



# NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume V, Issue VI

June 2012

## County of Cumberland Emergency Management Agency

(207) 892-6785

Fax (207) 892-8617

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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](http://Ready.gov) for all disaster preparedness content, including winter weather, hurricanes, floods and wildfires

## Cumberland County EMA Hurricane Preparedness

On, Thursday, April 12, Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency hosted a Hurricane Preparedness Seminar, followed by a Hurricane Tabletop Exercise held on, May 3, 2012. Over 50 participants attended the seminar and exercise and included representatives from fire, law enforcement, hospitals, SMRRC, FEMA MATF-1 SAR, Red Cross, MEANG, USCG—Sector NNE, local, county and State EMA, schools, Civil Air Patrol, Central Maine Power, Portland Water District, Amateur Radio Service (ARES), National Weather Service, Cumberland County Animal Rescue Team (CART) Southern Maine COAD, 211 Maine, and harbor masters.



In the recent past, Southern Maine has been subject to several “near miss” hurricane events and should anticipate future encounters. Because of their size, complexity and destructive power, a hurricane will be regional in scope and will have significant impact on the people and

infrastructure across the county both inland and along the coast. Accordingly, the ability to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to and recovery from a hurricane is dependent on a collective ability to anticipate hurricane effects, and to develop appropriate plans and to execute these plans in a coordinated manner.



The intent behind both the seminar and exercise was to better familiarize participants with likely concerns, considerations and decision points to be faced in a hurricane event and to foster a spirit of cooperation, and to develop expectations as to the actions and activities anticipated across Cumberland County and the region.

Seminar participants benefited from preparedness efforts and information provided by presenters Arn Heggens, USCG—Sector Northern New England,

Article continued on Page 4

### Emergency Management

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

## Community Preparedness Webinar Series

Tuesday, June 5th, 3:00 p.m. EST

Dear State and Local Partners,

Please **JOIN US** on June 5th for the official launch webinar for National Preparedness Month 2012 this September. National Preparedness Month has grown every year, and with your help, this will be our most successful and coordinated effort to date!

The theme for this year's National Preparedness Month is **Pledge to Prepare**. **DON'T MISS** this great opportunity to learn about the number of easy ways that you, your organization, or your business or place of work can fulfill the pledge and become better prepared for disasters **this year**:

**Free Publicity**: Thousands of people visit this site. Having your events and training and education activities in one place makes it so much easier, not just for us and the public, but also leadership and the media, to learn about the great work that you're doing. Please post any upcoming events and learning opportunities on the site's events calendar. Your events will be placed on a Google map and the public will be able to search for events by zip code.

**Connect with Current and New Partners**: The discussion boards are a great way to meet new partners and to exchange information with the stakeholders you already work with. Please introduce yourself so that the public and other participants know who you are!

<http://community.fema.gov>

**Event Ideas and Resources**: Get access to new ideas on how you and your community can get involved and plan events in your community to raise awareness about emergency preparedness and help people learn to protect their homes and families from all hazards.

<http://community.fema.gov>

Details for the kick-off webinar are below. We look forward to working with you to make the nation more prepared.

Sincerely,

Darryl Madden, Director, the Ready Campaign  
Paulette Aniskoff, Director, FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division

### WEBINAR DETAILS

Presenters for this webinar will include representatives from organizations including:

- FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division
- The Ready Campaign
- Arizona Division of Emergency Management
- New York City Office of Emergency Management and Citizen Corps

**DATE: Tuesday, June 5, 2012 TIME: 3:00 PM EST**

Please note that we will be opening the webinar meeting room beginning at 2:30 p.m. EDT in anticipation of a large volume of participants. Please feel free to join the webinar at this time, while understanding that the official event will still begin at 3 p.m. EDT.

If you have not participated in a previous HSIN webinar and need to register, please click here in order to view this webinar.

If you have participated in a previous HSIN webinar and already have a username and password on the HSIN system, please log-in here in order to view this webinar.

### **How to view our webinars**

The Community Preparedness Webinar Series is conducted via DHS's HSIN Connect system. Audio for this webinar will be broadcast within HSIN Connect and will play through your computer speakers; there will not be a concurrent, phone-based teleconference. Questions and answers will be moderated via text-based chat inside the webinar. In addition, please ensure your computer's speakers are working prior to the webinar. If for any reason you have trouble accessing the system, please send an email to [tocitizencorps@dhs.gov](mailto:tocitizencorps@dhs.gov).

This webinar will last approximately one hour. The live webinar will offer Closed Captioning and a transcript of the webinar will be posted with the recorded version of the webinar.

If you have not participated in a previous HSIN webinar and need to register, please click here.

<https://connect.hsin.gov/junemonthlyupdate2012a/event/registration.html>

If you have participated in a previous HSIN webinar and already have a username and password on the HSIN system, please log-in here.

[https://connect.hsin.gov/junemonthlyupdate2012a/event/registration\\_login.html](https://connect.hsin.gov/junemonthlyupdate2012a/event/registration_login.html)

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION!**

## *FEMA Urges Preparedness for Hurricanes and Severe Weather*

**Mobile wireless emergency alerting capabilities will be available nationwide through participating carriers**

Release Date: May 24, 2012  
Release Number: HQ-12-038

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Hurricane Season begins June 1, 2012, FEMA is providing additional tools for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial officials to alert and warn the public about severe weather. Using the Commercial Mobile Alert System, or CMAS, which is a part of FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, this structure will be used to deliver Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to wireless carriers for distribution to the public.

The CMAS system will allow the National Weather Service to soon begin issuing WEAs for the most dangerous weather through participating wireless carriers directly to cell phones. The alerts will be broadcast by cell towers much like an AM/FM radio station, and cell phones within range will immediately pick up the signal, provided they are capable of receiving these alerts. The availability of WEA alerts will be dependent on the network status of the wireless carriers and handset availability, since not all cell phones can receive WEAs. People should check with their [cellular carriers](#) to see if WEA alerts are available in their area.

"The wireless emergency alert capability provides an additional opportunity for the public to receive life-saving information needed to get out of harm's way when a threat exists," said Timothy Manning, FEMA deputy administrator for protection and national preparedness. "The public also has a critical role in their personal preparedness. There are a few simple steps that everyone can take to be prepared, like knowing which risks exist in your area and making a family emergency plan. Information and resources to help individuals and families prepare can be found at [ready.gov](#)."

WEAs will look like a text message, and will automatically appear on the mobile device screen showing the type and time of alert along with any action that should be taken. The message will be no more than 90 characters, and will have a unique tone and vibration, indicating a WEA has been received. If an alert is received, citizens should follow the instructions and seek additional information from radio, television, NOAA Weather Radio, and other official sources for emergency information. Citizens should only call 911 in a life threatening situation.

Only authorized federal, state, local, tribal or territorial offi-

cial can send WEA alerts to the public. As with all new cellular services, it will take time for upgrades in infrastructure, coverage, and handset technology to allow WEA alerts to reach all cellular customers.

FEMA urges individuals and businesses to take action to prepare themselves in advance of severe weather and hurricanes such as taking the pledge to prepare at [www.ready.gov/pledge](#). This is the first step in making sure you and your family are ready for an emergency. This includes filling out your [family communications plan](#) that you can email to yourself, assembling an [emergency kit](#), keeping important papers and valuables in a safe place, and [getting involved](#).

With the start of hurricane season it is even more important to know your risk, take action, and be an example. While hurricanes often offer some warning that a threat is approaching, severe weather can occur at anytime and in any place, including high winds, inland flooding, severe storms and tornadoes.

For more on family preparedness, planning and safety tips visit [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](#)



August 24, 2012 will be the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Andrew's devastating landfall in South Florida.

### *Meetings*

- June 13, 2012, 8:30 a.m.  
[Local EMA Director's Meeting](#)  
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
- June 19, 2012, 6:30 p.m.  
[Cumberland County ARES](#)  
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine  
Contact: Ron Brown, WA1RB
- June 22, 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
- June 27, 2012, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
[Cumberland County CART Meeting](#)  
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine

## *Maine Prepares Tip*

### "Watch" Out Flood Watches Posted

June 1, 2012

As Mainers and visitors prepare to enjoy the great outdoors, the Maine Emergency Management Agency reminds everyone to stay aware of current conditions. Weather you are camping, hiking or just driving Maine's scenic roads, if flooding occurs, take care and stay safe.

A Flood Watch means there is a potential for flooding. Respect the power of water: a mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles. This includes pickups and SUVs.

If you come to an area that is covered with water, you will not know the depth of the water or the conditions of the ground under the water. This is especially true at night, when your vision is more limited.

Whether driving or walking, anytime you come to a flooded road, **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!**

Here are some safety tips:

- Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, valleys, washes etc.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams.
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways.
- Respect all barricades in flooded areas
- Report flooded roads to local authorities
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to see flood dangers

Daily Tip from: [www.MainePrepares.com](http://www.MainePrepares.com)©



**Homeowners insurance typically does not cover flood damage.**

## *Cumberland County EMA Hurricane Preparedness*

*Continued from Page 1*

John Jensenius, NWS-Gray, ME, Joe Sukaskas, Maine PUC (retired), and Jim Budway, CCEMA.

Jeremy Damren, MEMA, facilitated the Hurricane Tabletop Exercise designed to bring together the participants in discussion of preparedness and actions in advance simulation of an impending Category II Hurricane making landfall upon southern Maine.



Cumberland County EMA wishes to express our gratitude and thanks to the Portland Water District in providing their Nixon Training Facility, to each of the presenters, and to the participants for attending and contributing to the discussions in making the seminar and exercise productive and informative.

*Photos by: Jeremy Damren*



## *NOAA predicts a near-normal 2012 Atlantic hurricane season*

May 24, 2012, NOAA

Conditions in the atmosphere and the ocean favor a near-normal hurricane season in the Atlantic Basin this season, NOAA announced today from Miami at its Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, and home to the Hurricane Research Division.

*For the entire six-month season, which begins June 1, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center says there's a 70 percent chance of nine to 15 named storms (with top winds of 39 mph or higher), of which four to eight will strengthen to a hurricane (with top winds of 74 mph or higher) and of those one to three will become major hurricanes (with top winds of 111 mph or higher, ranking Category 3, 4 or 5). Based on the period 1981-2010, an average season produces 12 named storms with six hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.*

"NOAA's outlook predicts a less active season compared to recent years," said NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D. "But regardless of the outlook, it's vital for anyone living or vacationing in hurricane-prone locations to be prepared. We have a stark reminder this year with the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Andrew." Andrew, the Category 5 hurricane that devastated South Florida on August 24, 1992, was the first storm in a late-starting season that produced only six named storms.

Favoring storm development in 2012: the continuation of the overall conditions associated with the Atlantic high-activity era that began in 1995, in addition to near-average sea surface temperatures across much of the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea, known as the Main Development Region. Two factors now in place that can limit storm development, if they persist, are: strong wind shear, which is hostile to hurricane formation in the Main Development Region, and cooler sea surface temperatures in the far eastern Atlantic.

Lubchenco added that more accurate forecasts about a storm's intensity at landfall and extending the forecast period beyond five days will help America become a more Weather-Ready Nation.

*In a more immediate example of research supporting hurricane forecasting, NOAA this season is introducing enhancements to two of the computer models available to hurricane forecasters - the Hurricane Weather Research*

and Forecasting (HWRF) and the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) models. The HWRF model has been upgraded with a higher resolution and improved atmospheric physics. This latest version has demonstrated a 20 to 25 percent improvement in track forecasts and a 15 percent improvement in intensity forecasts relative to the previous version while also showing improvement in the representation of storm structure and size. Improvements to the GFDL model for 2012 include physics upgrades that are expected to reduce or eliminate a high bias in the model's intensity forecasts.

The seasonal outlook does not predict how many storms will hit land. Forecasts for individual storms and their impacts are provided by NOAA's National Hurricane Center, which continuously monitors the tropics for storm development and tracking throughout the season using an array of tools including satellites, advance computer modeling, hurricane hunter aircraft, and land- and ocean-based observations sources such as radars and buoys.

May 27- June 2, is national [Hurricane Preparedness Week](#). To help prepare residents of hurricane-prone areas, video and audio public service announcements featuring NOAA hurricane experts and the FEMA administrator are available in both English and Spanish.

"Every hurricane season we ask families, communities, and businesses to ensure they are prepared and visit [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)," said Tim Manning, FEMA deputy administrator for protection and national preparedness. "Being prepared includes developing a family emergency plan, putting an emergency kit together or updating your existing kit, keeping important papers and valuables in a safe place, and getting involved to ensure your community is ready."

NOAA's outlook for the Eastern Pacific basin is for a near-normal hurricane season and the Central Pacific basin is expected to have a below-normal season. NOAA will issue an updated seasonal outlook for the Atlantic hurricane season in early August, just prior to the historical peak of the season.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

### *Exercise Schedule*

- **September 14—15, 2012**  
**[Monson Chemical HazMat Full Scale Exercise](#)**  
Contact: Deputy Chief Jim Wilson—South Portland

## *Training Opportunities*

- **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
- **Mass Casualty Incident Protocols Seminar**  
 Date: June 13, 2012, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
 Location: Camden First Aid Association  
 Contact: Knox County EMA (207) 594-5115 or  
 Waldo County EMA (207) 338-3870  
 This seminar is appropriate for any EMS providers/first responder (including Law Enforcement and Fire) and is considered a refresher for STEP-UP and START Triage
- **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
- **MGT 385 Community Cyber Security Exercise Planning Course**  
 Date: June 27-28, 2012  
 Location: Bangor, Eastern Maine Community College  
 Contact: Jeremy Damren, MEMA (207) 624-4410  
 Registration: Email/Fax FEMA 119-25-1 to Jeremy Damren or Mike Grant Fax; (207) 287-3178  
 Jeremy Damren: jeremy.damren@maine.gov  
 Mike Grant: michael.f.grant@maine.gov
- **MGT 315 Enhanced Threat and Risk Assessment—  
Local Jurisdiction**  
 Date: August 16—17, 2012  
 Location: Augusta, Maine Florian Hall CMCC  
 Contact: Mike Grant, MEMA (207) 624-4400  
 Registration: On-line: www.teex.org  
 <select MGT315 and classes scheduled to Augusta, ME>  
 Prerequisites: Recommended MGT-310 Classroom or AWR-160 online at TEEEX
- **2012 Hospital Hazmat Operations Training**  
 Date: September 20-21, 2012  
 Location: Bangor, Maine—EMMC  
 Contact: Roxanne Landers, NMRRC  
 (207) 973-5917 rmushrall@emh.org  
 Registration: On-line <http://apps.emh.org>
- **Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing**  
 Date: October 9-10, 2012, 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
 Location: Auburn, Maine, Fireside Inn & Suites  
 Contact/FMI: Kris Gammon (207) 795-2959  
 gammonkr@cmhc.org  
 Registration: Kris Gammon (207) 795-2962
- **MGT 310 Threat and Risk Assessment—  
Local Jurisdiction**  
 Date: November 14-15, 2012  
 Location: Augusta, Maine Florian Hall CMCC  
 Contact: Mike Grant, MEMA (207) 624-4400  
 Registration: On-line: www.teex.org  
 <select MGT310 and classes scheduled to Augusta, ME>  
 Prerequisites: Recommended IS700.a and AWR-160 online at TEEEX (not required)

### *NIMSCAST Reminder*

The purpose of this NIMS Alert is to remind jurisdictions of the release of the National Incident Management System Compliance Assistance Support Tool (NIMSCAST), version 4.00.15. This version of the NIMSCAST provides enhanced security features, improved e-mail function, and adds the FY 2012 NIMS implementation assessment for local, State, Territory, and Tribal governments.

Additionally, the NIMSCAST homepage now features an updated NIMSCAST User Guide. This guide includes improved step-by-step instructions, additional guidance on using available reports, and an updated glossary.

<https://www.fema.gov/nimscast>

Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 requires that all Federal departments and agencies make adoption of NIMS by local, State, Territorial, and Tribal organizations a condition to receive Federal Preparedness Grant Awards.

For additional information on NIMS, NIMS implementation, or NIMSCAST contact the NIC at [202-646-3850](tel:202-646-3850) or via e-mail: [FEMA-NIMS@dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NIMS@dhs.gov).

Reporting period for NIMS Compliancy is, October 1, 2011, through, September 30, 2012. In the event the NIMS Administrator has forgotten his/her log-in information, they can go to the NIMSCAST Homepage and enter their NIMSCAST email address to receive a temporary password, or contact Cumberland County EMA for assistance.

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



# Important Links

**Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency**  
Home: [www.cumberlandcounty.org/EMA](http://www.cumberlandcounty.org/EMA)

**Maine Emergency Management Agency**  
Home: [www.maine.gov/mema](http://www.maine.gov/mema)  
Library: [www.maine.gov/mema/mema\\_library.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/mema/mema_library.shtml)

**Maine Prepares**  
Home: [www.maine.gov/mema/prepare](http://www.maine.gov/mema/prepare)

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

**Domestic Preparedness Support**  
U. S. Department of Homeland Security [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)  
NIMS Resource Center <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims>  
Lessons Learned Information Sharing System  
[www.llis.gov](http://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](http://www.smrrc.org)

**Ready America** [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
**National Weather Service—Gray, Maine**  
[www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx)

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

**2-1-1 Maine**  
Home: [www.211maine.org](http://www.211maine.org)

**5-1-1 Maine (Maine DOT Travel Information)**  
Home: [www.511maine.gov](http://www.511maine.gov)

**American Red Cross of Southern Maine**  
Home: [www.maineredcross.org](http://www.maineredcross.org)

**PROP**  
Home: [www.wherepeoplecomefirst.org](http://www.wherepeoplecomefirst.org)

**Southern Maine EMS**  
Home: [www.smems.org](http://www.smems.org)

**Volunteer Maine**  
Home: [www.volunteermaine.org](http://www.volunteermaine.org)

**Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)**  
Home: [www.gpcog.org](http://www.gpcog.org)



## Monthly Communications Test

June 14, 2012, Thursday

- Log onto WebEOC
- HAN Notification—12:45 p.m.
- Conference Call—1:00 p.m.
- Open Radio Check—1:10 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Cumberland County EMA Staff:



**DIRECTOR**  
James E. Budway  
[budway@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:budway@cumberlandcounty.org)



**DEPUTY DIRECTOR**  
Anne-Marie Brett  
[brett@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:brett@cumberlandcounty.org)



**PLANNER**  
Bonnie Canfield  
[canfield@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:canfield@cumberlandcounty.org)



**PLANNER**  
David B. Feeney  
[feeney@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:feeney@cumberlandcounty.org)



**PLANNER**  
Lori J. Roth  
[roth@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:roth@cumberlandcounty.org)



**PROJECT COORDINATOR**  
Ron Jones  
[jones@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:jones@cumberlandcounty.org)



**FINANCE ASSISTANT**  
Donna M. Somma  
[Somma@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:Somma@cumberlandcounty.org)



**THE BUNKER**  
22 High St  
Windham, ME  
207.892.6785