



NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume III, Issue VI

June 2009

County of Cumberland

Emergency
Management
Agency

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Directory:

Nearly \$10 Million in Aid to Maine	Cover Story
FEMA's New Administrator ...	2
First Annual Conference.....	2
Hurricane Hunter Visits	2
CCEMA Comm Drill	3
Eric Sawyer Graduates	3
MEMA Hosts IEMC	3
2009 Exercise Schedule.....	3
DHS Announces Grants.....	4
Future Meetings.....	4
H1N1 Flu.....	5
Training Announcements	5
Rail Car Response Training...	6
MEMA on Facebook®.....	6
SCIP May Update	7
State Mutual Aid Agreement..	8
Bunker Laughs	8
Important Links	8
Narrow Banding FAQ	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

Nearly \$10 Million in Aid to Maine for Ice Storm Recovery

Release Date: May 12, 2009
Augusta, Maine

Five months after December's ice storm pummeled the region, nearly \$10 million in federal disaster assistance has been obligated to help Maine recovery from the devastating winter storm.

"This was the worst winter storm we've had in more than ten years," said State Coordinating Officer Ginnie Ricker. "This assistance has really helped to lift the financial burden on our cities and towns for completing the cleanup work."

December's historic ice storm affected millions across the region and Maine was declared eligible for federal assistance on, January 9, 2009, paving the way for financial aid to local governments and municipalities in seven counties. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) have been coordinating local recovery efforts in communities across the state.

"We have a strong partnership with the State of Maine," said Nick Russo, FEMA's federal coordinating officer. "This has been a joint effort over the last

four months to deliver all available assistance to local communities as efficiently as possible."

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program provides funding to local communities for the repair, replacement, or restoration of public facilities, as well as cost incurred for disaster cleanup or emergency actions taken to protect lives or property.

The federal share of eligible recovery costs is at least 75 percent, while the remainder is split between the state and local government. The PA Program is only activated following a presidential disaster declaration and provides grant assistance to applicants include state agencies, local governments, and certain non-profit organizations.

FEMA's PA Program may only provide assistance for projects that are located in a disaster-declared area and are the legal responsibility of an eligible applicant. The program cannot provide assistance for projects that are under the jurisdiction of other federal agencies, such as roads and bridges that are a part of the federal highway system or facilities located on federal lands like wildlife refugees and national parks.

Contact: Lynette Miller—MEMA

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.

W. Craig Fugate is Sworn-In as FEMA's New Administrator

May 19, 2009—FEMA

In the Company of family and FEMA employees, W. Craig Fugate was sworn-in as the new FEMA Administrator by DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano on, Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

Prior to coming to FEMA, Administrator Fugate served as Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. In that role since 2001, he coordinated disaster response, recovery, mitigation, and preparedness efforts of the state's 67 counties and local governments.

Following his oath ceremony, Fugate expressed gratitude by saying "it was an honor and a pleasure to be asked to serve." He noted to employees that he looks forward to "doing a lot of great things together." Fugate concluded by saying, "When disaster strikes, we are going to be there as a team to support governors, tribal, state and local officials to meet the needs of survivors."

In the coming weeks, Administrator Fugate will work closely with Secretary Napolitano, FEMA teams as headquarters and in FEMA regions, and with local, state and federal partners to ensure the nation is prepared for this hurricane season.

First Annual Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference is "In the Books"

May 21, 2009

Lessons Learned Captured for the Next Time

It's an essential part of emergency management that every exercise or actual response holds an "After Action Review". What went well, that we should document and continue to do? What could we do better the next time?

So, soon after the lights dimmed on the First Annual Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, that co-chairs Robert Gardner and Dwane Hubert began that critical review process. Gardner and Hubert first brought together the MEMA staff who had played critical roles in putting on the Conference, then conducted a second session with County Emergency Management Directors.

Some positive lessons include:

- Schools track was excellent—do it again

(continued on Page 9—see Emergency Preparedness Conference)

Hurricane Hunter visits Northern New England

On Monday May 4, NOAA's Hurricane Hunter visited Pease Army National Guard Base in Newington, New Hampshire.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations P-3 Hurricane Hunter plane was made available at Pease for tours to the public. About 15 representatives from Emergency Management Agencies, both local and State, attended a VIP briefing and tour of the NOAA P-3.



These flags and icons represent the countries served and the storms surveyed by this aircraft.
Photo by: Beth Barton—MEMA

The briefing was hosted by the Gray NWS's John Jen-senius who introduced the speakers. The event was to raise awareness as New England heads into the 2009 Hurricane Season which starts on June 1st.

Speaking briefly on a variety of topics were:

- Rear Admiral Phil Kenul – NOAA Director of Marine and Aviations Operations Center
- Dan Brown – National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Specialist
- Albert Wheeler – Meteorologist-In-Charge, NWS-Gray and
- Jamie Devlin, Executive Director of the American Red Cross – Great Bay Chapter in New Hampshire.

After the tour the VIPs were escorted out onto the tarmac to tour the P-3 Hurricane Hunter.



Photo by: Eric Sawyer—CEEMA



Photo by: Eric Sawyer—CEEMA



Photo by: Eric Sawyer—CEEMA



Photo by: Eric Sawyer—CEEMA

Cumberland County EMA Monthly Communications Drill

The Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency conducts a monthly Communications Drill involving public safety from each of the communities in Cumberland County, hospitals and other non-governmental organizations (NGO) and support agencies, such as the Red Cross and ARES.

These communications drills are part of our preparedness efforts, and we encourage all of our communities and organizational partners to participate.

The drill consists of conducting a City Watch notification and verification, conducting a radio check, logging onto WebEOC and briefly participating in a conference call.

The date and time of the drill is consistently on the second Thursday of each month and begins at 1330 hours. The next Communications Drill goes 1330 - 1400 on Thursday, 11 June. Please mark that date and time on your calendar and we look forward to hearing from you.

To participate in the monthly communications drill, or for more information; please contact: Eric Sawyer—CCEMA, (207) 892-6785 sawyer@cumberlandcounty.org

Eric N. Sawyer Graduates with Honors

Eric N. Sawyer, Assistant Planner/LEPC for Cumberland County EMA graduated with Honors from Frederick College (www.frederick.edu). Eric attend the commencement ceremony in Frederick, Maryland on, May 21, 2009, where he received his Associates Degree in Applied Science—Emergency Management.



For his internship, Eric worked with the Town of Windham writing and updating their All-hazards Emergency Operations Plan.

The Staff of Cumberland County EMA are proud of Eric for his hard work and dedication to emergency preparedness, and congratulate him.

MEMA Hosts Integrated Emergency Management Course

April 23, 2009

Maine Emergency Management Agency has been selected to host the Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC). This course is designed to test both the State Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Operations Center Plan.

Al Fluman, the Director of this course and his team coordinates this same course across the United States.

The intent is to conduct this course in the State EOC using existing resources, communications, and information technology. All of the emergency response team members (ERT) will benefit from platform instruction given by national experts coupled with reinforcing tabletop and functional exercises.

This course will be designed in coordination with the State of Maine and our plan in an attempt to replicate the realistic challenges that stimulate the State and Federal decision making process and introduce long term solutions to resolve those challenges to benefit a more effective, i.e., integrated and collaborative, response.

The course will run during the week of September 14, 2009.

For more information, contact Jeremy Damren at MEMA.

Contact: Jeremy Damren 207-624-4410
jeremy.damren@maine.gov

2009 Exercise Schedule

- June 4, 2009 (Thursday)
Portland Jetport Tabletop Exercise (JetEx'09)
Contact: Lt. Janine Roberts—Portland P.D.
jrob@portlandmaine.gov
- June 25, 2009 (Thursday)
MEMA EOC Tabletop Exercise
Contact: Jeremy Damren—MEMA
- October 2009 (Proposed)
Wild Fire Tabletop Exercise
Cumberland, York and Oxford Counties
- October 29, 2009 (Thursday)
MEMA EOC Functional Exercise
Contact: Jeremy Damren—MEMA

DHS Announces Final Grant Allocation

April 8, 2009

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency announced final allocation for Fiscal Year 2009 Preparedness Grants for 10 federal grant programs, totaling nearly \$970 million in federal funding to assist state, local and tribal governments and private industry strengthening community preparedness. Awards will be made on a rolling basis over the summer. From 2003 through 2009, more than \$26.7 billion will have been provided to strengthen our nation's ability to prevent, protect, respond and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters or other emergencies.

The City of Portland (Port of Portland/South Portland) was awarded \$ 1,137,543 from the FY2009 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP). The PSGP provides grants to assist ports in enhancing maritime domain awareness, enhancing risk management capabilities to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from attacks involving IEDs, WMD, and other non-conventional weapons, as well as training and exercises and Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) implementation.

Designated to the State of Maine, as follows:

FY2009 BZPP	\$ 200,000
FY2009 IECGP	\$ 242,875
FY2009 DLSGP	\$ 833,717

The Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) provides funding to increase the preparedness capabilities of jurisdictions responsible for the safety and security of communities surrounding high-priority pre-designated critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR).

The FY09 Interoperability Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) funding will improve interoperable emergency communications and enable State and local units of government to implement their Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (PCIP).

Funding of the FY2009 Driver's License Security Grant Program (DLSGP) is to prevent terrorism, reduce fraud, and improve the reliability and accuracy of identification documents that state governments issue. DLSGP funds are intended to assist States in improving the integrity and security of their driver's license and identification card processes, information systems, facilities and personnel identification information capabilities.

In addition to the above, communities and agencies throughout Maine were awarded the following:

Town of Bar Harbor	FY09 PSGP	\$ 473,106
Maine State Police	FY09 PSGP	\$ 168,299
Maine Port Authority	FY09 PSGP	\$ 22,481
City of Rockland	FY09 PSGP	\$ 8,605
Searsport (Sprague)	FY09 PSGP	\$ 24,200
North East Charter/Bus	FY09 IBSGP	\$ 8,497
Waldo County EOC	FY09 EOCGP	\$ 360,000

The DHS Grant program allocations for FY 2009 are:

- Transit Security Grant Program—\$388.6M
 - Freight Rail Security—\$15M
 - Intercity Passenger Rail (Amtrak) \$25M
- Intercity Bus Security—\$11.7M
- Trucking Security Program—\$2.2M
- Port Security Grant Program—\$388.6M
- Buffer Zone Protection Program—\$48.6M
- Emergency Operations Center Grants—\$33M
- Interoperability Emergency Communications—\$48.6M
- Driver's License Security Program—\$48.6M

Further information on preparedness grant programs is available at: www.dhs.gov and www.fema.gov/grants.

Future Meetings:

- **June 3, 2009, Wednesday—1:00 p.m.**
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
CEEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **June 10, 2009, Wednesday—8:30 a.m.**
Local EMA Director's Meeting
CEEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **June 16, 2009, Tuesday— 6:30 p.m.**
Cumberland County ARES Meeting
CEEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **June 24, 2009, Wednesday—6:00 p.m.**
Cumberland County CART Team CCE-
MA, 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
- **August 19, 2009, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.**
EOC Tabletop After Action Report Conference ME-
MA 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
- **December 10, 2009, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.**
After Action Report Conference—EOC Functional
MEMA Classroom, Augusta—Jeremy Damren

H1N1 Flu

May 25, 2009—www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu

Although Maine CDC has identified and conducted case investigations on 10 people with either confirmed or probable H1N1, other nearby states are seeing much more of the infection, resulting in some school closures and hospitalizations. For instance, Massachusetts has over 400 confirmed cases of H1N1, mostly in the Greater Boston area, with 90% of them in people under 40 years of age. There are currently 27 people hospitalized with the infection, and about a dozen schools have closed due to H1N1 in Massachusetts.

New York has also seen several hundred confirmed cases, mostly among young people, and has had several dozen schools closed. New Hampshire has 31 confirmed cases, with all but two under age 50

Novel influenza A (H1N1) is a new flu virus of swine origin that was first detected in April, 2009. The virus is infecting people and is spreading from person-to-person, sparking a growing outbreak of illness in the United States. An increasing number of cases are being reported internationally as well.

It's thought that novel influenza A (H1N1) flu spreads in the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread; mainly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the virus.



It's uncertain at this time how severe this novel H1N1 outbreak will be in terms of illness and deaths compared with other influenza viruses. Because this is a new virus, most people will not have immunity to it, and illness may be more severe and widespread as a result. In addition, currently there is no vaccine to protect against this novel H1N1 virus. CDC anticipates that there will be more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths associated with this new virus in the coming days and weeks.

Novel influenza A (H1N1) activity is now being detected through CDC's routine influenza surveillance systems and reported weekly in FluView. CDC tracks U.S. influenza activity through multiple systems across five categories. The fact that novel H1N1 activity is now detected through seasonal surveillance systems is an indication that there are higher levels of influenza-like illness in the United States than is normal for this time of year. About half of all influenza viruses being detected are novel H1N1 viruses.

Training Announcements

- June 2, 2009
AWR 147: Rail Car Incident Response - South Portland
See Article Page 6) (**Note: Class is Full**)
- June 3, 2009
AWR 147: Rail Car Incident Response - South Portland
See Article Page 6) (**Note: Class is Full**)
- June 4, 2009
AWR 147: Rail Car Incident Response - South Portland
See Article Page 6) (**Note: Class is Full**)
- June 2 - 3, 2009 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (OGT-200)
Advanced Incident Management/Unified Command
Location: Florian Hall—Augusta, Maine (MEMA)
Contact: Mike Grant—MEMA (FEMA 75-5 application)
- June 10, 2009, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. (Wednesday)
Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT Module 4 of 9)
Location: Cumberland County EMA (207) 892-6785
Contact: David B. Feeney feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- June 17, 2009, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. (Wednesday)
Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT Module 5 of 9)
Location: Cumberland County EMA (207) 892-6785
Contact: David B. Feeney feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- June 23—25, 2009, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
COML Unit Leader Type III Training
Location: Holiday Inn—Waterville, Maine
Contact: Mike Grant—MEMA
- June 24—25, 2009, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
ICS 300 Intermediate (**Note: Class is Full**)
Location: North Yarmouth Public Safety Building
Contact: David B. Feeney—CCEMA
(207) 892-6785 feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- June 26, 2009, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
ICS 400 Advanced (**Note: Class is Full**)
Location: North Yarmouth Public Safety Building
Contact: David B. Feeney—CCEMA
(207) 892-6785 feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- June 30, 2009, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. (Tuesday)
Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT Module 6 of 9)
Location: Cumberland County EMA (207) 892-6785
Contact: David B. Feeney feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- July 8, 2009, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. (Wednesday)
Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT Module 7 of 9)
Location: Cumberland County EMA (207) 892-6785
Contact: David B. Feeney feeney@cumberlandcounty.org
- 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

AWR 147: Rail Car Incident Response Training

The State Emergency Response Commission and the University of Findlay are co-sponsoring the Rail Car Incident Response Training.

The Rail Car Incident Response course has been developed to educate emergency responders on freight rail car incidents involving hazardous materials. As more and more rail traffic transports cargo, including hazardous materials, it is critical that emergency responders are well trained. The increase in traffic adds to the already present risk of transportation incidents involving hazardous cargo. In addition, since a majority of the rail traffic travels through rural America, it is important that the often times resource limited rural responder community become educated about the dangers and unique hazards presented with rail cars. The information covered in this course will enhance the ability of emergency responders, especially rural emergency responders, to manage rail car incidents.

The following key elements serve as the basis for the course:

- Recognizing the chemical being transported, which has physical, chemical, and toxicological properties that dictate the transportation requirements and the manner in which the chemical must be considered in an emergency situation;
- Identifying the packaging system, which is reflected in the design and construction of the rail tank car, and the components of the rail car as well as all the information conveyed in the car stenciling;
- Explaining the incident to determine the damage to the car and the potential hazard to people, property, and the environment from the release or reaction of the chemical and to take appropriate protective action;
- Recognizing the appropriate and safest handling method of the chemical in the damaged car to mitigate the situation, whether by transfer, neutralization, venting, flaring, etc., and understanding these options;
- Managing the incident and the many conflicting interests represented by all the potential participants at the incident: and
- Identifying federal, state and private sector resources available to assist in the response.

This course will cover additional information that will include topics such as the effects of Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion (B.L.E.V.E.), the Detect, Estimate, Choose, Identify, Do, and Evaluate (D.E.C.I.D.E.) analysis system, basic rail car design, damage assessment, product transfers, and a glossary of railroad terms.

The Rail Car Incident Response course is a 1-day program

(8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and being offered at the following locations:

May 27, 2009—Waterville Fire Department (**Full**)

May 28, 2009—Waterville Fire Department (**Full**)

June 2, 2009—South Portland Fire Department (**Full**)

June 3, 2009—South Portland Fire Department (**Full**)

June 4, 2009—South Portland Fire Department (**Full**)



As of this writing, all classes are currently full; for more information, go to

www.maine.gov/mema/serc/serc_training_reg.shtml

Contact: Faith Mayer—MEMA (207) 624-4441

Find MEMA on Facebook[®]

Maine Emergency Management Agency has launched a page on Facebook[®], the social networking site, to share photos and quick updates on current activities and events.

The page also automatically broadcast the news posting from MEMA's home site, <http://www.maine.gov/mema>

You don't need an account on Facebook[®] to view all of MEMA's photo albums. If you do have an account, you can become a "fan" of MEMA's page and be informed of new updates as they are posted.

MEMA Exercise Coordinator Jeremy Damren is the principle editor of MEMA's page on Facebook[®]. You can send Jeremy your comments at: jeremy.damren@maine.gov.

Contact: Lynette Miller—MEMA (207) 624-4420



"Find us on Facebook[®]" for training, exercise and event photos and quick updates.

SCIP Monthly Update

May 12, 2009—MEMA

State's Interoperability Vision:

The State of Maine will have a firmly established, formally managed and maintainable communications environment, based on technology, protocols, training and usage, that will provide seamless communications capability to all emergency management, first responder, and response support organizations at the local, regional and State levels, enabling them to exchange information via voice and data means, as required by standard NIMS response procedures, to provide effective, coordinated and timely all hazards response to our citizens.

State Interoperability Communications Coordinator

The Communications Survey results are available in detail from the MEMA Communications website. This is how you rated the Interoperability in your own communities:

Preliminary results of the survey question 1:

Governance:

- Excellent: 12%
- Needs Improvement 12%
- Average: 32%

Your Commentary includes:

- We use RCC for Dispatch—informal coordination between agencies, not a CAD system in house they are 3 ring binders.
- A board comprised of Public Safety and users (not local elected officials) with laws of coordinating policies and procedures and technology would be extremely valuable.
- Lots of mutual aid understandings and agreements, cross memberships in lots of small departments.
- We are working on issues and making progress but it is expensive and slow due to large rural areas.
- Government agencies need to work and communication together for different incidents and issues.
- Seems to be some disinterest of the local municipal level and also some lagging at the County EMA level, especially concerning SOP's.
- Policy for governance needs to be formulated.
- Government has issues between towns, with money and giving up control.
- Overall not bad, but leadership in small communities can change rapidly.

Maine Interoperable Communications Committee (MICC)

The Charter has been finalized and is awaiting approval.

Training and Exercises

Through the Office of Emergency Communications Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (OEC/ICTAP), the All-Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader (COML) Class is available to provide DHS approved National Incident Management system (NIMS) compliant Communications Unit Leader (COML) instruction to ensure that every state/territory has trained personnel capable of coordinating on-scene emergency communications during a multi-jurisdictional response. This Train-the-Trainer class is scheduled for, June 23-25, 2009, in Waterville, to entities with a population of 4000 or more. Five (5) students from each of the six (6) regions will be selected for a total of thirty (30).

Contact MEMA Interoperable Communications Division (207-624-4476) for questions or further information, or go to the MEMA communication website to see the full descriptive and details.

CONOPS

If you haven't received a State of Maine CONOPS Disk, please contact Steven Mallory at (207) 624-4476 or email: steven.mallory@maine.gov

Why are we converting to Narrowbanding?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) established the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC or Advisory Committee), their Final Report concludes that, unless immediate measures are taken to alleviate spectrum shortfalls and promote interoperability, Public Safety agencies will not be able to adequately discharge their obligation to protect life and property in a safe, efficient, and cost effective manner. The radio frequencies allocated for Public Safety use have become highly congested in many, especially urban areas. Usable spectrum for mobile operations is limited, and Public Safety agencies are not able to meet existing requirements, much less to plan for future, more advanced communications needs. Not only does the shortage of spectrum jeopardize the lives and health of Public Safety officials, it threatens their ability to fully discharge their duty to protect the lives and property of all Americans.....

Narrowbanding Compliance Plan:

- One plan for compliance* (Source: <http://www.qualitymobile.com/Part90NBNav.htm>)
- Verify that your company or organization has a current and valid FCC Part 90 radio station license (add NB emission designator)

Continued to Page 8—SCIP Monthly Update

SCIP Monthly Update

(continued from Page 7)

- Conduct a full inventory of all radios in your system
 - Including all portable, mobile, dispatcher-used, wireless data or SCADA (public works telemetry), and on or off-site base or repeater radios (including makes and models and, if possible, serial numbers)
- Determine which equipment can be re-programmed and which must be replaced.
- Secure your budget for services and equipment.
- Develop a “wideband”-to-“narrowband” system conversion plan that addresses:
 - the replacement and installation of any narrow band-capable off-site base or repeater stations.
 - the actual reprogramming of all radios in a system as close to simultaneously as possible.
 - Work closely with a professional two-way radio service vendor.
 - Schedule and coordinate the actual system conversion (or cutover).
 - Make certain that all radio users have been advised in advance and are aware of the process
 - Modify or relicense your FCC Radio Station license to allow the use of “Narrowband Emissions Designators”.
 - Note that the conversion plan must be tailored for each agency

FYI: MEMA has distributed 91 sets of P-25 radios across the State during the months of March-April.

For more information on SCIP or to view the Communications Survey results; go to: www.mema.gov and to the Communications Tab.

Also see: Related Article - Narrowband FAQ Page 9.

Contact: Steven Mallory—MEMA (207) 624-4476

Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

The Maine Legislation recently passed the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and by adding in an emergency clause that when signed last week by the Governor, the Agreement went into effect for the entire state; negating the need for towns to adopt it separately.

Governor Baldacci will be holding a ceremonial signing to draw attention to the measure; however it is in effect as Public Law Chapter 175 and the enabling legislation will become Section 784-B of Title 37-B later this year. The full agreement is posted on the MEMA website under “Spotlight” section (www.maine.gov/mema). Question regarding the content or implementation of the Agreement should be directed to MEMA Director—Robert McAleer

Bunker Laughs



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

Narrow Banding FAQ

Narrow Banding Frequently Asked Questions:

Q - Are we forced to move to 800 MHz?

A - No. Narrowbanding does not require moving to another frequency band.

Q - Will we have to buy new radios?

A - Depends. Most radios purchased in the last 6-8 years are already narrowband capable. They only need to be re-tuned.

Q - Will we need to change frequencies?

A - No. You merely reduce the bandwidth of the channel(s) you are now using.

Q - Will that reduce our coverage?

A - Little if any. You may have to survey your system and area of operation. Only a thorough analysis of your coverage requirements can tell for sure.

Q - Will we have to convert to digital?

A - No. However, many agencies are using this opportunity to upgrade to digital technology. Most digital radios are dual mode capable and can operate in wide band analog as well as narrowband analog and digital. Digital is also more immune from adjacent channel interference along with features unavailable in analog.

Q - We do not have the money to move to narrowband. Isn't this an unfunded mandate?

A - Not really. The dates are extended enough to ensure most agencies have fully amortized the value of their current equipment by the time the mandates kick in.

Q - Will we have to convert our pagers?

A - Maybe, any pagers on channels 152.0075 and 157.400 can remain on 25 khz

Q - Does UHF have any requirements?

A - No, there are no requirements for those on UHF band

Q - After 2013 can we apply for some of the leftover or new channels?

A - It is a myth that there will be hundreds of additional channels

Q - If we are on VHF do we have to apply for a new license?

A - No, VHF requires license modification to existing licenses only

Q - Where can I learn more about Interoperability?

A - Go to: <http://www.safecomprogram.gov>

Contact: Steven Mallory—MEMA 800-452-8735

Emergency Preparedness Conference

Continued from Page 2

- Value was excellent for the small registration fee charged.
- The food was terrific
- Content was varied, and instructors were knowledgeable. Several were cited as outstanding.
- "Case Study" approaches in workshops were particularly well-received.

Suggested improvements include:

- Have longer sessions for each workshop
- Repeat popular workshops so attendees have more than once chance to participate
- Enhance networking opportunities, especially opportunities to engage further with subject matter experts.
- Include one public health, communications and animal response offerings.
- Improve registration efficiency

Many presentations offered in the conference workshops are available online at:

www.maineprepares.com/conference or on MEMA's page on Facebook features photos from the conference.

Hubert and Gardner say they are pleased with the overall positive response to the conference.

They have already started applying the suggestions for improvement to the planning for next year: The Second Annual Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held May 23 and May 24, 2010 at the Augusta Civil Center.

Mark your calendars! And if you have further comments about this year's conference, please contact Dwane Hubert or Robert Gardner.

The First Annual Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference was a joint presentation of the State Emergency Response Commission, the Maine Association of Local Emergency Managers and the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Contact: Dwane Hubert / Robert Gardner—MEMA
800-452-8735 / 207-624-4420

Community Events

(Large Gatherings)

- June 7, 2009 (Sunday)
Old Port Festival (36th Annual)
Portland, Maine For Information: (207) 772-6828
- June 20, 2009 (Saturday)
Windham Summerfest (3rd Annual)
Windham High School
- June 20, 2009 (Saturday)
Maine Blues Festival (4th Annual)
Naples, Maine
Greater Bridgton Lakes Reg. Chamber of Commerce
(207) 647-3472 info@mainelakeschamber.com
- June 21—27, 2009
NWS Lightning Awareness Week
- June 24—27, 2009
Maine Festival of American Music
New Gloucester, Maine (Shaker Village)
- July 17—19, 2009
Yarmouth Clam Festival
- August 1, 2009 (Saturday)
Beach2Beacon 10K
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.mainetriforcure.org
- August 13—16, 2009
40th Annual Cumberland Arts and Crafts Show
- August 15, 2009 (Saturday)
Brunswick Outdoor Arts Festival—Maine Street
- September 26, 2009
Conquer Chiari Walk Across America
- September 27—October 3, 2009
Cumberland Fair—138th Annual
- October 4, 2009—October 11, 2009
Fryeburg Fair
FMI: www.fryeburgfair.com



Monthly Communications Test

June 11, 2009, at 1330 hours.

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

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