



MEMA REPORTS

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

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Beginning with this issue, MEMA Reports will be published quarterly and will continue to feature Emergency Management content, programs, and stories for stakeholders across the Commonwealth.

2019 Hurricane Season Begins

June 1st marked the official start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season which runs through November 30th. While the majority of tropical storms and hurricanes that have impacted New England occurred during the months of August and September, now is the time to begin preparing yourself, your family, your home, and your business.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS
Be Ready Before the Storm

Hurricanes and tropical storms can impact the entire Commonwealth, not just coastal regions

<p>Use MEMA's interactive map to find out if you live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone</p>	<p>Know Your Zone</p>	<p>Make a Plan</p>	<p>Have a predetermined emergency plan tailored to your family's needs</p>
<p>Build an emergency kit that can sustain you and your family for 3-5 days</p>	<p>Build a Kit</p>	<p>Stay Informed</p>	<p>As a storm approaches, closely monitor media reports and promptly follow instructions from public safety officials</p>

Visit mass.gov/mema for more hurricane preparedness resources
Source: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)

Mass.gov

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) seasonal outlook predicts a near normal number of hurricanes this season. As the outlook is for overall seasonal activity and is not a landfall forecast, all residents are encouraged to be prepared during hurricane season. Whether it is a slow or active hurricane season, it only takes one storm to make landfall and severely impact an area. Tropical Storm Irene, which produced devastating flooding in Central and Western Massachusetts in 2011, is a reminder that hurricanes and tropical storms can impact the entire Commonwealth, not just coastal regions, and that all Massachusetts residents need to prepare for the possibility of hurricane impacts. To learn more about the hazards associated with hurricanes and tropical storms, visit MEMA's hurricane webpage: www.mass.gov/mema/hurricanes.

“The beginning of hurricane season is a great opportunity for all residents of the Commonwealth to prepare for the impacts of a tropical storm or hurricane,” **said MEMA Director Samantha Phillips**. “MEMA encourages everyone to learn if they live in a hurricane evacuation zone, make an emergency plan, assemble an emergency kit, and stay informed.”

MEMA will provide additional hurricane preparedness information throughout hurricane season and during Hurricane Preparedness Week (July 14-20, 2019).

<https://www.mass.gov/news/2019-atlantic-hurricane-season-begins>

2019 All-Hazards Emergency Preparedness Conference

Join more than 600 local, state, federal, private and non-profit sector emergency management and public safety professionals for two days of education, networking, discussion, and information sharing.

The conference will offer interactive presentations as well as plenary, panel and break-out sessions with experts in emergency management, disaster response, terrorism, climatology, environmental protection, and more to showcase and share model practices, tools and technologies, and lessons learned. More than 30 breakout sessions will be offered, in addition to featured panels on the Merrimack Valley Gas Incident Response, Climate Change and Massachusetts and Drones in Emergency Management and featured presentations on Fentanyl Awareness and Response, GIS and Emergency Preparedness, and Pre-Disaster Debris Planning.

There is no cost to attend the conference. Interested participants must register using MEMA's online Training Registration System: <https://mematraining.chs.state.ma.us/TRS>. **All registrations must be completed no later than June 7, 2019.**

To ensure diverse participation, all registrants will be placed on a wait list and will be notified of acceptance in advance of the conference registration deadline. Once approved, participants will receive a confirmation email via the MEMA Training Registration System. For registration assistance, accommodations (including dietary), or conference-related questions, please contact MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit at trainingexercise@mass.gov or 508-820-2028.

Summer Brings Severe Weather and Extreme Heat Hazards

June brings the start of summer and a time when people in Massachusetts are outside enjoying the beautiful weather. Summer also brings thunderstorms and lightning, extreme heat, flash flooding, and the potential for tornadoes and tropical cyclones.

MEMA's website include safety tips for various summer hazards. MEMA encourages our partners to share these resources and tips with stakeholders to help keep residents and visitors safe before, during and after severe weather and emergencies:

[Thunderstorm and Lightning Safety Tips](#)

[Extreme Heat Safety Tips](#)

[Flood Safety Tips](#)

[Tornado Safety Tips](#)

[Hurricane Safety Tips](#)

Our state and federal partners also have more seasonal safety information including [Water Safety Tips](#), [Rip Current Safety Tips](#), and [Boat Safety Tips](#).

July 4th

With July 4th only a month away, MEMA continues to work with local, state, and federal officials across the state to for various events to celebrate Independence Day. MEMA will again support the Massachusetts State Police and other public safety partners for Boston's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular. A MEMA Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) and Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST) will provide logistics and communications support to law enforcement and other public safety partners while the National Weather Service will provide weather forecasts and information to decision makers for the event.

MEMA will also provide logistics and communications support for Independence Day events in Weymouth, Pittsfield, and Springfield.

The Importance of Hazard Mitigation

Hazard Mitigation is defined as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards and climate change. It is an on-going process that occurs before, during, and after disasters and serves to break the cycle of damage and repair in vulnerable areas. The purpose of having a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with floods, winter storms, wildfires, droughts, etc. and to develop long term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events and climate change impacts. The Local HMPs need to be updated every five years and must be FEMA approved to be eligible for Federal Grants to help fund projects that reduce risk within their communities.

Over the past six months 35 communities in the Commonwealth took advantage of Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant funding and completed hazard mitigation plans. An additional 30 communities are expected to have updated plans with the next six months. Mitigation projects that are identified through the planning process, such as structure elevations, soil stabilization, culvert upgrades and generator projects, can potentially being funded through future mitigation grant programs.

To learn more about Hazard Mitigation Planning, see: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/local-hazard-mitigation-planning>

2019 Boston Marathon



Safety and Security Planning

Multi-jurisdictional planning for the 2019 Boston Marathon began in 2018 with the start of planning meetings with each community along the course. In January, additional planning included the first meeting of the large Boston Marathon Interagency Public Safety Committee and initial meetings of the Public Safety Working Groups. These meetings enabled information sharing and coordinated plan development amongst the Boston Athletic Association, the 8 host communities, and the dozens of regional, state, federal and private sector agencies and organizations that support public safety operations on race day. Similar to last year, working groups were formed to focus on key functional components of the comprehensive public safety plan, including: Law Enforcement Tactical Operations (SWAT and Special Emergency Response Teams), Intelligence and Investigations, Explosive Ordinance Detection and Disposal (EOD) and Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Detection, Course Disruptions, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Coordination of /Mass Casualty Resources, Communications, and Exercise Design. Over the last five months, hundreds of representatives from local, regional, state, federal, private sector and non-profit agencies and organizations participated in planning meetings, training sessions, and exercises. The operational plans prepared by the working groups were incorporated into the Multi-Jurisdictional Boston Marathon Public Safety Coordination Plan. As part of the enhanced plans for 2019, emergency busses were staged in communities along the route to transport

runners if needed. Additionally, medical tents had nearby busses which could be used as warming or cooling centers or to provide shelters during inclement weather.

Unified Coordination Center

MEMA hosted the Public Safety Unified Coordination Center (UCC) for the 123rd running of the Boston Marathon. Starting at 6:00 a.m. on April 15th, approximately 250 individuals representing more than 70 local, regional, state, federal, private and volunteer agencies and organizations staffed the UCC.

The UCC worked with local, state and federal emergency operations centers to maintain situational awareness and a common operating picture, facilitated multi-jurisdictional decision making, ensured effective communication and coordination between the BAA and public safety, met all resource and mutual aid needs, and coordinated multi-jurisdictional public safety operations (including law enforcement tactical operations, intelligence and investigation activities, EOD/CBRN, and emergency medical services and mass casualty response support).

The UCC operated under the Incident Command System (ICS) and was organized within functional sections, branches, and units/ groups, and teams that are coordinated and directed by the UCC Director. Critical decisions regarding public safety actions that may impact the course or race operations, or are in response to events or incidents that may or have impacted the course or race operations, would be made by a designated Executive Decision Group (EDG). The EDG is comprised of incident commanders and executive level public safety officials from each Marathon host community, as well as executive level representatives from MEMA, EOPSS, FBI, State Police, Department of Fire Services, National Guard, Department of Public Health, Department of Homeland Security/Federal Coordinator, the and the Boston Athletic Association.

Race Day Operations

Marathon Monday brought changing weather conditions to Eastern Massachusetts including thunderstorms and lightning in the morning and sun with temperatures in the 60s in the afternoon. Due to the weather conditions in the morning, the BAA worked to keep the first group of runners on busses and in tents until the storms passed. Due to the uncertainty in the forecast and possible sheltering needs given the weather, the UCC at MEMA worked closely with communities along the Marathon route before and during the race to make sure shelters were available along the course.

The EMS Coordination Group at the UCC remained busy with medical issues along the course and coordinated 58 ambulance transports to hospitals and medical support for the medical tents and personnel who treated approximately 850 runners during the race.

2018 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Receives Business Achievement Award from Climate Change Business Journal

The 2018 Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP) was recently awarded a 2018 Climate Change Business Journal Business Achievement Award for outstanding business performance and achievements in the climate change industry. The team who worked on the plan included MEMA, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), AECOM, and many others.

The SHMCAP is a first-of-its-kind statewide plan integrating a traditional hazard mitigation plan with a climate change adaptation plan. This integrated plan serves as an update to the Commonwealth's 2013 State Hazard Mitigation Plan and is also driven by the governor's Executive Order No. 569: "Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth". The plan expands on previous State planning efforts, integrating planning elements for 14 natural hazards including changes in precipitation, sea level rise, rising temperatures, and extreme weather that alter natural hazards, increasing their severity, duration or frequency. The SHMCAP's strategy focuses mitigation and adaptation actions across five key sectors: populations, government, built environment, natural resources and environment, and economy, involving extensive stakeholder engagement and Climate Change Coordinators across all Secretariats.

Read more about this collaborative effort: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-integrated-state-hazard-mitigation-and-climate-adaptation-plan>

Update on March 2018 Nor'Easters

March 2-4 Storm (FEMA DR-4372)

On June 25, 2018, the Commonwealth received a disaster declaration authorizing FEMA Public Assistance funding for eligible applicants in the counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Nantucket, Norfolk, and Plymouth as a result of the March 2-3, 2018 severe winter storm and flooding event. Funding is authorized for an applicant's storm-related costs including emergency work, as well as permanent repair and restoration of damaged facilities as a result of the storm event. FEMA has approved 118 Eligible Applicants for this disaster. All exploratory calls and Recovery Scoping meetings have been conducted with eligible applicants, to identify and document damages related to the event. To date, 174 projects, totaling \$4,166,740 (federal share) have been obligated by FEMA to sub-recipients.

For more information, see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/fema-dr-4372-ma-march-2-3-2018-severe-winter-storm-flooding>.



March 13 Storm (FEMA DR-4379)

On July 19, 2018, the Commonwealth received a disaster declaration authorizing FEMA Public Assistance funding for eligible applicants in the counties of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester as a result of the March 13-14, 2018 winter storm and snowstorm event. Funding is authorized for an applicant's storm-related costs including snow removal, emergency work, and permanent repair/restoration of damaged facilities as a result of the storm event. FEMA has approved 173 Eligible Applicants for this disaster. All exploratory calls and Recovery Scoping meetings have been conducted with eligible applicants, to identify and document damages related to the event. To date, 228 projects, totaling \$19,104,135 (federal share) have been obligated by FEMA to sub-recipients.

For more information, see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/fema-dr-4379-ma-march-13-14-2018-severe-winter-storm>.

MEMA Training Update

Upcoming MEMA trainings with open seats:

Date	Class	Location
6/12	Basic Sheltering Concepts (BSC)	Holden
6/14	Emergency Operations Center Management and Operations (G775)	Bourne
6/24	Hazardous Materials for First Responders, Awareness Level (HAZ01)	Leominster
6/24-25	Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (L-0146)	Agawam
6/25	Introduction to WebEOC for Local Officials (WebEOC)	Charlton
6/27-28	ICS-400: Advanced ICS (ICS-400)	Bourne

For a full list of training opportunities and to register, see [Training Registration System calendar](#).

In March, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 118 students in 3 courses:

Class	Location
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT	Stow
ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300)	Bourne
MGT-404	Agawam

In April, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 287 students in 15 courses:

Class	Location
WebEOC	Tewksbury
Until Help Arrives	Swampscott
Basic Public Information Officer (G-290)	Framingham
Basic Sheltering Concepts	Burlington
ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300)	Quincy
ICS-400: Advanced ICS (ICS-400)	New Bedford
ICS-400: Advanced ICS (ICS-400)	East Longmeadow
WebEOC	Agawam
Emergency Operations Center Management and Operations (G775)	Sturbridge
ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300)	Amherst
WebEOC	Uxbridge

Basic Sheltering Concepts	Holyoke
CERT – Program Manager (G427)	Worcester
ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300)	Fitchburg

In May, MEMA’s Training and Exercise Unit hosted 194 students in 11 courses:

Class	Location
Basic Sheltering Concepts	Pittsfield
Emergency Operations Center Management and Operations (G775)	Uxbridge
ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300)	Middleton
ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300)	Woburn
Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface	Agawam
WebEOC	Framingham
WebEOC	Canton
Hazardous Materials for First Responders, Awareness Level	Barnstable
ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS-300)	New Braintree
NIMS-700/ICS-100: National Incident Management System & Introduction to the Incident Command System	Boston
Note-taking Workshop	Framingham

To date in 2019, 992 students have taken MEMA supported classes. For MEMA Training opportunities, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/training-exercises-and-conferences>.

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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