



NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume III, Issue IX

September 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 Declares Major Disaster for Maine

July 30, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The head of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for Maine to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding and landslides during the period of June 18th to July 8, 2009.

Governor John E. Baldacci learned on, July 30, 2009, that President Obama signed a disaster declaration for eight Maine counties.

"Maine suffered significant damage, caused by a month of heavy rains, erosion and landslides," Governor Baldacci said. "Many communities have faced significant hardship as they have worked to make repairs. The federal assistance granted will help them rebuild."

"State and local budgets, already adversely affected by a nationwide recession have been exhausted by the convergent effects of several major disasters since May of 2006. Several communities tell us they have verified

damages well above their entire road maintenance budget," Governor Baldacci wrote in his letter to FEMA.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said federal funding is available to state, eligible local governments and certain private non-profit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms, flooding, and landslides in the counties of Franklin, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation for all counties and tribes within the state.

Fugate named James N. Russo the federal coordinating officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Russo said additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

A Federal-state team has also found significant damage in Piscataquis County. The Governor plans to request that Piscataquis be added to the list of Counties eligible for assistance.

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 Update H1N1 Influenza

Maine CDC reported on, August 11, 2009, that a York County man in his 50s was the first death linked to H1N1 flu in the state. While most people with H1N1 in Maine and the nation have had relatively mild infection, this news demonstrates how serious influenza can be, especially in those with underlying medical conditions, pregnant women, and very young children.

Maine has identified 335 cases of H1N1, which includes 19 individuals requiring hospitalization. Of Maine residents with H1N1, 60 percent have been under 25 years of age.

How Influenza Tracking (Surveillance) Works

Maine CDC's influenza surveillance program tracks the spread of influenza in Maine. Surveillance information is used to determine where and when influenza transmission is occurring, who is most at risk for contracting influenza and experiencing severe illness, and to track the current severity of influenza in Maine.

Surveillance data is collected through hospitals, private labs, physician offices, and Maine CDC's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). Maine CDC is currently recruiting outpatient health care providers to report the total number of patients seen in their practices and the number of those patients seen for influenza-like illness (ILI) by age group on a weekly basis for the 2009-2010 season. This information is one of several strategies that help measure the extent of illness in the state.

Continued on Page 6 - H1N1 Update

Future Meetings:

- **September 9, 2009, Wednesday—8:30 a.m.**
Local EMA Director's Meeting
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **September 15, 2009, Tuesday— 6:30 p.m.**
Cumberland County ARES Meeting
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **September 22, 2009, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.**
Cumberland County CART Team Meeting
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **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.**
EOC Functional After Action Report Conference
MEMA Classroom, Augusta—Jeremy Damren

FEMA Announces Creation of Children's Working Group

Release Date: August 4, 2009—Washington, D.C.

While testifying before Senate Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate announced the creation of a "Children's Working Group."

The working group will allow FEMA and its partners to explore and implement planning and response strategies specific to children throughout the agency and ensure that during a disaster the unique needs of children are not only considered, but fully integrated in how FEMA administers this support to state and the public.

"It is time for special needs populations, whether children or any other segment of our communities who have traditionally been underserved, to be more fully and consistently integrated into preparedness and planning efforts at every level of government," Administrator Fugate said. "Children are a part of every community. We must understand and address their needs from the outset, recognizing that they are not simply small adults. That means not putting the considerations specific to children in a separate box, but incorporating them into our planning on the front end.

The Children's Working Group will be composed of FEMA employees across multiple directorates and offices to ensure coordination and action, and will report directly to the Office of the Administrator. The working group will be chaired by Tracy Wareing, counselor to Secretary Napolitano for FEMA.

Areas of focus of the Children's Working Group will include:

- Child-specific guidance as to evacuation, sheltering, and relocation;
- Tracking and reunification of families;
- Coordinated case management supports;
- Enhanced preparedness for child care centers and schools as well as for children in child welfare and juvenile justice systems;
- Enhanced national planning, including incorporation of children into national planning scenarios and exercises;
- Incorporation of children's needs into grant guidance:

(Story continued on Page 7—See Children's Working Group)

Training Announcements

- September 15—17, 2009, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
State Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC)
Location: MEMA—Augusta, Maine
Contact: Jeremy Damren—(207) 624-4499
- September 19—20, 2009
CERT Jamboree—Hancock County
Location: Schoodic Education and Research Center
Acadia National Park, Route 233 Mc Farland Hill
Bar Harbor, Maine
Contact: Linda Feury—Hancock County EMA
Telephone: (207) 667-8126
Email: ema@co.hancock.me.us
- September 23—24, 2009
ICS 300—Intermediate Incident Command System
Location: Bangor Police Department
Contact: Michelle Tanguay ema@penobscot-county.net
Penobscot County EMA (207) 945-4750
- September 28, 2009
ICS 400—Advanced Incident Command System
Location: Orono Fire Department
Contact: Michelle Tanguay ema@penobscot-county.net
Penobscot County EMA (207) 945-4750
- November 17-19, 2009
Communications Unit Leader (COML) Training
Location: Holiday Inn Express—Saco, Maine
Contact: Steve Mallory—MEMA (207) 624-4476
(see Article COML on page 9)

NIMSCAST 2009

A reminder to all NIMSCAST administrators, to remain compliant, or become compliant with NIMS, each jurisdiction must update their NIMSCAST account to reflect any changes or progress made during Fiscal Year 09 (October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009). For jurisdictions that were compliant as of, September 30, 2008 (FY2008), you must access NIMSCAST 2009 to complete the migration of FY08 data into FY09. In addition, in accordance with the NIMS FY09 Objectives, and the State of Maine NIMS Training Guidance Document; Chiefs and their deputies and applicable senior officers, must have completed ICS 400 training prior to, September 30, 2009. Please roll-up (electronically submit) your account data only when you have entered all updates for 2009, or as directed to by the county NIMS Coordinator. In event you have forgotten or lost your password / log-in information; or to add or delete NIMSCAST administrators to or from your account, please contact D.B. Feeney at CCEMA. Please contact me directly should you need assistance or have questions concerning NIMSCAST 2009 or NIMS in general.

David B. Feeney CCEMA (207) 892-6785 feeney@cumberlandcounty.org

Disaster Plans Leave Disabled Behind

Report finds little progress since Katrina

By Audrey Hudson

Originally published 04:45 a.m., August 12, 2009, updated 01:49 p.m., August 12, 2009

Four years after Hurricane Katrina exposed major deficiencies in the capacity of governments to evacuate and care for the disabled during a natural disaster, America's most vulnerable citizens are barely considered in most emergency plans, according to a report being issued Wednesday by the National Council on Disability.

The report says huge gaps exist in those emergency plans despite an executive order issued by President Bush in 2004 urging federal and local governments, as well as private organizations, to consider the unique needs of the disabled when planning rescues and preparing to provide emergency shelter.

The 500-page report also criticized government disaster planners for failing to seek input about the needs of the disabled from the community and its advocacy groups. Among other problems the report cited were issues involving service dogs, relocation in trailers and mobile homes, the effectiveness of various warning systems and different transportation needs.

The independent federal agency's report, titled "Effective Emergency Management: Making Improvements for Communities and People With Disabilities," said the exclusion of issues affecting the disabled from disaster planning is a long-standing problem and that the details "have typically been limited to a few lines in an emergency plan, if they are mentioned at all."

"Although some improvement in this area is evident, catastrophic events such as Hurricane Katrina and the California wildfires exposed the gaps that still exist in many emergency plans and preparedness efforts," said the report, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Times. "These events reinforce the need for additional action to protect the lives of people with disabilities against the destructive nature of disasters."

With the exception of a single recent simulated-emergency exercise by the Department of Homeland Security, government agencies continue to ignore the disabled population when crafting emergency plans, the report said, repeatedly stressing the need for planners to consult directly with those who are disabled to better understand their particular needs during a disaster.

Continued on Page 4—see Disaster Plans

Disaster Plans

continued from Page 3

" 'Disabilities' were generally placed into one large category, without consideration for the unique needs associated with each type of disability. Emergency planners often decided what people with disabilities needed without consulting those people," the report said. "This practice further alienated people with disabilities and increased their vulnerability during disasters."

A separate report from the Special Needs Assessment for Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) project found that many emergency shelter planners had little interaction with the disabled community before Hurricane Katrina.

"Many of the problems incurred by emergency personnel during the response phase of a disaster could be addressed if planning included people with disabilities. It is imperative that people with disabilities have a voice and be at the table for all stages of disaster planning," the National Council on Disability's report said.

Emergency car loudspeakers, weather-warning radios or even television alerts are not the most effective ways to deliver information to the disabled during an emergency, the report said.

"And existing warning systems may be inadequate for rapid onset events, such as sirens that cannot be heard during high-wind events," the report said.

On the other hand, vibrating pillows could save lives.

The report cites Jim Davis, emergency management coordinator for Pittsylvania County, Va., who used a \$5,000 grant to buy radios then engineered them to vibrate pillows as a warning mechanism, the report said.

"New technologies may soon address these barriers," the National Council's report said.

Some communities are not waiting for new gadgets to hit the shelves, and are taking advantage of current technology. For example, OK-WARN, a system for the deaf in Oklahoma, instantly notifies e-mail address and pagers when the National Weather Service issues a tornado alert.

The Homeland Security Department maintains a Web site at www.disabilitypreparedness.gov for emergency managers to plan and respond to emergencies involving the disabled. The site currently provides information involving the H1N1 flu outbreak.

Simple considerations such as evacuating the disabled along with family members can be key to saving lives, the report said.

"To illustrate, a lack of adequate transportation impeded evacuation efforts before Hurricane Katrina. Family members and caregivers refused to leave relatives or clients behind who could not walk to bus locations or were not provided with accessible transportation," the report said.

Some lessons have been learned, particularly in New Orleans, where tens of thousands of residents refused to evacuate despite repeated warnings from the National Weather Service and on orders from city and state officials.

Ken Fisher, New Orleans operations section chief for the Office of Emergency Preparedness, now says it is important to "create and maintain an environment where the decision to evacuate becomes more desirable than remaining behind."

Making sure public transportation allows those with service animals or seeing-eye dogs to travel with their pets and that shelters have adequate handicapped features would be a significant step, the report said.

"Ensure that service animals, medical devices and equipment are transported to safety with their handlers," the report said. "Offer medical support and veterinary support."

"Train volunteers and staff on issues involving a full range of disabilities, including disability etiquette, service animals and communication procedures," the report said. "Take steps to ensure the dignity, privacy, and independence of shelter residents."

The disabled also have special needs when it comes to temporary housing in trailers and mobile homes after a disastrous event, including proximity to public transportation and health care facilities.

"Formalize programs that check for mold, formaldehyde and other toxins that can have a heightened effect on those with disabilities or medical conditions," the report said.

Scores of recommendations are included in the study, such as suggestions that disability coordinators be hired at regional FEMA offices and that the disabled be included in emergency exercises and recovery plans. The report also recommends that disaster recovery funding include coverage costs associated with health care disruption, loss of medical equipment, caregiver expenses, transportation and costs associated with seeing-eye dogs or other service animals.

Insurance companies should be mandated to cover nursing homes during evacuations, and entitlement checks should be released before an event so that recipients are more willing and able to evacuate, the National Council on Disability report said.

The report was to be released publicly Wednesday morning at the National Conference on Community Preparedness in Arlington. The report is part of the National Council on Disability's congressional mandate to collect information on federal laws, policies and practices that affect the disabled.

ISP OpScan Form Request

The Independent Study Program (ISP) is currently mailing out new OpScan answer sheet forms for the completion of ISP courses. The new form number is 95-23 and will be

continued on next page

replacing the 95-5 and 95-9a OpScan forms. The deadline for acceptance of the older forms will be September 30, 2009, and all forms received afterwards will be returned without processing for completion of Form 95-23.

Please allow 4 weeks delivery time and to order the new OpScan forms; complete the on-line request form at: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/ansreq.asp>

2009 Exercise Schedule

- September 19, 2009 (Saturday)
Lake Region School Administrative District TTX
Contact: David B. Feeney—CCEMA
- October 14, 2009
Wild Fire Orientation Exercise
Cumberland, York and Oxford Counties
Contact: David B. Feeney—CCEMA
Location: Sacopee Valley Middle School (MSAD # 55)
137 South Hiram Road, Hiram, Maine 04041
- October 24, 2009 (Saturday) 0800—1400 hours
2009 Maine ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET)
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Exercise
- October 29—30, 2009, 7:00 a.m.—7:00 a.m. (24 hrs)
MEMA EOC Functional Exercise
Contact: Jeremy Damren—MEMA

New Version of MARPLOT®

August 6, 2009

MARPLOT 4.1: Some new changes include the default satellite base map to a new color aerials photos layer with better coverage throughout the United States. Added support for Google's KML file type: export ALOHA objects to a KML file and add KML files as base map layers. Changes to the map projection so that circles are no longer stretched horizontally. Added ability to get a street address from the click point location (using Google) and fixed some minor bugs.

If you've already upgraded to MARPLOT 4.0 or 4.0.1, you should download and run the MARPLOT 4.1 upgrade tool to install the new fixes to your program. You won't have to reload any of your data or layers.

If you're using a version of MARPLOT prior to 4.0, then you should download the new MARPLOT 4.1 installer and follow the instructions in the guidance document (provided on the download page) to ensure that you don't lose your current maps and data. To download or for more information on Marplot® visit:

<http://epa.gov/emergencies/tools.htm>

U. S. EPA makes available numerous databases and tools

related to emergency management. These resources are designed to help first responders address emergency situations, assist facilities in complying with emergency management regulations, and give the public an improved understanding of chemicals in their community. ALOHA, CAMEO, MARPLOT®, LandView®, RMP and other applications are available for download from the above web address.

National Shelter System

The FEMA National Shelter System is a coordinated nationwide database of emergency shelter information where thousands of profiles of potential shelter resources, as well as virtually any type of facility associated with the care of disaster survivors, are maintained.

FEMA, working in partnership with the American Red Cross, used lessons learned to develop a new easy to use system that includes operational data to assist emergency management professionals in times of disaster and for planning purposes. The system has the ability to track virtually any type of facility used in response to disasters.

The new system also includes an enhanced GIS mapping function that will allow emergency management professionals to see in real time, shelter locations, critical infrastructure, flood plains, fault lines, and other geospatial elements.

Additionally, FEMA is working to ensure that system is interoperable with the Red Cross National Sheltering System and several other commercial emergency management programs, allowing data to be shared between systems, eliminating the need to enter data in multiple applications. This system is available to emergency management professional with a demonstrated need for this information.

Use of the system is free of charge and accessible from any internet connection, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In addition to general population shelters, the system includes:

- Medical shelters, shelter-in-place locations (SIP)
- Household pet shelters, kitchens
- Points of Distribution (POD's), warehouses
- Warming, cooling, and respite centers
- Embarkation, Debarkation, and Reception processing sites
- Any type of shelter or facility related to the management of people affected by the operations.

H1N1 Update

Continued from Page 2

Maine CDC and other public health authorities use surveillance information to direct influenza response activities—such as communication information to the public, targeting prevention and treatment messages to specific populations, and directing community mitigation efforts. Surveillance information also informs public policy, such as guidelines on the use of vaccines and antiviral medications. Maine surveillance information contributes to a standardized national surveillance system.

Special Populations

Health care Workers— Maine CDC monitors confirmed cases of H1N1 Influenza in health care workers to determine the impact on the health care system and to intervene when possible to prevent transmission in the health care settings.

Pregnant Women— Because pregnant women have been severely impacted by H1N1 influenza, Maine CDC follows up on cases confirmed by the HETL in pregnant women to monitor the impact of the disease on this population and to help health care providers and their patients understand the CDC recommendations.

Outbreaks

Monitoring outbreaks provides information on the intensity and impact of influenza transmission in communities throughout the state. Outbreak surveillance provides the opportunity to inform and assist facilities experiencing outbreaks and to lessen the transmission and impact of influenza where possible.

Outbreaks of influenza or ILI are reportable by law in Maine. The definition used to recognize outbreaks of ILI varies by setting.

In a typical influenza season, most outbreaks affect persons greater than 65 years of age. However, current surveillance data suggest that H1N1 is affecting younger people more than seasonal influenza typically does, so outbreaks are expected to occur in more diverse settings.

Outbreaks will be detected and monitored in two ways. First, institutional outbreaks are reportable to Maine CDC by law. Institutions experiencing an outbreak should report to Maine CDC toll free 24 hour reporting and clinical consultation line, 1-800-821-5821, and the (CDC) will initiate an investigation to characterize the outbreak. Secondly, laboratory submission of specimens to HETL now requires completion of a form that describes potential exposure settings. Laboratory confirmed results that have significant institutional exposures will be evaluated to

measure the extent of outbreak activity in Maine.

School Reporting

Maine schools report absenteeism greater than 15% of sudden increases in reported illness to Maine CDC.. School nurses should also make direct reports to the Maine CDC if they see a sudden increase in influenza-like illness. Should school closures become necessary at any point, Maine CDC will be monitoring school closures in cooperation with the US CDC.

For a complete copy of this Maine CDC/DHHS Update on Novel Influenza, released on, August 12, 2009, subscribe to Health Alerts, visit

<http://maine.gov/dhhs/boh/newhan.shtml>

August 11, 2009

West Nile Virus / Eastern Equine Encephalitis

This health advisory provides a brief update on the epidemiology and natural history of West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) infections, a summary of surveillance findings in Maine, and guidance for obtaining and submitting clinical diagnostic specimens to the Maine Center for Disease Control (Maine CDC), where tests will be performed free of charge. Testing for mosquito-borne infections should be performed routinely for every person diagnosed with aseptic meningitis or encephalitis during the summer and fall months. Maine CDC will also test physician-submitted serum specimens for persons with other severe and/or persistent unexplained febrile illnesses. To download the entire advisory from the Maine CDC website at www.mainepublichealth.gov. Please contact the MaineHAN help desk at: HAN@maine.gov if you are unable to access the advisory.

Independent Study Programs New EMI Courses Launched

New: IS-704 NIMS Communications and Information Management

New: IS-820 Introduction to NRF Support Annexes

New: IS-806 ESF No. 6: Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services.

New: IS-860.a National Infrastructure Protection Plan

New: IS-548 Continuity of Operations Program Manager

New: IS-293 Mission Assignment Overview

New: IS-836 Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex

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

SCIP Monthly Update 2009

Communications Unit Leader (COML) Training

There will be another COML Training class on, November 17-19, 2009; this class will be held at the Holiday Inn Express—Saco, Maine, Turnpike Exit 36. To register, please submit a completed FEMA 75-5 Form and submit to Steven Mallory at MEMA. Pre-Requisites Apply.

Transit Survey:

On, August 11, 2009, MEMA sent out a survey to our partners. The specific focus is on transit organizations and entities to determine operability. Our (MEMA) goal is to develop a stakeholders group to ensure transit agencies interoperability issues are identified and a strategic plan to address them. If you are a Transit Agency and did not receive the survey, please contact Steve Mallory at MEMA.

Maine 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

For a complete copy of the August 2009 SCIP Update, please visit: www.maine.gov/mema and click on the <News> tab—SCIP Monthly Update—August 2009.

Bunker Laughs



"Although the Weather Service hasn't predicted rain, certain indicators can't be ignored."

FY2009 Homeland Security Grants in Maine

August 12, 2009

The grant application period for FY 2009 Homeland Security Grants in Maine is now open.

Eligible applications are city and county governments, association public entities and State agencies. For 2009, based on State and Federal Homeland Security priorities, grant applications criteria is focused on:

- All-hazards emergency planning;
- Interoperable communications;
- Training and exercises;
- Public education and awareness;
- NIMS compliance measures; and,
- School district emergency planning.

A total of \$2.277 million is available for allocation under the competitive process.

Applications from county and local agencies must be submitted to County EMA offices no later than the Close of Business on Friday, September 25, 2009.

Applications from State agencies must submit to MEMA, likewise no later than the Close of Business on Friday, September 25, 2009.

Guidance Materials and Forms are available online; visit:

www.maine.gov/mema/homeland/home_grants_current.shtml

For a listing of equipment purchases allowable under the grant, see the Department of Homeland Security Allowable Equipment List at: <https://www.rkb.us> and click on <FEMA Preparedness Grants & AEL> tab located at the top of the page.

Children's Working Group (continued from page 2)

- Improved recovery coordination across the federal family and with state and local partners in support of children's education, health and housing;
- Consideration as to how the federal family can help ensure child care centers are rebuilt and restore services more quickly following a disaster, and;
- Increase public awareness efforts to educate families and protect children during disasters.

Application Period Opens for HMGP

MEMA—August 24, 2009

Maine Emergency Management Agency has announced a new grant opportunity for municipalities and counties under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Maine will receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for eligible mitigation projects in the wake of a major disaster declaration earlier this summer.

Hazard mitigation grants provide funding for eligible construction, acquisition, relocation or related projects that will help the jurisdiction avoid future damages from natural disasters.

Two application deadlines have been established:

- October 30, 2009: for less complex applications that can be completed in this time frame.
- March 20, 2010: for more complex projects, aimed for the 2010 construction season.

Communities seeking HMGP funds must be participating in a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation plan, and compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The proposed project must seek to address repetitive damages, and the proposed solution must be cost-beneficial. This is, the cost of the project must be roughly equal to or less than the historical cost to repair previous damages at the site.

Communities must also provide a 25% cost-share. Community Development Block Grant funds are eligible to be considered as cost share. Cost share can be provided by volunteer services, or in-kind resources.

Technical assistance is available to assist applicants as they prepare grant request. MEMA conducts periodic workshops to guide applicants through the process, and can also provide one-on-one assistance.

Visit MEMA's Mitigation Grants page for all grant guidance and forms. In particular, please review the HMGP Eligibility Requirements to determine if your project meets grant criteria. (www.maine.gov/mema/mema_mitigation.shtml)

Watch the MEMA calendar for upcoming workshops that help applicants complete a competitive application, or contact your County EMA Director to suggest a workshop in your area.

Contact:

JoAnn Mooney or Beth Barton—MEMA
800-452-8735 / 207-624-4400

FEMA Proposed Rule

Disaster Assistance—PA Repetitive Damage

44 CFR Part 206: Disaster Assistance, Public Assistance Repetitive Damage: Federal Register / Vol 74, No. 153, Tuesday, August 11, 2009—Proposed Rules

Summary: This proposed rule implements aspects of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 by reducing the Federal cost share of FEMA Public Assistance to public and certain nonprofit facilities repetitively damaged in the preceding 10 years by the same type of event and for which required hazard mitigation has not been implement. Described in the Federal Register (08/11/2009) "The Federal government should not repetitively reimburse eligible applicants for damage that could be prevented through mitigation efforts. The reduced Federal cost share of the proposed rule is intended to provide an incentive to mitigate repetitive damage, promote measures that reduce future loss to life and property, protect Federal investment in public infrastructure, and help build disaster-resistant communities".

In accordance with the amendment to section 406 of the Stafford Act, this proposed rule would reduce the Federal cost share to 25 percent of eligible costs if the applicant has not taken appropriate mitigation measures on a repetitive damaged facility.

To comment on this proposed rule; submit comments on or before, October 12, 2009 by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- E-Mail: FEMA-RULES@dhs.gov and include Docket ID FEMA-2008-006 in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: 703-483-2999
- Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier: Rules Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Room 835, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472-3100.

Instructions: All Submissions received must include the agency name and Docket ID. Regardless of the method used for submitting comments or material, all submissions will be posted, without change, to the Federal eRulemaking Portal, and will include any personal information you provide. Therefore, submitting this information makes it public. For more information and complete instructions to submit comments on this Proposed Rule, view the Federal Register as described above.

COML Unit Leader Type III Training

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 NIMS compliant Communications Unit Leader instructions to ensure that every state/territory has trained personnel capable of coordinating on-scene emergency communications during a multi-jurisdictional response.

Target Audience: The COML class is targeted for all local, regional, state and federal cross disciplinary emergency response professionals and coordination/support personnel with a communications background. **Students should represent NIMS compliant jurisdictions with a population of 4000 minimum and have direct responsibility for planning and supporting emergency on-scene communications.**

Pre-Course Work/Pre-Requisites: Each student should be familiar with their Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan and/or their state/regional/local Communications Plan and communications assets. You must have completed IS-100, IS-200, IS-300, IS-700, and IS-800 prior to attending this course. Proof of completion of these courses must be provided upon application.

Course Location: The course will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Saco, Maine which is located off Maine Turnpike Exit 36 in Saco. Classes will be held from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, breaks and meals will be provided. Lodging will be available for those traveling 50 miles to attend the course, lodging the night before the class is available for those traveling 100 miles, please call MEMA for prior approval. This class is eligible for reimbursement of backfill/overtime to the sponsoring jurisdiction. Contact MEMA Interoperable Communications Division for questions or further information. Submit FEMA 75-5 Form to

Community Events (Large Gatherings)

- **September 26, 2009 (Saturday) 12:30 p.m.**
Conquer Chiari Walk Across America
Payson Park—Baxter Blvd, Portland, ME.
- **September 27—October 3, 2009**
Cumberland Fair www.cumberlandfair.com
- **October 4—11, 2009**
Fryeburg Fair www.fryeburgfair.org



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



Scarborough Summer Festival Preparedness Campaign

In anticipation of National Preparedness Month, Nancy E. Crowell, Director of the Town of Scarborough Library, oversees a table at the Scarborough annual Summer Festival—August 14, 2009, stocked with pamphlets and information to educate and empower all citizens to prepare for and response to emergencies, including natural disasters and manmade events.

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is sponsored by the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps, and is held each September; it is designed to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

In 2008, the Ready Campaign partnered with more than 3,200 organizations to highlight the important of public emergency preparedness throughout September.

Also Participating in the Scarborough Preparedness campaign, the Scarborough Fire Department, Scarborough EMA, Gorham Fire Department and the Cumberland County EMA.

The Scarborough Library maintains a supply of preparedness brochures and hand-outs throughout the month of September, as a public service to educate and better prepare the public.

The National Preparedness Month 2009 campaign website is: www.ready.gov and toll-free phone numbers (1-800-BE-READY) provide Americans with free emergency preparedness information.



Monthly Communications Test

September 10, 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 Feeney

feeney@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