



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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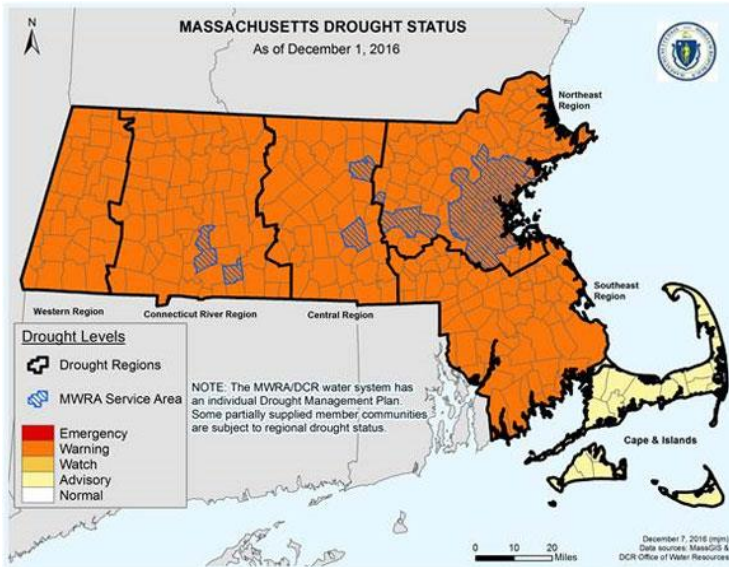
Successful Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Exercise

On November 16th, MEMA and partner agencies and organizations held the biennial federally graded exercise of the offsite emergency response organizations for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station. Participating organizations and facilities included the five Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) communities (Plymouth, Carver, Duxbury, Kingston and Marshfield); the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Framingham which included staff from numerous state agencies; MEMA's Region II Emergency Operations Center (REOC) in Bridgewater; Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, the Emergency Operating Facility (EOF) and Joint Information Center (JIC) in Plymouth; Massachusetts 2-1-1; the three reception center communities (Braintree, Bridgewater, and Taunton) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health radiation control program, including Nuclear Incident Advisory Teams (NIAT). On November 18th, FEMA announced its preliminary evaluation of the exercise and concluded that there were no issues identified during the exercise and that participants performed at or above planning standards. This exercise concluded two years of preparation including trainings, drills, and exercises.

ISO-NE Expects Adequate Power Capacity

On November 22nd, ISO-NE (Independent System Operator of New England) held their annual Pre-Winter Conference Call Briefing for utilities, State Emergency Management Agencies, Governors' Offices, Public Utility Commissions & Energy Offices and Power Reliability Councils. ISO-NE reported that it anticipates there will be adequate power capacity for the region this winter, barring unexpected resource outages or fuel delivery constraints. ISO New England is the independent, not-for-profit corporation responsible for the reliable operation of New England's electric power generation and transmission system, overseeing and ensuring the fair administration of the region's wholesale electricity markets, and managing comprehensive regional electric power planning. See the full ISO-NE Winter Outlook press release at https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2016/12/20161205_pr_iso-ne-managing-reliable-power-grid-operations-this-winter.pdf.

Historic Drought Conditions Continue



Although many areas of the state experienced some precipitation in November, large portions of the state continue to experience a water deficit.

On December 9th, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) announced updated Drought Warnings for the Connecticut River Valley and the Western, Central, Northeast, and Southeast regions of Massachusetts, and a Drought Advisory for the Cape and Islands, unchanged from the Month of November. The warnings and advisory are the result of recommendations by the Commonwealth's [Drought Management Task Force](#) which is comprised of state, federal and local officials and is led jointly by EEA and

MEMA.

The state continues to intensely monitor and assess the drought situation, and any associated environmental and agricultural impacts. Furthermore, the state asks the public to be mindful of the amount of water they are using, and to reduce indoor water use, address leaks as soon as possible, and for larger buildings and businesses to conduct water audits to ensure they identify leaks and areas for potential water conservation. These steps will greatly help reduce water use and help ensure essential needs such as drinking water and fire protection are being met, habitats have enough water to recover, and to stretch our water supplies into the spring. For additional details, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/pr-2016/drought-conditions-remain-unchanged-across-commonwealth.html> or <http://www.mass.gov/eea/drought/>.

2016 Hurricane Season Concludes

The 2016 Atlantic hurricane season ended on November 30th. The Atlantic saw 15 named storms during 2016, including 7 hurricanes (Alex, Earl, Gaston, Hermine, Matthew, Nicole, and Otto), 3 of which were major hurricanes (Gaston, Matthew and Nicole). NOAA's updated hurricane season outlook in August called for 12 to 17 named storms, including 5 to 8 hurricanes, with 2 to 4 of those predicted to become major hurricanes.

Five named storms made landfall in the United States during 2016, the most since 2008 when six storms struck. Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricane Matthew struck South Carolina. Tropical Storms Colin and Julia, as well as Hurricane Hermine, made landfall in Florida. Hermine was the first hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma in 2005.

Hurricanes Hermine & Matthew threatened Massachusetts in September and October, but ultimately spared the Commonwealth from impacts. While the state may have been spared this year, Massachusetts has a history of destructive hurricanes and a damaging hurricane will occur again. To read more about the 2016 hurricane season, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/first-above-normal-atlantic-hurricane-season-since-2012-produced-five-landfalling-us>.

Mitigation Projects Round-Up

Concord, MA – The fall 2016 construction season was busy for communities around the Commonwealth working on Hazard Mitigation Grant funded projects. One example, pictured below, is the new Spencer Brook culvert in Concord at Westford Road, which has repeatedly experienced localized flooding and roadway overtopping during storm events. The town replaced an existing undersized field stone culvert with a 7' wide x 5.25' high concrete culvert, with stone fascia, bluestone headwall caps and natural gravel bottom. This upgrade will protect the roadway from heavy flows of floodwater surcharging down Spencer Brook. The total cost for the project was \$179,000.



Spencer Brook Culvert in Concord (Before)



Spencer Brook Culvert in Concord (After)

Westford, MA – A second project, pictured below, was completed this fall in the Town of Westford. The project is intended to mitigate flood damage to the Route 40 (Groton Rd.) roadway structure and to lower flooding conditions around nearby Keyes Pond. This road is a vital component of the regional transportation system as well as regional commerce. The town replaced an existing undersized stone arch (and 60" corrugated metal pipe) culvert with a 12' span x 3.5' clear height precast concrete bridge system with headwalls/wing walls, and natural gravel bottom. The total cost for this project was \$522,000.



Groton Road Culvert in Westford (Before)



Groton Road Culvert in Westford (After)

To learn more about MEMA's Hazard Mitigation Program, visit:
<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/mitigation/>

Updated Mutual Aid Agreement Members

MEMA continues to encourage all communities and governmental entities to opt into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement program. To date, 314 communities and organizations have signed onto the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 243 have signed onto the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/mutual-aid.html>. Local officials with any questions regarding the agreements should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips at allen.phillips@state.ma.us.

Now is the Time to Prepare for Winter Storms

While last winter was relatively quiet, those in Massachusetts cannot forget the historic winter of 2015. Every winter brings some level of severe winter weather, so residents of Massachusetts are urged to prepare now for winter storms and extreme cold.

Extreme winter weather can lead to power outages, transportation disruptions, roof collapses, and more. Winter storms can also result in fatalities from automobile accidents, heart attacks due to overexertion, hypothermia, and carbon monoxide. To minimize the dangers associated with winter storms, take the proper safety precautions to protect yourself and your family. Visit <http://www.mass.gov/mema/snow> for winter storm safety tips.

MEMA Staff Updates

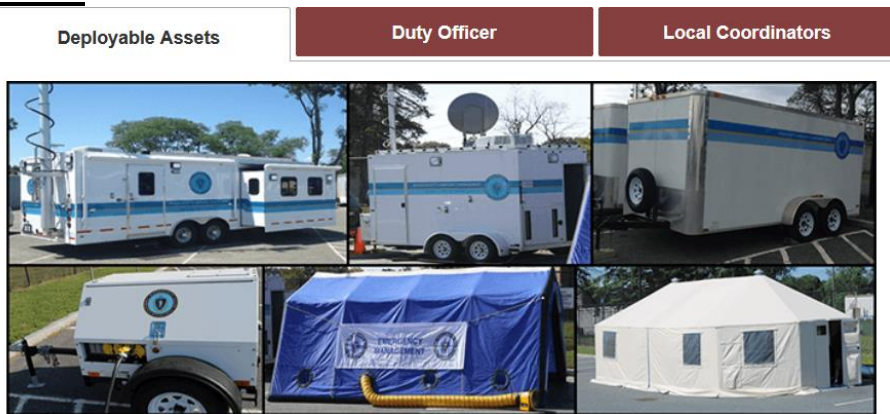
Ryan Abbott has been hired as a contract Mass Care and Sheltering Planner in MEMA's Planning Unit.

Featured MEMA Webpage: Field Services

In an effort to highlight MEMA's resources that are available to the public safety community, we feature a MEMA webpage each month. This month we are highlighting the [Field Services webpage](#).

MEMA has an extensive stockpile of deployable resources and personnel to assist local jurisdictions and state and federal agencies in their field operations.

The equipment, along with field personnel, possess technological, operational, and logistical capabilities to support a large variety of needs. These deployable resources can support training and exercises, planned events, and disaster/emergency incidents on a 24/7/365 basis. Check out the Field Services webpage (<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/field-services/>) for more information on the deployable assets such as our Mobile Emergency Operations Centers (MEOCs), communications support trailers, shelter trailers and more.



MEMA Field Deployment Highlights

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

- November 6: MEMA supported the Norwell Half Marathon with the Mobile Field Tent. The Mobile Field Tent was used to support First Aid Operations as a place to treat injured runners.
- November 16: MEMA supported Boston College's Active Shooter Exercise with a Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC). The MEOC served as a Unified Command for the joint

exercise with the City of Newton, NEMLEC, Cataldo Ambulance, Armstrong Ambulance and Newton Wellesley Hospital.

MEMA Training Update

During the month of September, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 154 students in 3 courses:

- *ICS-300 Incident Command System in Boston, Deerfield, and Marion*
- *ICS-400 Advanced ICS in Amesbury, Norwell, and Worcester*
- *Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) in Natick*

To date in 2016, 1,956 students have taken 83 separate MEMA supported classes. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: www.mass.gov/mema.

Re-establishment of Statewide Training and Exercise Working Group

On November 15th, MEMA's Training & Exercise Unit, in partnership with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), re-established the Statewide Training and Exercise Working Group. This initial meeting included representation from a broad cross section of State and Local partner agencies. The group discussed several potential initiatives including: creating and maintain a statewide Multi Year Training & Exercise Plan (MYTEP); creating and maintaining a statewide Training and Exercise Resource Index; creating and maintaining a statewide After Action and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) catalogue; creating and maintaining a statewide system for promoting the visibility of exercises; and working collaboratively to identify training priorities, goals and objectives. Moving forward, the group elected to meet quarterly to maintain training and exercise priorities and goals. The next meeting will be held at MEMA Headquarters on January 11th.

Latest Federal Disaster Assistance Totals for the 2015 Blizzard

The Disaster 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 November 30, 2016, 1051 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA, totaling more than \$73.6M in federal aid reimbursements to local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits (75% of the \$97.1M eligible project costs).

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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