

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume III, Issue III

March 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

2008 Homeland Security Grant Award Announced

Release Date: February 9, 2009
AUGUSTA, MAINE --

The Maine Emergency Management Agency announced the award of over \$2 million in 2008 Homeland Security grants to counties and municipalities across the state.

MEMA received over \$5 million worth of requests, with only \$2.86 million available to be awarded under the program. The Homeland Security Grant Review Committee carefully evaluated every application based on the criteria published by MEMA in the FY2008 Grant Application package. Specifically the Review Committee scored projects in accordance with Maine's Homeland Security Objectives

and the State Homeland Security Strategy.

The Grant Review Committee included representatives from local and state law enforcement, county emergency management, fire service, emergency medical service, information technology and communications.

Under the Homeland Security Grant Program, applicants are also required by federal law to provide documentation of compliance with National Incident Management System (NIMS) standards. NIMS sets out specific benchmarks for emergency planning, training and exercise. The following table is the results of awards for Cumberland County totaling \$371,374.53 -

Jurisdiction	Applied	Awarded	Purpose
Baldwin, Town of:	\$ 10,918.66	\$ 10,918.66	Generator, EOC Equipment
Alpha One	\$ 64,955.00	\$ 64,955.00	Planning
Presumpscot Valley RRT	\$ 41,442.50	\$ 41,442.50	HazMat Equipment/Exercise
Long Island, Town of:	\$ 24,997.55	\$ 24,997.55	Emergency Generator
GPCOG	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	Evacuation Planning
Brunswick, Town of:	\$ 43,392.00	\$ 14,180.00	Hazmat Training School Emergency Exercise
Raymond, Town of:	\$ 13,475.00	\$ 6,737.50	Communications
Cumberland County EMA	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 63,000.00	Planning
Chebeague Island, Town of:	\$ 76,662.50	\$ 29,250.00	Emergency Generator
211 Maine	\$ 3,249.92	\$ 3,249.92	EOC Equipment
University of Southern Maine	\$331,047.00	\$ 82,644.00	CAD / Mobile Terminals

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.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Released: January 29, 2009—MEMA

As multiple declared disasters have increased available grant funds, the application period for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) has been extended to, May 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

HMGP grant funds support projects that will reduce further disaster losses. Successful applications will highlight the cost benefit of applying resources to a particular project, in terms of future damages and costs that will be averted. Grant awards have been made in the past for such projects as road reconstruction, culvert replacement, storm water drainage improvements, and buyout or relocation of flood-prone properties.

Technical assistance in developing applications is available to communities in several ways. The application and instruction materials are available on the MEMA website or through email. Many questions can be answered by phone at (800) 452-8735. It is also likely that local workshops will be scheduled to help communities understand and complete the application. Workshops will be listed on the MEMA online calendar. Information on the application process or upcoming workshops is also available from the County Emergency Management Agency.

One-on-one consultations for application assistance can also be arranged. We recommend that these request be made promptly so that consultations can be scheduled well in advance of the May 29th deadline.

MEMA—www.maine.gov/mema

Contact: JoAnn Mooney (800) 452-8735
joann.e.mooney@maine.gov

River Flow Advisory Commission Meeting

Annual Meeting of the River Flow Advisory Commission

The Commission will discuss factors affecting spring flood potential, including current stream flow, snow pack, and weather outlook.

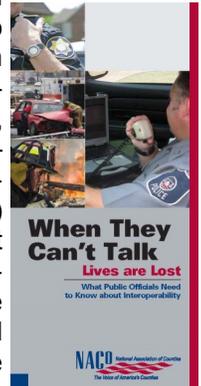
For information on the Commission, visit:
<http://www.maine.gov/rfac>

Date: March 5, 2009
Time: 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Location: MEMA Offices
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Interoperability - What Is It?

Interoperability is the ability of emergency responders to communicate among jurisdictions, disciplines, and levels of government, using a variety of frequency bands, as needed and as authorized. System operability is required for system interoperability. Most people assume that public safety is already interoperable. In too many cases, public safety officials can't even talk to their own agencies.

Equally as critical as interoperability is the need for basic communications within public safety agencies. When the issue of interoperability is raised, officials respond that they are unable to even talk to their own personnel. The first priority must be to provide public safety with mission critical communication systems that provide reliable agency-specific — police, fire, EMS — communications. (Mission-critical communications are those required when life or property is at stake.) As jurisdictions build or upgrade current systems, that priority should be expanded to include the provision of reliable and interoperable local and regional communications, and ultimately reliable and interoperable local, state, and federal communications.



Article from: *When They Can't Talk—Lives are Lost, What Public Officials Need to Know about Interoperability.* (The National Association of Counties) (www.naco.org) or contact: D.B.Feeney at CCEMA for an email attached copy.

2009 Exercise Schedule

- April 8, 2009 (Wednesday)
Point of Distribution (POD) Tabletop Exercise
MEMA/Cumberland County/Sagadahoc County
- June 4, 2009 (tentative)
Portland Jetport Tabletop Exercise (JETEX'09)
Contact: Lt. Janine Roberts—Portland PD
- 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

State Communications Interoperability Program February 2009 Update

MEMA—February 18, 2009

State Interoperability Communications Coordinator

MEMA has completed the interviews for the position, and hopes to have an announcement in March.

Radios

During the latter part of January and first part of February, MEMA received over 130 requests from communities for the additional radio packages consisting of two P-25 handhelds and one mobile radio. MEMA submitted in their Investment Justifications to provide radio equipment to communities that were NIMS compliant and did not receive any other PSIC funds for communications equipment. Through this initiative 115 additional communities will now have appropriate radio technology to enhance interoperability within their region. All County EMA offices have been notified of the recipients.

Maine Interoperable Communications Committee

On, February 3, 2009, The Maine Interoperable Communications Committee (MICC) participated in a day-long workshop, facilitated by the Office of Emergency Communications. The workshop assisted Maine in better understanding of the national best practices for a governance structure. Many MICC members were able to attend and included a great deal of conversations. We anticipate a follow up meeting later in 2009.

Request for Information

In May, Ginnie Ricker will be attending a meeting in New York with other coordinators to discuss Northern Border communications issues. If you have information or issues that would be helpful, please email your comments to ginnie.ricker@maine.gov.

Visor Cards

Have you seen the new visor cards that were created based on the ICS Form 205? If so, MEMA would like your feedback. Any edits needed? Changes to the format? Useful? Other forms that would work well in this format? (May be picked up at CCEMA).

Training

MEMA will be hosting a Training Committee meeting in February to discuss future training opportunities. We (MEMA) are finalizing plans for COML training and SOP development for 2009. We (MEMA) are also looking at other "aids" that might be useful either in training or On-Scene Command.

County Communications Tour

As a follow-up to the March 2008 County Communications tour, MEMA staff will again visit each County EMA office to participate in discussions with local first responders, communications staff, communications boards, etc., to provide updated information regarding Interoperable Communications across the State of Maine. The intent is to provide a clearer picture of what has been accomplished in the last year, statewide initiatives that impact communications, determine what local responders still feel are areas that need to be addressed to enhance operability or interoperability.

Communications meeting with Ginnie Ricker, is scheduled at Cumberland County EMA Office on, Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. For a listing of other county locations and dates, please go to MEMA Homepage at: www.maine.gov/mema and in the NEWS box, click on: 02/18/2009: SCIP Monthly Update—February 2009.

OIT Awards Maine State Communications Network (MSComm/Net) to Tyco M/A-COM, Inc.

On, August 21, 2008, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) for the State of Maine issued a Request for Proposal to "engage a single contractor to design, supply, install, test, and commission a statewide, narrowband digital-voice public safety VHF land mobile radio system, the associated interconnection system and site development/upgrades". The new system will replace the State's current, aged, agency based radio infrastructures with a new, consolidated MSCommNet System that will serve the State's public safety and public service needs and provide for interoperability with our federal and local partners. On, November 20, 2008, the State received proposals from (i) Globecom Systems, Inc., (ii) Tyco Electronics, M/A-COM, Inc., and (iii) Motorola, Inc. These proposals were evaluated by an Evaluation Team with representatives from the Department of Public Safety, the Maine Department of Transportation and the Office of Information Technology, in accordance with the scoring process specified in the RFP.

The proposal submitted by Tyco Electronics, M/A-COM was deemed to be the best proposal based on the scoring/evaluation process and on January 27th announced the contract award, subject to successful negotiation of the contract. If you have any questions, please call Shawn Romanoski at (207) 624-9410 or Rachel Garippa at ((207) 624-9875.

How are you spending your PSIC Grant Money? Send MEMA a story to share.

Future Issues—(MEMA) would like to include specific information on an interoperability issue— do you have areas of interest?

Contact: Ginnie Ricker—MEMA Deputy Director
(207) 624-4471
ginnie.ricker@maine.gov

Maine Flood Insurance

Released: February 10, 2009—Augusta, Maine

A Message from the Maine Floodplain Management Program and the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

If Your Property is Close to Water - Think about Flood Insurance. Maine Residents are urged to purchase flood insurance before spring thaw.

Flooding is always a threat to properties located within a floodplain, but even more so during winter's river ice and spring rains. Many people believe that their homeowner's or business owner's insurance policy will cover any flood related losses but unfortunately, these insurance policies DO NOT cover flood related damages.

In order to receive insurance protection related to flood damage, property owners and renters are urged to purchase flood insurance. For more details on the policies available, contact your insurance agent.

There is a 30-day waiting period, before the policy goes into effect.

March and April are historically when flooding occurs in Maine, but heavy rains can cause flooding any time of the year. If you are worried about potential flooding, don't wait to buy flood insurance. If you don't do it now, you may be left without any flood coverage when you need it most. It is estimated that up to 75% of homes and businesses in floodplains in Maine are NOT covered by flood insurance.

There are 8,944 flood insurance policies in effect in Maine as of the end of January, 2009. Maine's flood insurance policy base averages about 3-4% annual growth. Increases are likely due to increased flood insurance awareness from major flooding events in the news around the country and increased agent and lender training. There is over \$1.7 billion in flood coverage in Maine. The average annual premium is \$775.

As long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can buy flood insurance no matter where you live. *(Note: All 28 communities within Cumberland County participate in the NFIP).*

Additional assistance is available through the Maine Floodplain Management Program at the State Planning Office by calling 287-3261 or 1-800-662-4545 (in state only).

For more information, contact:
Sue Baker, State Floodplain Coordinator:
State Planning Office (207) 287-8063
sue.baker@maine.gov

(see related story: Top 10 Reasons to Buy Flood Insurance Now—Page 5)

Coastal Humane Society

The Coastal Humane Society, is offering Pet Health 2009 Workshop Series. These are free workshops for pet wellness and holistic care. Experts from near and far will demonstrate hands-on animal care techniques that you can use home. This series is designed to provide companion animal owners with basic information on how to recognize common pet ailments and behavior problems at home, the tools to solve these issues and when it's time to visit your vet. Members of the County Animal Response Team (CART) may wish to attend.

For more information or to register, contact CHS at (207) 725-5051. CHS website is:

www.coastalhumanesociety.org

- May 19, 2009, 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. (Free Workshop)
Pet Health—Common Ailments and How to Heal at Home
Location: Fort Andross, 14 Maine Street, Brunswick Maine
To register, please call CHS (207) 725-5051
- September 10, 2009, 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. (Free Workshop)
Pet Health—Body Work: The Healing Power of Touch
Location: Fort Andross, 14 Maine Street, Brunswick Maine
To register, please call CHS (207) 725-5051
- November 19, 2009, 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Pet Health—End of Life Issues (Free Workshop)
Location: Fort Andross, 14 Maine Street, Brunswick Maine

Future Meetings:

- **March 4, 2009, Wednesday—1:00 p.m.**
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **March 5, 2009, Thursday, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.**
River Flow Advisory Commission Meeting
MEMA—Augusta, Maine (see article—Page 2)
Contact: Lynette Miller (207) 624-4420
- **March 6, 2009, Friday, 12:00 p.m.**
ME—N.H. Traffic Incident Management Meeting
York Library
Contact: Tom Reinauer—Southern Maine RPC
- **March 11, 2009, Wednesday—8:30 a.m.**
Local EMA Director's Meeting CCE-
MA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **March 17, 2009, Tuesday—6:30 p.m.**
Cumberland County ARES Meeting
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **March 24, 2009, Tuesday—6:00 p.m.**
Cumberland County CART Team CCE-
MA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine

Top Ten Reasons to Buy Flood Insurance Now

Regular business or homeowner's insurance does not cover flood damage. The only way to get flood insurance is through the federally funded National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). If your community participates in the program, you are eligible—whether or not you live in a high-risk flood zone.

Communities that participate in the NFIP have agreed to follow certain floodplain management regulations that reduce the risk and dangers of floods. That is why residents of participating communities can qualify for flood insurance that compensates owners and renters for all covered flood-related losses to a home or business after the deductible is met.

The Top Ten Reasons to Buy Flood Insurance Now:

1. Spring flooding is almost here and there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.
2. Coverage is relatively inexpensive.
3. If your community participates in the NFIP, you are eligible to get flood insurance even if you are located outside the 100-year flood plain.
4. You can receive payments for flood-related losses for over-land flooding—even if no disaster was declared.
5. You can depend on being reimbursed for flood damages because NFIP flood insurance is backed by the federal government.
6. You do not have to repay flood insurance benefits (as you do with disaster-related assistance loans).
7. Renters can purchase flood insurance contents coverage for personal belongings or business inventory.
8. Basement coverage includes cleanup expense and repair or replacement of items such as furnaces, water heaters, washers, dryers, air conditioners, freezers, utility connections, and pumps.
9. You can request a partial payment immediately after the flood, which can help you recover even faster.
10. Buying flood insurance is the best thing you can do to protect your home and business, and your family's financial security from a flood.

To contact a flood insurance agent serving your area, check out: www.floodsmart.gov

To find out if your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, contact your insurance agent, or go to: <http://www.fema.gov/cis/ME.html>

(Note: All 28 communities within Cumberland County participate in the NFIP).

In a high-risk area, you have a 26% chance of being flooded during a 30-year mortgage, compared to a 9% chance of fire.

Training Announcements “preparedness through education”

- **Interoperable Communications and ConOps Training**
Maine Emergency Management Online Training Center
www.jpmaeweb.com (agency registration required)
- March 5, 10, 12, 14, 24, 31, 2009 (6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.)
ICS 300 Intermediate
Contact: Kimberley L. Kaiser 882-7559 or 380-1527
Deputy Director—Lincoln County EMA
kim902@co.lincoln.me.us
(Note: RSVP deadline was February 20, contact LCEMA for space availability/register.)
- March 10—11, 2009
(CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF ENROLLMENT)
G575 Communications Interoperability Course
Location: Florian Hall Conference Room—Augusta, Maine
- March 18, 2009—6:00 p.m. - Part I (Wednesday)
March 25, 2009—6:00 p.m. - Part II (Wednesday)
March 29, 2009—8:00 a.m. - Part III (Sunday)
ICS 300 Intermediate
Camden Opera House—Washington Street, Camden, Maine
Contact: Knox County EMA (207) 594-5155
dallen@knowcountymaine.gov or rsisk@knoxcountymaine.gov
- March 14, 2009, 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. **County Animal Response Team Training (CART)**
— Pet CPR training for CART Members
— Adult CPR training for CART Members
Location: CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
Contact: Bonnie Canfield—CCEMA / CART Liaison
(207) 892-6785 canfield@cumberlandcounty.org
- April 04, 2009
ICS 400 Advanced—Part A
Location: South Paris Fire Department—Oxford County
Contact: Oxford County EMA—(207) 743-6336
- April 11, 2009
ICS 400 Advanced—Part B
Location: South Paris Fire Department—Oxford County
Contact: Oxford County EMA—(207) 743-6336
- April 14—16, 2009 **HSEEP Training Course**
April 14—17, 2009 **HSEEP Training Course with TTT**
Prerequisite: IS-120.A—Introductory to Exercises (required)
Recommended: IS-130, IS-139, IS-700, IS-800.B
Location: MEMA Classroom—Augusta, Maine
Contact: Jeremy Damren (207) 624-4410
Limited to 20 students, register prior to: April 2, 2009
Audience: training officers, exercise managers, persons that will utilize the exercise and evaluation system.
- April 30—May 1, 2009
First Annual “Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness” Conference (see article—Page 6)
Location: Augusta Civil Center
Contact: Dwane Hubert—MEMA (207) 624-4400

Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference- Latest News

Release Date: February 9, 2009

Mark Your Calendars:

Planning is well underway for the First Annual Maine Partners in Preparedness Conference, to be held, April 30 and May 1, 2009, at the Augusta Civil Center.

Headlines:

James Lee Witt confirmed as keynote speaker

James Lee Witt is the Chief Executive Officer of James Lee Witt Associates, a part of Global Options Group. He served as FEMA Director from 1993 to 2000.

Exhibitor Packets now available:

Exhibitor packets may be downloaded in Adobe PDF format. The registration form may be filed out electronically, but must be printed and signed, and submitted by mail.

About the Event:

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

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

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

www.maine.gov/mema
www.maine.gov/mema/prepare

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

Contact:

Dwane Hubert, MEMA (207) 624-4400
 Division Director, Preparedness, Recovery and Mitigation
 Email: dwane.hubert@maine.gov

SERC Now Accepting Plans Electronically

February 11, 2009

As of January 2009, the Maine State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) will be accepting Facility Emergency Plans electronically. Facilities may submit plans as an attachment to an e-mail, copied on a CD, or pasted into the Notes field of the 2008 Tier II report.

Federal and State Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know laws specify that facilities with Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) at 500 pounds, or the listed Threshold Planning Quantity (TPQ), whichever is less for each chemical, must report those inventories to the local fire department, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the SERC annually. Additionally, under the State law, MRSA Title 37B, section 795, if the TPQ of an EHS chemical is exceeded, the facility is responsible for the development of an emergency plan and an annual review and exercise of that plan, and must ensure that the local Fire Department, LEPC and the SERC have copies of those plans.

The SERC encourages facilities, as they coordinate facility exercises and plan reviews with the local fire department and LEPC, to take the opportunity to update their emergency plans and provide them electronically to the LEPC and SERC.

Plans e-mailed to the SERC should be sent to maine.serc@maine.gov. A paper copy will still need to go to the local fire department unless otherwise requested.

If you have any questions regarding this change please feel free to contact Robert Gardner or Faith Mayer at 1-800-452-8735 or 207-624-4400.

Bunker Laughs



Irish Blessings

May the best day of your past—Be the worst day of your future.

Dance as if no one were watching,
Sing as if no one were listening,
And live every day as if it were your last.



Happy St. Patrick's Day



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

NFIP: www.floodsmart.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

SBA's Deadline Reminder

The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) reminds eligible Private Non-Profit Organizations (PNP) of the, March 10, 2009, deadline to submit disaster loan applications for damages caused by severe storm and flooding that occurred from December 11 through 29, 2008. Eligible PNPs are those that provide non critical services such as: food kitchens, homeless shelters, museums, libraries, community centers, school and colleges. Disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA's Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 or by sending an email to: disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or downloaded from www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S.SBA, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is, March 10, 2009, and the deadline for economic injury applications is, October 9, 2009.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: The map shows that my lot is in the mapped floodplain, but the ground my house is on is higher. I believe I shouldn't be shown in the floodplain. What are FEMA's requirements to remove land or a building from the 1% annual chance flood hazard area?

A: To be removed the floodplain shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map, a structure must be on land that is not subject to flooding by the 1% annual chance flood. Remember, more severe floods can and do happen, so even if your home is found to be on high ground, it may still be damaged by an extreme flood event. If your lot or building site is on natural ground that is higher than the Base Flood Elevation shown on the FIRM, then you may request a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). To support your request, you will have to get a surveyor to determine the elevation of the ground next to your building and complete an Elevation Certificate. If the ground is higher than the Base Flood Elevation, then FEMA will issue a LOMA. With a LOMA, your lender may choose to not require flood insurance. If your home was built on fill that was placed after the FIRM was prepared, you may request a Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F). As with a LOMA, you will need to get an Elevation Certificate completed by a land surveyor. If the filled ground is higher than the Base Flood Elevation, and if you do not have a basement, then FEMA may issue a LOMR-F, and your lender may choose to not require flood insurance.

(source: FEMA.gov - Frequently Asked Questions)

National Level Exercise 2009

National Level Exercise 2009 (NLE 09) is scheduled for July 27 through July 31, 2009. NLE 09 will be the first major exercise conducted by the United States government that will focus exclusively on terrorism prevention and protection, as opposed to incident response and recovery.

NLE 09 is designated as a Tier I National Level Exercise. Tier I exercises (formerly known as the Top Officials exercise series or TOPOFF) are conducted annually in accordance with the National Exercise Program (NEP), which serves as the nation's overarching exercise program for planning, organizing, conducting and evaluating national level exercises. The NEP was established to provide the U. S. government, at all levels, exercise opportunities to prepare for catastrophic crises ranging from terrorism to natural disasters.

NLE 09, as with other Tier I exercises, is a White House directed, Congressionally-mandated exercise that includes participation of all appropriate federal department and agency senior officials, their deputies, staff and key operational elements. In addition, broad regional participation of state, tribal, local, private sector and international organizations are anticipated.

NLE 09 will focus on intelligence and information sharing among intelligence and law enforcement communities, and between international, federal, regional, state, tribal, local and private sector participants; and will be an operations-based exercise to include: activities taking place at command posts, emergency operation centers, intelligence centers and potential field locations in the Washington D.C. area, and in federal, regional, state, tribal, local and private sector facilities in FEMA Region VI. For more information about NLE 09, contact the FEMA News Desk: 202-646-4600 or on the FEMA website at: www.fema.gov

Community Events

(Large Gatherings)

- March 8, 2009 (Sunday)
Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 16—22, 2009
National Weather Service Flood Awareness Week
- March 17, 2009 (Tuesday)
St. Patrick's Day
- March 20, 2009 (Friday)
Spring begins

Monthly Communications Test

March 12, 2009, at 1330 hours.

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Cumberland County EMA Staff:



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ASST. PLANNER/LEPC

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