

County of Cumberland

Emergency Management Agency

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Public Safety, Emergency Management and allied organizations are invited to submit articles, events, training opportunities and news. David B. Feeney, feeney@cumberlandcounty.org

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume V, Issue X

October 2013

Maine Vital Connection 2013

On 9-13 September 2013, a team from the 265th CBCS traveled to Bangor, Maine to install the Joint Interoperability Site Communications Capability (JISCC) for Maine Vital Connections 2013 Exercise. This event was intended to familiarize, display, coordinate and test participant Mobile Emergency Communication plans and platforms from federal, state, and local jurisdictions. Communications tasking's were designed to test the interoperability of federal, state, county, cities, and defense communications and data sharing, as well as include all participants in an organized communications exercise. The schedule was as follows: one day for set-up, capabilities briefings, and inter-agency meetings/tours. Three days for a dedicated communications exercise and one day for HF training and take-down return travel. NIMS/ICS was utilized throughout the event.



This team installed and activated the JISCC package to include setting up the assigned tent and the Satellite Control Module, the RF Module, the HF Module, the Data Module and the Power Module. Also installed were three generators and an Environmental Control Unit (ECU). The package operated daily for four days.



This exercise was a positive experience for the JISCC Team members. It gave them the opportunity to interface with State and County Personnel that may be supported in the event of a disaster within the State of Maine. Team members were afforded the opportunity to see what Civilian responders bring to a disaster as well as showing these same responders what the 265th has for assets and capabilities.

Additionally, the team was able to interface with Military Units to observe how they set up equipment, and to discuss both positive and negative lessons that have been experienced by others.

(Article extracted from AAR written by John Hawkins, SMSgt 265th ANG and used with permission. Photo Credits: Harry Marsters).



Emergency Management

Emergency management is the managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters.

Vigilant Guard 2014 Full Scale Exercise

Vigilant Guard 2014 (VG14) is a National-level exercise program sponsored by the US Northern Command in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau. The VG14 exercise mission is to engage National Guard units, and Federal and State Task Forces in support of local first responders and public health organizations. VG14 participation includes Maine, county, and local Emergency Management Agencies, Fire, local and State Police, EMS, HazMat, County Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) and State Incident Management Teams (IMT), Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Teams, Search and Rescue Teams, USCG, Civil Air Patrol, Public Health Departments, Hospitals, Regional Resource Centers, and other state, county and local organizations.

Throughout the State of Maine, emergency preparedness partners will exercise their emergency plans and response capabilities in multiple scenarios, including a major winter storm, bioterrorism, mass casualty incidents, structure collapse, cyber-terrorism, hazardous materials incidents, and loss of electrical power, utilities, and communications infrastructure.

The Town of Brunswick Fire Rescue and HazMat Team, supported by the cities of Portland and South Portland Fire, HazMat and Search and Rescue teams will begin the exercise in response to a structure collapse in Brunswick. Brunswick will request the support of the Cumberland County IMAT during the first 12-hour operational period on Day 1, and will relinquish control to the Maine State Forestry IMT.

The Maine Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) is participating in a full activation of Maine's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) capability in collaboration with the Maine CDC, local hospitals, Regional Resource Centers, State Police, Maine Department of Transportation, and public health organizations. Several Point of Dispensing (POD) locations will be operated to simulate pharmaceuticals dispensing. The CRI, Portland Public Health and Cumberland County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers will staff a POD in Portland to operate a free flu clinic for residents, which will exercise an immunization POD model, and include a focus on interpretation for non-English speaking residents.

Coast Guard Sector Northern New England in collaboration with the cities of Portland and South Portland Fire and Police, the FBI, the ME 11th CST, the NJ 21st CST, and the International Maritime Terminal, will conduct a

containerized ship scenario. It will take place on both the Portland and South Portland waterfronts in simulation of a potential Chemical, Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) incident.

Maine Medical Center will host two exercise scenario components, a closed POD of pharmaceutical dispensing for staff, and in conjunction with the Presumpscot Valley Hazmat Team to establish a decontamination operation to assist the hospital emergency response team (HERT) with contaminated victims transported and walking to the emergency room.

Parkview and Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick will stress their patient surge capability by receiving victims from the sports arena structure collapse venue.

Cumberland County Emergency Operation Center will remain activated for a 36-hour period to support and coordinate requests for resources, and to maintain situational awareness. The EOC will conduct a radio communications drill to make contact with local emergency managers, public safety agencies, hospitals, resource centers, and to test its communication redundancy through the use of county and state radio networks and repeaters, and to utilize the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to establish contact with MEMA and each of the 16 County EMAs. Ham radio operators will operate from the Cumberland County EOC and the County Emergency Communications Trailer positioned at the collapse structure venue in Brunswick to provide Cumberland County EMA with exercise progress reports, and as a base of operation to extend communications range.

The Vigilant Guard 2014 Exercise will begin on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 with local response organizations and will evolve to become more complex and overwhelm local resources and capabilities. This will require the request and deployment of State and Federal assets including FEMA Massachusetts Task Force 1 USAR Team, Canadian Royal Air Force USAR Teams, New England CERFP Enhanced CBRNE Team, Connecticut CASE Team (medical unit), Maine Civil Support Team (11th CST) and other New England National Guard units and special forces. VG14 will end during the day on, Friday, November 8. Estimated total participants is expected to exceed 600 just on the rubble pile during the peak of the exercise and will incorporate over 1000 personnel across the State.

FEMA Independent Study

Distant Learning

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public.

<http://training.fema.gov/IS>

9-1-1 Operations in Active Shooter Incidents

Urgent Communications magazine published several articles recently on 9-1-1/PSAP lessons learned during active shooter incidents. Responders and emergency communicators used similar procedures and faced similar problems during two significant events more than 10 years apart.

The Columbine school shooting in 1999 is often considered the incident by which all others are judged, because it was one of the first mass casualty active shooter events in the United States, the actions of first responders was so well documented, and because the incident itself was so stunning. Many jurisdictions now train personnel based on best practices learned during and after Columbine.

The article describing 9-1-1 response to the mall shooting in Oregon last December stresses terminology used by dispatchers at the beginning of the incident. Describing something as "a shooting" versus "an active shooter" brings two totally different responses from law enforcement. Now that the term "active shooter" has a specific meaning, dispatchers should be wary not to use the two terms interchangeably.

These articles also touch on two things that didn't go so smoothly in either incident:

- Lack of a reliable communications system – both events had problems with either the 9-1-1 call system or computer aided dispatching (CAD) because the systems were overwhelmed and crashed;
- Police and fire need an existing working relationship – both articles sited this as a significant problem during the respective incidents.

(Source: Urgent Communications)

Maine Prepares Tips Be Prepared for Automobile Emergencies

September 25, 2013

In the case of a emergency while you're on the road, there are many items you could need. Pack an emergency kit and keep it in your car at all times. Helpful items to have in your kit include a flashlight, a disposable camera, a pencil and paper, and a jacket or blanket.

www.maine.gov/mema/prepare



Ready to Rumble? Join The Great NorthEast Shakeout

October 16, 2012, a 4.5 magnitude earthquake shook up the State of Maine. The quake was centered in northern York County. It was felt across Maine and as far south and west as New Jersey and central New York State.

A year and a day later, on October 17, 2013, communities, businesses, schools and families are invited to join The Great NorthEast Shakeout, a multi-state earthquake drill spanning nine states in the northeast US.

The Great NorthEast Shakeout is a regional opportunity to practice how to stay safe during big earthquakes. The ShakeOut will also encourage families, communities, schools and organizations to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies and secure facilities to prevent damage and injuries.

Prepare to "Drop, Cover and Hold On" at 10:17 AM on October 17, 2013 as millions of people all over the world participate in this emergency preparedness drill. (Or you can hold a drill any time within 2 weeks of October 17.)

Last year, more than 19.4 million people were registered in ShakeOut drills world-wide. This year, Mainers can join a growing number of states and countries in learning about earthquake readiness and safety for their communities, schools, workplaces and families.

For ideas on how to participate and prepare, visit Shakeout.org.

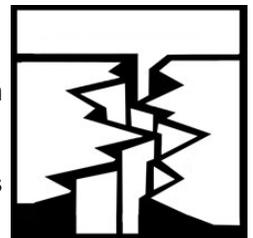
Or to jump in and register, and you will be on your way to joining **The Great NorthEast ShakeOut!**

<http://shakeout.org/northeast/register/>

Are you "Ready to Rumble"?

Learn more about earthquakes in Maine:

The Maine Geological Survey: Yes We DO Have Earthquakes in Maine!



MainePrepares: Earthquake Preparedness

In spreading the word about The Great NorthEast ShakeOut Maine Emergency Management Agency is partnering with the Northeast States Emergency Consortium and FEMA Region One.

Contact:
Dwane Hubert, MEMA
(207) 624-4400

Local Emergency Planning Committee Report

Who is the LEPC?

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is comprised of representatives from industry, emergency services, transportation, government, citizens and community groups. The LEPC is charged with developing a local emergency response plan for the district called the Hazardous Substance Emergency Response Plan, or the 'hazmat plan.' The plan is updated annually to reflect new data from reporting facilities or changes in our county hazmat teams. The hazmat plan is required to be tested annually, as well. This year, our hazmat teams are participating in the Vigilant Guard 14 exercise from 5—8 November.

The LEPC plays a vital role in coordinating information on chemical storage, emergency planning, and chemical spill response. This important function is accomplished through numerous methods:

1. Receiving chemical inventory reports from facilities that use, produce, or store hazardous substances.
2. Reviewing facility emergency plans, to identify elements that are mandated by federal and state regulations.
3. Participating in the annual exercises of the facility emergency plans.
4. Providing support for the training and equipping of the four recognized hazmat teams, and other first responders in the county.
5. Conducting an annual review and update of the county HazMat Plan.



Figure 1 - Presumpscot Valley HazMat Team prepares for decon operations at a biohazard drill at the USPS Distribution Center in Scarborough on August 28, 2013

One example of our information sharing is the Inventory of Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) sites, a book produced by the LEPC that lists the EHS chemicals in Cumberland County by: 1) name; 2) facility, and; 3) municipality. In addition, the book contains a thumbnail sketch for each facility that contains the: 1) business name; 2) type of business; 3) contact info; 4) a list of the chemicals that are used, produced or stored on-site, and; 5) the reported maximum quantity in pounds of each chemical on-site.

The LEPC meets quarterly, and has one full-time liaison in the Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency office.



Figure 2 - Mass Casualty drill, following a simulated propane incident, at the Cumberland Fairgrounds on August 21, 2013

CDC Emergency Responder Courses Online

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers access to courses online for public health, fire, EMS, law enforcement, and disaster management personnel. The Training Finder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRAIN) lists state or federal classes on a variety of topics.

Over 2,200 classroom or online courses are searchable by subject area, date, audience, credit type, etc. Emergency Management and EMS have over 500 courses including Bioterrorism Agents, Alternative Standards of Care in Disasters, and individual classes on specific chemical, biological, and infectious diseases.

Course details such as availability, fees, credit or Continuing Education Units (CEUs), and other specifics differ depending on the courses' hosting agency.

(Source: CDC)

USFA Guide for Active Shooter Response

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) released its guide to support planning and preparation in advance of an active shooter and mass casualty incidents. Fire/EMS Department Operational Considerations and Guide for Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Incidents (PDF, 241.6 Kb) is one of many resources available for agencies to prepare themselves to respond to an event in their community.

USFA realizes these complex and demanding incidents may be well beyond the traditional training and experience of the majority of firefighters and EMS personnel. Details within the 17-page report offer assistance in what a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) should contain, ideal on-scene interagency practices, managing "reverse triage," and maximizing survivability of those injured.

As seen this week, incidents that involve multiple agencies, states, and levels of government can be tricky to navigate and respond to. USFA recommends training and planning with every agency that may become involved in such an incident in order to make an already difficult situation less chaotic. (Source EMR-ISAC 09/19/13/USFA)

Guide for Mass Casualty Decontamination

The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center has updated the Guidelines for Mass Casualty Decontamination During a HAZMAT/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incident. The guide is written for first responders and contains 2 volumes: a quick reference field guide complete with diagrams and checklists (volume 1), and supplemental information (volume 2), a more in-depth look at the practices and procedures involved in decontamination.

Volume 1 was designed to be a stand-alone training or procedural guide for hazmat or mass casualty event where decontamination is needed. It provides information on the roll of the fire service in active mass decontamination exercises. The guide stresses the need to tailor these procedures to meet the requirements and restrictions of each jurisdiction or event.

Examples of technical and functional information include how to carry out decontamination triage, apparatus staging directions for low-pressure high-volume water showers, and dealing with the possibility of hypothermia. Checklists offer step-by-step instructions for the incident commander, initial situational awareness, triage, set-up, post-decontamination, safety officer, and public information officer.

Volume 2 discusses the above in much more detail and also goes into more on incident command, such as gaining control of the victims on-site, further details on symptoms to look for, when secondary decontamination is needed, and how to manage different hazards (i.e., chemical, biological, radiological, etc.). (Source: NFPA)

To download a copy of the [Guidelines for Mass Casualty Decontamination During a HazMat/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incident](#), go to NFPA Website at www.nfpa.org/massdecon

Meetings

- **[Local Emergency Planning Committee \(LEPC\)](#)**
Date: October 2, 2013, 1:00 p.m.
Location: Westbrook, ME—Calpine Energy
Contact: Mike Shutts, CCEMA, LEPC Planner
(207) 892-6785 shutt@cumberlandcounty.org
- **[Cumberland County Local EMA Directors Meeting](#)**
Date: October 9, 2013, 8:30 a.m.
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
- **[Cumberland County IMAT Meeting](#)**
Date: October 9, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
- **[Cumberland County ARES](#)**
Date: October 15, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
Contact: Bryce Rumery, K1GAX
- **[Cumberland County CART](#)**
Date: October 23, 2013, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
Contact: Ron Jones, CCEMA
- **[Mid-Coast ARES/CERT](#)**
Date: October 24, 2013
Location: Topsham, Maine
Mid-Coast Chapter ARC, Community Way
Contact: John Goran, Maine SEC
K1JJS@arri.net (207) 865-0554

Preparedness

Visit [Maine Prepares](#). You'll find fact sheets, tips and news to help your family, school, business, community or service organization prepare for any emergency or disaster.

www.maine.gov/mema/prepare

Emergency preparedness starts with each individual and family. Businesses, schools and neighborhoods can also learn to be more resilient, more prepared to "weather the storm."



Training Opportunities

- **Firefighter 1 & 2 Class**

Date: Begins October 1, 2013, 1800—2200 hours
Tuesday, Thursday and some Saturday required
Location: North Yarmouth Fire Department
Registration: 829-3025 or firechief@northyarmouth.org
Deadline for registration is 09-23-13

- **Recovery from Disaster / Local Government Role (G270.4)**

Date: October 1—2, 2013, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Location: Belfast, ME—Waldo County EOC
Contact: Dale Rowley, Director—Waldo County EMA
(207) 338-3870 emadirector@waldocounty.gov

- **Central Maine Natural Gas Safety Seminar**

Date: October 4—KVCC King Hall Room 222, 6 p.m.
Date: October 7—Augusta City Center 6 p.m.—8 p.m.
Date: October 9—Redington Fairview General Hospital
Registration: Contact the Atlantic Partners EMS at
office@apems.org or call (207) 877-0936

- **Initial Law Enforcement Response To Suicide Bombings**

Date: October 10, 2013, 7:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Location: Augusta ME—Office of State Fire Marshall
Contact: Sgt Tim York tim.p.york@maine.gov

- **Disaster Response Interpreter (DRI) Training**

Date: October 11, 2013, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Location: Augusta ME—Champlain Room, Department
of Public Safety Office, 45 Commerce Drive
Contact: Richard Higgins/Mike Grant—MEMA
(207) 624-4400 Fax: 207-287-2178
richard.higgins@mainegov michael.f.grant.maine.gov

- **Exercise Planning (G139) Part 1**

Date: October 17, 2013, 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
Location: Wiscasset, ME—Lincoln County Comms/EMA
Contact: Kris Draper, Lincoln County EMA 882-7559
emafinance_admin@lincolncountymaine.me

- **Emergency Vehicle Operation Course**

Date: October 21, 23, and 27, 2013.
Location: South Paris, ME—Paris Fire Department
Contact: Chief St. Pierre by email: wpfdfire1@gmail.com

- **Exercise Planning (G139) Part 2**

Date: October 24, 2013, 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
Location: Wiscasset, ME—Lincoln County Comms/EMA
Contact: Kris Draper, Lincoln County EMA 882-7559
emafinance_admin@lincolncountymaine.me

- **Incident Command System ICS 400**

Date: October 24-25, 2013
Location: Calais, ME—Calais Public Safety Building
Registration: Mike Grant, MEMA send FEMA Form
119-25-1 to MEMA at fax (207) 287-3178

- **Threat and Risk Assessment (MGT310)**

Date: December 3-4, 2013
Location: South Portland, ME, Coast Guard, NNES
Contact: Andrew C. Germann, Port Security Specialist
Registration: andrew.c.germann@uscg.mil
(207) 741-5489

- **Incident Command System ICS 300**

Date: December 4-6, 2013
Location: Portland, Maine—Maine Medical Center
Training Facility, 995 Congress Street
Contact: Eric Sawyer, MMC Emergency Management
Registration: Texas A&M at:
<http://teexweb.tamu.edu/teex.cfm?templateid=14&pageid=training&area=teex&entry=22209&navdiv=ESTI>

- **Basic Information Officer Course (G290)**

Date: December 11—12, 2013, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Location: Rockland, ME—Knox County EMA/EOC
Contact: Lynette Miller/Mike Grant—MEMA
(207) 624-4400 lynette.c.miller@maine.gov
michael.f.grant@maine.gov

- **Emergency Response and Planning to School Shootings**

Date: December 12, 2013, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Location: Brunswick, ME – Maine Fire Service Institute
Contact: Bill Guindon, MFSI Director, (207) 844-2070,
bguindon@smccme.edu

2013 –2014

Exercise Schedule

- **November 5-8, 2013**

- **Vigilant Guard (VG14) Exercise**

Contact: LTC Colonel Diane Dunn,
Maine National Guard (207) 620-2137
diane.l.dunn.mil@mail.mil

Jeremy Damren—MEMA (207) 624-4410
jeremy.damren@maine.gov

- **March 2014**

- **Cumberland County Regional Sheltering Exercise (Seminar/Tabletop)**

Location: TBD
Contact: David B. Feeney, CCEMA (207) 892-6785
feeney@cumberlandcounty.org

- **May 17, 2014**

- **Cumberland County Regional Sheltering Full Scale Exercise**

Location: Scarborough, ME—Scarborough High School
Contact: David B. Feeney, CCEMA (207) 892-6785
feeney@cumberlandcounty.org



Important Links

Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency
Home: www.cumberlandcounty.org/EMA

Cumberland County Local Emergency Planning Committee
Home: www.cumberlandcounty.org/EMA/lepc.htm

Maine Emergency Management Agency
Home: www.maine.gov/mema
Library: www.maine.gov/mema/mema_library.shtml

Maine Information and Analysis Center (MIAC)
Phone: (207) 624-7280
Email: miac@nespin.riss.net

Boston FBI
Phone: (617) 742-5533
Home: <http://boston.fbi.gov>



Maine Prepares
Home: www.maine.gov/mema/prepare

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Home: www.fema.gov
Training: <http://training.fema.gov>
Grants: www.fema.gov/government/grant/index.shtml
Assistance: www.DisasterAssistance.gov

Domestic Preparedness Support
U. S. Department of Homeland Security www.dhs.gov
NIMS Resource Center <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims>
Lessons Learned Information Sharing System www.llis.gov
Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
<http://hseep.dhs.gov>

Center Disease Control
Maine CDC: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh>
U. S. CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov>
FLU.gov <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

Southern Maine Regional Resource Center (SMRRC)
Home: www.smrrc.org

Ready America www.ready.gov

National Weather Service—Gray, Maine
Home Page: www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx

Maine ARES <http://www.maineares.org>

2-1-1 Maine
Home: www.211maine.org

5-1-1 Maine (Maine DOT Travel Information)
Home: www.511maine.org

American Red Cross of Southern Maine
Home: www.maineredcross.org

PROP
Home: www.wherepeoplecomefirst.org

Southern Maine EMS
Home: www.smems.org

Volunteer Maine
Home: www.volunteermaine.org

Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)
Home: www.gpcog.org

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