



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.

January 3, 2013

Volume 12, Issue 1

MA TO RECEIVE FEDERAL AID FOR HURRICANE SANDY

In response to Governor Deval Patrick's request to President Barak Obama, federal disaster aid will be made available to MA communities to assist in their recovery from the impacts of Hurricane Sandy. Assistance was authorized under a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance (PA) and Direct Federal Assistance issued by President Obama following a review of FEMA's analysis of Governor Patrick's request letter. The PA assistance will be made available to Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, Plymouth and Suffolk Counties. These are the six counties which had eligible costs that exceeded federal financial thresholds for storm-related damage. Hazard Mitigation Assistance will also become available for the entire Commonwealth. Under this PA Program, affected local governments, state agencies and various eligible private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for federal funds to be reimbursed for 75% of the approved cost of protective measures, storm-related overtime costs for first responders, clearing debris from public roads and public property, and repairing, replacing, restoring or reconstructing damaged public facilities and infrastructure.

Procedures for requesting the assistance will be explained at a series of applicant briefings for local officials at locations hosted by MEMA and FEMA. These briefings will explain the reimbursement process for receiving federal funds for eligible expenses incurred by state and local governments, as well as eligible non-profit organizations. Dates and locations of these briefings are posted on the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema.

2012 STATEWIDE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE & DEBRIS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

On December 19th, MEMA hosted the 2012 Statewide Public Assistance Program & Debris Management Conference at The Log Cabin in Holyoke. This day-long, no-cost event offered guidance and best practices on FEMA's Public Assistance Program—including Debris Management—within the crucial first 72 hours of an emergency and beyond. This conference provided the nearly 300 participants an educational opportunity to learn about various debris management and public assistance program topics and hear real-world experiences from 30 speakers and local, state and federal subject-matter experts. The conference allowed participants to share ideas and gain knowledge through a series of break-out workshops, presentations, and panel discussions. This extremely well-received event was attended by state and local emergency management, public works, fiscal officials, and chief municipal officials.

NEW HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

MEMA is announcing the availability of post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding resulting from the Presidential disaster declaration for the 'October 2011 Severe Snow' event. To assist potential sub-applicants considering applying for FEMA mitigation funding, MEMA/DCR will

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

Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, Secretary of Public Safety & Security
Kurt Schwartz, MEMA Director

be hosting a series of mitigation grant program briefing(s) and technical assistance. The grant program briefing will provide an overview of the programs, available funding and relevant application process/deadlines. Interested sub-applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of these sessions as details regarding the grant program(s) will be described/discussed in detail. The 'Disaster Recovery & Mitigation' section of the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema has the program schedule and additional hazard mitigation grant funding availability information.

SBA HELP FOR SPRINGFIELD & LEOMINSTER

Governor Patrick announced that those MA residents and businesses that were impacted by the November 23rd natural gas explosion in the City of Springfield and the devastating 6-alarm fire in the City of Leominster that occurred on November 24th would be eligible to apply for low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The loans have been made available in response to letters from Governor Deval Patrick to the federal government requesting a Disaster Declaration by the SBA for each event. Both the City of Springfield and the City of Leominster, along with MEMA, had conducted Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) and determined that the damage to these areas both exceeded the SBA criteria for a disaster declaration: damage to a minimum of 25 homes resulting in uninsured losses of 40 percent or more of the estimated fair market value of the damaged property.

NOVEMBER TRAINING UPDATE

During this past month, an additional 174 individuals took part in 17 different classes, receiving training through MEMA in the following subject areas: *ICS-100*, *ICS-200*, *ICS-300*, *NIMS-700*, *Resource Management System (RMS) Basic*, and *Resource Management System (RMS) - System Administrator*. Year-to-date, 1,804 individuals have been through various MEMA trainings. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

MEMA STAFF UPDATE

MEMA welcomes back Kathy Estridge. She has rejoined MEMA as a Grants Management Specialist working in the Project Management Office.

STATEWIDE EVACUATION PLANNING PROJECT

The MA Statewide Evacuation Coordination Planning Project Management Team had its initial meeting on December to begin planning long-term strategies.

PILGRIM & SEABROOK SIREN DEMONSTRATIONS PROVE SUCCESSFUL

Over the past several weeks the annual demonstrations of the siren systems within the Emergency Planning Zones (EPZ) of the Pilgrim and Seabrook Nuclear Power Stations took place. On November 28th, the 113 sirens within the Pilgrim EPZ towns of Plymouth, Carver, Kingston, Duxbury and Marshfield were successfully sounded. On December 5th a demonstration of the 121 Seabrook EPZ sirens including the 27 sirens located in Amesbury, Merrimack, Newbury, Newburyport, West Newbury and Salisbury also successfully took place. In addition to familiarizing residents with the sound of the sirens, the demonstrations were a reminder that the purpose of the sirens is to direct citizens to turn to their Emergency Alert System (EAS) Radio Stations for specific safety information.

2013 EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION CALENDARS ISSUED

Residents of the 18 MA communities located within the Emergency Planning Zones (EPZs) of the three nuclear power stations that impact the Commonwealth, have been mailed their annual calendar containing vital emergency information. The 2013 calendar is an important part of emergency planning, containing information that will better prepare families to respond to any emergency within the community, including hurricanes, flooding, chemical spills or large fires. MA EPZ communities are: Pilgrim – Duxbury, Kingston, Plymouth and portions of Carver and Marshfield; Seabrook –

Amesbury, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Salisbury and West Newbury; Vermont Yankee – Bernardston, Leyden, and portions of Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Northfield and Warwick. Those who do not receive their calendars are encouraged to contact their local Emergency Management Director, a MEMA Regional office in Bridgewater, Tewksbury, or Agawam, or the Nuclear Preparedness Department at MEMA HQ in Framingham. An electronic version of the calendar will be made available on the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema.

TRI-STATE MEETING

On December 18th, MEMA staff took part in the Tri-State Directors' Nuclear Preparedness Meeting at the NH Department of Environmental Services in Portsmouth, NH. There was an extensive discussion of the Ghent, NY Industrial Fire of August 1st, an overview of Hostile-Action Based Scenarios for upcoming nuclear exercises, nuclear Alerts and Notifications, status reports were presented by MA, NH, RI, ME and VT Emergency Management and Public Health leadership. The three Nuclear Power Stations at Pilgrim (MA), Seabrook (NH) and Vermont Yankee and the federal partners at DHS/FEMA, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and National Weather Service also gave presentations.

NESEC MEETING

The Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC), which is composed of the State Emergency Management Agencies of New England, New York and New Jersey, recently met in Newport, RI. The State and FEMA Region 1 Public Information Officers met on November 28th, with the State Directors meeting on November 29th. Areas of discussion on the PIO side included Regional Sharing of Situational Awareness, Dealing with Shared Regional Media, Sharing Improvements in Regional Communication/Notification Tools, Multi-State Joint Information Centers (JICs) and Coordinating Messages. The Directors received a presentation regarding the RI Cyber Disruption Team, a DHS/FEMA Discussion of Regional Issues and Updates, discussions on the Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery from Hurricane Sandy and the Response to the Ghent, NY Industrial Fire.

WINTER SAFETY SERIES

During early December, MEMA disseminated important winter safety information through the Media as well as posting on the MEMA website. This nine-part Winter Safety Series included the proper steps to take to prepare your family and home for the winter season, automobile and driving safety, ice safety, protecting your pets, responding to power outages, extreme temperatures, roof collapse and recovering from a winter storm. They are also available at www.mass.gov/mema.

2012 HURRICANE SEASON WINDS DOWN

The 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season has come to an end. There were an above-average 19 named storms, the third most active season since 1851. Even without a 'major' storm (by definition 'major' storm has winds exceeding 111 mph) reaching the U.S., there were areas of extensive damage throughout the country caused by a number of these storms, especially Hurricane Sandy. Therefore, it has been seven years, the longest recorded stretch, without a 'major' storm making U.S. landfall.

PRIVATE/PUBLIC SECTOR TTX

On December 14th, MEMA Region I and HQ staff participated in a Boston Area Private/Public Sector Tabletop Exercise at the Boston Convention Center & Exhibition Center. The primary purpose of the Wide-Spread Power Outage Exercise was to promote relationships and communication among the private and public sectors; learn and understand each other's priorities and unique challenges; and identify inconsistencies or false assumptions in planning regarding expectations of resources and actions.

RESOLVE 2B READY

With the start of a new year, FEMA's *Ready Campaign* is reminding Americans to *Resolve 2B Ready* in 2013. Those who make New Year's resolutions are 11 times more likely to report continued success in achieving a goal than individuals who have not made a resolution, according to the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*. The *Ready Campaign* would like to make an emergency preparedness resolution easy to keep by providing the tools and resources needed to take four important steps: be informed about the different types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses, make a family communications plan, build an emergency kit, and get involved in community preparedness. It is not too late to join FEMA's *Ready Campaign* in promoting *Resolve 2B Ready*. You will also find Web banners for your organization's Web site, a sample E-mail and a Newsletter you can share with your key constituents. For additional information, go to Ready@fema.gov.

DOWNLOAD PING4ALERTS! APP TODAY

Citizens throughout MA continue to download the new FREE mobile app, *ping4alerts!* This new state-of-the-art tool significantly enhances MEMA's ability to communicate with the public during emergencies, as it did with Hurricane Sandy, during a recent Amber Alert and annual testing of the Pilgrim and Seabrook Nuclear Station sirens. 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, and will be available soon for Blackberries. 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.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

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, 233 entities are on board with the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 162 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.

RMS INVOLVEMENT CONTINUES TO BE ENCOURAGED

Additional communities are encouraged to complete Resource Management System (RMS) Training and begin to actively enter and update their resources and facilities into the system. The RMS, which was developed with financial support from the state's Homeland Security Councils and the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security (EOPSS), is a secure web-based system that may be used by all cities and towns, state agencies and other emergency management partners including public works, public health and emergency medical services, to facilitate emergency and non-emergency mutual aid across the Commonwealth. MEMA urges all cities and towns, agencies and organizations to take full advantage of RMS by using it as an internal inventory management system and to facilitate emergency and non-emergency mutual aid support. The success of the Resource Management System, meaning the degree to which it helps municipalities, agencies and organizations locate needed resources during emergencies, ultimately depends on the commitment of the system's users to complete the training, enter their resources (equipment, people and specialized teams) into the

system, and to keep the system updated. To date, over 100 entities have completed Resource Management System (RMS) Training, with over 30 actively entering and updating their resources and facilities into the system. MEMA is presently testing a mobile version of the RMS Website. Please contact your respective MEMA Regional Office to request additional assistance, if needed.

SOCIAL MEDIA ADDRESSES

MEMA has streamlined its Social Media addresses: Twitter is www.twitter.com/MassEMA; Facebook is www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA; and YouTube is www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA. And do not forget to download the *ping4alerts!* app.

FOLLOW MEMA UPDATES ON FACEBOOK (www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA) & TWITTER, (www.twitter.com/MassEMA), AS WELL AS ON THE MEMA WEBSITE at www.mass.gov/mema.

