



NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume III, Issue XI

November 2009

County of Cumberland

Emergency
Management
Agency

(207) 892-6785

Fax (207) 892-8617

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Public Safety, Emergency Management and Allied Organizations are invited to submit articles, events, training opportunities and news.

Send to: David B. Feeney
feeney@cumberlandcounty.org



President Barack Obama Declaration National Emergency—Swine Flu

WASHINGTON (AP, AFP) President Barack Obama declared the swine flu outbreak a national emergency, giving his health chief the power to let hospitals move emergency rooms offsite to speed treatment and protect non-infected patients.

The declaration, signed Friday night and announced Saturday, comes with the disease more prevalent than ever in the country and production delays undercutting the government's initial, optimistic estimates that as many as 120 million doses of the vaccine could be available by mid-October.

"The 2009 H1N1 pandemic continues to evolve," Obama said in the declaration.

"The rates of illness continue to rise rapidly within many communities across the nation, and the potential exists for the pandemic to overburden health care resources in some localities."

US officials however said the declaration was not issued due to any specific development, but rather as a pre-emptive measure.

As Americans waited for more vaccine shipments, 46 of the 50 states now report widespread swine flu activity - an

unusually early uptick that ordinarily takes place in January or February at the peak of a normal flu season.

"By rapidly identifying the virus, implementing public health measures, providing guidance for health professionals and the general public, and developing an effective vaccine, we have taken proactive steps to reduce the impact of the pandemic and protect the health of our citizens," Obama said.

Health authorities say more than 1,000 people in the United States, including almost 100 children, have died from the strain of flu known as H1N1, and 46 states have widespread flu activity.

So far only 11 million doses have gone out to health departments, doctor's offices and other providers, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials.

Administration officials said the declaration was a pre-emptive move designed to make decisions easier when they need to be made. Officials said the move was not in response to any single development.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius now has authority to by-

Continued Page 5 - Presidential Declaration

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.

Maine CDC H1N1 Update

Maine CDC—October, 22, 2009

Increased Flu Activity in Maine and the US

The 2009 novel H1N1 influenza virus is the predominant influenza virus in circulation in most countries worldwide. The vast majority of the U.S. is seeing widespread influenza, with nearly all of it being the 2009 novel H1N1 influenza strain.

Outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) increased in much of New England. Maine continues to see overall increases in outpatient visits for ILI. Much of this is most likely due to novel H1N1. The vast majority of people with ILI are not being tested, and do not need to be. People with confirmed H1N1 are primarily children and young adults.

The first confirmed person with H1N1 in Aroostook County was reported in the northern part of that county this week. Gould Academy has had 3 students confirmed with H1N1 as well as 2 other students and 2 staff with the symptoms.

Two cases of seasonal influenza have been confirmed this last week in Maine, in individuals in Cumberland and Androscoggin counties. The vast majority of cases in Maine – as well as across the country – are novel H1N1.

H1N1 Vaccine Supply

Vaccine has begun to arrive in Maine and is slowly becoming available. Approximately 21,800 doses of H1N1 vaccine arrived this week, both injectable and nasal spray. This additional supply should bring the total to about 55,500 doses in the state, which are being shipped to registered health care providers immediately.

We estimate that Maine will receive about 340,000 doses of various formulations of H1N1 vaccine by early December (although this estimate could change). There are approximately 700,000 people in Maine who are in the high priority groups for receiving vaccine, out of about 1.3 million people total. We will eventually receive enough vaccine to be able to offer it to all Mainers who want it.

In the meantime, it is important that the vaccine be focused on those in the highest priority groups:

Continued on Page 4—Maine CDC

2009 Maine ARES Simulated Emergency Test

By: *Bryce Rumery* Maine ARES
Section Emergency Coordinator

The 2009 Maine Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was held on Saturday, October 24, 2009. It was a full scale amateur radio communications exercise involving an earthquake of significant magnitude causing major damage to the state's infrastructure including communications facilities. The exercise lasted from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and tested the ability of ARES and other emergency communications groups to provide supplemental, backup communications to MEMA, the various county EMAs, the American Red Cross in Maine and hospitals within the state.

The object of the exercise was to test the ability of volunteer emergency communications groups to communicate messages from their various served agencies to other disaster relief agencies statewide and to other emergency communications groups within the state.

Teams from ARES, RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service), REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams), NTS (National Traffic System) and other amateur radio emergency communications groups fanned out throughout the state to set up communications equipment (often under less optimum conditions) to participate in the exercise. Messages regarding staffing of communications facilities, shelters and hospitals were passed to communications management personnel and to MEMA. Situation and status reports were also passed from the various counties to various served agencies and MEMA.

Ten counties in Maine participated in the exercise. Approximately 300 amateur radio operators participated volunteering their time, equipment and communications expertise to practice for an event we hope will never come. The exercise met its objectives, proving that amateur radio can provide reliable communications statewide when "all else fails".

Future Meetings:

- **November 12, 2009, Thursday—8:30 a.m.**
Local EMA Director's Meeting
(Please note date change of November's meeting)
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **November 17, 2009, Tuesday— 6:30 p.m.**
Cumberland County ARES Meeting
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **November 20, 2009, Friday—12:00 p.m.**
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine

\$2.5 M in Disaster Aid Helping Maine

October 15, 2009—Boston, MA

Since the July 30 federal disaster declaration in Maine for summer flooding, FEMA has approved over **\$2.5 Million** to fund more than **300** Public Assistance projects. Federal and state staff continue to work with local officials in formulating and funding the remaining projects.

Through the Public Assistance program, FEMA assists state and local governments, eligible nonprofit agencies and tribes with funds to repair or replace damaged infrastructure and facilities. Emergency services and eligible debris-removal costs related to the disaster are also reimbursable.

FEMA provides 75 percent of the eligible project costs to the state. The state then distributes the funds to local governments within the designated counties. The eligible counties for Public Assistance under the federal declaration are Franklin, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo and Washington.

The typical life-cycle of a disaster involves a quick response to provide for basic needs, followed by longer-term, larger-scale funding to help local governments get back on their feet. Each community reports their damages and inspections are performed at each damage site to verify damage and ensure eligibility.

In April 2007, a storm devastated the forest of Long Island, Maine; Dick Clark is captured on video describing the island's success story of working with FEMA on a debris removal plan. To view the Long Island video and others, visit the Maine's Playlist on FEMA's YouTube site at www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=4A00896D81F0FCEE.

Independent Study Programs New /Updated EMI Courses Launched

IS-230.a—Fundamentals of Emergency Management, New 10/07/09

IS-100.FWa—Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS 100 for Federal Workers, New 9/28/09)

IS-31—Mitigation eGrant for the Grant Applicant, New 9/18/09

IS-520—Introduction to Continuity of Operations Planning for Pandemic Influenzas, New 8/31/09

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

Vendor-provided NIMS ICS Course and Instructor Validation

October 20, 2009 - NIMS Alert 07-09

FEMA—National Integration Center

The purpose of this NIMS Alert is to clarify the role of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as it relates to vendor-provided National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) course and instructor validation or certification.

DHS and FEMA have received numerous inquiries requesting DHS/FEMA certification of privately-offered NIMS ICS courses. In response to these inquiries, DHS and FEMA do not certify or validate any private vendor's NIMS ICS training course(s), course curricula, course materials, or instructors, regardless of content or instructor qualifications. State, local, and private sector partners that rely on these vendors to provide NIMS training must ensure the vendor training courses meet or exceed the minimum criteria set in the *Five-Year NIMS Training Plan* "Course Summaries" (Appendix B). These summaries clearly state course objectives, discussion topics, and minimum requirements for instructional time and instructor qualifications for in-classroom courses.

Issued in February 2008, the *Five-Year NIMS Training Plan* ensures instructional and course integrity of the NIMS curriculum courses across the nation. Through the *Five-Year NIMS Training Plan*, the National Integration Center defines instructor qualifications and required instructors per course. This does not preclude any State, tribal, or local partner from maintaining more restrictive instructor qualifications.

For more information on the *Five-Year NIMS Training Plan* visit:

www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/NIMSTrainingCourses.

Questions can be directed to IMSI via e-mail:

FEMA-NIMS@dhs.gov
or via telephone:
202.646.3850.

Maine CDC Update

Continued from page 2

pregnant women; household members and caregivers of infants less than six months old; children ages six months to 25 years; people ages 25-65 with severe underlying conditions, especially respiratory and neuro-developmental conditions; and health care workers, especially those with frequent direct contact with patients and infectious material who work in hospital emergency departments, pediatric, labor/delivery, and intensive care units. This list means that many people who work in health care settings, first responders, and even those administering vaccine at this point in time will not be vaccinated. Over the next few weeks, this will change, but it is very important to focus the limited vaccine supplies on where it will be most effective, and that is primarily protecting pregnant women as well as children who are both disproportionately affected by novel H1N1 and are also major transmitters of influenza to others.

H1N1 Vaccine Prioritization

The highest priority populations for H1N1 vaccine are children and pregnant women. We are asking that health care providers receiving shipments of this vaccine make sure it is immediately available to schools if they are serving as a distribution site for schools, and that in general, pregnant women and children be prioritized. About 90% of the H1N1 vaccine supply arriving in Maine these first few weeks should be directed to pregnant women and children. We encourage pediatric providers to collaborate with other practitioners who see relatively few preschoolers to ensure access to vaccine.

Because supplies are limited and 40% of the vaccine that is currently available is the nasal spray form that is contraindicated for pregnant women, children under two, and people with health conditions, it is possible that there will not be sufficient supplies of vaccine for even the highest priority people until December.

Maine CDC is providing vaccine to obstetrical health care providers for pregnant women; to pediatric providers for very young and some high-risk children; and the majority of vaccine is going to schools. Several school districts are starting their vaccine clinics for H1N1 on October 26. They include some schools in Portland, Lewiston, and the Augusta area. Some of these clinics are listed on the clinic locator at www.maineflu.gov.

A complete copy of the Maine CDC H1N1 Update is available at: www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh

SCIP Monthly Update October 2009

October 14, 2009

COML Training Reminder:

The All-Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader (COML) class is available to provide DHS approved NIMS Compliant Communications Unit Leader instruction to ensure that every state/territory has trained personnel capable of coordinating on-scene emergency communications during a multi-jurisdictional response. The class is scheduled for November 17-19, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Express in Saco. Please contact Steven Mallory—MEMA 624-4476 for questions or further information.

Mobile Repeaters:

In the past few weeks MEMA has received and distributed 18 mobile repeaters out to a variety of organizations. During an assessment MEMA conducted throughout the state in 2008, it was determined that Maine has significant issues with public safety radio coverage. An emergency solution to assist incident commanders in facilitating communications rather than purchasing costly infrastructure; was to have mobile repeaters available on call, to extend coverage. The mobile repeaters are a VHF in-band repeater meaning that they can operate frequencies between 130- 174 MHz. This flexibility allows coverage over amateur radio bands and public safety bands. The repeaters can connect a simplex frequency together on a hilltop or be used to connect a simplex frequency to a stationary repeater. We have also successfully tested its ability to help improve in-building communications. The repeater can also be setup to communicate with P25 digital systems. Each organization that accepted a mobile repeater agreed to make it available for response in and outside of their organizations. The recipient list includes:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Cumberland County EMA | Aroostook EMA |
| Franklin EMA | Hancock EMA |
| Knox EMA | Lincoln EMA |
| Oxford EMA | Sagadahoc EMA |
| Somerset EMA | Waldo EMA |
| Inland Fisheries and Wildlife | |
| Forestry—Mobile Command Vehicle | |
| Bangor Fire—Mobile Command Vehicle | |
| York—Mobile Command Vehicle | |
| State Police Mobile Command Vehicle | |
| State of Maine Radio Services | |

Narrowbanding: - Quick Reminder

As of December 2004, the FCC mandated that all public safety radio systems move from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz by, January 1, 2013. Several things need to be done before

Continued on Page 6—SCIP Update

H1N1 Flu Self-Evaluation

Are you or a loved one sick and worried you might have H1N1 Flu?

During flu season this year, you might have to wait a long time in a crowded waiting room before you can see your doctor or be seen in an Emergency Room. Some people with the flu need to be seen right away. Other people can often take care of themselves at home just fine. At www.flu.gov; you'll find the H1N1 Flu Self-Evaluation.

This information is not a substitute for your doctor's advice. The H1N1 Flu Self-Evaluation was developed in collaboration with the Emory University School of Medicine and is here to help you understand the flu symptoms you or your family member may be having so that you can make your own health decisions. This web site is designed only for general educational purposes to assist users in identifying indicators of and responses to flu-like symptoms. It does not provide guidance for other medical conditions nor is it intended to substitute for professional medical advice. Always seek the advice of your health care professional with any questions you have regarding a medical condition

To access the H1N1 Flu Self-Evaluation; go to www.flu.gov.

This information is only for individuals ages 18 and above. You can find additional information on flu and young adults or children at www.flu.gov.



Community Events

(Large Gatherings)

- **November 3, 2009, Tuesday**
Election Day
- **November 11, 2009, Wednesday**
Veteran's Day—Holiday
- **November 26, 2009—Thursday**
Thanksgiving Day—Holiday
- **April 2010 (TBD)**
Yankees vs Red Sox
(Fenway Home Opener)



Presidential Declaration National Emergency

Continued from Page 1

pass federal rules when opening alternative care sites, such as offsite hospital centers at schools or community centers if hospitals seek permission.

Some hospitals have opened drive-through and drive-up tent clinics to screen and treat swine flu patients. The idea is to keep infectious people out of regular emergency rooms and away from other sick patients.

Hospitals could modify patient rules - for example, requiring them to give less information during a hectic time - to quicken access to treatment, with government approval, under the declaration.

It also addresses a financial question for hospitals - reimbursement for treating people at sites not typically approved. For instance, federal rules do not allow hospitals to put up treatment tents more than 250 yards away from the doors; if the tents are 300 yards or more away, typically federal dollars won't go to pay for treatment.

Administration officials said those rules might not make sense while fighting the swine flu, especially if the best piece of pavement is in the middle of a parking lot and some medical centers already are putting in place parts of their emergency plans.

The national emergency declaration was the second of two steps needed to give Sebelius extraordinary powers during a crisis.

On April 26, the administration declared swine flu a public health emergency, allowing the shipment of roughly 12 million doses of flu-fighting medications from a federal stockpile to states in case they eventually needed them. At the time, there were 20 confirmed cases in the U.S. of people recovering easily. There was no vaccine against swine flu, but the CDC had taken the initial step necessary for producing one.

"As a nation, we have prepared at all levels of government, and as individuals and communities, taking unprecedented steps to counter the emerging pandemic," Obama wrote in Saturday's declaration.

He said the pandemic keeps evolving, the rates of illness are rising rapidly in many areas and there's a potential "to overburden health care resources."

The government now hopes to have about 50 million doses of swine flu vaccine out by mid-November and 150 million in December. The flu virus has to be grown in chicken eggs, and the yield hasn't been as high as was initially hoped, officials have said.

Exercise Schedule

- June 2010
Portland JetPort Full Scale Exercise
Contact: Lt. Janine Roberts—Portland PD

SCIP Update

Continued from Page 4

this transition can take place in your department.

- Assess/inventory current equipment and radio systems
- Plan/budget for new equipment
- Apply for new/modified license
- File paperwork
- Establish timetable for new equipment
- Implementation/transition
- Implement new equipment/systems

It is **important** that when you are looking into new equipment you do not buy equipment that runs on 25 kHz. This equipment will no longer be accepted for use and will be illegal to use. Be careful of vendors who may try to “unload” this type of equipment by providing “great deals” or “special offers”. Some vendors may go as far as to falsely say the equipment works on narrowband.

Starting work **now** on the transition to the new Narrowbanding guidelines is very important. The FCC has set the overall transition deadline for, January 1, 2013. The deadline of, January 1, 2013 may seem like a long time off, but it will come quickly and there are severe consequences for not complying with the new mandate. One consequence of waiting will be increasing communications interference when the new systems begin online. This will be due to narrowband channels overlapping wideband channels. The more severe consequence will be the cancellation of your license(s) by the FCC. As of the January 1, 2013 deadline, any department(s) that has not received new or modified licenses will have their licenses cancelled immediately. Another severe consequence is substantial fines for non-compliance. These fines can be between \$8000 to \$10,000 per day.

For the complete MEMA SCIP Update; go to www.maine.gov/mema website.

Steven Mallory 624-4476 Steven.mallory@maine.gov

NIMS ICS All-Hazards

Release Date: 09/23/2009

EMI Admissions is now accepting applications for the Position Specific offerings on-campus in Emmitsburg for FY2010.

NIMS ICS Position Specific training is designed to provide all-hazards competencies and behaviors for the eight Command and General Staff positions and select unit leader positions. The competencies in the training are focused around the ability of the student to assume the position responsibilities, lead assigned personnel, communicate effectively, and to ensure the completion of assigned tasks to meet identified objectives for the position.

NIMS ICS Position Specific training should be completed by personnel who desire to eventually be certified as a Type III Incident Management Team (IMT), or who desires to see credentials/certification in ICS Command and/or General Staff or Unit Leader positions.

For complete information, EMI FY2010 Course Catalog, course descriptions, class dates and registration information, please go to the EMI website at:

<http://training.fema.gov/emicourses/allhazardscourses.asp>

1. E-958 Operations Section Chief
2. E-950 Incident Commander Course
3. E-962 Planning Section Chief
4. E-967 Logistics Section Chief
5. E-973 Finance/Administration Chief
6. E-975 Finance/Administration Unit Leader
7. E-954 Safety Officer
8. E-952 Public Information Officer
9. E-956 Liaison Officer
10. E-960 Division/Group Supervisor
11. E-964 Situation Unit Leader
12. E-965 Resource Unit Leader
13. E-970 Supply Unit Leader
14. E-971 Facilities Unit Leader
15. E-969 Communications Unit Leader

For further info on NIMS ICS All-Hazards Position Specific Training, contact Bob Ridgeway, EMI Training Specialist at: (301) 447-1142 or email: robert.ridgeway@dhs.gov

FIGHT THE FLU WITH FACTS

Flu in Maine

www.maineflu.gov

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
An Office of the Department of Health and Human Services

John E. Baldacci, Governor Brenda M. Haney, Commissioner

Tri-County Wild Land Fire Exercises

Tri-County Wild Land Fire Orientation Seminar

Cumberland, York, and Oxford County Emergency Management Agencies, in collaboration with the Maine Forest Service, conducted a regional seminar on Wild Land Fire coordination and management on, Wednesday, October 14, 2009, and held at the South Hiram Middle School.

An Orientation Seminar is a “building block” (HSEEP) approach and is an informal facilitator-lead exercise and employed to orient participants to, or provide an overview of authorities, strategies, procedures and to identify response resources and/or concepts in preparation for future and subsequently more complex exercises.

The, October 14, 2009, Orientation Seminar provided an opportunity for each participating jurisdiction to learn and better understand how the Maine Department of Conservation – Forestry Department, as the lead agency, will coordinate and manage wild fires in Maine. County Director Jim Budway, Scott Parker and Robert Bohlmann lead a discussion on county capabilities and resources available to support and assist the Maine Forest Service and local first responders.

The Orientation Seminar is the first in a series of Wild Land Fire exercises; a tabletop (TTX) is tentative planned for March 2010, followed by a functional exercise (FE) in October 2010. Ray Lussier, Life Safety Specialist, Inc., is contracted to coordinate, develop and facilitate these exercises in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

Participants of the Orientation Exercise included representatives from:

- ✦ Town of Baldwin
- ✦ Town of Harrison
- ✦ Oxford County Sheriff
- ✦ Town of Brownfield
- ✦ Town of West Baldwin
- ✦ Town of Hiram
- ✦ Town of South Hiram
- ✦ American Red Cross
- ✦ Maine Forest Service
- ✦ Town of Limerick
- ✦ Town of Bridgton
- ✦ Town of Raymond
- ✦ York County EMA
- ✦ Oxford County EMA
- ✦ Cumberland County EMA



Maine School Influenza Vaccine Funding

October 25, 2009

The Maine CDC and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services announced today the availability of limited funding to K-12 school districts and universities to help offset some of the costs of providing influenza vaccine to students.

| District / School Student Enrollment (2009/2010) | Funding |
|--|----------|
| 50 - 99 | \$ 1,000 |
| 100 – 249 | \$ 2,000 |
| 250 - 499 | \$ 3,500 |
| 500 – 799 | \$ 5,000 |
| 800 – 1,499 | \$ 6,500 |
| 1,500 – 1,799 | \$ 8,000 |
| 1,800 – 2,999 | \$ 9,500 |
| 3,000 – 4,000 | \$10,500 |
| > 4,000 | \$12,000 |

Funding Formula:

To be eligible for funding all schools accepting these funds must submit Vaccine Form 1 by November 13, 2009, identify a School Vaccine Coordinator POC, offer H1N1 vaccine to all students and appropriate staff, and include a 2nd dose about one month following the first dose for those students under age 10; complete clinics by, February 1 and submit Form 2 by February 5, 2010. In addition, School Districts must report to MeCDC the number of seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccine, and post the school clinic dates on www.maineflu.gov.

To apply for funding or to receive a complete copy of this School funding program, along with reporting forms, go to the Maine CDC Website at: www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh

Funding of Public or private colleges and universities in Maine with enrollment of 300 or more students is also available as follows:

| Colleges / Universities | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Student Enrollment 2009/2010 | Funding |
| ≤ 300 | \$ 500 |
| 300 – 499 | \$ 700 |
| 500 – 999 | \$1,000 |
| 1,000 – 2,499 | \$1,500 |
| 2,500 – 4,999 | \$2,000 |
| 5,000 – 7,499 | \$3,000 |
| ≥ 7,500 | \$4,000 |

Cumberland County EMA Activity Highlights

H1N1 Coordination

By direction of the Maine Centers for Disease Control (MeCDC), the State is tackling H1N1 by Public Health Districts. There are 8 Public Health Districts in the State and Cumberland County has its own. To assist in vaccine coordination, the Maine CDC has assigned the District a Vaccine Coordinator.

Within the Public Health District, we've formed an H1N1 Task Force to address vaccinations and related activities. Members include the Southern Maine Regional Resource Center (SMRRC), the Portland Public Health Department, the Southern Maine Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Coordinator, the Cumberland County District Public Health Coordinating Council and the Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA). CCEMA's function within the Task Force is to provide Logistic Support upon request.

2009 Homeland Security Grant Applications

CCEMA received a total of 20 2009 HS Grant Applications requesting \$1.262M dollars of the available \$2.277M ME-MA has to award state-wide. A board comprised of 4 local EMA Directors, 2 County Representatives, an ARES and Portland Public Health representative reviewed and rank ordered the grant applications at the Bunker. CCEMA has forwarded county recommendations to MEMA in hopes of funding.

County Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT)

CCEMA has recently initiated an effort to develop and formalize a County IMAT capability. The mission of the IMAT is to assist local jurisdictions and their response agencies in managing significant incidents. IMAT membership application forms, along with IMAT policies and procedures, have been sent to Public Safety Chiefs, our Municipal Leaders, Non-Governmental Organizations and sectors of Private Industry, special teams and capabilities throughout Cumberland County.

Exercise Development / Conduct

- Tri County Wild Land Fire Exercise
October 14, 2009
- Lake Region MSAD 61 Tabletop Exercise and AAR,
September 19, 2009
- Portland Water District / Presumpscot Valley RRT Full
Scale Exercise—September 12, 2009

- MEMA / County EOC Functional Exercise
October 29-30, 2009
- Tri-County Wild Land Fire Tabletop Exercise
TBA Spring 2010
- Portland JetPort Full Scale Exercise (June 2010)

CCEMA Playbook—Emergency Managers Initial Action Guidebook Version I Published.

The intent of the guidebook is to provide local Emergency Managers with some general guidelines for the initial operational period in the event of a disaster or significant emergency involving their jurisdiction. It is meant to be a resource to assist local Emergency Managers, not only in an emergency situation, but also in the planning stages of a known or anticipated threat.

Fire Fighter Pagers Bid

MEMA awarded Cumberland County \$32K for Fire Fighter Pagers. CCEMA through the approval of the County Commissioners has selected a vendor and will soon purchase pagers on behalf of 18 NIMS-compliant Communities.

Emergency Management Performance Grants

CCEMA staff are working with the State, and with the towns of Brunswick, Cumberland and Scarborough on their Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) submissions. All three towns will be able to recoup tens of thousands of dollars in emergency management program expenditures because of their robust emergency management programs.

NIMS Administration

September 30, 2009, was the deadline for the county and jurisdictions to update and electronically submit their progress towards NIMS Compliance. Currently, 22 of the 28 communities within Cumberland County have indicated within NIMSCAST of being 100% compliant with NIMS. This number reflects an increase above FY2008 reporting, and continued progress is being made.

Regional Sheltering Program

This program is underway within the county, and CCEMA has contracted with the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) and is working closely with the American Red Cross, Alpha One, the immigrant and refugee community, the elderly community, day care centers and the County Animal Response Team to designate approximately a dozen shelters in Cumberland County that meet a broad range of criteria to support a very diverse population.

Winter Weather Awareness Alerts Messages

October 27, 2009

The National Weather Service (NWS) offices that serve New England have declared the week of October 26th through October 30, 2009 **Winter Weather Awareness Week**. This winter weather message is courtesy of the National Weather Service Forecast Offices in Gray and Caribou, Maine.

Types of Messages:

The National Weather Service issues **Watches, Warning, and Advisories** to alert the public to potentially dangerous winter weather events or situations:

- A **Watch** is issued to alert the public that dangerous winter conditions are possible within the "Watched" area, generally within the next 12 to 36 hours.
- A **Warning** is issued to alert the public that winter conditions are likely to occur in the "Warned" area, generally within the next 12 to 36 hours, or are occurring.
- An **Advisory** is issued to alert the public that winter conditions are expected to cause a significant inconvenience and may be hazardous.

If caution is exercised, these situations should not be life threatening.

Criteria: The exact criteria used to trigger these watches, warnings, and advisories vary throughout the United States. The following criteria are used in Maine. Criteria are the same across the State except where there is a noted difference between our two forecast areas:

Blizzard Warning: Snow and/or blowing snow will combined with strong winds to produce near-zero visibility. Deep drifts and wind chill may accompany these conditions. The exact criteria used for these warning include the following conditions which will persist for 3 hours or more.

- Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph or more, and falling and/or blowing snow which reduced visibility to 1/4 mile or less.

Winter Storm Warning:

- In Southern and Western Maine (Gray forecast area), an average of more than 6 inches of snow/sleet is expected in 12 hours, or 9 inches in 24 hours, or
- In Northern and Down East Maine (Caribou forecast area), an average of more than 7 inches of snow/sleet is expected in 12 hours or 10 inches in 24 hours.

Ice Storm Warning:

- Freezing rain is expected to cause a glaze of ice 1/2 inch or thicker.

Winter Weather Advisory:

- An average of 4 inches of snow/sleet, but less than the warning amount, is expected across the area. Winter weather advisories can also be issued for mixed precipitation events or for blowing snow.

Ice Storm Advisory:

- Freezing rain is expected to cause a glaze of ice on roads and sidewalks, but less than 1/2 inch is expected.

The NWS does not issue warnings or advisories for storms that produce less than 4 inches of snowfall, but these storms can be deceptively dangerous. The majority of deaths linked to snow storms are as a result of traffic accidents, and may of those accidents occur with only small accumulations of snow. Slow down as soon as snow begins to accumulated.

More weather and safety information can always be found on the National Weather Service websites:

- Gray, Maine Forecast Office: www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx
- Caribou, Maine Forecast Office: www.erh.noaa.gov/car

Training Announcements

- November 4—5, 2009, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Exercise Design (G139)
Location: Portland Stevens Avenue Armory
Contact: Mike Grant—MEMA (207) 624-4460
- November 5-6, 2009, 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Disaster Behavioral Health: A Critical Response
Location: Holiday Inn Express—Saco, Maine
Contact: AdCare Maine—(207) 626-3615 \$50.00 Reg. Fee
To register online: www.neias.org/mecdc/disaster2009.html
- November 14—15, 2009, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Heavy Vehicle Incident Management
Location: Portsmouth, New Hampshire
Fee: \$45.00 per student (2 days, includes breaks/lunch)
Contact: National Wrecker Service—Ralph (603) 436-3200

Lecture, Panel Discussions, Demonstrations: Heavy trailer recovery with air-bags, rigging; off-loading vs maintain cargo, vehicle construction (strengths and weaknesses), hazmat size up. Panel Discussion to include Fire, EMS, LE, DOT and Recovery Reps.

- November 17-19, 2009
Communications Unit Leader (COML) Training
Location: Holiday Inn Express—Saco, Maine
Contact: Steve Mallory—MEMA (207) 624-4476



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>

Center Disease Control

Maine CDC: (H1N1)

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/swine-flu-2009.shtml>

U. S. CDC: (H1N1) <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>

Flu.gov <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

Southern Maine Regional Resource Center (SMRRC)

Home: www.smrrc.org

Ready America www.ready.gov

National Weather Service—Gray, Maine

www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx

Maine ARES <http://www.maineares.org>

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

Monthly Communications Test

November 12, 2009, at 1330 hours.

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

Cumberland County EMA Staff:



DIRECTOR

James E. Budway

budway@cumberlandcounty.org



DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Anne-Marie Brett

brett@cumberlandcounty.org



PLANNER

Bonnie Canfield

canfield@cumberlandcounty.org



PLANNER

David Brion Feeny

feeny@cumberlandcounty.org



ASSTISTANT PLANNER/LEPC

Eric N. Sawyer

esawyer@cumberlandcounty.org



ASSISTANT PLANNER

Lori J. Roth

roth@cumberlandcounty.org



PROJECT COORDINATOR

Ron Jones

jones@cumberlandcounty.org



THE BUNKER

22 High St

Windham, ME

207.892.6785

(F) 207.892.8617