

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume III, Issue II

February 2009

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 feeney@cumberlandcounty.org



President Declares Major Disaster For Maine

Release Date: January 9, 2009

Release Number: HQ-09-005

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for Maine to help supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm and flooding during the period December 11-29, 2008.

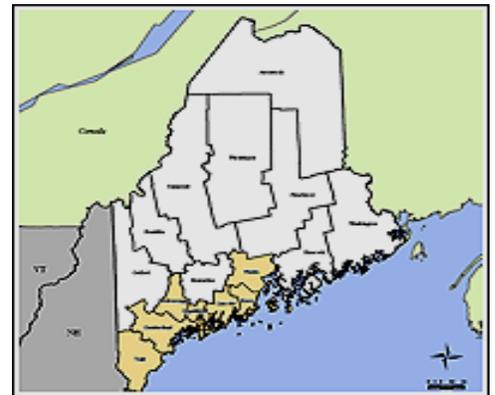
FEMA Administrator David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the state by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storm and flooding in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo and York counties.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Paulison named James N. Russo as the

the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Russo said that damage surveys are continuing in other areas, and more counties and additional forms of assistance may be designated after the assessments are complete.

Following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that can be made available as needed and warranted under President Bush's major disaster declaration issued for Maine.



Assistance for the State and Affected Local Governments Can Include as Required:

- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for repairing or
- (continued on Page 7— Federal Aid Programs)

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.

DHS Announces Revised NIMS

Release Date: December 18, 2008—HQ-08-259

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a revised National Incident Management System (NIMS)-the national standard for incident management.

NIMS expands on the original version released in March 2004 by clarifying existing NIMS concepts, better incorporating preparedness and planning and improving the overall readability of the document. The revised document also differentiates between the purposes of NIMS and the National Response Framework (NRF) by identifying how NIMS provides the action template for the management of incidents, while the NRF provides the policy structure and mechanisms for national-level policy for incident management.

"The National Incident Management System has been the single most significant improvement in incident management since the Department of Homeland Security was formed in 2003," FEMA Administrator David Paulison said. "It has enhanced interoperability among emergency responders at all levels of government and is the product of a collaborative effort involving hundreds of emergency personnel from across the nation. We incorporated lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, clarified incident command system concepts, increased emphasis on planning and mutual aid, expanded the intelligence/investigation function, and better aligned the NIMS document with the National Response Framework," said Paulison.

With the oversight of FEMA, the newly released NIMS followed an extensive revision involving over 100 partners from all levels of government, private sector, nongovernmental organizations (NGO), and subject matter experts representing a broad spectrum of emergency management and incident response disciplines. Throughout three official nationwide comment periods, FEMA reviewed nearly 6,000 comments from more than 280 individuals and organizations, including extensive review and recommendations made by the National Advisory Council (NAC).

The basic tenets of NIMS remain the same. There have been several improvements to the revised NIMS document which will aid in readability and usefulness of preparing, preventing, and responding to incidents. For example, the revised document places greater emphasis on the role of preparedness and has reorganized its components to mirror the progression of an incident. Recognizing the importance of private sector partners and NGOs in incident response, FEMA has ensured that those entities have been more fully integrated throughout NIMS. The new document

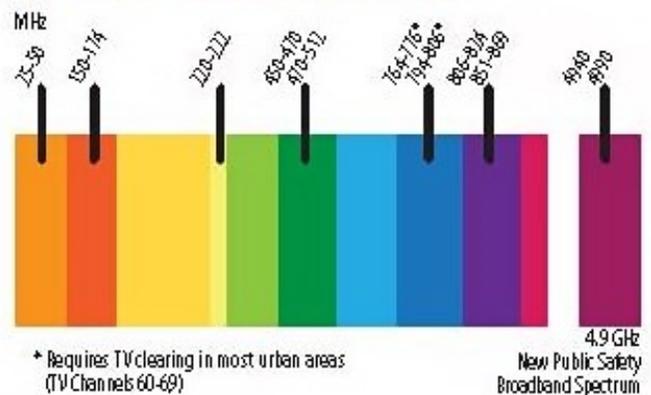
is consistent with the NRF, and together they provide a single, comprehensive approach to incident management. Further information on preparedness programs is available at www.dhs.gov and www.fema.gov.

What Is Radio Spectrum?

Article extracted from: When They Can't Talk—Lives are Lost, What Public Officials Need to Know about Interoperability. (NACO www.naco.org).

It is electronic real estate — the complete range of frequencies and channels that can be used for radio communications. Spectrum is the highway over which voice, data, and image communications travel. Radio spectrum, one of our nation's most valuable resources, is a finite resource — what exists today is all there ever will be.

Public Safety Radio Spectrum Bands



Public Safety Radio Spectrum Bands

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has allocated certain frequencies or channels to public safety, but it is inadequate and scattered widely in 11 discrete bands (each indicated with a frequency range in the illustration) across the spectrum, making it difficult for different agencies and jurisdictions to communicate. Initially, almost all public safety communications were confined to the low end of the frequency range, but as technology advanced and improved, transmission at higher frequencies became possible, offering a temporary solution for congestion and crowding. The result—public safety currently operates in 10 separate bands, which has added capacity, but which has also caused the fragmentation that characterizes the public safety spectrum today.



The complete publication "When They Can't Talk", is available for download from: www.naco.org. For your convenience a short link to this publications was created at: <http://tinyurl.com/Why-They-Cant-Talk>

State Communications Interoperability Program

MEMA—December 29, 2008

DHS has announced the next round of available grants for Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP). Maine will receive the same amount as last year, \$242,875.00. MEMA has received guidance on the terms of these funds.

The state will have the flexibility to utilize these funds to purchase interoperable emergency communications equipment if and only if we have achieved or will achieve previously established priority objectives as required by DHS.

Priority #1-

- Establishment of a formal interoperable emergency communications governance structure.
- Establishment of an Interoperability Coordinator.
- Establishment of common planning and operational protocols.
- Development of SOPs, consistent use of interoperability channels, plain language protocols, and common channel naming.

Priority #2-

- Enhancement of emergency responder skills and capabilities through training and exercises.
- Interoperable communications-specific training and exercises that are compliant with HSEEP criteria with respect to technology and operational protocols should be conducted on a regular basis.
- The cost share for the FY09 IECGP will be a 75% Federal and a 25% State cost share, cash or in-kind. This requirement applies to equipment purchases only.
- No more than 50 percent of the total program funds may be used for personnel activities.
- MEMA is required to submit the State's application by January 13, 2009.

State Interoperability Communications Coordinator

This position is currently on hold due to the State of Maine's hiring freeze. We are working to get an exemption approved as this is a 100% federally funded position. In the meantime, MEMA staff continue to share the responsibility of this project.

Radios

MEMA and OIT continue to work on the RFP for the purchase of a radio cache that will be provided to NIMS compliant communities. MEMA is pleased to announce the availability of 115 "packages" of portable and mobile radios through the FY2007 PSIC Grant Program.

The State of Maine has negotiated a contract with Maine Radio of Scarborough to provide P-25 compliant radios at a very good price. As part of this contract, MEMA will purchase (2) portable radios and (1) mobile radio, with appropriate accessories, for 115 communities across the state. For more information on this program, go to http://www.maine.gov/mema/mema_news_display.shtml?id=67316

Maine Interoperable Communications Committee (MICC)

The MICC met on November 5, 2008 to review the overall accomplishments of the SCIP, Grant Awards, and future requirements. The MICC will be meeting again in January 2009.

Training Options

Over the last several months, the PSIC Training Team has worked hard to develop a communications training curriculum that will be available in several mediums. Please contact Mike Grant to schedule training at 624-4400.

1. Classroom Training
www.maine.gov/mema/mema_calendar.html
2. DVD (will be handed out during classroom training)
3. Online <http://www.jpmaeweb.com/> You will need to register in order to take the online class.
4. Visor Cards

MEMA has produced laminated CONOPS forms that can be placed in Incident Commander's vehicles to assist with designation of frequencies during events. Visor cards, grease pencils and clips will be available to Incident Commanders very soon. These will be distributed through County EMA offices and/or handed out at training sessions.

SCIP Workshop

The Office of Emergency Communications will be providing each state an opportunity to host a workshop to assist with the SCIP Implementation. In February 2009, MEMA will host this workshop that will include OEC experts to assist us in determining our future strategies.

Resources

MEMA's Communications Program site

<http://maine.gov/mema/programs/memaprogramm.shtml>

(continued, see Page 5—SCIP Update)

2009 Exercise Schedule

- February 28, 2009, Saturday
Lake Region High School Tabletop Exercise
- April 8, 2009 (Wednesday)
Point of Distribution (POD) Tabletop Exercise
MEMA/Cumberland County/Sagadahoc County
- June 2009 (Day/Details TBD)
Portland Jetport Tabletop Exercise
- October 2009 (Proposed)
Wild Fire Tabletop Exercise
Cumberland, York and Oxford Counties

FEMA Launches Consolidated Website For Disaster Applicants

Release Date: December 31, 2008
Release Number: HQ-08-261

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced the launch of the first phase of DisasterAssistance.gov, a new, easy-to-use web site that consolidates information about forms of disaster assistance in one place. Individuals in need of assistance following a presidentially declared disaster designated for individual assistance will now be able to go to www.DisasterAssistance.gov if they wish to register online for assistance with FEMA and other federal agencies.

DisasterAssistance.gov will improve and simplify access to information about disaster assistance by creating a central, online location for all forms of federal disaster aid. Sixteen federal agencies have partnered with FEMA to develop the website, offering more than 50 forms of assistance. At launch, users can:

- apply for FEMA assistance and U.S. Small Business Administration loans through a single online application
- check the status of their online application(s)
- choose to have their Social Security benefits redirected to a new address
- have access to their federal student loan account information.

DisasterAssistance.gov will provide applicants links to other forms of assistance and additional aid information. In future releases, DisasterAssistance.gov will include online applications for increasingly more forms of aid, speeding the application process for victims of presidential

declared disasters. DisasterAssistance.gov was developed to comply with Executive Order 13411, which requires the government to simplify the process of identifying and applying for disaster assistance. The ultimate vision for DisasterAssistance.gov is to be the collective point of application for all federal agencies that offer forms of assistance to those affected by disaster, as well as eventually provide a central repository for all forms of disaster assistance, irrespective of provider. FEMA and its sixteen partner agencies are working closely to turn this vision into reality.

Following the initial launch on, December 31, 2008, FEMA, along with the partner agencies, will be expanding DisasterAssistance.gov's capacity to help individuals in need. DisasterAssistance.gov will be updated in phases to include additional forms of assistance that are administered at the federal, state, regional and local levels.

Individuals may still go to FEMA.gov, however, those who apply for assistance online will be redirected to the new DisasterAssistance.gov website.

For more information, please visit:
www.DisasterAssistance.gov

DisasterAssistance.gov provides citizens the ability to locate and apply for disaster relief.

Future Meetings:

- **February 4, 2009, Wednesday—1:00 p.m.**
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **February 11, 2009, Wednesday—8:30 a.m.**
Local EMA Director's Meeting CCE-
MA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **February 17, 2009, Tuesday— 6:30 p.m.**
Cumberland County ARES Meeting
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **February 25, 2009, Tuesday—6:00 p.m.**
Cumberland County CART Team CCE-
MA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **March 4, 2009, Wednesday—9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**
ConOps/PSIC Discussion with Ginnie Ricker (MEMA)
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine

SCIP Update

(continued from Page 3)

Plain Language Resources

http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/library/interoperabilitybasics/1371_plainlanguage.htm

When They Can't Talk - Lives are Lost, What Public Officials Need To Know About Interoperability.

<http://tinyurl.com/Why-They-Cant-Talk> or

<http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=TelecommunicationsandTechnology&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=28702>

National Interoperability Field Operations Guide
<http://www.npstc.org/documents/NIFOG%20v1.2%204-14-2008.pdf>

Statewide Interoperability Coordinator's Meeting

Ginnie (Ricker) represented the State of Maine at the first ever Nation Wide State Interoperability Coordinators Meeting in December 2008. There were over 60 participants, with representatives from Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands-- almost each of the continental US states as well as a number of federal partners.

The focus of this conference was to determine best practices within the Governance spectrum, but more importantly develop a network of all the Coordinator positions across the country.

A list of the issues that were brought up throughout the meeting: UASI regions work independently of this position within their state. This position has no access to the person that holds the funds (SAA). This position is not filled (like Maine) All the money has gone to the State not to the locals. The state partners that are involved in emergency communications do not work well together. Some states have not determined how to tie training and exercises into the plan. Some states have formed Executive Committees, but have not formed action oriented work-teams. Some states are so small that they do not really have "interoperability" issues-the issues are either political or processes.

All in all, Maine has made great strides in the development and implementation of the State's Communications Interoperability Plan. We may not have a dedicated resource, or an entire agency like some states, but we continue to improve the communications challenges faced across the state.

MEMA Contact

Please address any questions for PSIC Grant Program to Bruce Fitzgerald at bruce.fitzgerald@maine.gov or by phone at 624-4400. SCIP Project to Ginnie Ricker at ginnie.ricker@maine.gov or by phone at 624-4471.

Training Announcements

"preparedness through education"

- **Interoperable Communications and ConOps Training**
Maine Emergency Management Online Training Center
www.jpmaweb.com (agency registration required)
- February 4, 2009, 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know
Location: Augusta, Maine—Quality Inn
Contact: Robert Gardner—MEMA (207) 624-4400 or 800-452-8735 maine.serc@maine.gov
- February 10, 2009, 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know
Location: Portland, Maine—Verrillo's Banquet Center
Contact: Robert Gardner—MEMA (207) 624-4400 or 800-452-8735 maine.serc@maine.gov
- February 10, 2009, 5:30 p.m.
Cumberland County Animal Response Team
Location: CCEMA—Windham, Maine
Contact: Bonnie Canfield—CART Liaison (207) 892-6785
- February 10—11, 2009, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
(G703) NIMS Resource Management
Location: Augusta, Maine—MEMA Classroom
Contact: Mike Grant—State Training Coordinator (207) 624-4460 Submit FEMA 75-5 training application
Target Audience: County and local emergency management directors and their deputies, IMAT personnel
- February 21, 2009
ICS 300 Intermediate—Part A
Location: South Paris Fire Department—Oxford County
Contact: Oxford County EMA—(207) 743-6336
- February 28, 2009
ICS 300 Intermediate—Part B
Location: South Paris Fire Department—Oxford County
Contact: Oxford County EMA—(207) 743-6336
- March 10—11, 2009, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
G575 Communications Interoperability Course
Location: Florian Hall Conference Room—Augusta, Maine
Contact: Mike Grant or Roy Jones—MEMA (207) 624-4460
Submit FEMA 75-5 Training Application
- April 04, 2009
ICS 400 Advanced—Part A
Location: South Paris Fire Department—Oxford County
Contact: Oxford County EMA—(207) 743-6336
- April 11, 2009
ICS 400 Advanced—Part B
Location: South Paris Fire Department—Oxford County
Contact: Oxford County EMA—(207) 743-6336
- April 30—May 1, 2009
First Annual "Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness" Conference (see article—Page 9)
Location: Augusta Civil Center
Contact: Dwane Hubert—MEMA (207) 624-4400

The National Exercise Simulation Center (NESC)

Release Date: January 12, 2009
Release Number: HQ-09-006Factsheet

The National Exercise Simulation Center (NESC) is a Congressionally-mandated state-of-the-art training and exercise facility within FEMA Headquarters, and serves as a key element within the Federal Coordination Center (FCC). The FCC draws on the specialized capabilities of its FEMA elements, including the Disaster Operations Directorate, the National Preparedness Directorate, the Office of National Capital Region Coordination, and others as needed, to collaborate with and support deliberate planning, training, exercises and response operations coordination in the National Capital Region.

The NESC is designed to be a scalable, flexible simulation center to accommodate a wide range of services, including, but not limited to, executive briefings, unique training events, tabletop exercises, and exercise Master Control Cell and National Simulation Cell functions.

The NESC supports the all-hazards preparedness and response mission through:

- Employing a mix of live, virtual and constructive simulations
- Providing standardized and sustained exercise and training support
- Pooling resources to maximizing efficiency

The NESC is an important tool for elected officials and emergency support providers at all levels of government. The National Exercise Program (NEP) and FCC members are key stakeholders within this broad audience. The NESC supports NEP events involving partners from federal, state and local government, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector.

The NESC will provide facilities and systems to allow all stakeholders to train, exercise and refine personnel, procedures and support systems for FEMA and other U.S. government missions. Specifically, the NESC will facilitate the following functions:

- Provides 24 hour support for national-level, federal, state and local exercises throughout the United States and internationally including Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program exercises, Master Control Cell and National Simulation Cell and related functions
- Provides a forum for interagency planners to test

their plans (e.g., annual hurricane plans, pandemic Influenza plans) by providing realistic incident scenarios through which partners can identify gaps and determine courses of action;

- Serves as "future planning" support for FEMA's Disaster Operations Directorate and other FEMA and DHS directorates by providing technical modeling and simulation tools that enable planners to better visualize potential future scenarios;
- Coordinates activities that support real world events and exercises, such as Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program training and initial, mid and final planning conferences;
- Incorporates real-time mock-media capabilities such as the Virtual News Network that provides exercise participants with realistic breaking news bulletins, interviews and live news coverage of incidents;
- Provides practical training opportunities to those learning about exercise design, conduct and management through individual mentorship of federal, state, tribal, and local professionals;
- Links to other centers that provide specialty modeling, simulation and data services, such as the Joint Warfighting Center, the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center, the Emergency Management Institute, and other centers that provide natural and man-made disaster modeling, constructive simulation tools, and Subject Matter Expert (SME) databases and historical deployment/response information;
- Incorporate national and FEMA improvement management services, to include the Remedial Action Management Program, the National Corrective Action Program, and the Lessons Learned Information System, to support in-depth analysis of real world and exercise events and provide real-time lessons learned capabilities.

Bunker Laughs



DisasterAssistance.gov

THE NATION'S FIRST STOP FOR DISASTER RELIEF

Federal Aid Programs

(continued from Cover Story Page)

replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, bridges, utilities, buildings, schools, recreational areas and similar publicly owned property, as well as certain private non-profit organizations engaged in community service activities.

- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for removing debris from public areas and for emergency measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health.
- Payment of not more than 75 percent of the approved costs for hazard mitigation projects undertaken by state and local governments to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological disasters.

How to Apply for Assistance:

Application procedures for local governments will be explained at a series of federal/state applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected area by recovery officials. Approved public repair projects are paid through the state from funding provided by FEMA and other participating federal agencies.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I still have not received or have lost my training certificate for a course I took on the EMI Web site. What Should I do?

A: You can contact the Independent Study Program's Customer Support Center at: (301) 447-1200. One of the ISP Customer Support Representatives will look up your student record, verify your course completion and issue you a certificate in which will be mailed via US Postal Service.

Q: Who has to take NIMS and ICS training?

A: Stakeholders will define the emergency management/response personnel within their jurisdiction, agency, or organization who require ongoing training. This includes all emergency services-related disciplines such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/utilities, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support, and volunteer personnel. To obtain a copy of the MEMA document, NIMS-ICS Minimum Training Requirements for Maine (April 23, 2008), contact: D.B. Feeney at Cumberland County EMA (207) 892-6785 or feeney@cumberlandcounty.org



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

NIMS: www.fema.gov/emergency/nims

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

Grants: www.fema.gov/government/grant/index.shtm

Assistance: www.DisasterAssistance.gov

Domestic Preparedness Support

U. S. Department of Homeland Security
www.dhs.gov

Lessons Learned Information Sharing System
www.llis.gov

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
<http://hseep.dhs.gov>

Ready America

www.ready.gov

National Weather Service—Gray, Maine

www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx

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

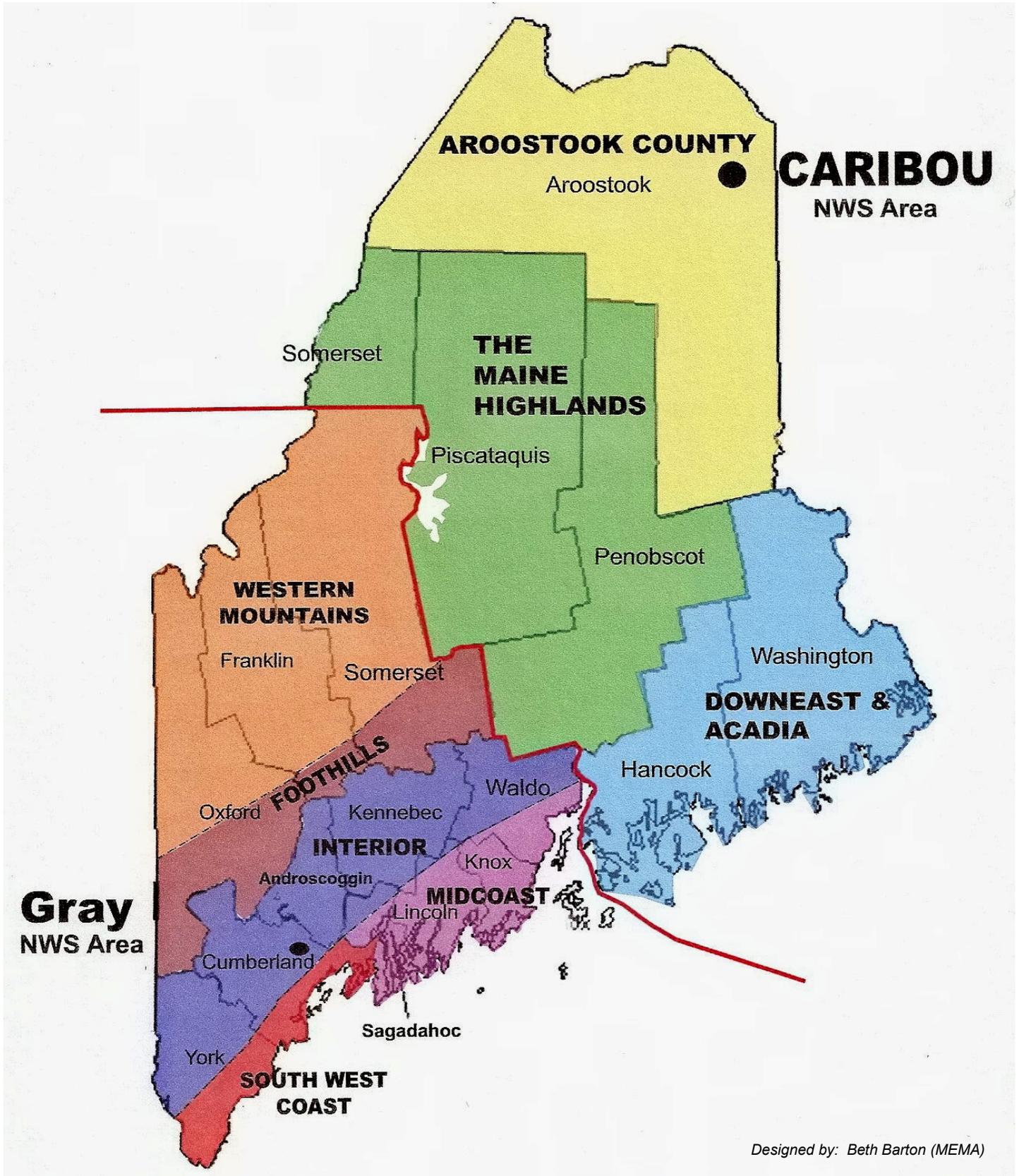
Volunteer Maine

Home: www.volunteermaine.org

Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)

Home: www.gpcog.org

National Weather Service Maine Weather Regions Map



First Annual “Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness” Conference Announced

January 2, 2009

Mark Your Calendars

MEMA has announced the first annual “Maine Partners in Preparedness” Conference, to be held, April 30 and May 1, 2009, at the Augusta Civil Center.

The conference is a partnership between the State Emergency Response Commission, MEMA, and the Maine Association of Local Emergency Managers. It will combine the offerings of the annual Hazardous Materials Conference, with a wide range of workshops and information sessions to benefit:

- First Responders
- Government Officials
- Emergency Managers
- Business Leaders
- School Administrators
- Health and Human Service Providers
- Faith-based Leaders
- VOAD Members

Details on the conference, including agenda and registration information, will be forthcoming, and posted on the MEMA and Maine Prepares websites.

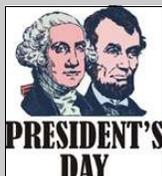
Don't miss this two-day learning experience with statewide partners and exhibitors.

Contact: Dwane Hubert, MEMA 207-624-4400

Community Events

(Large Gatherings)

- February 2, 2009 (Monday)
Groundhog Day
- February 14, 2009 (Saturday)
St. Valentine's Day
- February 14—15, 2009
Naples Winter Carnival
- February 16, 2009 (Monday)
President's Day
- February 21—22, 2009
Sebago Lake Ice Fishing Derby



Monthly Communications Test

February 12, 2009, at 1330 hours.

- Log onto WebEOC
- CityWatch Notification—1330 hours
- Conference Call—1345 hours
- Radio Check—1400 hours



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