

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume III, Issue I

January 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



Governor Baldacci Announces Loan Assistance for Ice Storm Recovery

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci announced loan assistance programs available to businesses affected by the ice storm that struck Maine earlier this month. The Governor also announced the first in a series of sessions to be held to provide an overview of assistance available to impacted businesses.

"Many homes and businesses were in the dark for several days," Governor Baldacci said. "Through this experience, Mainers demonstrated their resilience and patience during the recovery. However, many businesses in the southern and coastal parts of our State were significantly impacted by being without power."

The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) has made special modifications to its Economic Recovery Loan Program for impacted businesses located in the disaster area. FAME has set aside \$500,000 for these loans, with a maximum loan of \$75,000 available to affected businesses.

The Maine Rural Development Authority

(MRDA) has approved a resolution providing \$500,000 in business assistance loans to support businesses that have experienced damage from the ice storm. The loans will be available for repairs and renovations to business structures for which other funds are not available. Funds will be set aside for 90 days from the date of the Governor's emergency declaration.

Additionally, the Office of Community Development has set aside \$100,000 under the Urgent Need Program to assist locations affected by the ice storm. *(Continued on Page 7—see Governor Announces)*



Photo Courtesy of: M. Radke

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 SAVER Program

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions. The SAVER Program conducts objective assessments and validations on commercial equipment and systems, and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL).

To meet current national challenges, emergency response equipment is being purchased at an increasing rate by federal, state, local, and tribal emergency responders, including fire departments, emergency medical service agencies, emergency management departments, law enforcement officials, and public servants. Although the equipment is often tested individually by the manufacturer in a controlled laboratory environment, the overall safety, quality, reliability, and maintainability of the equipment in field environments may be significantly impacted as each equipment item functions as part of an operational system.

The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner relevant, and operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment;
- Providing information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the responder community, providing a life-saving and cost-saving asset to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as to Federal, state, and local responders.

The SAVER Program established and is supported by a network of technical agents who perform assessment and validation activities. Further, SAVER focuses primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?" Many documents on the SAVER website, including SAVER highlights, summaries, and newsletters, are public access documents and are immediately viewable.

Full technical reports and other documents are responder access only. Distribution of these reports is authorized to federal, state, tribal and local government agencies only, for administrative or operational use. To obtain the report, you must be registered as an emergency responder through the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB). RKB's web site is www.rkb.mipt.org; there you will find instructions for registration. A link to the RKB website is located to the

left bottom of the SAVER site. All other requests for access must go through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Systems Support Division, 245 Murray Lane, Bldg. 410, Washington, DC 20528-7000.

<https://saver.fema.gov/>



Emergency Preparedness Planning Toolkit for Diverse Populations

This online toolkit produced, by the Yale Center for Public Health Preparedness, provides resources to public health planners and individuals from other sectors involved in preparedness efforts targeting diverse populations including those with limited English proficiency. These resources aim to improve outcomes for diverse populations during a public health emergency by focusing on planning considerations. In addition to planning resources, the toolkit features natural disaster-based HSEEP compliant tabletop exercises that users can customize to meet their needs. To download the toolkit or access the materials online, go to:

<http://info.med.yale.edu/eph/ycphp/VPtoolkit.html>

To request a CD-ROM of the toolkit, send an email to: cphp@yale.edu.

As a reminder, FY2009 NIMS compliance for Preparedness: Planning, requires, in the development of Emergency Operations Plans, a plan for special needs populations to include, but not limited to, individuals with limited English language proficiency; individuals with disabilities; children; the aged, etc.

Bunker Laughs



New England Schools Take a 'STEP' to Prepare Kids

FEMA Region I Launches School Preparedness Initiative



The *Student Tools for Emergency Planning (STEP)* program, built through a partnership between the region's External Affairs, National Preparedness and Management divisions, is an education project aimed at teaching students basic emergency preparedness skills. With the support of emergency management agencies from all six New England states, STEP launched its pilot program in 36 schools in September 2008.

"Students at the 4th grade level will be armed with strategies for dealing with various types of emergencies," said FEMA Region I Administrator Art Cleaves. "They will act as agents to share this awareness with family members - one of our *Vision 2010* goals."



Students will be taught useful information that could save lives. They will be instructed on how to build an emergency kit for their home and how to make a family communications plan. Both units require family involvement.

As STEP was being developed, 4th grade teachers from North Providence participated in a focus group where they gave feedback and ideas for the final product.

"We are looking forward to unveiling the STEP program in our schools," said Dr. Donna Ottaviano, Superintendent of North Providence School District-the first and only district in Rhode Island to include STEP in their curriculum. "Our teachers are enthusiastic about the materials they helped to create and we all agree that being prepared is an important message."

FEMA employees with teaching backgrounds built lessons around a 14-minute film called "The Adventures of the Disaster Dudes," produced by FEMA, with support from the American Red Cross. As the movie is played, the teacher stops frequently to have class discussions about topics introduced in the video. STEP's Teacher Guide provides discussion questions, along with worksheets and homework assignments to accompany the movie.

The ready-to-teach format is not only easy for teachers to implement, but it opens the potential for other methods

of delivery. FEMA is pursuing partnerships with Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) volunteers, college students enrolled in emergency management degree programs, and local police and safety officers to deliver STEP materials across the region.

Understanding that there is diversity in teaching methods; the STEP materials offer supplemental lessons that will allow for some flexibility. Each teacher will be given a list of books, art and theater elements, and other resources they may use to expand their lesson, as well as an "Adventures of the Disaster Dudes" game. Schools will also be supplied with a "Masters of Disaster" educator's kit-a teaching resource on disaster preparedness and safety for children-made by the American Red Cross.

One of the most notable aspects of the STEP program this year has been the learning tools students will receive. Each student will be equipped with an informative refrigerator magnet and their very own 'starter' kit-a carrying bag equipped with a water bottle, snack bar, emergency whistle, and an emergency blanket.

"We want our students to be prepared for life," said Rich Abramson, superintendent of Maranacook Area Schools in Maine-one of the largest school districts for the pilot year. "Emergencies are part of life and it's important for students and families to think about situations before they happen."

The STEP program will reach over 2,500 fourth grade students in New England during its pilot year and FEMA plans to expand the program region-wide thereafter. To achieve these ambitious expansion goals, the program will first look to districts recommended by the pilot schools and then to larger urban districts in each state.

The original goal of STEP was to pilot the program in one school in each state; however, the overwhelming positive response received by school administrators and educators led to such a significantly larger list of participating schools. FEMA is optimistic that STEP's ongoing momentum will break through to other regions quickly, building prepared communities and creating a legacy of student who are prepared, year after year.

To learn more about STEP, please contact:
Michelle Collins at Michelle.Collins@dhs.gov

Community Events

(Large Gatherings)

- **January 1, 2009 (Thursday)**
New Years Day
- **January 19, 2009 (Monday)**
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



2009 Exercises

- April 8, 2009 (Wednesday)
Point of Distribution (POD) Tabletop Exercise
MEMA/Cumberland County/Sagadahoc County
- June 2009 (Day/Details TBD)
Portland Jetport Tabletop Exercise

Electronic Mass Casualty Assessment & Planning Scenarios—EMCAPS

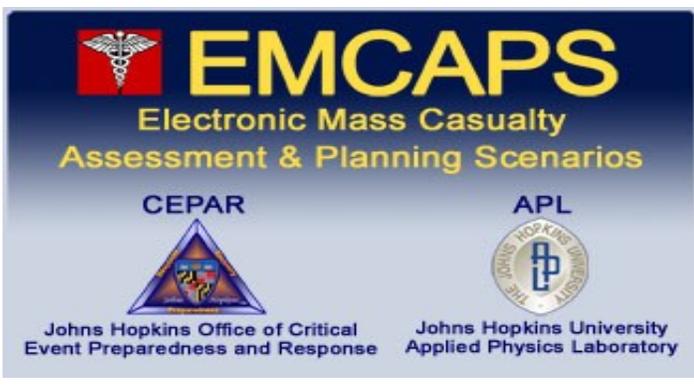
EMCAPS was developed by The Johns Hopkins Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR) and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL). This project was developed via funding from the Maryland Special Project program under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) FY 2005 Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program.

This standalone software program is intended to allow users to model disaster scenarios for drill planning and to use as an education resource. The EMCAPS Model allows you to estimate casualties arising from biological (Anthrax, Plague, Food Contamination), chemical (blister, nerve and toxic agents) radiological (dirty bomb) or explosive (IED) attacks. These scenarios are based on the Department of Homeland Security Planning Scenarios (April 2005).

When you run the EMCAPS Model, you are able to select one of the scenarios listed above and adjust the various inputs (e.g., bomb size, population density, quantity of release, wind speed, etc) to most closely simulate your own environment. For the selected scenario, EMCAPS will then estimate casualties including levels of acuity. In other words, EMCAPS allows you to model the selected scenarios for your own community.

This tool is intended to allow plausible scenarios to be reasonably modeled to help planners better understand and assess preparedness and response capabilities needs. It is not intended to precisely model the physical behavior of WMD threat agents or the outcomes of specific threat condition.

EMCAPS may be downloaded without cost from <http://www.hopkins-cepar.org/EMCAPS/EMCAPS.html> as shareware." For questions related to this tool please contact CEPAR at 410-735-6450.



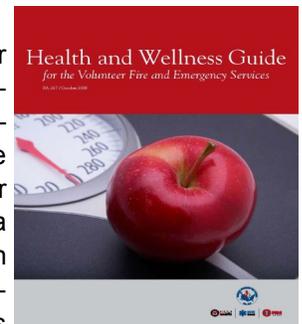
Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services

Firefighting continues to be one of the nation's most dangerous and hazardous jobs with heart attacks, high physical stress levels, and sprains and strains all too common. In the past five years, the fire and emergency services have focused their attention on overcoming these issues by working to change their culture.

In 2008, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), in partnership with the U. S. Fire Administration (USFA), completed a study of emerging occupational health and safety issues in the volunteer fire and emergency services. The report, *Emerging Health and Safety Issues in the Volunteer Fire Services*, provides information on initiatives, programs, and strategies for reducing fatalities among volunteer firefighters and emphasizes the importance of a structured personal health and fitness program.

"Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services—FA-267/October 2008", provides the rationale and suggestions for successfully implementing a health and wellness program in the volunteer fire and emergency services. It also addresses many common roadblocks. The chapters are divided to help volunteer departments develop a program from the ground up. A copy of FA-267 may be downloaded from:

www.nvfc.org/files/documents/HealthWellness_guide.pdf



Future Meetings:

- January 14, 2009, Wednesday—8:30 a.m.
Local EMA Director's Meeting
CEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- January 20, 2009, Tuesday—6:30 p.m.
Cumberland County ARES Meeting
CEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- January 27, 2009, Tuesday—6:00 p.m.
Cumberland County CART Team CCE-
MA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- February 4, 2009, Wednesday—1:00 p.m.
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
CEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine

State-wide Mutual Aid Agreement

November 25, 2008

MEMA Director Rob McAleer announces the availability of the Maine First Responders State-wide Mutual Aid Agreement.

The purpose of the State-wide Mutual Aid Agreement (hereafter known as the Agreement) is to provide local first responders with easy access to large quantities of resources or specialties that may be needed in a major fire, disaster or other major emergency or event. The Agreement is based on a series of observed occurrences and shared experiences during recent disasters and major emergencies in the State of Maine. It is also an evolution of our past experiences in dealing with the day-to-day incidents that continually challenge our resources and competencies. Most importantly, it is a practical approach to provide emergency service resources in quantities or specialties beyond the means of any single department.

The Agreement is not intended to replace or supersede any existing local mutual aid agreements or memorandum of understanding. It is designed to provide a mechanism to coordinate mutual aid around the State in response to events that go beyond the capacity of local agreements.

As it is currently written, any municipality that wants to be part of this Agreement will need to adopt and pass a local ordinance, and without this, they are not part of the Agreement. The Agreement has been provided to the Fire Commission for consideration of sponsoring legislation that would automatically include all municipalities, unless that jurisdiction formally opted out.

The State-wide Mutual Aid Agreement Working Group developed the Agreement to provide for the systematic mobilization, deployment, organization, and management of emergency service resources to assist local agencies responding to major incidents or emergencies.

The Agreement provides for the rapid activation and response of aid to a community in the event of localized or widespread disasters. These events can include a major fire, train derailments, hazardous materials incidents, wild land fires, domestic terrorism and other events that may overwhelm the local agencies serving the community and its normal mutual aid resources.

The Agreement will serve as the mechanism to commit local fire, EMS, law enforcement, public works and other resources as well as State resources, such as Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), Conservation and State Police, to emergencies as required.

The Agreement can be found and downloaded on the MEMA website at: www.maine.gov/mema

Training Announcements (preparedness through education)

- **CPR, AED & First Aid Classes—On-going**
American Red Cross of Southern Maine
(207) 874-1192 ext 294, or www.maineredcross.org
- **Interoperable Communications and ConOps Training**
Maine Emergency Management Online Training Center
www.jpmaeweb.com (agency registration required)
- January 13—14, 2009, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
(G230) Principles of Emergency Management
Location: Augusta, Maine—MEMA Classroom
Contact: Mike Grant—State Training Coordinator
(207) 624-4460 Submit FEMA 75-5 training application
Target Audience: State, County and municipal emergency management staff only.
- January 17, 2009, 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Course
Location: Lincoln County EMA—Wiscasset, Maine
Contact: Kimberley L. Kaiser, Deputy Director—Lincoln County EMA
(207) 882-7559 or kim902@co.lincoln.me.us
- January 27—28, 2009, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
(G235) Emergency Planning
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 directors and their deputies only.
- January 29, February 5, February 12, 2009—6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
ICS 400—Advanced Incident Command (total 12 hrs)
Location: Lincoln County Communications Center in Wiscasset
Contact: Kimberley L. Kaiser, Deputy Director—Lincoln County EMA
(207) 882-7559 or kim902@co.lincoln.me.us
- January 31, 2009
Advanced Fire Training Specialists 2009 Winter Seminar
Location: Biddeford Middle School Auditorium
Information / Download Registration Form at:
www.aftslc.com or email: afts.llc@gmail.com
Pre-registration: \$75.00 (by: January 16, 2009)
At the door, day of seminar: \$100.00
- 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—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

FY 2009 NIMS Compliance

The chart below represents NIMS Compliance objectives for implementation within FY09 (October 1, 2008—September 30, 2009), and as indicated, these 12 objectives do not necessarily represent the FY09 program in its entirety. As a reminder, in order to be eligible for Homeland Security Grants, and in consideration of other funding programs, communities must be 100 percent NIMS Compliant as reflected within their NIMSCAST

account. Within each subsequent fiscal year, these accounts must be updated to reflect overall progress and implementation of NIMS. For more information, guidance or if you have lost or forgotten your NIMSCAST account log-in information and/or password, contact:

David Brion Feeney—Cumberland County EMA
(207) 892-6785 feeney@cumberlandcounty.org



FY 2008 NIMS Compliance Objectives and Metrics For States and Territories

FY 2009 Projected NIMS Compliance Objectives

The chart below outlines, by NIMS component, the 12 projected NIMS Compliance Objectives for FY 2009. These objectives do not represent the FY 2009 NIMS compliance program in its entirety.

Projected FY 2009 NIMS Compliance Objectives	State/ Territory	Tribal Nation	Local Govts.
Preparedness: Training			
1. Complete <i>ICS-400 Advanced ICS</i> training or equivalent by appropriate personnel (as identified in the Five-Year NIMS Training Plan, February 2008).	✓	✓	✓
2. Complete Emergency Management Framework Course—Awareness Training (as identified in the Five-Year NIMS Training Plan, February 2008)	✓	✓	✓
Preparedness: Planning			
3. Include preparedness organizations and elected and appointed officials in the development of emergency operations plans (EOPs).	✓	✓	✓
4. Plan for special needs populations in the development of EOPs (to include, but not limited to, individuals with limited English language proficiency; individuals with disabilities; children; the aged, etc.).	✓	✓	✓
Preparedness: Exercise			
5. Include NGOs and the private sector in an all-hazards exercise program, when appropriate.	✓	✓	✓
6. Promote the integration of Incident Command, Multiagency Coordination System, and Public Information into appropriate exercises and evaluate against associated target capabilities (refer to HSEEP Volume III and the Exercise Evaluation Guides).	✓	✓	✓
Communications & Information Management			
7. Institute procedures and protocols for operational and information security during an incident/planned event.	✓	✓	✓
8. Institute multidisciplinary and/or multi-jurisdictional procedures and protocols for standardization of data collection and analysis to utilize or share information during an incident/planned event.	✓	✓	✓
9. Develop procedures and protocols for communications (to include voice, data, access to geospatial information, Internet/Web use, and data encryption), where applicable, to utilize or share information during an incident/planned event.	✓	✓	✓
Resource Management			
10. Institute policies, plans, procedures and protocols to prevent spontaneous deployment of resources/personnel and/or responding to a request that bypassed official resource coordination processes (i.e., resources requested through improper channels).	✓	✓	✓
11. Institute mechanisms to deploy, track, recover, demobilize, and to provide reimbursement for resources utilized during response and recovery.	✓	✓	✓
Command and Management			
12. Utilize access control measures during an incident, as appropriate	✓	✓	✓

Monthly Communications Test

January 15, 2009, at 1330 hours.

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



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.shtml

Domestic Preparedness Support
Lessons Learned Information Sharing System
www.liis.gov
Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
<http://hseep.dhs.gov>

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

Stuff to Know

Why does it actually get warmer when it snows?

Snowing does not cause the warmth, the relative warmth causes the snow.



During very cold weather the capacity of the air to contain moisture is greatly reduced. What water vapor remains is deposited as frost. At the same time, evaporation is reduced and therefore air humidity remains low. In these conditions snow cannot form.

Warmer air can hold more moisture before saturation point is reached and the water vapor begins to condense out. So when warmer air moves into cooler areas, not only do we feel the increase in temperature, but the excess vapor precipitates as snow.

The bubbles in coffee can tell you what the day's weather will be. Stare at your coffee before adding milk. If the bubbles float toward the rim of the cup, the pressure is low and clouds and stormy weather can be expected. If the bubbles float to the center, the pressure is high and fair weather can be expected.

Governor Baldacci Announces Loan Assistance

(continued from Cover Story)

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) will work with MEMA and towns to identify eligible projects.

At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 23 at York County Community College, providers from DECD, FAME, the Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Centers, USDA and others gathered to provide an overview of assistance available to affected businesses. The group will also be available with agency personnel to begin guidance through the application process. The session was broadcasted to satellite locations at Southern Maine Community College and the Kittery Fire Department. This will be the first of a series of sessions to be held in York County and the other affected counties.

"I appreciate the quick response of agencies at all levels of government, both during the initial disaster response and now as we enter the recovery phase of the event," the Governor said.

For more information about the Finance Authority of Maine, visit <http://www.famemaine.com>

For more information about the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, visit <http://www.mainebiz.com>

Fiscal Year 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program

The Homeland Security Grant Review Committee met on, Thursday, December 4, 2008, to review each of the twenty-one (21) DHS grant applications forwarded to Cumberland County EMA, totally \$2.14 million. The mission of the committee in reviewing the applications is to ensure that the applicant is NIMS Compliant, the applications are complete and are consistent with the State of Maine Homeland Security Strategy (SHSS) objectives. Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) received all grant applications through each of the 16 county EMA offices. The State Grant Review Committee met on, Thursday and Friday, December 11-12, 2008, to review and prioritize all grants for consideration of funding from the \$2.286 million available.

Last year, MEMA completed and filed a State preparedness Report for 2007 and the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) with the Department of Homeland Security, and several gap analysis and capabilities review to FEMA Region One and headquarters.

These reviews and strategy documents, along with consultation with County EMA Directors, has enabled MEMA to determine the following major categories of eligibility for FY2008 HSGP applications.

To the extent possible, MEMA encourages applicants to address *regional issues* and work with neighboring communities to maximize impacts of grant funding. Because of the limited funding available for the FY2008 grant round, MEMA is focusing applications to seven main areas, reflecting priorities outline in various reviews and relative to the Maine Legislature's Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) recommendations addressing the State's emergency needs for improving Maine's preparedness and response capabilities.

- All Hazards Emergency Planning, including, but not limited to: County and Local EOPs, school emergency plans, disaster recovery plans, shelter management plans, hurricane, evacuation, continuity of operations and debris management plans.
- NIMS Compliancy Measures.
- Public Education and Awareness.
- School District Emergency Planning and Training.
- Training and Exercising.
- Interoperable Communications.
- Shelter and Recovery

In order to be eligible for consideration of grant funding,

applicants must be NIMS Compliant at the time of application, and all applications must have been submitted to County EMA Offices by close of business on, Friday, November 21, 2008. For those projects that receive approval and grant funding, all grant funds must be expended by, August 31, 2011.

Applicants will be contacted directly by MEMA on successful award of full or partial funding, or rejection of applications.



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