



NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

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County of Cumberland

Emergency
Management
Agency

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DHS Announces First National Preparedness Goal

10/07/2011 Office of the Press Secretary

***The Goal is the First Deliverable
under Presidential Policy
Directive (PPD) 8***

annual National Emergency Managers Association (NEMA) Conference in Austin, Texas. The full goal can be found online at www.fema.gov/ppd8.

PPD 8 called for the development and maintenance of a National Preparedness Goal to define the core capabilities necessary to prepare for the specific types of incidents posing the greatest risk of security to the nation. This goal builds extensively on prior work of various stakeholder groups from around the nation, draws upon lessons learned from large-scale and catastrophic events and represent input from all stakeholders.

As directed by PPD 8, this goal will be reviewed regularly to ensure consistency with applicable policies, evolving conditions and the National Incident Management System.

For more information about PPD 8 and its implementation, visit www.fema.gov/ppd8.

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security announced the release of the country's first-ever National Preparedness Goal. The goal is the first deliverable required under Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8: National Preparedness, which was released in April 2011. The goal sets the vision for nationwide preparedness and identifies the core capabilities and targets necessary to achieve preparedness across five mission areas laid out under PPD 8: prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery.

"As we work to build a more prepared nation, we must work with the entire community – the public and private sectors, faith-based and non-profit organizations, and most importantly the public," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "This goal recognizes that reality, and we will continue to work with all our stakeholders to implement PPD 8 and build a more prepared and resilient nation."

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate announced the release of the goal at the



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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



Emergency Management

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

FEMA & FCC Unveil New Tip Sheet for Consumers on How to Communicate During Disasters

Earthquakes, Hurricanes & Other Recent Emergencies Underscore Need to Empower the Public with Practical Information on Preparing for How to Communicate Before a Disaster Strikes - And How to Better Communicate During and After a Disaster.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- September 21, 2011 - As part of National Preparedness Month, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released new tips for consumers aimed at preparing them for major disasters when communications networks are more likely to be compromised or damaged. Nearly one month ago, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake and Hurricane Irene struck the East Coast. In the minutes and hours that followed, mobile networks experienced significant network congestion, temporarily making it harder for millions of people to reach loved ones and emergency services. This tip sheet aims to help prepare Americans about how to communicate with each other, and loved ones, in the event of another disaster.

"Between the East Coast earthquake, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and wildfires in Texas and California, we have had a lot of powerful reminders lately that disasters can strike anytime, anywhere - and can often make it difficult for the public to communicate with friends, loved ones or emergency personnel," **said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate**. "An important part of preparing for disasters includes getting ready for potential communications challenges, whether caused by power outages or heavy cell network congestion. These simple tips are easy for anyone to follow and could make a world of difference when it matters the most."

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said, "When disaster strikes, the ability to communicate is essential. However, power outages and other issues can interfere with the way people ordinarily communicate, making it harder to reach loved ones or emergency services. The FCC is committed to ensuring the public's safety through the reliability of our nation's communications networks. But there are also simple steps that consumers can take to prepare for a disaster as well as practical ways to better communicate during and after an event. I encourage all Americans to become familiar these tips and share them with friends and family."

phone devices should contact their wireless provider or equipment manufacturer.

TIP SHEET

When disaster strikes, you want to be able to communicate by both receiving and distributing information to others. You may need to call 9-1-1 for assistance, locate friends or family, or let loved ones know that you are okay. During disasters, communications networks could be damaged, lose power, or become congested. This fact sheet provides two important sets of tips. The first will help you prepare your home and mobile devices for a disaster. The second may help you communicate more effectively during and immediately after a disaster.

Before a Disaster: How to Prepare Your Home and Mobile Device

1. Maintain a list of emergency phone numbers in your cell phone and in or near your home phone.
2. Keep charged batteries and car-phone chargers available for back-up power for your cell phone.
3. If you have a traditional landline (non-broadband or VOIP) phone, keep at least one non-cordless phone in your home because if it will work even if you lose power.
4. Prepare a family contact sheet. This should include at least one out-of-town contact that may be better able to reach family members in an emergency.
5. Program "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) contacts into your cell phone so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you are unable to use your phone. Let your ICE contacts know that they are programmed into your phone and inform them of any medical issues or other special needs you may have.
6. If you are evacuated and have call-forwarding on your home phone, forward your home phone number to your cell phone number.
7. If you do not have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card to use if needed during or after a disaster.
8. Have a battery-powered radio or television available (with spare batteries).
9. Subscribe to text alert services from local or state governments to receive alerts in the event of a disaster. Parents should sign up for their school district emergency alert system.

During and After a Disaster: How to Reach Friends, Loved Ones & Emergency Services

1. If you have a life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1. Remember that you cannot currently text 9-1-1. If you

How to Communicate During Disasters

(Continued from Page 2)

- are not experiencing an emergency, do not call 9-1-1. If your area offers 3-1-1 service or another information system, call that number for non-emergencies.
2. For non-emergency communications, use text messaging, e-mail, or social media instead of making voice calls on your cell phone to avoid tying up voice networks. Data-based services like texts and emails are less likely to experience network congestion. You can also use social media to post your status to let family and friends know you are okay. In addition to Facebook and Twitter, you can use resources such as the American Red Cross's Safe and Well program (www.redcross.org/safeandwell).
 3. Keep all phone calls brief. If you need to use a phone, try to convey only vital information to emergency personnel and/or family.
 4. If you are unsuccessful in completing a call using your cell phone, wait ten seconds before redialing to help reduce network congestion.
 5. Conserve your cell phone battery by reducing the brightness of your screen, placing your phone in airplane mode, and closing apps you are not using that draw power, unless you need to use the phone.
 6. If you lose power, you can charge your cell phone in your car. Just be sure your car is in a well-ventilated place (remove it from the garage) and do not go to your car until any danger has passed. You can also listen to your car radio for important news alerts.
 7. Tune into broadcast television and radio for important news alerts. If applicable, be sure that you know how to activate the closed captioning or video description on your television.
 8. If you do not have a hands-free device in your car, stop driving or pull over to the side of the road before making a call. Do not text on a cell phone, talk, or "tweet" without a hands free device while driving.
 9. Immediately following a disaster, resist using your mobile device to watch streaming videos, download music or videos, or play video games, all of which can add to network congestion. Limiting use of these services can help potentially life-saving emergency calls get through to 9-1-1.

Check www.ready.gov regularly to find other helpful tips for preparing for disasters and other

Winter Weather Awareness: The Basics

Winter Weather Awareness Week

The National Weather Service offices that serve New England have declared the week of October 31st through November 4th, 2011 ****WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK****. This Winter Weather message is courtesy of the National Weather Service Office in Gray, Maine.

Of course, last weekend's storm made us all very aware of winter!

For those who live in New England, winter weather is a part of life from November through March -- and on rare occasions, the end of October! We've already had our first taste of winter weather, and soon, snow, sleet, freezing rain, cold temperatures, and cold wind chill temperatures will be common occurrences. While most of the time these weather elements are only a nuisance to our daily routines, at times they can produce hazardous or life-threatening situations for those who are not prepared, or for those who do not take the proper precautions.

In Maine, normal snowfall averages from 50 to 70 inches along the coast, but gradually increases as you move inland to more than 140 inches in the mountains. In northern Maine, 100 to 120 inches of snow falls annually. The lesser amounts in coastal areas are partly a result of a frequent change-over to sleet, freezing rain or rain during many well-developed winter storms. To those driving or walking, this mixture of precipitation can be even more dangerous than snow.

As residents of Maine and New Hampshire are all aware from January 1998 and December 2008, large accumulations of freezing rain can cause disastrous conditions. High winds, cold temperatures, cold wind chill temperatures, and coastal flooding can also accompany or follow winter storms.

To alert the public to potentially dangerous winter weather events or situations, the National Weather Service issues **OUTLOOKS, WATCHES, WARNINGS, and ADVISORIES**. Keep the following general definitions in mind.

Hazardous Weather Outlook

A **HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK** is issued daily by National Weather Service offices across the country to alert the public to the potential for any hazardous weather during the next 7 days (including significant winter storms, high wind, coastal flooding, and

Story continued on Page 5

THIS IS ONLY A TEST: Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test

National Emergency Alert System Test set for Wednesday, November 9, 2011

A message from the Maine Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Maine Association of Broadcasters.

AUGUSTA, MAINE - On Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at 2:00 pm, anyone watching television or listening to the radio will see or hear a *test* emergency message from Washington, DC. But don't worry, **it's only a test**.

Maine radio and television stations and cable TV systems, along with satellite TV companies, will participate in the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on Wednesday, November 9. The test, originating from Washington, D.C., will begin at approximately 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time and will last for about three and a half minutes.

During the test, the public will hear a message indicating that "This is a test." The audio message will be the same for radio, television, and cable TV. However, television viewers will see a "text crawl" at the top of their TV screens that says, "The Primary Entry Point has issued an Emergency Action Notification for Washington, D.C., until 2:15 p.m." TV viewers may or may not see other on-screen text indicating that the alert is a test. Viewers should rest assured, however, that **this is only a test**.

The November 9th test will assess the federal government's ability to send a message from Washington to all 50 states, not each state's individual EAS network. Maine tests EAS statewide each month, and each station conducts an individual weekly test. Maine's EAS messages are issued by the State or the National Weather Service via the Maine Public Broadcasting Network and then rebroadcast by all radio and television stations and cable systems in the State.

The national-level EAS is a public alert and warning system that enables the President of the United States to address the American public during extreme emergencies. The system has never been used for that purpose. Its primary use is to warn of state and local emergency situations, such as severe weather events, and it is used regularly in Maine for that purpose.

Similar to statewide and local EAS tests that are conducted frequently, the National EAS Test will air on broadcast radio and television stations, cable television systems, and satellite radio and television services across all states and terri-

ories. As the federal government and the media prepare to test their alerting capabilities, this event serves as a reminder that everyone should establish an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for themselves, their families and businesses.

Visit [Maine Prepares](<http://www.maineprepares.com>) or [Ready.gov](<http://www.ready.gov>) for more information about how to prepare for and what to do in the event of an actual emergency.

For more information on the National EAS Test, visit <http://www.easalert.org>

The National EAS Test is being conducted jointly by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Annual Tier 2 Reporting Workshops

Maine Emergency Management is providing 3 Tier 2 reporting workshops at various locations throughout Maine. This 3-hour workshop is for facilities that are required to report extremely hazardous substances and/or hazardous materials above reporting quantities.

The Tier 2 workshops are half day (8:30-Noon).

Tier 2 Workshop Locations:

Jan. 11th, 2012 at Jeff's Catering in Brewer

Jan. 18th, 2012 at the Augusta Civic Center

Feb. 1st, 2012 at the Fireside Inn & Suites in Portland

Please either fax your registration form to [207-287-1378](tel:207-287-1378) or email your information to maine.serc@maine.gov

Meetings

- November 9, 2011, 8:30 a.m.
[Local EMA Director's Meeting](#)
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
- November 15, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
[Cumberland County ARES](#)
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
Contact: Ron Brown, WA1RB

Communications Unit Leader (COML)

MEMA recently held a Communications Unit Leaders Type III training course. The (COML) as defined by the Department of Homeland Security is a person that, "plans and manages the technical and operational aspects of the communications function during an incident or event. We (MEMA) can proudly state that we have ten new Communications Unit Leaders and four new Instructors. If you would like more information in becoming a Communications Unit Leader please contact Steven Mallory at (207) 624-4476 or email at: steven.mallory@maine.gov

State of Maine Recognized COML's

To be considered as a recognized COML the candidate must possess:

1. A public safety communications background with exposure to field operations; this experience should be facilitated by the authority that supervised the student.
2. Fundamental public safety communications technology, supervisory and personnel management skills. These include, but are not limited to:
 - * Knowledge of local communications and communications systems, frequencies and spectrum, technologies;
 - * Knowledge of local topography;
 - * Knowledge of system site locations; regional, state, and local Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans, if available.

Maine Prepares Tip

Your Car Needs A Winter Survival Kit

November 3, 2011

Before winter begins, put together a winter storm survival kit for your vehicle. Take that old coat, those old clothes and that old pair of boots that your spouse wants you to throw away, put them in a duffel bag and throw them into the back of your car. Also, throw in a sleeping bag or warm blankets, Non-perishable foods such as energy bars should be included. Having something to eat will help your body stay warm if you become stranded for a prolonged period of time.

<http://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/index.htm>

Daily Tip from: www.Maineprepares.com©

Winter Weather Awareness: The Basics

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extreme temperatures). Due to the uncertainty in predicting the strength and path of a winter storm more than several days in advance, the exact impact on the area (if any) will not be known.

Hazardous Weather Outlook for Gray Forecast Area
(<http://www.maine.gov/mema/weather/gyxhwogyx>)

Hazardous Weather Outlook for Caribou Forecast Area
(<http://www.maine.gov/mema/weather/carhwocar>)

In addition, National Weather Service offices may issue **SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENTS** highlighting the potential impact of a major winter storm.

Watches:

WATCHES are issued to alert the public that dangerous winter conditions are possible in the within the next 24 to 60 hours. Products include: **WINTER STORM WATCHES, HIGH WIND WATCHES, and COASTAL FLOOD WATCHES.**

Warnings:

WARNINGS are issued to alert the public that dangerous winter conditions are likely to occur within the next 6 to 36 hours or are occurring now. Products include **WINTER STORM WARNING, ICE STORM WARNING, BLIZZARD WARNING, HIGH WIND WARNING, WIND CHILL WARNING, and COASTAL FLOOD WARNING.**

Advisories:

An **ADVISORY** is issued to alert the public that winter conditions are expected to cause a significant inconvenience and may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, these situations should not be life threatening. Products include **WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY, FREEZING RAIN ADVISORY, WIND ADVISORY, and WIND CHILL ADVISORY.**

MEMA carries National Weather Service Watches, Warnings and Advisories on its website:

Winter Storms

www.maine.gov/mema/weather/winter.htm

All Maine Watches and Warnings

www.maine.gov/mema/weather/watch_warn.htm

Training Opportunities

- **Emergency Planning (G235)**
Date: November 9-10, 2011, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Location: Augusta, MEMA Classroom
Contact: Mike Grant, MEMA, (207) 624-4460
Registration: Forward FEMA 119-25-1 Form to MEMA
- **Benefit to Cost Analysis (BCA) Workshop**
Date: November 16, 2011, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Location: Augusta, Maine—MEMA Classroom
Contact: JoAnn Mooney, MEMA
Registration: Call (800) 452-8735
- **Benefit to Cost Analysis (BCA) Workshop**
Date: November 17, 2011, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Location: Alfred, Maine—York County EMA
Contact: JoAnn Mooney, MEMA
Registration: Call (800) 452-8735
- **Hazmat Awareness Course**
Date: December 5, 2011—Part A, 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
December 12, 2011—Part B, 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Location: North Yarmouth Fire Department
Contact: David B. Feeney, CCEMA
feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- **Intermediate Incident Command System (ICS-300)**
Date: December 8—9, 2011, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Location: Skowhegan, Maine—Somerset County EOC
Contact: Garrett R. Buzzell, Somerset RCC
(207) 474-6386 (207) 474-0879 Fax
Registration: Forward FEMA 119-25-1 Form
- **IS-700 NIMS, An Introduction**
Date: January 9, 2012, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: North Yarmouth Fire Department
Contact: David B. Feeney, CCEMA,
feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- **IS-100 Incident Command System**
Date: January 16, 2012, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. - Part A
January 23, 2012, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. - Part B
Location: North Yarmouth Fire Department
Contact: David B. Feeney, CCEMA,
feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- **Emergency Planning (G235)**
Date: January 10—11, 2012, 8:15a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Brewer, Maine—Brewer Public Safety
Contact: Mike Grant, MEMA, (207) 624-4460
Registration: Forward FEMA 119-25-1 Form to MEMA
- **Mitigation for Emergency Managers (G393)**
Date: January 31—February 2, 2012, 8:15a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Augusta, Maine—MEMA Classroom
Contact: Mike Grant, MEMA, (207) 624-4460
Registration: Forward FEMA 119-25-1 Form to MEMA

FEMA IS 559 Released Local Damage Assessment

IS-559 - Local Damage Assessment

Course Release Date:
31 October, 2011

Course Description

This course provides information and resources that will enable participants to plan an effective damage assessment program and conduct rapid and effective damage assessments in order to save lives, protect property and the environment, and begin the process of recovery and mitigation.

Course Objectives

- Explain basic concepts related to damage assessment.
- Describe how risk and vulnerability assessment information is used for damage assessment planning.
- Explain the process for planning the damage assessment program.
- Describe how training and exercises are used to enhance the damage assessment program.
- Describe basic operations of local damage assessment.
- Describe damage assessment after-action activities.

Primary Audience

Local officials who are responsible for assessing, collecting, and reporting damages during and after any event that causes damage of private, public, and critical infrastructure

Prerequisites

Recommended prerequisites are:

- IS-100.b Introduction to the Incident Command System
- IS-200.b ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-700.a National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction
- IS-800.b National Response Framework, An Introduction
- IS-120.a An Introduction to Exercises
- IS-130 Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning

Course Length 2 hours CEUs 0.2

IS-559 Local Damage Assessment can be found at:

<http://training.fema.gov/EMA/Web/IS/is599.asp>

Exercise Schedule

- **May 2012**
Cumberland County Hurricane Tabletop Exercise
Location: TBD
Contact: D.B. Feeney, CCEMA (207) 892-6785



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

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

Monthly Communications Test

November 10, 2011, at 1330 hours.

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

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