



**County of
Cumberland**
Emergency
Management
Agency
(207) 892-6785
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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



Visit Ready.gov for all disaster preparedness content, including winter weather, hurricanes, floods and wildfires

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume V, Issue IV

April 2012

25 Years Ago: The Flood of 1987

AUGUSTA, MAINE -- 25 years ago this weekend, the State of Maine suffered one of the worst natural disasters in its history.

Maine had a normal snow pack, and normal flood potential in late March of 1987. However, a warm rainstorm brought 4 to 6 inches of rain to the mountains of Maine and New Hampshire, which combined with 6 or more inches of melted snow. The water ran over frozen ground, and streams and rivers began to rise. Flooding became disastrous on April 1, 1987 on Maine's major rivers. The result:

- At least 2100 homes flooded; 215 destroyed, 240 with major damage
- At least 400 small businesses impacted
- Countless roads and bridges destroyed or damaged
- Fort Halifax historic site in Winslow washed away
- Losses estimated at over \$100 million -- which equates to \$200-plus million in today's dollars

25 years later, many things have improved in the state:

- Innovative local acquisition and relocation projects in Winslow, Guilford, Allagash, Fort Fairfield, Canton and more have resulted in dozens of homes and businesses being moved out of harm's way.
- Emergency management has become much more professional and effective statewide; the state to county to local network is strong across the state.
- Technological advances and improvements in interoperable communications make it easier to share infor-

tion quickly among public officials, first responders and the public

- Code Enforcement Officer training and certification and outreach to surveyors, engineers, lenders and insurance agents has resulted in better understanding and implementation of floodplain management, mitigation measures and flood insurance programs, all of which reduce vulnerability to flooding.
- The coordination among federal and state agencies and Maine's private sector river basin managers through the River Flow Advisory Commission is stronger than ever. Constant open information exchange among all parties leads not only to better forecasts and warnings, but also mitigation strategies.

Despite advances in mitigation and preparedness, there are always opportunities for improvement. A study by the University of Maine Land and Water Resources Center in 1987 noted that floods become disasters by virtue of the placement of people and property in their way. Contributing factors to flood damage cited in the report remain important to consider today:

- Urban development including buildings and parking lots can increase and pollute stormwater runoff;
- Development in the floodplain is at risk not only from flood water but from contamination and debris;
- Lack of preparation and awareness

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Emergency Management

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

Facilities Unit Leader(L971)

May 7, 2012—May 11, 2012

Location: Saco , Maine

Description of Event:

The course will help participants establish the essential core competencies required for performing the duties of the Facilities Unit Leader (FACL) in an all-hazards incident. The course walks participants through general information, including an overview of the Logistics Section and information on incident mobilization, initial situation

awareness, and unit management. It also provides detailed instruction in setting up and maintaining incident facilities, including facilities infrastructure, services, layout, and security. Each unit contains a discussion-based exercise and there is a capstone tabletop exercise at the end of the course to give participants hands-on practice functioning as a FACL. Course Length: 5 days

Selection Criteria: NIMS ICS All-Hazards Position-Specific training should be completed by personnel who are regularly assigned to functional, support, or unit leader positions on United States Fire Administration (USFA) or other Type III All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT), or by those persons who desire to seek credentials/certification in those positions.

These Prerequisites Apply to ALL Courses:

Required: ICS-300, Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS) for Expanding Incidents; IS-100.b, Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS), ICS-100; IS-200.b, Incident Command System (ICS) for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, ICS-200; and IS-700.a, National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction.

Recommended: ICS-400, Advanced Incident Command System (ICS), Command and General Staff -- Complex Incidents.

How to Apply: Complete the FEMA 119-25-1 application form found at:

<http://training.fema.gov/Apply/119-25-1%20Previously%20FF75-5.pdf> and **forward it to your State Training Officer for approval.** Once that approval has been granted, the form should be forwarded to the Point of Contact for the host state as listed below each course description. **Applications MUST be received by the host state no later than 30 days prior to the class date, so please plan accordingly!**

Stipends: All students representing state and local government entities are entitled to receive reimbursement under the FEMA Student Stipend Reimbursement Program for costs associated with attending regional offerings of NIMS

ICS All-Hazards Position Specific classes. This program provides reimbursement to students who successfully complete classes for costs associated with travel and lodging. Airfares, baggage charges, and two-way mileage costs between a student's home and the class site are fully reimbursable. Miscellaneous ancillary costs such as meals and local transportation costs such as taxis or rental cars are not reimbursable. Stipend forms will be available at the start of each class.

For more information, contact:

Michael Grant
207-624-4460

michael.f.grant@maine.gov

Mainers Urged to Purchase Flood Insurance

February 23, 2012

Sue Baker

Maine Floodplain Management Program

Maine State Planning Office

38 State House Station

Phone: 207-624-6230 or 1-800-662-4545

sue.baker@maine.gov

AUGUSTA, MAINE – If your home or business is located close to a water body, the Maine Floodplain Management Program urges you to purchase flood insurance. Standard home- and business-owners' insurance policies do not cover flood-related damages. A separate flood insurance policy can be purchased through your local insurance agent.

But, don't wait, there is a 30-day waiting period before any new policy goes into effect. If you don't buy insurance now, you may be left without flood coverage when you need it most.

March and April are historically when flooding occurs in Maine, but heavy rains can cause flooding any time of the year. It is estimated that up to 75% of homes and businesses in floodplains in Maine are not covered by flood insurance. The average annual premium is \$898. As long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can buy flood insurance no matter where you live.

Additional assistance is available through the Maine Floodplain Management Program by calling 624-6200 or 1-800-662-4545 (in-state). The Floodplain Management Program helps communities participating or interested in joining the National Flood Insurance Program by providing technical information, floodplain maps, and model ordinances to reduce the risk of flooding

The Flood of 1987

(continued from Page 1)

by property owners in the floodplain increases vulnerability dramatically;

- Shortcomings in warnings and the failure of people to take warnings seriously may result in life-threatening situations and additional property loss.

In theory, a flood of this magnitude should occur only once in a hundred years or more. In reality, it can happen at any time when the wrong weather factors come together. Though we cannot stop such a flood from occurring, we can all try to reduce its effects.

Maine communities can:

- Practice responsible floodplain management
- Prepare and practice realistic emergency plans to respond to floods
- Think ahead and plan for what it would take to recover economically from a major flood.

Maine residents and business owners can:

- Learn about their flood risk
- Make sure they have adequate flood insurance (homeowners and business insurance does not cover flood damage)
- Make sure they have emergency plans for their families and businesses
- "Stay tuned" to weather forecasts and warnings at all times

All this adds up to one very important message:

- Be ready, because it will happen again.

To learn more:

- River Watch 2012—Current Conditions <http://www.maine.gov/rfac/riverwatch.shtml>
- SPO Floodplain Management Program <http://www.maine.gov/spo/flood/>
- Flood Preparedness: Maine Prepares <http://www.maine.gov/mema/prepare>
- Flood of April 1987 in Maine (USGS Water Supply Paper 2424) <http://www.usgs.gov>
- University of Maine report, "The Flood of April 1987" <http://www.maine.gov/spo/flood/docs/april1987flood.pdf>
- [Photo galleries of 1987 and other floods in Maine] (http://www.maine.gov/mema/programs/communication/memaprogpcomm_pg.shtml)
- Town of Skowhegan flood photos http://www.skowhegan.org/news/default.asp?n_cat=24
- River Flow Advisory Commission <http://www.maine.gov/rfac/>

Contact: MEMA 207-624-4400

"Wicked Weather Forum"

Free and open to the public, for ages 8 to 108

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Gray, Maine is inviting the public to join them at **The Portland Wicked Weather Forum** which will be held Saturday afternoon, April 7th, starting at 1 pm at the Hannaford Lecture Hall at the University of Southern Maine in Portland.

Sponsored by NWS and the University of Southern Maine, the event is a first of a kind in northern New England. It is free and open to the public, and all ages are welcome. The purpose of the forum is to give the public an opportunity to learn more about weather and weather safety, and to meet and greet some of their favorite television weather forecasters.

Included in the program are talks about hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning, and nor'easters, and how we can prepare for these storms. Also included are talks on Portland's weather extremes and the extreme weather atop Mt. Washington.

There also will be talks about observing, forecasting, and broadcasting the weather. Finally, there will be a presentation on how changing weather conditions could potentially affect water levels along the Maine coast and what can be done to build more resilient coastal communities.

In addition to the program, the National Weather Service, Maine Emergency Management Agency, Mount Washington Observatory, and other organizations will be available in the lobby to answer questions and provide additional information about the weather and weather safety. No tickets are necessary and seating is on a first come basis. The lecture hall seats over 500, and based on the interest in the weather in northern New England, a good turnout is expected!

Hannaford Lecture Hall is in the Abromson Center on the campus of The University of Southern Maine and is easily accessible from the Forest Avenue exit of Interstate 295. Free parking is available in the parking garage adjacent to the Center.

For links to the agenda, and directions to the forum, visit the National Weather Service forum page:

www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx/portlandwickedweatherforum.htm.

For more information about the forum or directions, please visit the NWS Gray web site <http://weather.gov/gyx> or call the National Weather Service in Gray at 688-3216.



Exercise Schedule

- **April 12, 2012, Thursday, 8:30—1:00 p.m.**
CCEMA Hurricane Seminar Workshop
Location: Portland—PWD Nixon Training Center
Contact: D.B. Feeney, CCEMA (207) 892-6785
- **May 3, 2012, Thursday, 8:30—2:00 p.m.**
Cumberland County Hurricane Tabletop Exercise
Location: Portland—PWD Nixon Training Center
Contact: D.B. Feeney, CCEMA (207) 892-6785
- **May 17, 2012, Thursday, 08:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**
Portland International JetPort Functional Exercise
Location: Portland Elks Lodge #188
Contact: Deputy Chief David Pendleton—Portland
- **Fall 2012**
Monson Chemical Full Scale Exercise
Contact: Deputy Chief Jim Wilson—South Portland



Meetings

- **Note: No April Local EMA Director's Meeting**
- April 17, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Cumberland County ARES
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
Contact: Ron Brown, WA1RB
- April 25, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Cumberland County CART Meeting
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
- April 26, 2012 **Mid**
-Coast ARES/CERT
Location: Topsham, Maine
Mid-Coast Chapter ARC, Community Way
Contact: John Goran, Maine SEC
K1JJS@arrl.net (207) 865-0554
- May 9, 2012, 10:00 a.m. (following EMA meeting)
IMAT Meeting
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine

National Weather Service

“Skywarn®”

National Weather Service “Skywarn®” Training is coming to the Waldo County EMA Office on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 6:30 pm.

To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN®. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. The main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms.



SKYWARN® storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather. NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication, such as HAM radio, to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, emergency managers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter.

All are invited, but please contact Waldo County EMA to reserve a spot. We will be providing a Spaghetti Supper and need to make sure that we have the right amount of seating and food.

Contact

Dale D. Rowley, Director Waldo County
(207) 338-3870 emadirector@waldocountyme.gov

For more information on Skywarn®
goto: <http://skywarn.org/>

Maine Prepares Tip

Who's Picking Up the Kids in an Emergency?

March 26, 2012

Does Mom think Dad is picking up the kids from daycare, and does Dad think Mom is? There's an easy way to find out—Talk About It. How will your family manage if a family or community emergency happens when you are apart? Figure it out.

Daily Tip from: www.MainePrepares.com©

NERSE Rail Safety Training

NERSE Training—Saturday, April 21, 2012, 0830-1600

NERSE Training—Sunday, April 22, 2012, 0830-1600

Classroom—South Portland Fire, Central Station

Practical Exercises: Rigby Rail Yard, Rigby Road, So.Port.

This one-day course is designed to provide emergency responders critical information to prepare them for responding to a railroad incident, including: safe response; knowledge of railroad electrical, fuel, and air systems; hazardous materials; identifying rolling stock; pinch points; stopping a train in the event of an emergency; high/low pressure tank cars; as well as other on-scene dangers. In addition, the course will cover locomotive emergency response operations, approaching the scene, entering a locomotive, and proper extrication techniques. It also brings a clearer understanding of the challenges associated with a railroad related response and post-incident investigation.



The afternoon session of this program consists of hands-on scenarios utilizing various types of railroad equipment and will take place at Rigby Rail Yard, South Portland, ME. Minimum personal protective equipment for this session of training must include safety glasses, gloves, and work boots with a defined heel. Fire personnel are requested to bring Structural PPE. Please dress accordingly, no shorts, sleeveless shirts or soft-soled shoes.

The NERSE program was developed and being offered as a collaborative effort between the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Operations Life Safer, York and Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency, local fire/law enforcement departments from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, and in partnership with Amtrak, PanAm Rail, CSX Transportation, Providence & Worcester Railroad, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad (MBCR). South Portland, Scarborough and Cumberland Fire Departments will provide three heavy rescues with special operations equipment.

To register and participate in this training, please request a registration form from your Chief, Training Officer, or contact D.B. Feeney at Cumberland County EMA. To attend, participants must receive endorsement from your Department/Agency Chief or Training Supervisor.

Box Lunch/Refreshments are provided, all other expenses are the responsibility of participants.

David B. Feeney, Cumberland County EMA, feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
(207) 892-6785 Fax (207) 892-8617

Narrowbanding *Reducing the amount of spectrum a radio uses to transmit a message.*

In December of 2004, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced requirements to narrowband radio frequencies. We are now quickly approaching the deadline for compliance with that order, **January 1st, 2013**.

By this date, all radios and radio systems covered by the narrowband order must be compliant with the order. Those failing to be compliant will face a cease and desist order on their radio systems or potentially fines (up to \$10,000) from the FCC.

The narrowband order affects license holders:

- In the Public Safety Conventional (PW) frequency pool; and
- In the Industrial/Business (IG) pool operating in frequencies between 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz.

If your organization holds a license in this frequency range you should check into this further by contacting your radio vendor and/or working with a FCC frequency coordinator.

To begin the transition to narrowband you will need to consider the following points,

1. Assess/inventory current equipment and radio systems
2. Plan/budget for new equipment
3. Apply for new/modified license
4. Establish timetable for new equipment
5. Implement your transition plan
6. Implement new equipment/systems

MEMA has provided a link to numerous websites and to obtain documents with additional Information and Resources on Narrowbanding. For a listing of these links, and for more information, please go to MEMA's Webpage at www.maine.gov/mema, and click on each of these tabs: <Programs> <Communications> <Narrowbanding>.

A partial listing of Information and Resources available on the MEMA Website include:

- Presentation from MSCommNet Outreach, Mar 2012
- FCC Potential Enforcement Consequences
- A Practical Guide to Narrowbanding
- Want to Check Your Narrowband License Status
- Media Clip on Narrowbanding
- Narrowbanding Questions and Answers
- Radio Guide, Radios Compliant with Narrowbanding

MEMA also offers an email subscription service to forward similar updates and links with information on other topics that may be of interest to you. www.maine.gov/mema

Training Opportunities

- **Basic PIO Course (G290)**

Date: April 4-5, 2012
 Location: Hampden Public Safety
 Contact: FMI—Lynette Miller / Mike Grant MEMA
 Phone: (207) 624-4400 Fax: (207) 287-3178
 Registration: Email/Fax FEMA 119-25-1 to MEMA
 Prerequisites Apply: FEMA PIO G289 or IS-29

- **Chemical Safety Preparedness & Prevention Conference**

Date: April 5-6, 2012
 Location: Portland, ME—Doubletree by Hilton
 Contact: FMI—Coleman Adams
 cadams@prizim-inc.com (301) 840-2222 x 168
 Registration: Conference agenda and registration at:
 www.epa25yearsepkra.org

- **NWS "Skywarn®" Training—Waldo County**

Date: April 11, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Waldo County EMA, Belfast, ME
 Contact: Dale D. Rowley—Director
 (207) 338-3870 emadirector@waldocountyme.gov
 For More Info, See Skywarn® Article Page 4



- **New England Rail Safety Exercise (NERSE Training)**

Date: April 21, 2012, Saturday, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
 April 22, 2012, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
 Location: Classroom Session: South Portland Fire Dept.
 Practical Exercises: Rigby Rail Yard
 Registration: Contact D.B.Feeney—CCEMA
 feeney@cumberlandcounty.org (207) 892-6785

- **4th Annual Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference**

Date: April 24-25, 2012
 Location: Augusta Civic Center
 On-line Registration for Participants and Exhibitors now
 open at: www.regonline.com/partners2012

- **Cumberland County Fire Attack School in Gorham**

Date: May 5-6, 2012
 Location: Gorham, Maine
 Future registration information at www.gfdme.com/ccfas

- **L-971 Facilities Unit Leader**

Date: May 7-11, 2012
 Location: Saco, Maine
 Contact: Mike Grant, MEMA (207) 624-4460
michael.f.grant@maine.gov
 Registration: FEMA 119-25-1 to Mike Grant, MEMA.
 Prerequisites Apply, Student Reimbursement Available

- **L-969 Communications Unit Leader**

Date: May 7-10, 2012
 Location: Burlington, Vermont
 Contact: Robert Schell (802) 244-8724
rschell@dps.state.vt.us
 Registration: FEMA 119-25-1 to Mike Grant, MEMA.
 Prerequisites Apply, Student Reimbursement Available

- **L-960 Division/Group Supervisor**

Date: May 16-18, 2012
 Location: Concord, New Hampshire
 Contact: Bob Pragoff (603) 223-4200 x 31023
robert.pragoff@dos.nh.gov
 Registration: FEMA 119-25-1 to Mike Grant, MEMA.
 Prerequisites Apply, Student Reimbursement Available

- **L-970 Supply Unit Leader**

Date: May 21-24, 2012
 Location: New Haven, Connecticut
 Contact: Gary Ruggiero, Trainer, gary.ruggiero@ct.gov
 Registration: FEMA 119-25-1 to Mike Grant, MEMA.
 Prerequisites Apply, Student Reimbursement Available

- **L-965 Resource Unit Leader**

Date: June 4-7, 2012
 Location: Framingham, Massachusetts
 Contact: Jeff Tedesco, STO (508) 820-1446
jeff.tedesco@massmail.state.ma.us
 Registration: FEMA 119-25-1 to Mike Grant, MEMA.
 Prerequisites Apply, Student Reimbursement Available

- **L-449 Incident Command Systems (TTT)**

Date: June 11-15, 2012, 8:15—4:30 p.m. daily
 Location: Augusta, MEMA classroom at CMCC
 Contact: Mike Grant, MEMA (207) 624-4460
Michael.f.grant@maine.gov, Prerequisites apply to
 attend this Train-the-Trainer Program
 Registration: FEMA 119-25-1 to Mike Grant, MEMA.

- **L-964 Situation Unit Leader**

Date: June 11-15, 2012
 Location: Concord, New Hampshire
 Contact: Bob Pragoff (603) 223-4200 x 31023
robert.pragoff@dos.nh.gov
 Registration: FEMA 119-25-1 to Mike Grant, MEMA.
 Prerequisites Apply, Student Reimbursement Available

- **L-975 Finance/Admin Unit Leader**

Date: June 20-22, 2012
 Location: Burlington, Vermont
 Contact: Robert Schell rschell@dps.state.vt.us
 Registration: FEMA 119-25-1 to Mike Grant, MEMA.
 Prerequisites Apply, Student Reimbursement Available

FEMA Training Form 119-25-1 (Aug 2010) (previously 75-5) may
 be downloaded from: www.maine.gov/mema



Important Links

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

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

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
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.gov

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



Monthly Communications Test

April 12, 2012, at 1330 hours.

- Log onto WebEOC
- HAN Notification—1330 hours
- Conference Call—1345 hours
- Radio Check Following Conference Call

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