



MEMA REPORTS

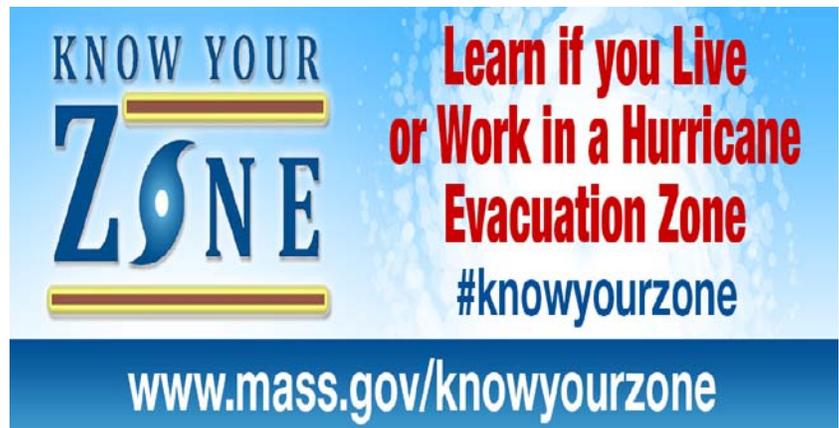
MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

June 8, 2015

Volume 14 Issue 5

KNOW YOUR ZONE

In preparation for the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season, MEMA will once again promote the "[Know Your Zone](#)" campaign to encourage residents to find out whether they live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone. MEMA, in collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and the Commonwealth's coastal communities, has developed hurricane evacuation zones for each coastal community in the Commonwealth. Most coastal communities have two hurricane evacuation zones (Zones A and B), while Boston and Cambridge have three hurricane evacuation zones (Zones A, B and C). These hurricane evacuation zones were created based on the communities' inundation maps, which identify the areas most at risk of experiencing dangerous coastal flooding from the storm surge associated with an approaching tropical storm or hurricane. Storm surge is the large volume of ocean water that is driven ashore by a hurricane or tropical storm and it often poses the greatest threat to life and property because it can increase the threat of drowning, wash away cars, and damage property. If local or state officials need to issue evacuation recommendations or orders as a tropical storm or hurricane approaches, they will do so by referring to the Hurricane Evacuation Zones (Zone A, B or C). The Hurricane Evacuation Zone Maps can be used as interactive zone maps and can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hurricane-evacuation-zones.html>.



2015 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

On May 28, MEMA hosted the 2015 Massachusetts Hurricane Preparedness Conference. The full-day conference brought together close to 300 emergency management professionals to share ideas and best practices to enhance the Commonwealth's readiness for the 2015 hurricane season. Presenters included: National Weather Service (NWS) Meteorologist-in-Charge Bob Thompson who discussed the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and Local NWS Office seasonal hurricane outlook and new products to increase situational awareness; Florida State University Professor Jay Baker presented his findings on how perception of safety impacts the public reaction to hurricanes; MEMA Disaster Recovery Programs Coordinator Gina Valentine an overview on debris management including best practices for a debris removal and monitoring operation; New England Cable News Chief Meteorologist Matt Noyes presented 'Meteorology & the Media'; Westerly, RI Town Manager

Amy Grzybowski described re-entry and rebuilding process after Superstorm Sandy; MA Department of Public Health Educator/Trainer Lisa Crouner addressed 'Preventing Further Harm': recognizing and understanding post-disaster stress which focused on psychological first aid; National Grid Director of Emergency Planning Mike McCallan highlighted a new application that will be piloted to increase communication between first responders and National Grid during storms; Cumberland Gulf Group Vice President of Facilities Support Tom Cacciola explained how fuel retailers prepare for a hurricane; and FEMA Hurricane Program Manager Paul Morey gave a HURREVAC (short for 'Hurricane Evacuation') overview.

NOAA'S 2015 HURRICANE FORECAST

NOAA's (National Atmospheric & Oceanic Administration) Climate Prediction Center released the 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. While they predict a below-normal season it is important to remember that it only takes one storm to produce catastrophic impact to communities. The prediction includes a 70 percent likelihood of 6 to 11 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 3 to 6 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including zero to 2 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA will issue an updated outlook for the Atlantic hurricane season in early August, just prior to the historical peak of the season. MEMA encourages everyone to prepare now and know what to do before, during, and after a hurricane makes landfall. Being prepared helps build stronger, safer and more resilient communities. For more information on how to prepare for a hurricane, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hazards/hurricanes/>.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROCESS MOVES FORWARD

In May, MEMA held ten Applicant Briefings across the Commonwealth to begin the formal Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance application process for local communities, state agencies and eligible private-non-profits for the January 26-28 Blizzard. MEMA has received over 640 'Requests for Public Assistance' (RPAs), which is the official notification of intent to apply for assistance. FEMA representatives have begun 'Kick-off Meetings' with a number of applicants to begin the process of developing Project Worksheets. These Project Worksheets document the scope of work and cost estimates for a project and supply FEMA with the information necessary to approve eligible work and provide reimbursements to the applicants. Details regarding the Disaster Declaration and application process for communities, state agencies and eligible private non-profits are available at www.mass.gov/mema.

HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (HMA) GRANT PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE

MEMA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) have announced the availability of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#), [Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant \(PDM\) Program](#), and [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) Program](#) funding. The HMGP is a post-disaster mitigation grant funding program that has been made available statewide as a result of the federal disaster declaration for the January 2015 Severe Winter Storm. The 2015 PDM and 2015 FMA are nationally-competitive annual grant programs and are also now available. HMGP grant briefings are being held June 2-16, 2015 throughout the Commonwealth. For briefing details and more information, please see: [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants REVISED Announcement Memo](#).

EVACUATION, MASS CARE & SHELTERING SEMINARS

As part of our 2015-2016 Exercise Series, MEMA is conducting a series of seminars for state, regional and local stakeholders with roles in planning for, coordinating and implementing large-scale evacuation, mass care and sheltering activities. Over the last year, MEMA actively worked with various stakeholders to develop draft concepts of operation and coordination plans to support the implementation of large-scale evacuations and provision of mass care and sheltering services for large numbers of displaced people, including those with access and functional needs. The seminars provide an opportunity to learn about these draft concepts in detail, and provide critical input on their

development. The target audience for these seminars includes representatives from the following disciplines: Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Fire Services, Public Works, Public Health, Transportation, and Partnering non-governmental organizations that support local mass care and shelter operations.

MEMA DEVELOPS CERT BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

MEMA Citizen Corps and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program Coordinator David Cramer has worked to grow the number of registered MA CERT programs from 85 to 126 over the past 18 months. While these programs serve a wide variety of communities, there are some challenges that all CERTs experience, such as funding and liability issues. Working together with MEMA's Citizen Corps Council and local programs throughout the Commonwealth, MEMA has developed a *Best Practices Guide* to help communities start and sustain successful CERT programs. It features examples of guidelines and tools that communities throughout the Commonwealth use to manage their programs including sample operating guidelines, consent forms, press releases, certificates, and other policies and procedures. There are also links to a variety of online resources. To review the latest version of the *Best Practices Guide*, please visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/mema/cert-best-practices-guide>.

SUCCESSFUL VY EXERCISE

On May 15, FEMA announced its preliminary evaluation of the Commonwealth's performance during the May 13 biennial federally graded exercise of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station Emergency Plan. This year a Hostile Action-Based (HAB) Exercise was conducted to demonstrate how the plant personnel, as well as local, state and federal government agencies would coordinate and respond in the event of a hostile attack on the plant. 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's 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.

NWS LIGHTNING SAFETY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

While summertime is a good time for outdoor recreational activities in New England, it is also the time of the year when thunderstorms are most likely. During the week of June 22-26, 2015, regional National Weather Service (NWS) offices in Taunton and Albany, as well as MEMA plan to post information on Lightning Safety Awareness Week on their websites and social media accounts. MEMA encourages communities to do the same to help educate citizens on lightning safety. Nearly every community has outdoor events that could be disrupted by thunderstorms and lightning such as youth, high school and college activities (sports, graduations, band practices) to fairs, parades, golf courses, concert venues, and amusement parks. Additional information can be found at <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>.

GET READY FOR THE GREAT NORTHEAST SHAKEOUT

At 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2015, millions of people worldwide will practice how to [Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#) if an earthquake occurs. You are invited to join them by participating in the 2015 *Great NorthEast ShakeOut!* Last year more than 26.5 million people were registered in *Great ShakeOut* earthquake drills worldwide. Participating is a great way for your family or organization to be prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes. This is the third year that the Northeast states have been organized as an Official ShakeOut Region. FEMA and the Northeast States Emergency

Consortium are coordinating recruitment across the entire region. Additional details on the *Great Northeast ShakeOut*, and how to register, can be found at <http://shakeout.org/northeast/>.

TRAINING UPDATE

During the month of May, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 414 students in 7 different classes: *ICS-200, ICS-300, Hazmat Awareness; Community Health Care Planning & Response to Disasters;* and *the 2015 Hurricane Conference*. So far this year, 975 individuals have received training through MEMA programs. Additional MEMA Training opportunities: www.mass.gov/mema.

MEMA FIELD DEPLOYMENTS

During the month of May, MEMA deployed fleet assets and personnel in support of multiple events across the Commonwealth:

May 19 – The Mobile Emergency Operation Center 2 (MEOC 2) supported the Oil Spill Response Exercise in Ipswich, serving as the Unified Command Post.

May 22-24 - The Mobile Communication Support Trailer (MCST) and Mobile Emergency Operation Center 2 (MEOC 2) supported the Deerfield Academy graduation with communications/ interoperability support as MEOC 2 served as the command post for local and federal law enforcement.

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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