

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume III, Issue XII

December 2010

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.

Send to: David B. Feeney
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NOAA: *Another Winter of Extremes in Store for US*

NOAA: October 21, 2010

The Pacific Northwest should brace for a colder and wetter than average winter, while most of the South and Southeast will be warmer and drier than average through February 2011, according to the annual Winter Outlook released today by [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center](#). A moderate to strong La Niña will be the dominant climate factor influencing weather across most of the U.S. this winter.

La Niña is associated with cooler than normal water temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean, unlike El Niño which is associated with warmer than normal water temperatures. Both of these climate phenomena, which typically occur every 2-5 years, influence weather patterns throughout the world and often lead to extreme weather events. Last winter's El Niño contributed to record-breaking rain and snowfall leading to severe flooding in some parts of the country, with record heat and drought in other parts of the country. Although La Niña is the opposite of El Niño, it also has the potential to bring weather extremes to parts of the nation

"La Niña is in place and will strengthen and persist through the winter months, giving us a better understanding of what to expect between December and February," said Mike Halpert, Deputy Director of

the Climate Prediction Center—a division of the [National Weather Service](#). "This is a good time for people to review the outlook and begin preparing for what winter may have in store."

"Other climate factors will play a role in the winter weather at times across the country," added Halpert. "Some of these factors, such as the North Atlantic Oscillation, are difficult to predict more than one to two weeks in advance. The NAO adds uncertainty to the forecast in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic portions of the country."

Regional highlights include:

Pacific Northwest: colder and wetter than average. La Niña often brings lower than average temperatures and increased mountain snow to the Pacific Northwest and western Montana during the winter months, which is good for the replenishment of water resources and winter recreation but can also lead to greater flooding and avalanche concerns;

Southwest: warmer and drier than average. This will likely exacerbate drought conditions in these areas. All southern states are at risk of having above normal wildfire conditions starting this winter and lasting into the spring;

Northern Plains: colder and wetter than average. Likely to see increased storminess and flooding;

(Continued on Page 3: NOAA)

Emergency Management

Emergency Management is the assessment, analysis, planning, and assignment of available resources to prevent, prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of all types of hazards or emergencies.

Emergency Management is a comprehensive system of policies, practices, and procedures designed to save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property and the environment if an emergency occurs.

Classroom Training For Independent Study

CLASSROOM TRAINING (FLEXIBLE DELIVERY)
FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES
REVISED: OCTOBER 2010

Step 1: Order your OpScan Answer Forms

- Order your answer sheet forms online at: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/ansreq.asp>
- Before scheduling your course training sessions make sure that you have received your OpScan answer sheet forms. **Please note that OpScan answer sheet forms take 4 weeks for shipping from our (EMI) warehouse.** (also available from CCEMA)
- Be sure you are using the 95-23 OpScan Answer Sheets.

Step 2: Download course materials and print out the course exam.

Always check the EMI website at <http://training.fema.gov> for updated or revised course materials or exams before teaching any IS course. Materials are revised frequently and exams are scrambled on a regular basis. Once a new course or exam is posted, the outdated courses and exams are accepted for 30 days.

- Locate the materials for your desired course at: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>. Make note of any submission deadlines for revised or rescinded courses.
- If a course has classroom materials you will find the course materials with the course overview page under the Additional Resources options on the right-hand side of the page.
- Print a copy of the exam questions. All courses have an option to "Download Final Exam Questions." Click the link to download, click the "Individual Effort" checkbox and then the "Download Final Exam Questions" button.

Step 3. Conduct course training sessions, complete exams and review forms for complete information.

After the course is delivered have students complete exams on the OpScan answer forms.

- Ensure all EMI Independent Study OpScan Answer Sheets (95-23) contain complete and accurate student information prior to submission.

- Use the OpScan answer sheet checklist included in your shipment of OpScan forms. If you do not have the checklist document you can download it from the OpScan Form Request Page at: <http://training.fema.gov/is/docs/Group%20Training%20Delivery%20Processing%20Form.pdf>

- Incomplete forms cannot be scored.

Step 4: Prepare your training submission packet for processing by EMI-Independent Study Program

- Your packet must be complete in order for the Independent Study Program to accurately score and process your OpScan exam submissions. Incomplete packets will be returned.

Be sure your submission packet includes the following

- A completed Independent Study Delivery Process Form. This document was included in your shipment. If you do not have the IS Delivery Processing form you can download it from the OpScan Request Page, noted above.
- A copy of the exam questions that you administered during your training session.
- Be sure that all participants OpScan Form are complete and legible.

Step 5: Mail your complete Exam Submission Packet

- Mail entire packet from Step 4 to:

National Emergency Training Center
EMI Independent Study Program
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

Meetings

- **December 8, 2010, 8:30 a.m.**
Local EMA Director's Meeting
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
- **December 8, 2010, 10:00 a.m.**
IMAT Meeting
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
- December 10, 2010, 9:00 a.m.
EMA—Central Maine Power Review Meeting
Location: CMP, 162 Canco Road, Portland
- **December 21, 2010, 6:30 p.m.**
Cumberland County ARES
Location: CCEMA, Windham, Maine
Contact: Bryce Rumery, K1GAX

NOAA --La Niña

(Continued from Page 1)

Southern Plains, Gulf Coast States & Southeast: warmer and drier than average. This will likely exacerbate drought conditions in these areas. All southern states are at risk of having above normal wildfire conditions starting this winter and lasting into the spring;

Florida: drier than average, with an equal chance for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures. Above normal wildfire conditions;

Ohio and Tennessee Valleys: warmer and wetter than average. Likely to see increased storminess and flooding;

Northeast and Mid-Atlantic: equal chances for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures and precipitation. Winter weather for these regions is often driven not by La Niña but by weather patterns over the northern Atlantic Ocean and Arctic. These are often more short-term, and are generally predictable only a week or so in advance. If enough cold air and moisture are in place, areas north of the Ohio Valley and into the Northeast could see above-average snow;



Central U.S.: equal chances of above-near-or below normal temperatures and precipitation;

Hawaii: drier than normal through November, then wetter than normal December through February. Statewide, the current drought is expected to continue through the winter, with several locations remaining on track to become the driest year on record. Drought recovery is more likely on the smaller islands of Kauai and Molokai, and over the windward slopes of the Big Island and Maui;

Alaska: odds favor colder than average temperatures with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation. The interior and southern portions of the state



are currently drier than normal. A dry winter may set Alaska up for a greater chance of above normal wildfire conditions in the spring.

This seasonal outlook does not project where and when snowstorms may hit or total seasonal snowfall accumulations. Snow forecasts are dependent upon winter storms, which are generally not predictable more than several days in advance.

NOAA's National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. NOAA's National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Visit us online at weather.gov and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/US.National.Weather.Service.gov>.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

Article Photo Credits: NOAA

2011 Exercise Schedule

- **May 2011—TBA**
Portland International Jetport Tabletop Exercise
- **October 11, 2011, Saturday, 0800—1300 Hrs.**
Maine Section Simulated Emergency Test (SET)
(Amateur Radio State Emergency Communications Test).
Contact: Bryce Rumery, bprumery@netzero.net

FEMA Addresses American Ambulance

FEMA Deputy Administrator Rich Serino Addresses American Ambulance Association About Importance of Working As A Team, Planning For All Members Of the Community

Release Date: November 16, 2010

Las Vegas, NV. — Today, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Deputy Administrator Rich Serino addressed the 2010 American Ambulance Association at its annual conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Deputy Administrator Serino spoke about the importance of working together as a team to respond to and recover from emergencies. Serino also urged the audience to incorporate the needs and capabilities of the entire community, including children and people with disabilities, when planning for disaster response and recovery.

"The American Ambulance Association is a crucial member of our national emergency management team and I appreciate the opportunity to talk with them about how we can work together to keep communities safe," said Deputy Administrator Serino. "Every day, ambulance services are doing great work to provide medical transportation and emergency medical services in communities throughout our country. This conference gave me the chance to hear directly from them about how FEMA can better support their critical efforts, and how we can all better incorporate the needs of all members of our community."

Deputy Administrator Serino has more than 35 years experience in local emergency medical services - starting as a volunteer on the Boston ambulance squad and retiring last fall as Chief of Department of Boston EMS and Assistant Director of the Boston Public Health Commission.

The American Ambulance Association was founded in 1979 in response to the need for improvements in medical transportation and emergency medical services. The Association represents ambulance services across the United States that participate in serving more than 75 percent of the U.S. population with emergency and nonemergency care and medical transportation services. For more information, visit www.the-aaa.org.

Tri-County Wild Land Fire Exercise

The counties of York, Oxford and Cumberland held a Wild Land Fire Functional Exercise on, Saturday, October 23, 2010, at the Sacopee Valley Middle School in Hiram. This exercise was a collaborative effort between the three county Emergency Management Agencies, the State of Maine Department of Conservation – Forestry, Maine Emergency Management Agency, and local jurisdictions. Representatives from the county's special teams participated, including the counties' Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT), The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), and ham radio operators affiliated with the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).

Consistent with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), the October 2010 Tri-County Wild Land Fire Functional Exercise was the final exercise in a series of related workshops and exercises. The HSEEP "Building-Block" approach began on, October 14, 2009, with an Orientation Seminar; followed by a Table Top Exercise (TTX) on, April 24, 2010, and came to completion with the Functional Exercise.

The exercises were an opportunity for each jurisdiction to learn and better understand how the Maine Department of Conservation – Forestry Service, as the lead agency, will coordinate and manage wild fires in Maine. The mission identified in these series of exercises was focused on the local incident command merging with the counties' Incident Management Assistance Teams; and with the Forestry Service Incident Management Team (IMT) to fill ICS Command and General Staff positions. The primary objectives included the coordination of resources and capabilities; implementation of a regional communications plan and developing an Incident Action Plan (IAP) for extended operational periods.

(Story Continued on Page 7)



Training Announcement Public Information Officer (G289 and G290)

Released: November 24, 2010

Public Information Officer Awareness Course (G289) February 8, 2011, 0830 - 1630 hours

The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be conducting a training seminar on the new updated Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Awareness Training Program for Public Information Officers (PIO). In order to be NIMS compliant, agencies must have a designated and trained PIO. **This course serves as a prerequisite for attendance at the 2-day Basic PIO Course (G290).**

At the end of this class, participants will be able to:

- Define emergency public information and the Public Information Officer (PIO) function.
- Describe how written products are used to support public information activities.
- Describe how the PIO can work effectively with the news media to communicate emergency public information.
- Apply basic PIO skills to public awareness campaigns.

Selection Criteria: The primary audience for this training is individuals who have public information responsibilities as their main job or as an auxiliary function at the State, tribal, or local level of government. A secondary audience for this training includes individuals who would benefit from a general understanding of the emergency public information function. This audience would include elected and other officials with responsibilities that would necessitate their working with PIOs or the news media during an emergency incident.

Basic Public Information Officer Course (G290) February 9—10, 2011, 0830—1630 hours

This 2-day course is intended for the new or less experienced PIO. Program emphasis is on the basic skills and knowledge needed for emergency management public information activities. Topics include the role of the PIO in emergency management, conducting awareness campaigns, news release writing public speaking, and television interviews. **Completion of FEMA Public Information Officer Awareness Course (G289) is a prerequisite for attendance of the program.**

Selection Criteria: State, County and local emergency

management and emergency services staff who have either full or part time direct responsibility for public information in their communities or departments. *Applicants will include an organizational chart indicating their position in local or departmental public information functions. Students should bring copies of their PIO plan and laptop computers if available.*

Instructors: Lynette Miller, MEMA PIO, and Mike Grant, MEMA Training Officer, will serve as instructors.

Course Location: The Public Information Officer Awareness (G289) and Basic Public Information Officer courses G290 and will be held at the Saco Plaza Conference Center located at 352 North Street in Saco, Maine. Classes will run from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Breaks and lunch will be provided. Lodging is available for those who qualify. Please contact MEMA for further details on eligibility. All other expenses are the responsibility of the student.

**For further information or to register, please contact
Lynette or Mike at MEMA.**

All applications should be submitted by email/fax via FEMA training application form found at:
www.maine.gov/mema/training

Contact:
Lynette Miller or Mike Grant—MEMA, (207)-624-4400

Save the Date 2011 CERT Jamboree

Released: MEMA—November 24, 2010

September 10 and 11, 2011; Mount Vernon, Maine

CERT Jamboree:

This 2 day event is an annual event that provides training and exercises to all of our CERT, CART, SAR, and ARES/EMCOMM groups. There will be several new classes along with a traditional CERT course.

Target Audience:

Team members who are a formal/recognized CERT, CART, SAR, or ARES/EMCOMM team

Course Location:

The event will be held at Camp Laurel in Mount Vernon, ME located on Route 41.

Registration:

Registration will be posted at a later date.

Contact:

Jeremy Damren or Scott Parker
207-624-4400 or 207-743-6336

National Weather Service Public Observation Program

Tornadoes, hail, strong winds, flooding...the National Weather Service is responsible for issuing warnings for many types of severe weather. We have many tools to help us anticipate and warn for these hazards. However, ground truth reports of actual weather events always have, and always will, depend on reports from human observers. Of course, we need a way to efficiently handle severe weather reports during the hustle and bustle of dealing with rapidly changing conditions. That is where our POP (Public Observation Program) computer comes in.



IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are a trained Skywarn spotter, please use the toll-free number given to you at your training session. The POP is more appropriate for use by the general public.

In case you forgot...the phone number is

1-877-633-6772

When you call (using a touch-tone phone only, please!), you will be connected to the POP computer. The computer will then ask you a series of questions. These questions are meant to identify the type and severity of weather which you are reporting. When your call is completed, the POP computer will alert the staff to the presence of a new report. Assuming that there are no problems, your report will then be sent out to the world...and may be heard on NOAA Weather Radio, local radio and TV stations, and who knows, maybe even the Weather Channel!



One important note...the computer will ask you to input your phone number when you make a report. It is **very important** that we have a way to verify the report and call you for additional information if necessary. We will NEVER call you for any purpose other than to verify a report. Also, your phone number and any other personal information will NEVER leave this office. We realize the importance of your privacy!

Did I forget to mention?...that phone number is

1-877-633-6772

We would like you to call, when it is safe to do so, if you observe any of the following:

- Tornado or funnel cloud
- Strong winds (55-60 MPH or greater) or wind damage (structural damage or trees/power lines down)

- Hail the size of pennies (3/4 inch diameter) or larger
- Stream flooding, street flooding, or streams approaching bank full
- Snowfall of 3 inches or more

So next time the weather is really nasty...give us a call and let us know!

Once more...that phone number is:

1-877-633-6772

Training Opportunities

- **December 9, 2010, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. (check in 7:30 am)**
FEMA 154, Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings For Potential Seismic Hazards and ROVER.
- **December 15, 16, & 17, 2010**
Soft Target Awareness Course (STAC)
4-Hour Workshops presented twice daily on December 15th and 16th, and once on Friday, December 17th.
Location: Bangor, Maine, Armed Forces Reserve Center
Contact: Jon Burbank, Jonathan.P.Burbank@Maine.Gov
FMI: www.maine.gov/mema Tab: <News>
- **December 16, 2010, 07:30 a.m.—Noon**
Applying ICS to your Health Care Emergency Response
Location: Worcester, Mass
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Emergency Medicine Seminar Room LA 209
Registration: On Line— <http://ceepet.org>
Deadline—December 13, 2010
- **February 8, 2011, 0815—1630 hours**
Public Information Officer Awareness (G289)
Location: Saco, Maine, Saco Plaza Conference Center
Contact: Lynette Miller or Mike Grant—MEMA
Phone: (207) 624-4400 (See Article—Page 5)
Registration: Submit FEMA Form 119-25-1 (formerly 75-5)
- **February 9—10, 2011, 0815—1630 hours**
Basic Public Information Officer Course (G290)
Location: Saco, Maine, Saco Plaza Conference Center
Contact: Lynette Miller or Mike Grant—MEMA
Phone: (207) 624-4400 (See Article—Page 5)
Registration: Submit FEMA Form 119-25-1 (formerly 75-5)
- **April 28—29, 2011, 0800—1600 hours**
Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference
Location: Augusta Civic Center
Contact: Faith Mayer—MEMA (207) 624-4441
Registration: Information to be posted shortly
- **September 9—11, 2011**
CERT Jamboree 2011
Location: Mt. Vernon, Maine—Camp Laurel
Registration: TBA

Wild Land Fire Exercise

(Story continue from Page 4)

One noted highlight during the functional exercise; the Maine Forest Service conducted an outstanding simulation of the conduct of a Planning Meeting Briefing, lead by Lt. Jeff Currier, with the designation of assignments to Rangers and each reporting out with status and situational updates.

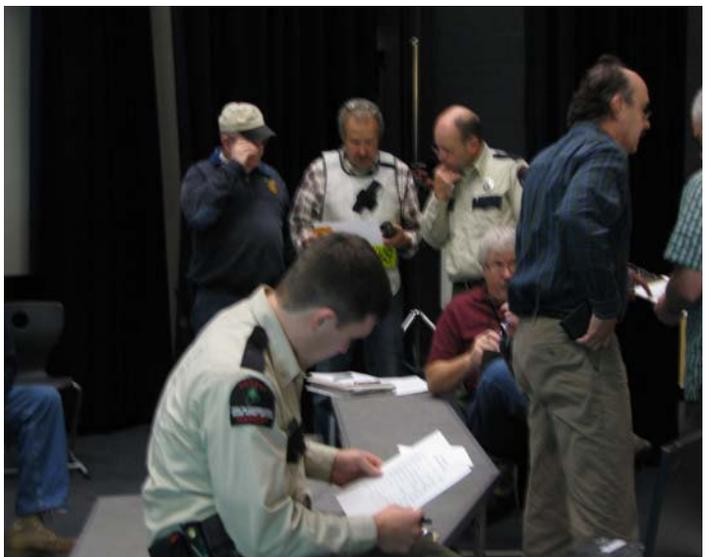
reports, observations and participants' feed back and comments. Photo Credits: J. Damren – MEMA, and B. Rumery, ARES.



Cumberland County EMA and York County EMA activated their Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) within separate classrooms in simulation of providing resource and coordination support to Incident Command. Oxford County EMA operated within their mobile command trailer to maintain continuity of communications and dissemination of situational awareness through the use of WebEOC.



The Exercise Management Team and County EMA Directors, James Budway, Scott Parker and Robert Bohlmann, contracted the services of Ray Lussier, Life Safety Specialists, Inc., to facilitate these exercises, to develop and conduct in accordance with HSEEP, and to prepare a draft After Action Report (AAR) based on the Evaluator's





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: <http://southernmaine.redcross.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

December 9, 2010, at 1330 hours.

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

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