

# NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume II, Issue XII

December 2008

**County of  
Cumberland  
Emergency  
Management  
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## DHS Announces FY09 Grant Guidance

Release Date: November 5, 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency today released Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Application Guidance for 14 federal grant programs, totaling more than \$3 billion available in federal funding to assist state and local governments in strengthening community preparedness. More than \$27 billion has been provided since 2002 to strengthen our nation's ability to prevent, protect, respond and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters or other emergencies.

"Several years of investment have taken us largely from capability building to performance-based planning and investment," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "This year's funding priorities are consistent with last year, and reflect a mature and disciplined grants program. We are now in the position of being able to inform high threat urban areas of their target allocations ahead of time, which will go a long way in helping their applications."

DHS also is announcing for the first time

FY 2009 targeted allocations under the State Homeland Security Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative. This is the result of direct stakeholder feedback and will assist states and urban areas in writing investment justifications that reflect available grant resources. The department will continue to use the peer review process and applicants' effectiveness scores in determining final allocations.

The grant program allocations for FY2009:

- Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) - \$1.7 billion.
  - \* State Homeland Security Program—\$861.3 million
  - \* Urban Areas Security Initiative—\$798.6 million
  - \* Metropolitan Medical Response System—\$39.8 million
  - \* Citizen Corps Program—\$14.6 million
- State Homeland Security Program Tribal—\$1.7 million
- Nonprofit Security Grant Program—\$15 million
- Operation Stone Garden—\$60 million

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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

## 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.**

## Mandated Evacuation Lawful in Emergency

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – On, April 16, 2007, at approximately 2:41 p.m., Chief Everett Chaput of the Allenstown (New Hampshire) Fire Department declared a state of emergency in portions of Allenstown that had become flooded. Chief Chaput instructed his officers to enforce a mandatory evacuation, including a residential area. At around 7:15 p.m., the fire department called Allenstown Police Officer Joseph Defeudis to assist them in evacuating one resident who refused to leave her home. Officer Defeudis instructed the resident to leave her home by boat, and she became confrontational and indicated that she did not want to leave. Officer Defeudis informed the resident that she would be arrested if she refused to cooperate, and she told him to arrest her.

On, September 11, 2007, the State filed a complaint, pursuant to RSA 154:9, alleging that the defendant had failed to obey a fire official's command at the scene of an emergency. Before trial, the State of New Hampshire filed a motion in limine requesting that the trial court find that a flood constitutes an emergency under the applicable state statutes. The defendant moved to dismiss the complaint on the ground that a flood is not an emergency. The trial court dismissed the complaint, and denied reconsideration, and the case was brought to the State Supreme Court for ruling.

New Hampshire state statute, RSA 154:7,II(b) (2002) provides:

*While any duly constituted fire department recognized by the state fire marshal is responding to...a fire, service call, or other emergency, the fire officer in charge shall have...the authority...[to] order any persons to leave any building or place in the vicinity of such scene for the purpose of protecting such persons from injury or remove persons interfering with duties.*

The legislature defines "other emergency" to include "any other real emergency which does not directly involve the extinguishment of an actual fire."

The Supreme Court said, "the plain meaning of the phrase "other emergency" includes floods." An emergency is "an unforeseen combination of the circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action," "a pressing need" or "a usu[ally] distressing event or condition that can be offered in anticipated or prepared for but seldom exactly foreseen." Webster's Third New International Dictionary 741 (unabridged ed. 2002). The court ruled that a flood meets this definition. The defendant pointed out that, under RSA 644:2,IV, V(a)(3) (2007), a peace officer may not lawfully order a person to leave his or her home during a

flood. The defendant asked us (N.H. Supreme Court) to read the same language into RSA chapter 154 (202 & Supp. 2008). However, RSA 154:7,II(b) specifically grants authority to a fire officer "[t]o order any persons to leave any building."

On, November 6, 2008, the Supreme Court said that had the legislature intended to limit the authority of fire departments as it did with peace officers in RSA 644:2, it could have done so. Instead, the N.H. Legislature chose to use broad language, and "we will not read an exception into a statute that the legislature did not see fit to include."

The justices agreed that state statute (RSA 644:2) prohibits a police officer from ordering a person to leave their home during a flood, but said state law authorizes a fire officer to "order any persons to leave any building".

State Assistant Attorney General Nicholas Cort, who argued the case before the Supreme Court, said the court's ruling was the correct one, and the case will now be sent back to the Hooksett District Court for trial on allegations that the defendant failed to obey a fire official's command at the scene of an emergency.

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## FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps

New high-tech maps are forcing many U.S. homeowners to buy flood insurance for the first time, while others who have had coverage are being cleared to drop their policies. The changes stem from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's multiyear plan to digitize its Flood Insurance Rate Maps to make them more accurate and easier to update. New flood maps go into effect this month in 123 communities in Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wisconsin. By 2010, about 92% of the population and 65% of the land in the USA will be covered by the maps, FEMA says.

The new maps will replace the current effective maps, which are outdated and were produced using earlier technology. The new maps are in a digital format, providing greater detail and making it easier for citizens to view the information and make informed decisions. The preliminary flood maps were developed as part of the nationwide map modernization effort spearheaded by FEMA, which administers the National Flood Insurance Program.

The federal government requires properties in flood zones that have federally backed mortgages to carry flood insurance, FEMA spokesman Simon Chabel said. Mortgage companies also use the maps and can make flood insurance a condition for a loan.

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## Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Requirements

On October 17, 2008, EPA finalized several changes to the Emergency Planning (Section 302), Emergency Release Notification (Section 304) and Hazardous Chemical Reporting (Sections 311 and 312) regulations that were proposed on June 8, 1998 (63 FR 31268). These changes include clarification on how to report hazardous chemicals in mixtures, and changes to Tier I and Tier II forms. Additionally, the rules now use a question and answer format. Facilities subject to EPCRA reporting, State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and fire departments should become familiar with the new regulation.

There are only minor changes to the emergency planning and emergency release notification sections. For hazardous chemical reporting regulations, there are changes regarding the Tier I and Tier II forms, as well as changes in how to report hazardous chemical in a mixture.

### Tier I and Tier II Forms

- The Tier I and Tier II forms and their instructions have been removed from the code of federal regulations (CFR). They may now be found on EPA's Web Site: [www.epa.gov/emergencies](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies).
- The revised regulation includes a description of the requirements for Tier I and Tier II. Facilities are now required to report their North American Industry Classification system (NAICS) code on the Tier I and Tier II forms.
- Also, the chemical or common name of the chemical as provided on the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) must be provided on the Tier II form.

### Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reporting for Chemicals in Mixtures

- When determining whether the threshold quantity of an **extremely hazardous substance** (EHS) has been met, facilities must include the total quantity of that EHS present in the pure form as well as in any mixture, even if any mixture including the EHS is also being reported as a hazardous chemical.
- For hazardous chemicals that are mixtures and do **not** contain any **extremely hazardous substance**, facilities have an option when determining whether the threshold quantity is present: (1) add together

the quantity present in its pure form and as a component in all mixtures (even if the mixture is also being reported as a hazardous chemical), **or** (2) consider the total quantity of each mixture separately.

### Where to obtain more information

- Consult the EPA Web site: [www.epa.gov/emergencies](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies).
- Sign up for the EPA list serve to receive periodic updates:  
[www.epa.gov/emergencies/newsroom.htm#listservs](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/newsroom.htm#listservs)
- Call the Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center: 800-424-9346 or 703-412-9810

Also see Related Story: 2008 Tier II Submit Software—Page 7

Tier II Submissions: [LEPC@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:LEPC@cumberlandcounty.org)

## *Disability Preparedness*

Emergency planners and first responders must consider the unique needs of seniors, people with service animals, people with mobility impairments, people who are mentally ill, people who are visually impaired, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, and people with cognitive disabilities; as well as those with limited English language proficiency. Identifying these people, whether in the community or in the workplace, is a first step. Including them in emergency planning activities and emergency drills will lead to incorporation of their needs in emergency plans. Proactive efforts can identify the resources that may be needed to respond to an emergency. Develop a network to include disability and advocacy groups in your community or workplace to identify the needs of people with disabilities and the resources necessary to meet their needs in an emergency.

The following web sites have more information for Emergency Managers and First Responders:

- FEMA  
[www.fema.gov/oer/reference](http://www.fema.gov/oer/reference)
- Department of Justice  
An ADA Guide for Local Governments  
[www.ada.gov/emergencyprep.htm](http://www.ada.gov/emergencyprep.htm)
- National Organization on Disability  
[www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org)
- PrepareNow.org  
[www.preparenow.org](http://www.preparenow.org)
- Nobody Left Behind  
[www.nobodyleftbehind2.org](http://www.nobodyleftbehind2.org)
- Center for Disability and Special Needs Preparedness  
[www.disabilitypreparedness.org](http://www.disabilitypreparedness.org)

## 2009 Exercises

- **April 8, 2009 (Wednesday)**  
Point of Distribution (POD) Tabletop Exercise  
MEMA/Cumberland County/Sagadahoc County
- **June 2009 (day TBD)**  
Portland Jetport Tabletop Exercise

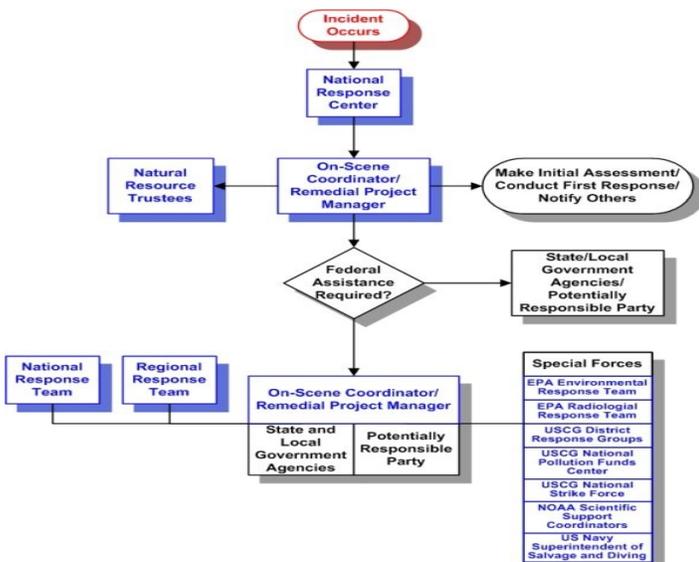
## National Response System

The National Response System (NRS) routinely and effectively responds to a wide range of oil and hazardous substance releases. It is a multi-layered system of individuals and teams from local, state, and federal agencies, industry, and other organizations that share expertise and resources to ensure that oil spill control and cleanup activities are timely and efficient, and that they minimize threats to human health and the environment.

At the heart of the system is the National Contingency Plan (NCP), which ensures that the resources and expertise of the federal government are available immediately for oil or hazardous substance releases that are beyond the capabilities of local and state responders. The NCP provides the framework for the NRS and establishes how it works.

When releases are serious enough to be considered "Nationally Significant Incidents," the National Response Framework (NRF) is activated, and works in conjunction with the NRS and NCP. The NRF is the federal government's comprehensive, all-hazard approach to crisis management, and provides a mechanism for coordinating federal assistance to state governments and localities.

For More Information: [www.epa.gov/emergencies](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies)



## AccuWeather.com® 2008-2009 Winter Forecast

Posted: October 8, 2008—[www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com)®

AccuWeather.com® Chief Long-Range Forecaster Joe Bastardi released his 2008-09 Winter Season Forecast addressing issues of average temperatures and precipitation impacting the nation. His forecast calls for one of the coldest winters in several years across much of the East.

The core of cold was centered across the Great Plains last year but is expected to be farther east this year. Bastardi says the winter of 2008-2009 will be viewed as the hardest in several years. "It may be a shock to some when compared with the above-average temperatures of last year in the East. It will put some 'brrrrr' in the saddles of folks who have not had to deal with such things for a while," he cautions.

"In the eastern half of the nation, people will look at the winter as bookends of cold," Bastardi said. He says the overall colder and snowier winter will be off to a cold start in December with perhaps the roughest winter months for much of the nation. It may finish with another cold spell in late January and February.

"The winter as a whole in the population-dense eastern third of the nation will be a one-two punch of higher heating prices and lower temperatures. Given this economic environment, the winter could push some homeowners to the brink," he concludes. In some cases, homeowners trying to keep their residents as warm as last winter could spend hundreds of dollars more this heating season.

## Future Meetings:

- **December 4, 2008, Thursday—8:30 a.m.**  
DHS Grant Application Review Committee  
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- **December 10, 2008, Wednesday—8:30 a.m.**  
Local EMA Director's Meeting CCE-  
MA, 22 High Street, Windham
- **December 16, 2008, Tuesday—6:30 p.m.**  
Cumberland County ARES Meeting  
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham
- **January 27, 2009, Tuesday—6:00 p.m.**  
Cumberland County CART Team CCE-  
MA, 22 High Street, Windham
- **February 4, 2009, Wednesday—1:00 p.m.**  
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)  
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine

## DHS Announces FY09 Grants

(continued from Cover Story Page)

- Transit Security Grant Program—\$388.6 million
  - \* Freight Rail Security Grant Program—\$15 million
  - \* Intercity Passenger Rail (Amtrak) —\$25 million
- Port Security Grant Program—\$388.6 million
- Buffer Zone Protection Program—\$48.6 million
- Intercity Bus Security Grant Program—\$11.7 million
- Trucking Security Program—\$7.8 million
- Emergency Management Performance Grants—\$306 million
- Interoperable Emergency Communications—\$48.6 million
- Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant—\$34 million

Selected preparedness grants, such as the Urban Areas Security Initiative, are awarded according to a risk assessment methodology that assesses threat, vulnerability and consequence. The FY 2009 risk methodology has not changed from FY 2008.

TSGP, PSGP, BZPP, IBSGP, and TSP applications are due no later than Jan. 13, 2009. Applications for the HSGP programs are due no later than March 20, 2009. Other program application deadlines are listed in the program guidance.

The FY 2009 Application Guidance reflects the strategic priorities set by the Homeland Security Strategy as well as the National Preparedness Guidelines and National Response Framework.

Further information on preparedness grant programs is available at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov) and [www.fema.gov/grants](http://www.fema.gov/grants).

Also see related story—*What's New for FY 2009*—page 6.

### Stuff to Know

Rainbows...if green in color, rain will continue; if red is the dominant color, look for wind and rain; if blue is strong, the air is clearing; if the rainbow is broken in 2-3 places, look for rainy weather for 2-3 days.

The cirrus cloud, the highest type of cloud in altitude, contains extremely cold water at -31° Fahrenheit.

If you attempted to count from one to one-billion, it would take you over 95 years.

## Training Announcements

*“preparedness through education”*

- **CPR, AED & First Aid Classes—On-going** American Red Cross of Southern Maine (207) 874-1192 ext 294, or [www.maineredcross.org](http://www.maineredcross.org)
- **Interoperable Communications and ConOps Training** Maine Emergency Management Online Training Center [www.jpmaweb.com](http://www.jpmaweb.com) (agency registration required)
- December 4, 2008, 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
**Understanding Basics of Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) for Mitigation Projects**  
Location: Augusta, Maine—MEMA Classroom  
Contact: JoAnn Mooney [joann.e.mooney@maine.gov](mailto:joann.e.mooney@maine.gov) (207) 624-4400 800-452-8735
- December 9—12, 2008, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
**L499 Incident Command System Train-the-Trainer**  
Location: Augusta, Maine—Florian Hall (MEMA)  
Contact: Mike Grant—State Training Coordinator (207) 624-4460 Submit FEMA 75-5 training application
- January 13—14, 2009, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
**(G230) Principles of Emergency Management**  
Location: Augusta, Maine—MEMA Classroom  
Contact: Mike Grant—State Training Coordinator (207) 624-4460 Submit FEMA 75-5 training application  
Target Audience: State, County and municipal emergency management staff only.
- January 27—28, 2009, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
**(G235) Emergency Planning**  
Location: Augusta, Maine—MEMA Classroom  
Contact: Mike Grant—State Training Coordinator (207) 624-4460 Submit FEMA 75-5 training application  
Target Audience: County and local emergency directors and their deputies only.
- February 4, 2009, 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.  
**Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know**  
Location: Augusta, Maine—Quality Inn  
Contact: Robert Gardner—MEMA (207) 624-4400 or 800-452-8735 [maine.serc@maine.gov](mailto:maine.serc@maine.gov)
- February 10, 2009, 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.  
**Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know**  
Location: Portland, Maine—Verrillo's Banquet Center  
Contact: Robert Gardner—MEMA (207) 624-4400 or 800-452-8735 [maine.serc@maine.gov](mailto:maine.serc@maine.gov)
- February 10—11, 2009, 8:15 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
**(G703) NIMS Resource Management**  
Location: Augusta, Maine—MEMA Classroom  
Contact: Mike Grant—State Training Coordinator (207) 624-4460 Submit FEMA 75-5 training application  
Target Audience: County and local emergency management directors and their deputies, IMAT personnel

## Amateur Radio ARES-RACES



The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) was established under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules and Regulations, as part of the amateur radio service. RACES is an organization of amateur radio operators who volunteer to provide radio communications for State and local governments in times of emergency. Created in 1952 primarily to serve in civil defense emergencies, RACES provided essential communications and warning links to supplement State and local government assets during emergencies.

RACES is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through FEMA Civil Preparedness Guidance, CPG 1-15, March 1991, and provides emergency communications for civil preparedness purposes only. In the event that the President invokes the War Powers Act, amateurs officially enrolled in the local civil preparedness group would become limited to certain frequencies, while all other amateur operations would be silenced.

The RACES organization provides or supplements communications during emergencies where normal communication systems have sustained damage. It may be used in a wide variety of situations, including but not limited to:

- Natural Disasters;
- Technological Disasters;
- Nuclear Accidents;
- Nuclear Attack;
- Terrorist Incidents; and
- Bomb Threats.



The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), located in Newington, Connecticut, an organization that supports and promotes the ham radio community, sponsors and coordinates the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). RACES is primarily focused to support government emergency management/services agencies during times of an emergency and/or disaster; ARES, through the ARRL, is a public service for providing communications support primarily to non-government agencies during an emergency/disaster. A primary user of the ARES is the American Red Cross.

Amateur Radio Operators, or hams, practice their skills and demonstrate their capabilities through communications drills and exercises, and often volunteer their services by providing emergency communications during events sponsored by the American Diabetes Association, Multiple Sclerosis and other bike and walk-a-thon fund-raising campaigns.

## What's New for FY 2009

In fiscal Year 2009, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will award more than \$3 billion in grants to states, urban areas and transportation authorities under 14 programs to bolster national preparedness capabilities and protect critical infrastructure. Fiscal Year 2009 grant programs provide \$24 million more than last year to enhance the nation's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. This includes the department's two largest grant programs: the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) which totals more than \$1.7 billion, and multiple infrastructure protection programs, totaling more than \$845 million.

- FY 2009 HSGP funding focuses on six priorities, tailored to either states or urban areas:
  - \* measuring progress against the National Preparedness Guidelines
  - \* strengthening preparedness planning, training and exercises
  - \* strengthening improvised explosive devices (IEDS), IED deterrence, prevention, protection and response capabilities
  - \* emphasizing information sharing capabilities
  - \* strengthening medical readiness
  - \* strengthening preventive radiological/nuclear detection capabilities
- DHS is announcing targeted grant allocations up front for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), enabling states and urban areas to write investment justifications that reflect available resources.
- The Department is providing grant funding where it is needed most. Under the FY 2009 HSGP, states will be able to apply for funding for critical emergency supplies such as shelf stable meals and water.
- The Department has made personnel cost changes in the Homeland Security Grant Program, removing further restrictions on allowable personnel expenses up to 50 percent established by the 9/11 Act and the PRICE Act. In addition, the three-year limit on funding intelligence analysts has been removed under the HSGP.

*(continued on page 9)*

## 2008 Tier II Submit Software Available

November 3, 2008

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) announces that the 2008 Tier II Submit software has now been released by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This software allows facilities with reportable quantities of hazardous materials to document and submit their reports electronically, through e-mail or on a CD, as required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA).

EPCRA requires the operator or owner of facilities with 10,000 pounds of a hazardous material or 500 pounds or less of an Extremely Hazardous Substance, based on the chemicals' Threshold Planning Quantity, to annually submit inventory reports. This information is used by local first responders to assist them in identifying where there are chemical risks in their community and LEPCs' in developing regional response plans. To access this free software please go to the following link:

<http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/epcra/tier2.htm>

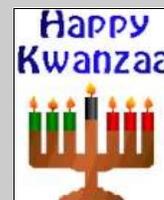
For more information on reporting or for assistance in completing reports, please contact:

Eric Sawyer—Cumberland County EMA  
(207) 892-6785 or [esawyer@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:esawyer@cumberlandcounty.org)

Tier II Reports are due by, March 1, 2009, and sent to:  
[LEPC@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:LEPC@cumberlandcounty.org)

## Community Events (Large Gatherings)

- **December 7, 2008 (Sunday)**  
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- **December 22, 2008 (Monday)**  
Hanukkah
- **December 25, 2008 (Thursday)**  
Christmas Day
- **December 26, 2008 (Friday)**  
Kwanzaa begins
- **January 1, 2009 (Thursday)**  
New Years Day



## Important Links

- **County of Cumberland Emergency Management Agency**  
[www.cumberlandcounty.org/EMA](http://www.cumberlandcounty.org/EMA)
- **MEMA Site**  
[www.maine.gov/mema](http://www.maine.gov/mema)
- **FEMA**  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- **MEMA Forms & Publications**  
[www.maine.gov/mema/mema\\_library.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/mema/mema_library.shtml)
- **American Red Cross of Southern Maine**  
<http://southernmaine.redcross.org>
- **2-1-1 Maine**  
[www.211maine.org](http://www.211maine.org)
- **Volunteer Maine**  
[www.volunteermaine.org](http://www.volunteermaine.org)
- **5-1-1 Maine**  
[www.511Maine.gov](http://www.511Maine.gov)
- **Cumberland County**  
[www.cumberlandcounty.org](http://www.cumberlandcounty.org)
- **NIMS**  
[www.fema.gov/emergency/nims](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims)
- **Federal Homeland Security Grants**  
[www.fema.gov/government/grant/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/index.shtm)
- **FEMA On-Line Training**  
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/>
- **Southern Maine EMS**  
[www.smems.org](http://www.smems.org)
- **Emergency Essentials**  
<http://beprepared.com/>
- **PROP**  
[www.wherepeoplecomefirst.org](http://www.wherepeoplecomefirst.org)
- **GPCOG**  
[www.gpcog.org](http://www.gpcog.org)

## Resolve to be *Ready*

From: Erin Streeter - Director, *Ready* Campaign, U.S.DHS

Dear Partners in Preparedness:

As the New Year approaches, the Department of Homeland Security's *Ready* Campaign is once again reminding people that *Now's the Time. Resolve to be Ready in 2009.* While nearly 50 percent of Americans make New Year's Eve resolutions, very few manage to keep them. The *Ready* Campaign would like to make an emergency preparedness resolution easy to keep by providing the tools and resources needed to take the three important steps: get a kit, make a plan and be informed. We hope you will join the *Ready* Campaign this Holiday Season in promoting *Resolve to be Ready.*

Available from Cumberland County EMA, is a *Resolve to be Ready* in 2009 Campaign Toolkit, a document to help your organization develop internal and external messages to encourage your members, employees, constituents, customers and community to make a New Year's resolution to prepare for emergencies. You will also find Web banners for your organization's Web site, a sample e-mail and a PowerPoint that you can share with your key constituents.

You can also visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or call 1-800-BE-READY to learn more about how to prepare for emergencies and how to receive free materials, including family emergency plan templates and sample business continuity plans. Additionally, you can help spread the message throughout your community by partnering with other local organizations to host and arrange activities and events around New Year's Eve.

### Sample Ideas to Encourage Preparedness

- Get involved with your community's New Year's Eve celebrations. Many towns across the country host First Nights which are family-friendly New Year's Eve celebrations. These types of events provide a good opportunity for your organization to get emergency preparedness materials and information in the hands of your community members. There are a variety of ways you can get involved, including: handing out emergency preparedness materials, registering for a table to disseminate information, or creating a community sign-up for those who *Resolve to be Ready.* You can even get Rex, the *ReadyKids* mascot, involved! For more information on First Nights, please visit:

<http://www.firstnightintl.org/welcome.php>.

- Encourage people to keep their resolution. One way to do this is to post the three simple steps people can take to keep their emergency preparedness or send them out via e-mail. Another option is to have people sign pledge cards as a constant reminder of their resolution.
- Display the contents of an emergency kit at your company's reception desk. This will serve as a great

visual reminder of the importance of emergency preparedness for your employees or office visitors as they come into the office. Next to the display, provide handouts of *Ready's* emergency supply kit checklist so that people know how to assemble their own kits.

- Host a drive for people affected by a recent emergency such as a local family displaced by a fire, or local families affected by flooding. Use this opportunity to encourage your employees/community members to think about their own family's emergency preparedness.
- Organize an emergency preparedness event for your community or office. Rent Rex, the *Ready Kids* mascot, and have activities for children to learn about the importance of having a family emergency plan. For more information on renting Rex, see page 20 of Tool Kit, (available through Cumberland County EMA).
- Reach out to your local Citizen Corps Council to find out if they are organizing any New Year's events that your organization can sponsor. You can find local Citizen Corps contacts by visiting [www.citizen corps.gov](http://www.citizen corps.gov).
- Contact your local American Red Cross Chapter to schedule a Be Red Cross Ready workplace or community presentation. Or, find out if your organization can help sponsor or facilitate any preparedness events they may be holding in affiliation with their Be Red Cross Ready campaign, which educates and engages people in first aid and CPR training or preparedness actions throughout the year. To locate the Red Cross Chapter in your area, visit:  
<http://www.redcross.org/where/chapts.asp>.
- As you plan your organization's holiday events, consider weaving in a preparedness theme. If you're hosting a dinner, consider giving each employee a flashlight or NOAA Weather Radio to include in their emergency supply kit at home.

For a copy of the Homeland Security's *Ready* Campaign Tool Kit, contact: D.B. Feeney—Cumberland County EMA

Now's the Time.

## Resolve to be Ready

in 2009

**Keeping New Year's resolutions can be hard, but emergency preparedness is one resolution that can be easy to keep with Ready's three simple steps:**

- ✓ Get an emergency supply kit.
- ✓ Make a family emergency plan.
- ✓ Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur in your area and their appropriate responses.



For more information on how to prepare your family, home, and business for all types of emergencies, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).





# What's New for FY 2009

(Continued from Page 6)

- States bordering Canada (including Alaska), southern states bordering Mexico, and states and territories with International water borders are eligible for funding under the FY 2009 Operation Stone Garden. Previous grants were restricted to states located on a land border.
- Emergency Operation Center construction and renovation are now allowable expenses under the FY 2009 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program.
- The requirement for cash or in-kind matches for grants has been removed from the FY 2009 Transit Security Grant Program, the Freight Rail Security Grant Program and the Intercity Passenger Rail (Amtrak) program.
- The requirement for cash matches have been removed in the Port Security Grant Program and grantees may now use in-kind contributions.
- The Port Security Grant Program will allow for the development of eight new group II port areas. Seven port areas move up from Group III to Group II, and one port area moves up from All Other Port Areas to Group II. There are 21 new port areas in Group III.

For further information on Preparedness Grant Programs see the DHS Web site at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

*In Fiscal Year 2009, DHS will award over \$3 billion in grants to improve the nation's preparedness in preventing, protecting against, responding to and recovering from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies.*

## Bunker Laughs



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# Monthly Communications Test

**December 11, 2008, at 1330 hours.**

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



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