



# MEMA REPORTS

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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](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

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## **NO. ADAMS EMD HONORED AS MASSACHUSETTS 'EMERGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR'**

The Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) named North Adams Emergency Management Director Steve Meranti the '2015 Massachusetts Emergency Manager of the Year' at a



ceremony that took place before his peers at the MEMA Regions III/IV Operations Center in Agawam. The award is given annually to a manager in the state who "exemplifies leadership and enhances the field of emergency management," stated MEMA Deputy Director Christine Packard. MEMA's Regions III/IV Manager Patrick Carnevale highlighted the strong partnership MEMA has enjoyed with Meranti over the years. North Adams has experienced its fair share of emergencies in recent years including Hurricane Irene in 2011, Hurricane Sandy in 2012, an important communications tower collapsed in 2014, the closure of the former North

Adams Regional Hospital and earlier this year, a large brush fire burned in Clarksburg State Forest for four and a half days. In each of these major incidents Meranti demonstrated superb leadership and helped North Adams deal with these events. Meranti is also very involved in numerous planning and management groups. These are a few of the reasons why NESEC Executive Director Edward Fratto adopted MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz's recommendation that Meranti to receive this prestigious award. Director Meranti's family, Mayor Richard Alcombright and the North Adams Emergency team were present at the ceremony.

## **FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROCESS ADVANCES**

The Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance application process for local communities, state agencies and eligible private-non-profits for the January 26-28 Blizzard continues to advance. At the end of June, MEMA had received over 670 'Requests for Public Assistance' (RPAs), 230 from private non-profit organizations alone. These RPAs are the official notification of intent to apply for assistance. FEMA representatives have completed 620 'Kick-off Meetings' with applicants to develop Project Worksheets (PWs). It is projected that there will be as many as 1,212 PWs associated with

this disaster. These PWs document the scope of work and cost estimates for each 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](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS**

During the last week in July, MEMA will participate in a series of Hurricane Preparedness Workshops. These workshops, which are free to the public, have been coordinated by the National Weather Service. Also taking part are FEMA, the American Red Cross and Eversource. All workshops are scheduled from 7-9 p.m. on the following dates: July 27 – Maritime Museum, Fall River; July 28 – Cape Cod Community College, West Barnstable; and July 29 – MA Maritime Academy, Buzzards.

### **KNOW YOUR ZONE REMINDER**

MEMA continues to encourage residents through the "[Know Your Zone](#)" campaign to find out whether they live, work or plan on vacationing 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 interactive Hurricane Evacuation Zone Maps can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hurricane-evacuation-zones.html>.

### **NESEC OFFERS MULTI-HAZARD RISK-MAPPING ASSISTANCE**

The Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) is funded by the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA to provide no-cost assistance to help local, state, regional and other organizations in the Northeast understand and mitigate their risk from natural hazards. Using the FEMA program Hazus and Esri ArcMap, NESEC can model the impacts of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and coastal storm surge in a jurisdiction at no cost to the requesting city, town or state. NESEC will provide an easy-to-understand report covering the economic impacts of any given event. The reports include hazard maps, dollar damage estimates, shelter requirements, debris estimates, critical infrastructure and facility functionality. This report can be an important tool for hazard mitigation, emergency planning and operations, training exercises and more within your community. NESEC will create a map of critical facilities and other primary infrastructure within a community/region, based on available and user-provided data. NESEC will gather available aerial photography and satellite imagery and compile it into an orthophoto base map of your area. Mapping critical and essential facilities over hazard impacted areas can help visualize damage to hospitals, fire and police stations, EOCs, shelters, etc. For more details, go to <http://nsec.org/mapyourrisk/>.

### **TOWN OF STOUGHTON DESIGNATED STORMREADY**

On June 9 the National Weather Service officially recognized the Town of Stoughton as a *StormReady* community. To become storm ready, Stoughton met or exceeded established criteria in numerous areas: communication, National Weather Service information reception, weather and water monitoring system, local warning dissemination to include NOAA Weather Radios in key locations, community preparedness, which includes safety/spotter talks and employee education and administrative tools/record keeping. Each recognized *StormReady* site represents several thousand

more people that are better prepared. This program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and public awareness. *StormReady* arms communities with improved communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property before and during an event. MA now has 20 *StormReady* sites (14 communities, 4 universities, 1 commercial site and 1 military site). For additional information on the *StormReady* program, go to <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready/>.

### **MEMA STAFF UPDATE**

Conor McCormack recently joined the MEMA staff. Conor will be working in the Disaster Recovery Unit as a Contract Specialist, under the Recovery and Mitigation Section.

### **FIELD DEPLOYMENTS**

During the month of June, MEMA utilized its Mobile Emergency Operations Centers (MEOCs) and personnel to support multiple events across the Commonwealth:

June 9: MEMA supported Operation Swift Response, a full scale exercise sponsored by the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. The MEOC 2 served as the Area Command platform in Plainville.

June 12: MEMA supported a missing persons search in Milton. The MEOC 2 served as a Unified Command Post.

June 13: MEMA supported a missing persons search in Montgomery. The MEOC 2 served as a Unified Command Post.

### **TRAINING UPDATE**

During the month of June, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 170 students in 8 different classes: *ICS-300*; *ICS-400*; *Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Awareness*; *Massachusetts Emergency Management Director Essentials-101*; and *Sports & Special Events Incident Management*. So far this year, 1,145 individuals have received training through MEMA programs. Learn about MEMA Training opportunities: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **SEVEN TECH ORGANIZATIONS SIGN MOU WITH FEMA**

This month, Cisco Systems, Google, Humanity Road, Information Technology Disaster Resource Center, Intel, Joint Communications Task Force, and Microsoft signed Memoranda of Understanding with FEMA to launch Tech Corps – a nationwide network of skilled, trained technology volunteers who can help address critical challenges experienced by state, local, tribal, and territorial governments following a disaster. FEMA is conducting a pilot project to incorporate voluntary technology resources as part of the disaster response team. The Tech Corps will have three main goals: (1) help to develop a national network of skilled, trained technology volunteers who can assist with critical technology gaps during community response and recovery efforts following a federally declared disaster; (2) the team will include three Tech Corps Liaisons on the national Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT); and (3) the team will work with state, local, tribal, or territorial emergency managers and technology partners in the private sector, the Tech Corps liaisons will help to identify and define critical gaps and then help coordinate and connect volunteer technology resources. For more: <http://beta.fema.gov/blog/2015-06-25/creating-tech-corps-disaster-tech-comes-big-and-small-packages>.

### **PROTECTION FROM CYBER ATTACKS**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plays an important role in countering threats to our cyber network. DHS aims to secure the federal civilian networks, cyberspace and critical infrastructure that are essential to our lives and work. DHS's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) is a 24x7 center responsible for cyber situational awareness. The center provides information to federal, state, and local government and law enforcement partners regarding cyber security, intrusions, and response and recovery actions. Tips

on how to prevent a cyber attack, can be found at [http://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/protect-myself-cyber-attacks?utm\\_source=hp\\_feature&utm\\_medium=web&utm\\_campaign=dhs\\_hp](http://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/protect-myself-cyber-attacks?utm_source=hp_feature&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=dhs_hp).

### **2016 NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE ACADEMY**

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is now accepting application packages for the 2016 National Emergency Management Executive Academy. This Academy provides a comprehensive and cutting edge curriculum to enhance strategic leadership and critical thinking for emergency management senior executives from all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Ideally, candidates will have experience as senior executives of major emergency management organizations, served on major commissions and task forces, or be responsible for decisions that have a significant effect on homeland security and emergency management policies.

The four resident sessions, to be held at EMI in Emmitsburg, Maryland will include:

- Emergency Management – A Leadership Challenge: February 8-11, 2016
  - Integrating Science into Emergency Management Policies and Decisions: May 2-5, 2016
  - Emergency Management in the 21st Century: June 27 – July 1, 2016
  - Exercising Emergency Management Executive Policy and Decision-Making: September 12-15, 2016
- Applications will be accepted through August 15, 2015. There are a limited number of seats and enrollment is competitive. For more information, visit [www.training.fema.gov/EMPP/executive.asp](http://www.training.fema.gov/EMPP/executive.asp).

### **REGISTER FOR THE 2015 GREAT NORTHEAST SHAKEOUT**

At 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2015, millions of people worldwide will practice how to protect themselves if an earthquake occurs by participating in the [Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#) campaign. 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 NESEC are coordinating recruitment across the entire region. More details can be found at <http://shakeout.org/northeast/>.

### **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](http://www.twitter.com/MassEMA)), **FACEBOOK** - ([www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA](http://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA)), **YouTube** - ([www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA](http://www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA)), the **MEMA WEBSITE** - [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema), **READY MASSACHUSETTS** - [www.mass.gov/mema/ready](http://www.mass.gov/mema/ready). And do not forget to download **Massachusetts Alerts app** – ([www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp](http://www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp)).

