



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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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Governor Deval Patrick has issued a proclamation recognizing the month of September as "Preparedness Month" in the Commonwealth. In coordination with the National Preparedness Month observance, the [Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency \(MEMA\)](#) and the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health \(DPH\)](#) are launching a pair of public information campaigns designed to help residents take simple, common-sense steps to better prepare themselves, their families and communities for emergencies of all kinds. The campaigns are both built on common goals of getting residents of MA more prepared, while each focuses on core messages and information related to each organization. MEMA and DPH work side by side as partners before, during, and after emergencies and these preparedness campaigns are one example of the partnership. The campaigns are entitled [Ready Massachusetts](#) and *Together We're Ready-Massachusetts Prepared*.

READY MASSACHUSETTS

[Ready Massachusetts](#) is an initiative of MEMA, designed to educate and empower residents of MA to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. *Ready Massachusetts* is the state's counterpart to FEMA's national *Ready* campaign by localizing preparedness messages with information, materials and resources customized to MA's specific emergency preparedness considerations: 1) Be Informed – Know what emergencies may occur and stay informed. 2) Make a Plan – Plan for your family before an emergency. 3) Build a Kit – Assemble an emergency kit. 4) Get Involved – Volunteer in community emergency preparedness and response activities.

TOGETHER WE'RE READY – MASSACHUSETTS PREPARED

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Bureau is launching the *Together We're Ready – Massachusetts Prepared* campaign to encourage MA residents, families and communities to make plans and prepare for public health emergencies including severe weather, natural disasters or other emergency events. *Together We're Ready* will work with partner organizations including local public health and healthcare facilities to provide information, materials and resources to improve preparedness, resiliency and the ability to respond to and recover from disasters of all types.

EMAP ASSESSMENT TEAM CONCLUDES VISIT

A team of Emergency Management Assessment (EMAP) assessors have conducted a site visit at MEMA HQ to evaluate the Commonwealth's emergency management program against a host of EMAP national standards. The assessors reviewed an array of MEMA plans, policies, guidelines, programs and protocols that cover all aspects of our emergency management program. At the end of

Deval L. Patrick, Governor

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

their site visit, the assessors conducted an exit brief and advised that their preliminary finding is that we could anticipate a very positive outcome. MEMA, therefore, looks forward to the EMAP Board's fall meeting as they finalize MEMA's reaccreditation evaluation process.

NOAA UPDATES HURRICANE OUTLOOK

NOAA issued its updated Atlantic Hurricane Season outlook recently saying the season is still shaping up to be above normal with the possibility that it could be very active. The season has already produced four named storms, with the peak of the season, mid-August through October, yet to come. "Our confidence for an above-normal season is still high because the predicted atmospheric and oceanic conditions that are favorable for storm development have materialized," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center](http://www.noaa.gov/climate/prediction-center), a division of the [National Weather Service](http://www.noaa.gov/national-weather-service). Also, two of the four named storms to-date formed in the deep tropical Atlantic, which historically is an indicator of an active season. The entire article can be found at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130808_atlantic-hurricane-update.html.

FEMA HURRICANE SANDY AFTER ACTION REPORT

FEMA has released its Hurricane Sandy After-Action Report (AAR). The AAR reviews all aspects of the Agency's preparations for, immediate response to, and initial recovery from, the October 2012 storm. To coordinate this after-action process, and conduct the most thorough review possible across FEMA programs, a Sandy Analysis Team was established. The team developed an event chronology, analyzed more than 40 FEMA component submissions on lessons learned, and interviewed more than 200 personnel from across FEMA, DHS and other federal departments, and state, local and tribal government partners. For many of the Sandy survivors, recovery will be measured in years, not months. FEMA remains committed to working with the whole community to meet the long-term needs of survivors and to helping the impacted communities to recover and rebuild. The Sandy After-Action will serve as a guide to allow FEMA to develop programs and adapt Agency processes to provide the best possible service to survivors and fulfill the Agency's mission. The Report is available at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7906>.

FEBRUARY BLIZZARD PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

To date, FEMA's Public Assistance Program has obligated over \$16.4M to assist communities impacted by the February 8-10 Blizzard. As the reimbursement process moves forward, communities and certain private non-profit organizations in all 14 MA counties will be eligible for 75% of the costs associated with providing emergency protective measures associated with the storm. Additionally, communities in Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Worcester counties (Counties which received at least 90% of a record snowfall) will be eligible for snow assistance.

MARATHON BOMBING ASSISTANCE MOVING FORWARD

The process to provide Federal Assistance reimbursements to municipalities, state agencies and certain non-profits for a portion of the costs associated with providing emergency protective measures in response to the Boston Marathon Bombings continues to progress. To date, FEMA has obligated over \$6.2M to the impacted communities.

FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

There is a significant change in this year's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program which increased the federal cost share for acquisition and elevation projects for structures on the Repetitive and Severe Repetitive Loss list. The goal of the FMA program is to implement cost-effective measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage. Currently, there is funding available FMA Grants. The deadline for submissions is September 27, 2013. These structures could be eligible for up to 90% or up to 100% federal cost share respectively.

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) program provides funds to States, territories, Indian Tribal governments and communities for hazard mitigation. Currently, there is funding available for PDM Grants. The deadline for this round of funding is September 27, 2013.

BENEFIT COST ANALYSIS CHANGES

The FEMA Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) program is used to determine the cost effectiveness of proposed mitigation projects for several FEMA mitigation grant programs. BCA is the method by which the future benefits of a mitigation project are determined and compared to its cost. The end result is a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR), which is derived from a project's total net benefits divided by its total project cost. The BCR is a numerical expression of the cost effectiveness of a project. A project is considered to be cost effective when the BCR is 1.0 or greater. There have been two changes in the BCA policy related to pre-calculated benefits for acquisition and elevation projects and the addition of environmental benefits for acquisition projects. These changes allow for a great number of eligible benefits in an effort to streamline and improve the eligibility of these projects. Please contact the mitigation unit for specific questions on these changes.

TRAINING UPDATE

During the past month, 53 individuals attended 5 different classes, receiving training through MEMA in the following subject areas: *ICS-10/NIMS-700* and *Resource Management System (RMS) System Administration*. Year-to-date, 937 students have attended 68 offerings. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

TIER II SYSTEM

MEMA, in coordination with the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), has purchased the secure, web-based Tier II Manager System. It is anticipated this system will be used by the SERC for 'Reporting Year 2013' Tier II reports. A [Tier II Manager System: Registration for Filers](http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/emergency-info/haz-mat/serc/) memo has been disseminated and may be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/emergency-info/haz-mat/serc/>.

MEMA EMAC DEPLOYMENT

In response to a request for assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), MEMA Public Information Officer Peter Judge was deployed to Alaska for the month of August. The request from the Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management was to assist their state PIO with the recovery process regarding the devastating flooding of the Yukon River in central Alaska that occurred this spring. EMAC offers assistance during governor-declared states of emergency through a responsive, straightforward system that allows states to request or send personnel, equipment, and commodities to help disaster relief efforts in other states.

NESEC MEETING

MEMA hosted a meeting of the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) on August 14th. The state emergency management directors from all 6 New England states (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island), as well as FEMA's Regional Administrators from FEMA Regions 1 and 2 and representatives from FEMA Headquarters attended.

NEDRIX ANNUAL OCTOBER CONFERENCE

The Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) is planning their annual 3-day conference for October 27-30, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency, Goat Island, Newport, RI. The conference will offer more than ten distinguished speakers, experts, and practitioners, presenting wide-ranging topics that will delve into the roots of current crises and the dynamics of managing those

events from A to Z. By attending this conference you will culminate solutions and explore how you can awaken, unite, and empower your constituents and organization. NEDRIX events offers participants the opportunity of creating provocative strategies that have a credible chance of success. To review the current program, go to: <http://nedrix.com/PDF/2013OctoberProgram.pdf>.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

Communities are beginning to receive reimbursements from FEMA for costs occurred surrounding their mutual aid activities for the Boston Marathon Bombings. This highlights another reason why Mutual Aid agreements are important. 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: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/mutual-aid.html>. Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, Region I Local Coordinator, at 978.328.1500 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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