

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume III, Issue VII

July 2009

County of Cumberland

Emergency
Management
Agency

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Directory:

Maine Receives \$6.5 Million in Funding.....	Cover Story
CQ Field Day.....	2
Maine Legislative Updates	3
Future Meetings	3
Hazard Mitigation Program....	4
Bunker Laughs	4
Practice the "Three C's"	4
Hurricane Season 2009.....	5
MEMA Hosts EOC TTX.....	5
HSEEP Training.....	6
Special Needs Planning.....	6
State IEMC Course	7
Training Announcements	7
FEMA to Stay in DHS	8
2009 Exercise Schedule	8
WHO—Phase 6	9
Important Links	9
Community Events.....	10
Communications Test.....	10
CCEMA Staff	10

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

Maine Receives \$6.5 Million in Homeland Security Funds

June 16, 2009
DVEM/MEMA—Augusta

Governor John E. Baldacci today announced that the State of Maine will receive \$6,524,500 in State Homeland Security Grant Program funds. The funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) support regional emergency planning, training and exercise programs, as well as maintenance costs for regional response teams and equipment. A portion of these funds is typically made available to communities under a competitive grant program.

"Maine has a great track record of spending homeland security funds wisely," Governor John Baldacci said. "We have set priorities based on our risk, including our long coastline and international border. We have established robust regional response capability, trained hundreds of first responders to national standards and are in the process of modernizing and hardening our public safety communications systems. Maine has been a leader in the effective use of these funds, and we're pleased that the federal support will continue."

This year's allocation to Maine is a six percent increase from last year's grant. The increase is in part due to a restructuring of the formula in state grants.

The Citizen Corps program, which supports volunteer community response teams, will receive \$146,931, equivalent to last year. The Metropolitan Medical Response System, in which Maine participates in a joint program with New Hampshire and Vermont, also received continuing funding.

FEMA previously announced continuing funding for a program which reimburses law enforcement agencies for their support to the U.S. Border Patrol, and a program for detailed security planning around high-risk sites. Maine also receives an annual FEMA Emergency Management grant which provides matching funds to state, county and local emergency management agencies.

The Homeland Security Grant Program is administered by the Maine Emergency Management Agency. Grants are expected to be formally awarded to the State in the next 60 days. The State then has 45 days to allocate the funds.

Emergency Management

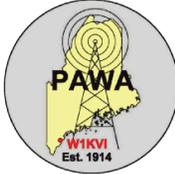
Emergency Management is the assessment, analysis, planning, and assignment of available resources to prevent, prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of all types of hazards or emergencies.

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.

CQ Field Day

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) from across the nation conducted their annual Field Day exercise last weekend to demonstrate and validate their capabilities to organize and quickly establish emergency radio communications in event of a local or national disaster.

The Portland Amateur Wireless Association (PAWA) - Maine's oldest amateur (Ham) radio club, participated in Field Day by setting up operations at Fort Williams, Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and site of the historic Portland Head Light.



Despite the inclement weather conditions of cool temperatures with periods of light to heavy rain and the near relentless presence of dense fog that kept the grounds, air and all participants damp, Field Day activities at Portland Headlight continued throughout the 24-hour operational period.

PAWA membership and volunteers set up the Cumberland County ARES Communications Trailer and the club's portable crank-up tower, which elevated the 3-element directional antenna to 45 feet for use on the 14, 21 and 28 megahertz frequencies, and the tower also served to support the wire dipole antenna for transmitting on the 7 and 3.5 mHz frequencies. The group transmitted using the club's call sign of W1KVI and operated in the classification of 2-Alpha, the designation of operating 2 transceivers powered by 12-volt automobile batteries to demonstrate the capability and sustainability of providing emergency communications without the availability of electrical utility power.

At Fort Williams Park, up to 45 amateur radio operators participated by setting up the equipment on Saturday morning and take-down after the event ended at 1800 Zulu time on Sunday. Operators made contacts across the country with other ARES groups and individuals, as well as with participating DX (Foreign) Stations by exchanging their station call sign, operating class designator, and section/State. (W1KVI, 2A, Maine).

In the words of, PAWA Club President, Bryce Rumery—K1GAX, "I'd like to say, in my opinion, we had a very successful Field Day in 2009".

It was noted on the PAWA website summarizing the 2009 Field Day event, that in addition to a good participation from the PAWA membership and ham volunteers, that many spectators to Fort Williams Park throughout the weekend stopped by the site to ask questions, give encouragement and pick up ham radio brochures. In addition, James Budway—Director, Eric Sawyer—Planner,

with Cumberland County EMA, and Jim Rowe, Chairman of the Cape Elizabeth Town Council, stopped by to offer their support. Ann Kim, staffer writer and Jill Brady, staff photographer for the Portland Press Herald, visited the site on Sunday and gave media coverage with their fine article on page 2 of the Monday, Portland Press Herald.

PAWA meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Steward Morrill American Legion Post # 35 in South Portland and the Cumberland County ARES meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Cumberland County EMA. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in radio communications.

For more information on Field Day and Amateur Radio; please visit the PAWA website: www.pawa-maine.org or the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) website at www.arrl.org. For more information about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, please visit the Maine ARES web site: www.maineares.org.



PAWA Portable Tower



**Cumberland County ARES Communications Trailer
Fort Williams—Cape Elizabeth**

Maine Legislative Updates in Brief

§ 784-B. Maine First Responders State-wide Mutual Aid Agreement

All political subdivisions within the State are covered by the Maine First Responders State-wide Mutual Aid Agreement, dated November 2008. A Political Subdivision may withdraw from the agreement by enacting a local ordinance that withdraws from the agreement.

A local First Responder Agency may provide emergency management, fire, law enforcement, emergency medical, public works and other emergency services as necessary upon the request of any political subdivision within the State in accordance with the agreement. Additional preexisting contracts or agreements with the jurisdiction requesting the services are not required.

This legislation is in effect, as it was approved by an Emergency Clause and signed by Governor Baldacci.

§ 910. An Act to Ensure Continued Access to Emergency Information in the State by Allowing Governments to Build Federally Licensed Television Translators.

A county, or municipality, may receive federal grants or contributions for the construction and operation of a broadcast television translator station as decided in 47CFR, Section 74.732 (2008). Two or more counties (§ 910) or two or more municipalities (§ 3109) may act jointly in performing the operations authorized by this section.

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Emergency Management (as repealed and replaced by PL2001, PL2003, PL2005, PL1989, PL1993, et al).

§741, as amended, replaces reference to the Interstate Civil Defense and Disaster Compact, chapter 15, to The Emergency Management Assistance Compact, chapter 16 or with the IEMAC, Chapter 16-A.

Changes the language and references to reporting Forms to Reports, as electronic reporting is required in lieu of paper forms (§797, §799, §805, §806).

In addition, the use of funds §745 (SERC) must be the first source used when section 742 or 744 is invoked. The fund may be used for any of the following at the discretion of the Governor or Governor's designee:

- A. To provide disaster relief to individuals and families when a federal disaster declaration is not received;
- B. To provide disaster relief to local governmental units of the State for infrastructure repair and response when a federal disaster declaration is not received;
- C. Emergency response costs for state agencies;

- D. To provide low-interest loans to businesses for disaster relief when a federal disaster declaration is not received;
- E. Disaster-related unmet needs of individuals and families following a federally declared disaster;
- F. Matching funds for assistance to individuals in a federally declared disaster; and
- G. Matching funds for assistance to state and local governmental units in a federally declared disaster.

LD 117 / HP 816: An Act to Establish the Maine Emergency Services Institute.

Summary: This bill establishes the Maine Emergency Services Institute to provide core and specialized training to first responders in multiple areas related to fire safety, public safety and emergency management. The Board of Directors of the Maine Emergency Services Institute is charged with developing a plan for the physical establishment of institute facilities by, December 31, 2014, developing a funding plan including applications for federal funds and developing training programs. The institute is partially funded from the E-911 surcharge and the redirection of funding that currently goes to the Maine Fire Training and Education Program. (Bill carried over to the Next Legislative Session).

For complete and official copies of these legislative updates, go to www.mainelegislature.org

Future Meetings:

- **July 8, 2009, Wednesday—8:30 a.m.**
Local EMA Director's Meeting
CEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **July 15, 2009, 12:30—3:30 p.m.**
Planning Meeting—24 hour EOC Functional Exercise
MEMA Classroom, Augusta - Jeremy Damren
- **July 21, 2009, Tuesday— 6:30 p.m.**
Cumberland County ARES Meeting
CEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **July 30, 2009, Thursday—1:00 p.m.**
Tri-County Wild Land Fire Planning Meeting
CEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **August 19, 2009, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.**
EOC Tabletop After Action Report Conference
MEMA Classroom, Augusta - Jeremy Damren
- **September 24, 2009, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.**
Final Planning meeting—24 hour EOC Functional
MEMA Classroom, Augusta—Jeremy Damren

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

HMGP Guiding Documents

For disasters declared on or after, June 1, 2009, please refer to FY2010 Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Unified Guidance, found at:

www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3649

For disasters declared prior to, June 1, 2009, please refer to the HMGP Desk Reference below:

HMGP Desk Reference—

www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1472

HMGP Brochure (FEMA L-139)

HMGP Fact Sheet.

Other Resources are available from the FEMA Library
www.fema.gov/library

Bunker Laughs



Practice the “Three C’s

June 1, 2009—Maine CDC

The Department of Health and Human Services’ Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) reminds Mainers that while it is important for our overall health to enjoy the outdoors, it is also important to take some simple precautions that will reduce one’s chances of tick and mosquito bites in order to prevent Lyme Disease, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and West Nile Virus.

“Lyme Disease, a bacterial infection, that is transmitted through tick bites, is on the rise in Maine, and two-thirds of infections are contracted in June through September. EEE is a virus that is transmitted by mosquito bites, and there is evidence of its increasing presence, especially in southern Maine. West Nile Virus is also mosquito-borne infection that has been detected in Maine among some mosquitoes and birds. Since mosquito and tick season has arrived, now is time to take precautions,” said Dora Anne Milles, MD, Director of the Maine CDC.

“Clean Up, Cover Up, and Check Daily” is our mantra,” explained Dr. Mills.

- Clean Up unnecessary standing water, rain gutters, leaf litter, brush, and logs in order to reduce tick and mosquito habitats around the yard;
- Cover Up with a long-sleeve shirt and pants, and/or appropriately use DEET-containing insect repellent or other EPA-registered repellent to reduce the chances of being bitten by ticks and mosquitoes; and,
- Check Daily your skin and your children’s skin for ticks after being outside.

“Over the past several years, we have seen a large increase in the number of Mainers who have reported Lyme Disease—from less than 200 per year 15 years ago, to almost 900 in 2008, and including a 100% increase since 2006,” explained Dr. Mills. “Although reports have been received from every county in Maine, the southern, mid-coast, Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties account for over 90% of the reports. Lyme Disease is most commonly seen among school-aged children and middle age adults.”

The most important point is that Lyme Disease is preventable. Since it is carried by deer ticks, effective prevention measures including reducing the chances of getting bitten and check skin for ticks, since the infection will not be transmitted if ticks are removed within 24 to 36 hours, “further explained Dr. Mills.

The most common early symptom of Lyme Disease is an

(Continued on Page 8—Maine CDC)

Hurricane Season Has Begun

Take Time To Focus On Personal Emergency Preparedness

Release Date: June 1, 2009
Release Number: HQ-09-058b

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- As Hurricane Season 2009 begins [June 1, 2009], the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to work with our state, local, and federal partners to increase preparedness and coordinate response and recovery in the case of a hurricane or disaster. FEMA also urges Americans to use the annual start of hurricane season as a reminder to assess your personal readiness to respond to emergencies.

"If you live a hurricane prone area, ensuring your family is prepared is common sense," said Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator. "We never know where the next hurricane or disaster will strike, but we know that the more we do now to prepare, the better the outcome will be. FEMA will continue to work with our state, local, and federal partners to ensure that we are prepared, but it is also important that all Americans take the necessary steps now- like developing a family disaster plan - before a hurricane or disaster strikes."

Everyone, even, those living outside of hurricane-risk areas, should check personal preparations such as emergency kit supplies (enough to last at least 72 hours), note messages from local emergency officials, and rehearse emergency evacuation routes.

Important items to have ready in case of an emergency include a battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, medicines, non-perishable food, hand-operated can opener, utility knife, and first aid supplies. Copy and store your important documents in a waterproof bag. These may include medical records, contracts, property deeds, leases, banking records, insurance records and birth certificates.

This is the time to consider potential needs of everyone in the household during an emergency.

If your household includes a person with a disability, special steps to assist them may be necessary and should be considered now.

Pets also require special handling. They may become agitated during the onset of a storm, so a pet carrier is a must for safe travel. Pet owners should research pet boarding facilities now within a certain radius of where you

may evacuate, since animals may not be welcome in all shelters or hotels.

The beginning of hurricane season is also a good time to purchase a flood insurance policy. Not only are homes and businesses in hurricane-prone states at risk for flood, but inland flooding is common in nearby states. To assess flood risk for your home or find a local agent selling national flood insurance, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call toll-free at 1-888-379-9531.

For more preparedness information, please visit www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov.

MEMA Hosts Statewide EOC Table Top Exercise

On June 25, 2009, a tabletop exercise took place at the Elks Lodge in Augusta. The exercise was designed by several critical agencies who would be involved in the event of a mass power outage due to a severe ice event and solar storms. The design of this exercise was funded by a regional support grant through FEMA and Department of Homeland Security. The financial support for the exercise will be paid under the Public Safety Interoperability grant. The exercise created ideas on changes that need to take place in agency plans and prepared agencies for a functional exercise in October, 2009. Several photos have been uploaded to MEMA's page on Facebook.

Several lessons learned were brought forward from this exercise. Some include the difficulties in sheltering with loss of power, the difficulties in communications with limited telecommunications, and the use of common day supplies during an extended power outage.

For more information on exercising your plan, contact your County Emergency Management Agency or Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Contact: Jeremy Damren—MEMA (207) 624-4410

MEMA photos below—(MEMA Facebook)



HSEEP Training

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training Course incorporates exercise guidance and best practices from the HSEEP Volumes. Throughout the course, participants will learn about topics including exercise program management, design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning. The HSEEP Training is an interactive course that allows participants to share personal lessons learned and best practices while gaining practical experience. In addition to the instructor-led presentations, the course includes small group activities, videos, and group discussions. Included are overviews of HSEEP-related initiatives, such as the technology (e.g., the HSEEP Toolkit) and capabilities-based planning (e.g., Target Capabilities List (TCL)). This blended approach will give participants hands-on experience that readily translates to real-world exercise skills.

Activities include creating exercise documentation, conducting exercise planning conferences and briefings, and practicing exercise evaluation. The course is developed by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) using input from Federal partners, subject matter experts (SME) and State and local representatives.

The purpose of HSEEP is to build self-sustaining exercise programs and provide a standardized methodology for designing, developing, conducting, and evaluating all exercises. This training course is an expansion of the Volume II Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Training Course and includes more details on exercise program management, planning, and conduct, as well as evaluation and improvement planning.

Target Audience: Individuals involved in exercise programs and/or exercise design, development, conduct, control, evaluation, and improvement planning are encouraged to attend.

Participants Preparation: Participants will need a basic knowledge of exercise design and HSEEP terminology. Therefore, participants are **required** to complete the Independent Study IS-120.A, *An Introduction to Exercises*, before attending the HSEEP Training. Please bring your IS-120.A Certificate of Completion with you to the HSEEP course.

It is also recommended, participants complete the following IS Courses:

IS-130, Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning
 IS-139, Exercise Design
 IS-700, NIMS, An Introduction
 IS-800.B, National Response Framework, An Introduction

Date: July 30—31, 2009 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. daily

Location: The HSEEP course will be held at the Eastern Maine Health Care System Cianchette Building in the Conference Room. It is located at 43 Whiting Hill, Brewer, Maine. Lunch will be provided.

Registration: Complete FEMA Form 75-5 and fax or email to: Jeremy Damren, State Exercise Coordinator—

Fax: (207) 387-3178

Email: Jeremy.damren@maine.gov

FMI: www.maine.gov/mema (Training Tab).

HSEEP may be found at: www.HSEEP.gov

Special Needs Require Special Preparation

Release Date: May 28, 2009

Release Number: FNF-09-018

Do you or a family member have a disability? Will you be responsible for the care of an elderly adult in case of an emergency or disaster? Do you have small children that will need extra supplies and care in the event of a disaster? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then you should consider now what extra steps to take in your disaster plan.

Residents should be mindful that disaster preparedness is not a "one size fits all" concept. Those with special needs require special preparations.

General considerations for those with family members with disabilities:

- Make prior arrangements with your physician or check with your oxygen supplier about emergency plans for those on respirators or other electric-powered medical equipment. Be sure to have electrical back up for any medical equipment.
- Maintain a two week supply of such items as dressings, nasal cannulas and suction catheters.
- Maintain a two week supply of medications, both prescription and non-prescription.
- Keep copies of your medical records.
- Keep copies of prescriptions for medical equipment, supplies and medications.
- Keep extra contact lenses and supplies, extra eyeglasses and extra batteries for hearing aids.

(continued on Page 7—Special Needs)

Special Needs—continued

- Make plans now to have accessible transportation in case of evacuation.
- Shelters may be limited in accommodations to meet some of the needs of those with disabilities. Prepare ahead of time to ensure that you will have what you need.

Considerations for those with small children:

- Assemble extra items in your disaster supply kit such as diapers, baby formula, medications, favorite books, crayons and paper, puzzles, favorite toys, a favorite blanket or pillow, pictures of family and pets and any other items that will comfort your children.
- Remember that children's fears often can stem from their imagination - fears they may be separated from family, someone will be injured or killed, or that they will be left alone. Communication is very important in maintaining your children's mental well-being in times of crisis.
- Also, keep a copy of your children's immunization records, including the date of their last tetanus-diphtheria shot.

Considerations for those who are responsible for the care of senior citizens: Remember to help seniors who live alone. They may need help evacuating from their home, preparing for a storm and dealing with the aftermath of a disaster.

- If an older adult lives in an assisted living facility or nursing home, you should contact the administrator to learn about the disaster plan for that facility.
- Hearing Impaired - make special arrangements to receive warnings.
- Mobility Impaired - plan for special assistance to get to a shelter.
- Single Working Parent - may need help to plan for disasters or emergencies.
- Non-English Speaking - may need assistance planning for and responding to emergencies.
- People without vehicles - make arrangements for accessible transportation.
- Special Dietary Needs - take steps to ensure you maintain an adequate emergency food supply.

Additionally, people with special needs should create a network of neighbors, relatives, friends and coworkers to aid them in an emergency. Discuss needs and make sure everyone knows how to operate necessary equipment.

More information regarding disaster plans and planning for special needs can be found at www.ready.gov and www.fema.gov

State Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC)

The goal of the NRF IEMC is to provide the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for State-level emergency management professionals to effectively conduct all-hazards emergency response. Overall goals include enabling participants to better: coordinate response operations with counterparts from local governments, other State governments, Federal agencies, private sector organizations, and nongovernmental agencies; make critical decisions based on an accurate common operating picture; operate in a dynamic emergency operations center (EOC) environment; manage resources; participate in short-term recovery operations.

This course and exercise is open to all State Emergency Response Team members and their alternatives. Date of IEMC training is: September 15-17, 2009, and being held at MEMA.

For more information, contact:

Jeremy Damren—MEMA, (207) 624-4400

Training Announcements

- July 15, 2009, 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. - Part A
July 18, 2009, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. - Part B
ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System
Location: Oxford Fire Department—July 15, 2009
Location: Paris Fire Department—July 18, 2009
Contact: Allyson (207) 743-6336 or oxctyema@megalink.net
Oxford County Emergency Management Agency
Must attend both days for credit, and have completed ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 300.
- July 22, 2009, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. (Wednesday)
Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT Module 8 of 9)
Location: Cumberland County EMA (207) 892-6785
Contact: David B. Feeney feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- July 25, 2009, 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (Saturday)
Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT Module 9 of 9)
Location: Cumberland County EMA (207) 892-6785
Contact: David B. Feeney feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- July 30—31, 2009, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program
Location: Eastern Maine Health Care System - Brewer, ME
FYI: www.maine.gov/mema—training
Contact: Jeremy Damren—MEMA (207) 624-4410
See Related Article—HSEEP Page 5
- September 15—17, 2009, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
State Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC)
Location: MEMA—Augusta, Maine
Contact: Jeremy Damren—(207) 624-4499

Maine CDC

(Continued from Page 4)

expanding red rash that occurs at the site of the tick bite within 3-32 days after being bitten. Fever, joint and muscle pains may also occur. Persons with these symptoms should call their doctor. Although a few report ongoing symptoms, the vast majority fully recover after receiving appropriate treatment, such as antibiotics.

EEE was first detected in Maine in 2005 among horses, mosquitoes, and birds in York County. In the fall of 2008 a man spending time in Cumberland County died of EEE. Subsequently, a mosquito pool and a horse in York County were also found to test positive. Therefore, areas of southern Maine are considered to be at risk for contracting EEE virus from mosquitoes.

West Nile Virus has been detected since 2001 in birds across Maine and in several samples of mosquitoes. Since this virus is carried to a geographical area by birds, and is transmitted to humans through infected mosquitoes that have bitten infected birds, the risk of human infection appears to be present even though there are no reports of people contracting the infection yet in Maine.

Symptoms of West Nile Virus and EEE include fever, vomiting, headaches, and occasionally neurological signs such as stroke-like symptoms or coma. Symptoms typically appear several days after the bite of an infected mosquito. People exhibiting these symptoms should call their doctor. Although the vast majority of people with West Nile Virus have mild illness, the case fatality rate for EEE is 35 - 50%.

The simplest prevention measures against EEE and West Nile Virus involve avoiding mosquito bites, especially during their most active times of dusk and dawn; and reducing mosquito populations in and around one's home.

"It is important that we all enjoy the outdoors as much as possible this summer. Adding the three simple steps of cleaning up our yards, covering up with clothes or appropriately with an insect repellent, and checking for ticks, we can also enjoy a summer with reduced chances of contracting these three infections," concluded Dr. Mills.

For More Information: Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH
(207) - 287-3270

Maine CDC website on EEE and West Nile Virus
www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/arbovirus/index.htm

Maine CDC website on Lyme Disease
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/vector-borne/lyme/>

US CDC website on appropriate use of insect repellents
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/ga/insect_repellent.htm

FEMA to Stay in DHS

May 14, 2009

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will remain part of the Homeland Security Department, Secretary Janet Napolitano said Wednesday.

"It is my position, it is the position of the administration, that FEMA should remain in the Department of Homeland Security," Napolitano told the House Homeland Security Committee.

FEMA had been an independent agency before the 2003 creation of DHS, and after its beleaguered response to Hurricane Katrina, some members of Congress had pushed to separate FEMA from DHS's bureaucracy.

Napolitano had shied away from stating her position on the issue at previous congressional hearings, deferring to the president.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee had been a strong proponent of keeping FEMA within DHS to improve interagency response to emergencies.

"Today's FEMA is not the same agency it was in 2005. Rather than splintering apart agencies that work together well now, the president has wisely chosen to allow FEMA to rebuild itself," said Chairman Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn.

Ranking member Susan Collins, R-Maine, also supported Napolitano's pronouncement.

"Keeping FEMA within DHS improves efforts to reform our nation's emergency response system, allows for better coordination among agencies, facilitates partnerships among emergency responders, and ...will allow the department to better focus on preparing for the next emergency," Collins said.

2009 Exercise Schedule

- September 19, 2009
Lake Region School Administrative District TTX
Contact: David B. Feeney—CCEMA
- October 2009 (Proposed)
Wild Fire Tabletop Exercise
Cumberland, York and Oxford Counties
- October 29, 2009 (Thursday)
MEMA EOC Functional Exercise
Contact: Jeremy Damren—MEMA

World Health Organization (WHO) Declaration of Pandemic Phase 6 for Novel NIH1 Influenza.

June 11, 2009—An article extracted from the Maine CDC

What do the WHO phases mean?

The WHO phases are based on geographical spread of a novel influenza virus. As “pandemic” means worldwide epidemic, a WHO Phase 6 means that the virus is spreading across the globe. What the WHO phases do not do is predict the severity of the virus.

Using a hurricane analogy, the WHO phase system simply tells us that a hurricane is imminent, but it does not tell us how big or how strong the storm might be. It is the strength of a hurricane that dictates which pre-landfall actions are needed, such as just boarding up windows versus a full evacuation. While weather forecasters can fly an airplane into the eye of a hurricane to measure a storm’s strength and predict its ultimate severity, there is no such forecasting tool for flu viruses.

Does WHO’s change to Phase 6 mean the virus is more severe?

No. It is important to understand that this change is based on the geographic spread of the virus to other parts of the world and does not necessarily reflect any change in the severity of the virus or associated illness.

So why did WHO move to Phase 6 if the virus severity is unchanged?

The move to Phase 6 is really an alert that the spread of H1N1 virus is now expected to traverse the globe to those nations where the virus has yet to arrive and should expect to eventually see cases and be prepared to respond.

What does the phase change mean for Maine? What will Maine do differently?

Here in the United States, the virus has been spreading steadily from person-to-person since April, and we have seen H1N1 spread in Maine since late April, so today’s announcement by WHO does not really change what we are already doing here at home to respond.

In response to an influenza pandemic, governments, communities, workplaces and individuals will base the intensity of their efforts to reduce spread of the virus on the severity of the disease, as reflected by the number of deaths and hospitalizations from the virus.

The United States and Maine have been responding to the H1N1 flu in a way that balances the health of our residents while minimizing disruption to society. We will continue to provide guidance using the most current scientific data available about the H1N1 influenza.

Regardless of what WHO calls or labels this, we are taking necessary and aggressive measures to protect the health of our residents out of an abundance of caution.



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.shtm

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>

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

Southern Maine Regional Resource Center (SMRRC)

Home: www.smrrc.org

Community Events (Large Gatherings)

- **July 4, 2009**
Eastern Prom Fireworks—Portland
Town of Freeport
4th July Celebration—Fireworks
L.L.Bean 10K Race, Parade and Concert
- **July 8—11, 2009**
Town of Harrison—Old Home Days
- **July 17—19, 2009**
Yarmouth Clam Festival—44th Annual
- **July 23—25, 2009**
Town of Casco—Casco Days
www.info@cascodays.org
- **July 25—26, 2009**
Town of Harpswell
Harpswell Festival—Lobster Boat Races
- **July 31—August 3, 2009**
City of Portland
USS Eagle—U.S. Coast Guard Sailing Vessel
- **August 1, 2009 (Saturday)**
Beach2Beacon 10K Race
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
- **August 9—15, 2009**
Topsham Fair 2009
- **August 9, 2009 (Sunday) 10:00 a.m.**
2nd Annual Tri for a Cure
Maine Cancer Foundation
SMCC Campus
(Expo/Registration 08/08/09)
FMI: www.mainetrioracure.org
- **August 13—16, 2009**
40th Annual Cumberland Arts and Crafts Show
- **August 15, 2009 (Saturday)**
Brunswick Outdoor Arts Festival—Maine Street
- **August 15, 2009 (Saturday)**
Town of Scarborough—Summerfest
- **August 22—23, 2009**
Sidewalk Art Festival—City of Portland
- **September 26, 2009 (Saturday)**
Conquer Chiari Walk Across America



Monthly Communications Test

July 9, 2009, at 1330 hours.

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

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