



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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SEPTEMBER IS MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Governor Charlie Baker has proclaimed that September is '*Emergency Preparedness Month*' in the Commonwealth. Working with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), MEMA will be promoting public preparedness and safety throughout the month. These efforts are in conjunction with a nationwide effort to encourage all Americans to take simple steps to better prepare for emergencies at home, work and school. To help the public better prepare themselves and their families, MEMA will focus its outreach and activities on four concepts: 1) Be informed, 2) Develop a plan, 3) Build a Kit, and 4) Get involved.

**DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!



FEMA

AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!



Ready.Massachusetts

MEMA will share information on each of these concepts including: highlighting potential community hazards or risks; ways to obtain information from local and state emergency managers; tips on how to build comprehensive emergency plans for you and your family; tips on how to build a kit that can help sustain your families in times of disasters; and how to become involved. All citizens of the Commonwealth are encouraged to participate in citizen preparedness activities and asked to use the preparedness resources at www.mass.gov/mema to become more prepared.

KATRINA/OPERATION HELPING HAND 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY: A RECAP OF THE SERVICES THAT MA PROVIDED TO LA, MS, and DC.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. It is an important reminder of the destruction a hurricane or tropical storm can cause, and the critical role that the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) plays in accessing life safety and recovery assets when regions are faced with catastrophic impacts that tax local, regional, state resources and capabilities.

Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor

Daniel Bennett, Secretary of Public Safety & Security
Kurt N. Schwartz, MEMA Director

In response to Hurricane Katrina's impact on the Gulf Coast, MEMA activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at 8:00 A.M. on September 1, 2005. Through the direction of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), MEMA deployed staff members to FEMA HQ in Washington D.C., as well as to the Mississippi SEOC in Jackson, MS to assist with state requests for assistance. MA also deployed MA-USAR-1, the Urban Search & Rescue Team out of Beverly, two Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), a Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT-1), a member of the MA Medical Examiner's Office as part of the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), MA National Guard, which responded to a request from the State of Louisiana for over 500 troops to assist with security missions, hundreds of American Red Cross volunteers and scores of crews and equipment from the Commonwealth's private utilities.

On September 4 (Labor Day Weekend), Governor Romney assembled key stakeholders at the SEOC to devise a plan to house up to 2,500 Katrina survivors/evacuees in Massachusetts. In attendance were representatives of the Governor's staff, MEMA, Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, FEMA, American Red Cross, MA National Guard, MA State Police, Executive Office of Health & Human Services, Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health, MA Department of Veterans, Salvation Army, Department of Fire Services, MA Corps of Fire Chaplains, MA Department of Labor, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, MassPort, Executive Office of Transportation, MA Department of Corrections, MA Convention Center Authority, and private sector leaders. That afternoon plans were put into motion for 'Operation Helping Hand'/'Camp Edwards Village' located on the MA Military Reservation (MMR) to do more than just supply warm beds and hot meals to Katrina evacuees; the comprehensive plan called for evacuees to receive medical, financial, housing, employment and other support services and programs over a 30-60 day period.

Ultimately, a total of 235 evacuees arrived at the Camp Edwards Village. A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) was established in the Village to assist in evacuees in relocating to other areas of the country or rebuilding their lives in Massachusetts. The DRC contained a wide variety of social services to include MassHealth, MEMA, FEMA, Social Security, Housing & Urban Development, IRS, Veterans' Affairs, Elder Services, Department of Mental Health, Housing & Community Development, Division of Transitional Assistance, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, legal assistance and other services and agencies. Three additional DRCs were established in Boston, Worcester and Springfield for the over 860 additional Gulf States citizens who were able to self-evacuate to MA. Over a six-week period, 135 of the guests relocated to other states closer to their original homes, while 100 opted to stay in Massachusetts.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN

Although we have experienced a rather quiet Hurricane Season, it is worth noting that the busiest 30-day period for Atlantic Hurricane and Tropical Storm activity is from late August to late September. Therefore, it remains important to remember that it only takes one storm to cause devastating impacts on a community. MEMA continues to encourage residents to go to MEMA's "[Know Your Zone](#)" webpage which has an interactive map that will indicate whether you live or work in a designated hurricane evacuation zone. These hurricane evacuation zones include the areas most at risk of incurring dangerous coastal flooding from the storm surge associated with an approaching tropical storm or hurricane. The zones, (A, B or C) may be used by emergency managers and public safety officials to communicate information about necessary evacuations to the public. Additional information regarding Hurricane Preparedness can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hazards/hurricanes/>.

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 August, 1,249 projected Project Worksheets (PWs) were being developed from the 664

applicants The total project costs reflected in these PWs may exceed \$170 million. To date, FEMA has obligated \$1M for local communities, state agencies and private non-profits. Details regarding the Disaster Declaration and application process for communities, state agencies and eligible private non-profits are available at www.mass.gov/mema.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding is available. Two additional grant briefings have been scheduled for potential grant applicants to learn more. 1) Tuesday September 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - MEMA Region III/IV Office, 1002 Suffield Street, Agawam 2) Wednesday September 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - MEMA HQ 400 Worcester Road, Framingham. Attendees should RSVP to mitigation@massmail.state.ma.us. HMPG is post-disaster mitigation grant funding and is available statewide as a result of the federal disaster declaration. The final deadline for submission of complete grant applications is November 23, 2015. Additional details can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/mema/mitigation/grants-available-memo-august-2015-final-deadline.pdf>.

WHAT IS A METEOTSUNAMI?

On June 13, 2013, despite clear skies and calm weather, tsunami-like waves crashed upon the Massachusetts coast from Woods Hole to the North Shore. The waves were detected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) coastal water-level stations from Puerto Rico to New England as well as a Deep-Ocean Assessment & Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) buoy 150 miles offshore. Because the waves were not associated with a severe weather pattern or an earthquake or landslide, scientists deemed the event a 'meteotsunami'. Meteotsunamis have characteristics similar to earthquake-generated tsunamis, but are caused by air pressure disturbances such as squall lines. These disturbances generate waves that travel at the same speed as the overhead weather system. Development of a meteotsunami depends on several factors such as the intensity, direction and speed of the disturbance as it travels over a body of water with a depth that enhances wave magnification. Like an earthquake-generated tsunami, a meteotsunami affects the entire water column and can become dangerous when it hits shallow water, which causes it to slow down and increase in height and intensity, particularly in semi-enclosed water bodies like harbors, inlets and bays. Most meteotsunamis are too small to notice, but large meteotsunamis can have devastating coastal impacts. Additional information about meteotsunamis can be found at <http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/documents/meteotsunamis.pdf>.

FIELD DEPLOYMENTS

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

August 4: MEMA supported Agawam's National Night Out. The MEOC2 support the public safety operation by serving as a command center for police officials as they promoted their community policing awareness efforts for their residents.

August 27-30: MEMA supported the Hampshire County Agricultural Fair held at the Cummington Fairgrounds. The MCST was deployed to support radio, phone and internet support for Public Safety throughout the event.

TRAINING UPDATE

During the month of July, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 48 students in 2 different classes: *ICS-300* and *Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device Detection*. So far this year, 1,272 individuals have received training through MEMA programs. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: www.mass.gov/mema.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITIES SIGN 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. Over the past few months, a number of additional communities have signed the mutual aid agreements. Presently 285 entities have signed on to the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 208 entities are included in the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/mutual-aid.html>. Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, Region I Local Coordinator, at 978.328.1500 or allen.phillips@state.ma.us.

SBA OFFERS WEBINARS TO PREPARE BUSINESSES FOR DISASTERS

Having a business continuity plan is essential to establishing a successful and resilient small business. The cost of creating a disaster preparedness plan is small compared to the financial losses that may occur if there is no plan in place. You can receive help with your own preparedness planning through a series of four free webinars during the month of September. These webinars are hosted by the U.S. Small Business Administration and Agility Recovery. The 30-minute webinars will be presented at 2:00 p.m. each Wednesday in September. These are the topics: September 9: "The Keystone to Disaster Recovery: Communications"; September 16: "Recover from the Most Likely Disaster: Power Outage"; September 23: "Protect Your Most Valuable Asset: Prepare Your Employees"; September 30: "If You Do Nothing Else this Year..." Simple tips to build your organization's resilience. To register for any of the webinars, go to: <http://agilityrecovery.com/buildingblocks/#section-register>. SBA has partnered with Agility Recovery to offer business continuity strategies through their "PrepareMyBusiness" website. Visit www.preparemybusiness.org to access past webinars and additional disaster preparedness tools.

NEDRIX PLANS ANNUAL OCTOBER CONFERENCE

The Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-Change (NEDRIX) is planning their annual 3-day conference for October 26-28, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency, Goat Island, Newport, RI. Information can be located at <http://www.nedrix.com/nedrix-events/2015-nedrix-annual-conference/> on NEDRIX's updated website.

REGISTER FOR THE 2015 GREAT NORTHEAST SHAKEOUT

At 10:15 a.m. on October 15, 2015, millions of people worldwide will again have the opportunity to practice how to [Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#) if an earthquake occurs. 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. At this point last year 130,000 individuals had registered for the *Great Northeast Shakeout*. To date over 220,000 have registered for this year's event. 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), **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).

