



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.

March 7, 2016

Volume 15, Issue 2

GOVERNOR THANKS THOSE DEPLOYED TO AID WASHINGTON DC

On Friday February 12, Governor Baker expressed his appreciation to the 25 state workers from MassDOT, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), MA Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and MA State Police (MSP) who deployed to Washington, DC under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), to assist in snow removal operations. The Governor also



thanked members of MEMA and the other agencies who managed the logistics for this EMAC deployment. MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz, Deputy Director Christine Packard and Operations Unit Supervisor Jaci Hamel, who served as the Commonwealth's EMAC lead for this deployment, represented the agency at the ceremony.

2016 MASSACHUSETTS HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE COMING!

Save the Date! MEMA will host its annual Hurricane Preparedness Conference on Thursday, May 26, 2016. This year's conference, being held at Four Points Sheraton, Norwood MA, will feature guest speakers from National Weather Service, FEMA Region 1, and National Hurricane Center. This is a great opportunity for participants to share ideas and experiences, gain knowledge, and network with other emergency management professionals. For more information visit MEMA's website: www.mass.gov/mema.

MEMA SEEKS INPUT ON TOPICS, PRESENTERS & PRESENTATIONS

MEMA is also asking for your input on possible topics, presenters and presentations for the 2016 Massachusetts Hurricane Preparedness Conference. Submit an idea for a topic related to hurricane preparedness, planning and/or response, suggest a presenter, or propose your own presentation for this year's conference. Bear in mind that the audience will be comprised of state and local emergency managers and public safety officials. Each plenary session will be approximately 40 minutes in length.

Please submit your proposal or suggestion by March 18, 2016 via email to trainingexercise@state.ma.us. The conference planning committee will review each submission and notify you if your proposal has been selected.

MEMA MEETS WITH MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE

On February 25, MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz, Deputy Director Christine Packard and Regional Manager James Mannion attended the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Tribal Emergency Response Task Force Meeting at the Tribal Council Offices in Mashpee, MA. Under the leadership of recently hired Tribal Emergency Preparedness Planner Nelson Andrews, Jr., the Tribe has made great progress in developing emergency response, mitigation and preparedness plans. Nelson Andrews and James Mannion both delivered presentations on how their organizations are organized and operate to increase the understanding of how the Tribe and MEMA can potentially collaborate in the future.



Pictured: Facility Director Michael Maxim, Vice Chairwoman, Jessie "Little Doe" Baird, MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz, Emergency Preparedness Planner Nelson Andrews Jr, MEMA Deputy Director Christine Packard, MEMA Region II Manager James Mannion, and Public Relations and Communications Manager Trish Keli'inui.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE TOTALS ADVANCE

The Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance process for local communities, state agencies and eligible private-non-profits for the January 26-28, 2015 Blizzard continues to advance. As of the end of February, 729 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA. The total project costs reflected in these PWs is over \$44.4M in federal assistance to local communities, state agencies and private non-profits (75% of the \$57.7M obligated projects costs.). Details regarding the Disaster Declaration and reimbursement process for communities, state agencies and eligible private non-profits are available at www.mass.gov/mema.

FIELD DEPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

During the month of February, MEMA utilized field assets and personnel to support the following events across the Commonwealth:

February 12-16: MEMA supported the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office's Special Olympics Polar Plunge fundraiser event that hosted over 750 people by providing cache radios for the event's public safety partners.

February 19-29: MEMA supported the Town of Wellesley for an MBTA Police Training. MEMA provided cache radios to the participants to ensure communications coordination.

MEMA STAFF UPDATE

Recent additions to the MEMA Staff include: Rob Reinke, who has joined MEMA as the new Communications Coordinator, working in the Communications Unit under the Response & Field Services Section; Robin Remillard joined the MEMA staff as a Dispatcher in the Communications Unit at MEMA HQ; and Sheena Connolly, who is the new Disaster Recovery Contract Specialist, working in the Recovery Unit under the Recovery & Mitigation Section.

FLOOD SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

As Spring approaches, the Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has designated March 14-18, 2016 as Flood Safety Awareness Week. During the week NOAA will highlight the importance of

preparing for a flood before it strikes and educate the public about the actions a person should take when faced with a flooding situation. Nearly every day flooding happens somewhere in the United States. Flooding causes more damage in the United States than any other weather related event. On average, floods cause \$8 billion in damages and almost 100 fatalities annually. Knowing your flood risk is the best way to prepare for flooding. Find out which flooding hazards impact your area at www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/map.shtml. You can also find out if you live in a floodplain by visiting www.floodsmart.gov.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVANCED ACADEMY

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is accepting applications for the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy (NEMAA). This program addresses program management and oversight, effective communication, integrated collaboration, and strategic thinking skills. The target audience is mid-level managers who have a minimum of three years of experience in an emergency management position to include government, non-profit, voluntary organization, and private sector leaders who are responsible for emergency management or homeland security. The NEMAA Program consists of four resident courses. Each course is five days in length. Classes begin during the 1st quarter of the Federal fiscal year 2017 (October, November, or December 2016) and must be taken sequentially through September 2017. Applications are accepted from March 1 - March 31 with selections in June and announcements in July. For additional information, go to <https://training.fema.gov/empp/applytoadvancedacademy.aspx>.

FEMA OFFERS VIRTUAL HURRICANE TABLETOP EXERCISE

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is offering a hurricane-based virtual tabletop exercise (VTTX) focusing on historical events and recovery actions. The one-day VTTX, which will be repeated on April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14, will provide an opportunity for key personnel to discuss response and recovery actions for simulated scenarios in an informal setting. The VTTX is useful for assessing plans, policies, training, and procedures. EMI conducts a monthly series of VTTXs using a teleconference platform to reach community-based training audiences around the country, providing a virtual forum for disaster training. The design of the VTTX is for a group of 10 or more representatives from state, tribal and local emergency management communities of practice. Participants must have an appropriate site equipped with video teleconference capability. The goals of the VTTX are to test the participants' knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct all-hazards emergency response and recovery effectively. The VTTX also enables coordination response operations with counterparts from federal agencies, state and local governments, private sector organizations, non-governmental agencies, and other whole community partners. The VTTX occurs Noon to 4:00 p.m. EST. To participate in a VTTX, submit an email request to Doug Kahn at douglas.kahn@fema.dha.gov or call 301-447-7645. Session content is the same each day and participants only need to attend one session. The registration deadline is Friday, March 11. Additional information is available at <https://training.fema.gov/programs/emivttx.aspx>.

2016 NEDRIX SPRING CONFERENCE

The NorthEast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) will hold their 2016 Spring Conference on May 11 at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, 101 Huntington Avenue, Suite 1300, Boston, MA 02199. The NEDRIX Spring Event is the preeminent conference for communicating directly with leading business continuity and disaster recovery stakeholders. There will be regional experts discussing such important topics as Real-life Data Risk; Defending Our Information; PCI (Payment Card Industry) Compliance; FBI Component . Ways to Protect Ourselves from These Crimes; and Conducting a Cyber Exercise. For more information, go to <http://www.nedrix.com/nedrix-events/2016-nedrix-spring-conference/>.

MEMA CONTINUES TO PROMOTE ITS MASSACHUSETTS ALERTS APP

MEMA continues to encourage not only private citizens of the Commonwealth, but those who work in state and local government to download the *Massachusetts Alerts* app. To date, over 90,000 people have downloaded the free alerting app. MEMA is asking our public safety partners to help promote Massachusetts Alerts to enhance our ability to provide timely emergency information to people who live, work or visit Massachusetts. MEMA continues to use this free app to alert residents, based on their location and proximity, to incidents, severe weather (tornadoes, hurricanes, tropical storms, and severe thunderstorms) and other types of emergencies and disasters. Users receive real-time information, including: severe weather watches and warnings (users set their own preferences); Amber Alerts about missing children; critical information during disasters such as evacuation and shelter-in-place information; shelter information; information about power outages; and tips to prepare for, and stay safe during disasters and public safety incidents. *Massachusetts Alerts* is available for Apple and Android Smartphones and tablets. For more information, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/be-prepared/be-informed/massachusetts-alerts.html>.

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.

FOLLOW MEMA AND GET IMPORTANT EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

TWITTER - www.twitter.com/MassEMA, **FACEBOOK** - www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA, **YouTube** - www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA, the **MEMA WEBSITE** - www.mass.gov/mema, **READY MASSACHUSETTS** . www.mass.gov/mema/ready. And do not forget to download **Massachusetts Alerts** app - www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp.

