teamwork, and sharing of resources and expertise. The MIC is a state-of-the-art communications and information sharing facility supported by DHS grant programs that brings together partners from across the public health community to support the response to large-scale incidents. Secretary Napolitano then toured the Boston Regional Intelligence

Center (BRIC) and met with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. For additional information about the Secretary's visit, go to <http://www.dhs.gov/news/2013/05/24/readout-secretary-napolitanos-visit-massachusetts>.

NOAA'S 2013 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has issued the 2013 Hurricane Season outlook: 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), 7 to 11 possible hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher) with 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5/winds of 111 mph or higher). These ranges are well above the seasonal average of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes. The three climate factors that strongly control Atlantic hurricane activity are expected to come together to produce an extremely active 2013 season. These are: 1. A continuation of the atmospheric climate pattern, which includes a strong west African monsoon, that is responsible for the ongoing era of high activity for Atlantic hurricanes that began in 1995; 2. Warmer-than-average water temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea; and 3. El Niño is not expected to develop and suppress hurricane formation. NOAA's seasonal hurricane outlook is not a hurricane landfall forecast; it does not predict how many storms will hit land or where a storm will strike. Forecasts for individual storms and their impacts will be provided throughout the season by NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC). NOAA's outlook favorably reflects Colorado State University's Hurricane forecast: <http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/>.

MEMA HURRICANE SEASON INFORMATION

Although the Hurricane Season in New England is defined as June 1st to November 30th, 75% of the 40 tropical systems that have impacted our region in the past century have struck during the months of August and September. To help increase public awareness of the effects hurricanes can have on the Commonwealth and the preparedness steps we all must take, over the fourteen weeks of June, July and August, MEMA is again disseminating important hurricane information to ensure the continued safety of our citizens. Information will be provided in weekly News Releases, MEMA's Social Media accounts and MEMA's newly revised hurricane webpage <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hurricanes/hurricanes.html> highlighting key issues relative to the New England Hurricane Season. Key Hurricane Topics include Massachusetts' Hurricane History, Preparedness Tips for Families, Home Owners, Pet Owners, Boaters, Businesses, Inland Residents, as well as information about Using Newer Technologies, Sheltering-In-Place and Evacuation.

HURRICANE INUNDATION MAPS AND RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY MANAGERS

In time for the 2013 Hurricane Season, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has updated hurricane inundation maps for coastal communities in Massachusetts. These maps are created using a Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model developed by the National Weather Service (NWS) to estimate potential storm surge for Category 1-4 hurricanes. These maps are available on the MEMA website in both .PDF and .KMZ (for Google Earth) files at: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hurricanes/hurricane-inundation-maps.html>. Emergency managers and public safety officials in coastal communities should view the hurricane inundation map for their community to determine potential inundation areas for community preparedness and emergency planning, including the need for evacuations. In addition, MEMA has created a "Hurricane Resources for Emergency Managers" webpage on the MEMA website at: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hurricane-resources-for-emergency-managers.html> to provide resources to emergency managers and public safety officials in Massachusetts related to hurricane planning and preparedness.

HANDBOOK TO PREPARE FOR COASTAL HAZARDS

The *Massachusetts Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Coastal Hazards*, which is now available,

covers hurricanes, as well as the more common coastal hazards for MA, including nor'easters and flooding. The handbook was developed collaboratively with MEMA, MA Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), FEMA, MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), Barnstable County, and the two MA Sea Grant programs - MIT Sea Grant (MITSG) and Woods Hole Sea Grant (WHSO). A key priority of this project partnership is increasing the resiliency of coastal communities to coastal hazards. This book is designed to promote individual resilience, thereby creating a fortified community, and specifically to help homeowners prepare for coastal hazards to reduce risks to family and property. While it is never possible to eliminate all potential damage from a natural hazard, homeowners can take action and implement many small and cost-effective steps that could significantly lower their risk. Free hard copies are available, while supplies last, at all town offices on Cape Cod and the Islands, as well as some additional towns throughout MA. A limited number of books can be ordered by emailing seagrant@whoi.edu. The *Homeowner's Handbook* will be updated periodically and is available as a free download at: www.whoi.edu/seagrant; <http://seagrant.mit.edu/> and <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/publications-and-reports.html>.

TORNADO ANNIVERSARIES

With the large number of recent tornadoes in Central and Southern states, as well as the numerous Tornado Warnings being issued in MA, we are reminded of the June anniversaries of two of the Commonwealth's more memorable events. June 1st was the 2nd Anniversary of the Greater Springfield Tornadoes of 2011 which caused 3 deaths, injured over 300, destroyed or seriously damaged almost 1,500 homes and businesses. FEMA provided over \$30M in Public and Individual assistance, with the Small Business Administration supplying over \$16M in loans. June 9th marked the 60th Anniversary of the deadly Worcester Tornado of 1953. That memorable tornado was on the ground for over 90 minutes, was over 1 mile wide, and traveled almost 46 miles. The storm left 94 dead, injuring 1,200. Over 640 homes were destroyed and an additional 3,700 damaged at a total cost of \$53M. Find information on Tornado Safety at www.mass.gov/mema.

PREVISTAR & MEMA RECEIVE GEOSPACIAL WORLD EXCELLENCE AWARD

Geospatial Media and Communications hosted its annual Geospatial World Awards on May 15th in Rotterdam, The Netherlands to recognize organizations for developing innovative geospatial tools and products. Previstar and MEMA received the *Geospatial World Excellent Award 2013 for Disaster Management & Mitigation* for their joint creation of CPS-Mobile, an extension of Previstar's CPS platform that provides a mobile interface to better manage resources, incidents, and events. The Previstar/MEMA team was one of 19 awardees out of an initial field of 263 nominees from all over the world. "We are proud of the work we did with MEMA to create CPS-Mobile," said Himadri Banerjee, Previstar's CTO. "Earthquakes, Floods, Terrorist Attacks, CBRN, and Pandemic diseases are just a few examples of today's complex emergencies. Due to the unpredictability of each crisis, planning for and responding to an incident can become extremely complex and effective resource management is critical to managing any such incident. Since emergency managers do not always have quick access to computers, MEMA wanted a tool that would give them the flexibility to quickly send/receive resource requests at any time, based on availability, from anywhere, and the ability to manage those requests. CPS-Mobile provides that capability. "MEMA deployed Previstar's CPS Resource Manager Solution in 2011 for Commonwealth-wide resource management including managing resource inventory, requests, deployments, and cost tracking. Jaci Hamel, Operations Support Coordinator at MEMA, accepted the award on behalf of the Previstar/MEMA team. "Nowadays so many of us have grown dependent on our smart phones to perform daily activities. CPS Mobile helps the Commonwealth's emergency managers respond to any incident more quickly by identifying the closest resource (equipment and human) and quickly requesting and deploying them via our mobile devices no matter where we are."

MEMA STAFF UPDATES

Mikael Main was recently promoted to the position of Manager of MEMA Region I. Kathy Cederberg has moved into the position of Lead Nuclear Planner at MEMA HQ working in the Planning, Nuclear, and Preparedness Division. Rob Sousa has moved to Region III/IV to work in the position of Nuclear Planner in the Planning, Nuclear, and Preparedness Division. Kelly Lumbrá, a recent addition, is working as the Budget Coordinator in the Fiscal Unit at MEMA HQ, as is David Cramer, who joins MEMA in the position of the Citizen Corp Program Coordinator within the Project Management Office.

SUCCESSFUL FEDERALLY GRADED VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR EXERCISE

On June 7th, FEMA's announced its preliminary evaluation of MEMA's performance during the June 5th biennial federally graded exercise of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station Emergency Plan. The evaluation was excellent with 'no issues' for the various entities that worked the exercise for the Commonwealth. MEMA, VT Emergency Management, NH Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness partnered with the utility to hold a very successful event overall. Positive evaluations were handed down for the performances of the local officials from the seven Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) communities (Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield and Warwick), participants at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Framingham, MEMA Region III/IV EOC in Agawam, the Emergency Operating Facility (EOF) in Brattleboro, VT, Joint Information Center (JIC) in Brattleboro, VT, Public Affairs Office (PAO) at MEMA HQ and the Nuclear Incident Assessment Teams (NIAT) in the field. The individuals and agencies that made this so successful included not only the MEMA staff, but MA Department of Public Health, MA State Police, MA National Guard, MassDOT, Mass211, and American Red Cross.

STATEWIDE ALL-HAZARDS INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM STRATEGY

MEMA has completed its Statewide All-Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT) Strategy. The purpose of the Strategy is to prescribe an initial process for the Commonwealth to use in developing a Statewide All-Hazards IMT Program. The mission of the Statewide All-Hazards IMT Program is to create and implement model All-Hazards IMT guidance for state and regional leaders to use to develop well-trained, experienced, and credentialed Type 3 All-Hazards IMTs.

TIER II MANAGER SYSTEM

MEMA, in coordination with the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), recently purchased the on-line Tier II Manager System. MEMA anticipates utilizing this secure, web-based system in 2014. MEMA has just begun its outreach and our initial notice may be found on our website at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/emergency-info/haz-mat/serc/>. More information about this system will be available over the upcoming months. To learn more about the Tier II Manager visit the IDSi website at http://www.idsiinternational.com/TIER_II_MANAGER.html.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

MEMA and DCR are reminding communities of the availability of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding. This post-disaster mitigation grant funding is available as a result of the federal disaster declarations for Tropical Storm Sandy. The deadline to submit applications is Friday August 30, 2013. This funding is designated to reduce risks to the population and structures to natural hazards. Some of the eligible project types include; Storm-water, drainage and culvert improvements, property acquisition, slope stabilization, infrastructure protection, seismic and wind retrofits, structure elevations, public outreach, Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan development, etc. All proposed projects require a non-federal share 25% (or more) of the total estimated project cost.

Please contact Sarah White, Mitigation Grants Supervisor, sarah.white@state.ma.us or 508-820-2053 with questions

TRAINING UPDATE

During the past month 152 individuals attended 13 different classes receiving training through MEMA in the following subject areas: *ICS-100, ICS-300, ICS-400, Communication Unit Leader, Resource Management System (RMS) Basic, and RMS System Administration*. Year-to-date, 805 students have attended 53 offerings. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

FEMA PROMOTES 'WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT' SYSTEM

FEMA is releasing new public service advertising created in conjunction with the Advertising Council, to educate Americans about its Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. The system, which enables local, state and federal authorized government authorities to send emergency messages through wireless carriers' networks, started two years ago, but has not been publicized through advertising. Wireless Emergency Alerts, issued for extreme weather like hurricanes, tornadoes or flash floods; Amber Alerts; or alerts from the President about catastrophic disasters, come as text messages that feature a special tone and vibration. No longer than 90 characters, the message discusses the type and time of the alert, action individuals should take, and the issuing agencies. MEMA utilized WEA on Friday, April 19th in conjunction with the 7 community 'Shelter-in-Place' request during the Boston Marathon Bombings Manhunt. Over 100 wireless carriers offer the free alert service and no subscription is necessary. Alerts are broadcast from cell towers and warn everyone in range who has a device that is capable of receiving a wireless emergency alert. More information concerning WEA can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/get-emergency-information-on-your-cellphone.html#WirelessEmergencyAlerts>.

NEDRIX CYBER SECURITY CONFERENCE

The NorthEast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) will be holding a Half-Day Conference at Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, One Enterprise Drive, Quincy on June 20, 2013. The program theme is 'Cyber Threats & Security'. The conference will address cyber security and information systems. The presentations will be followed by a cyber-based simulation exercise aimed at coordinating responses. For more information: <http://www.nedrix.com/upcoming.php>.

DHS'S 'IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING' CAMPAIGN

The nationwide "If You See Something, Say Something™" public awareness campaign is a simple and effective program to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper local law enforcement authorities. The campaign was originally used by New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), which has licensed the use of the slogan to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for anti-terrorism and anti-terrorism crime related efforts. DHS is working to expand "If You See Something, Say Something™" throughout the country by partnering with a variety of entities including: transportation systems, universities, states, cities, sports leagues and local law enforcement. If you are interested in getting your group involved please contact (202) 282-8010. For more information: <http://www.dhs.gov/if-you-see-something-say-something-campaign>.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

MEMA continues to encourage all communities and governmental entities to take advantage of the opportunity to opt into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement program. To date, 235 entities are on board with the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 167 have signed onto the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at www.mass.gov/mema. Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, MEMA Operations Manager at (508) 820-1426 or allen.phillips@state.ma.us.

DOWNLOAD PING4ALERTS! APP

MEMA continues to encourage citizens to download the FREE mobile app, *ping4alerts!*. 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 text messages, text files, image files and audio messages to Smartphones that have the app and are located within that area. National Weather Service severe weather alerts are also pushed to phones with the app in affected areas. The app is now available for iPhone and Android Smartphones. MEMA continues to encourage all Smartphone users to visit the following website: www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp for additional information and to download this mobile app. This is a resource that MEMA will be sharing broadly with other state agencies, as well as local public safety, public health and emergency management officials in order to ensure that the public receives warnings about imminent or occurring emergencies and information that will help them take appropriate steps to mitigate their risk.

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