



2011 Annual Report to the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers

1. Purpose: The purpose of this report is provide the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Group (NEGECPG) with an update of progress since the last report provided to the NEGECPG in Cranwell, Massachusetts during June 2010.

2. General:

The International Emergency Managers Group (IEMG) was formed at the direction of the NEGECPG to enhance the capability of the six state and five provincial members to provide support to one another in preparation for, response to and recovery from disaster events. Since its inception, the IEMG has remained focused on developing mutual aid capabilities, sustaining those capabilities and investigating methods to expand those capabilities.

During this past year, the members have responded to numerous serious disaster situations, conducted face-to-face working/training meetings, progressed with completion of previously identified objectives and updated a near-term plan of goals, tasks and objectives. The remainder of this report provides a summary of these activities.

3. Significant Events:

Unlike the challenge of responding to the H1N1 threat, there was no single event that impacted all of us during this reporting period (June 2010-June 2011). There are two significant occurrences, however, that many of our members have dealt with.

The first has been a significant amount of turnover within the various emergency management organizations as well as in the political leadership of our various states and provinces. While these changes have not resulted in a necessarily negative impact, they do require effort on the part of our organizations to come back up to full speed operationally speaking and to re-establish the necessary relationships with our state and provincial partners and the leadership structure. The challenge over the upcoming year is to retain corporate continuity within IEMG to assure the advancements over the past several years continue. While there has been turnover at the Directors level, many working group members have remained in place within member jurisdictions.

The second commonly experienced phenomenon is the constrained fiscal environment under which we are working. Whether it is Federal, State/Provincial or local resources the trend has been almost universally towards a reduction in those resources or zero growth. As Directors, we

are acutely aware of the economic challenges faced by our leadership and we recognize we are in a far different place than we were just a couple of years ago. We accept this reality and have worked on ways to reduce costs organizationally within the IEMG. We are also looking for ways to stretch our operational funding to meet the continuing set of requirements we have always had.

During the past year each of the members did respond to significant man-made or natural events within their jurisdictions. A sampling of those events is again provided at attachment (a) to this report. As we experienced in previous years, there were no requests for mutual aid. The members did exchange information and there was a steady flow of situation reports to help maintain good situational awareness.

4. Meeting Activities:

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

This meeting was primarily focused on educational/informational presentations and discussions regarding operational issues within the IEMG. Highlights from the presentations are as follows:

- Mr. Richard Serino, Deputy Director FEMA, opened the meeting with a presentation of issues from the Federal perspective and confirmed FEMA's support of the IEMG's cross-border efforts.
- Our Federal partners from PS Canada and FEMA Region 1 provided the members a back brief of the fall exercise for federal partners that was hosted by Maine and focused on response prior to and after a major hurricane striking the Maine-New Brunswick Region.
- The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency gave a presentation on the State's response to a massive water main break that left a very large number of people without potable water.
- The Conference Board of Canada provided an overview of its Cross Border Critical Infrastructure Initiative that they completed with Maine and New Brunswick.
- The Vermont and New Hampshire Departments of Public Health discussed the response to a tritium leak at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.
- Rhode Island discussed the challenges and successes they experienced during a massive flooding event in March 2010.
- The US Coast Guard and the Maine Department of Environment provided a detailed briefing on their response to the Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Representatives from the US Department of Defense and Department of State discussed the US response to the earthquake disaster in Haiti.

- The City of Boston reviewed a major Regional Catastrophic Planning effort that is underway in the southern New England area.

Quebec City, Quebec

During the May 10-12, 2011 period, the Province of Quebec hosted our Spring Meeting. Although funding constraints mentioned above limited participation, the meeting provided an excellent opportunity to receive some valuable training and to work on a revision to our strategic goals, objectives and tasks.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)) sent two experienced instructors to provide a concentrated period of instruction on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact and the use of A-Teams to assist jurisdictions in need. This compact is used to request and provide resources through mutual aid. It is also the construct that has been adopted by the IEMG. Prior to the instruction the EMAC forms had been revised to reflect use by the IEMG. The knowledge gained from this detailed review of the forms and how they are used was then tested in a table top exercise simulating mutual aid requests during a severe weather event. This use of the EMAC form by the IEMG also has the potential to facilitate responses during activation of a North American Mutual Aid Agreement which is currently being developed.

After the exercise, participants had an in depth discussion about our strategic goals, objectives and tasks. The revisions we made will help focus our future work on our operational processes and related issues. They are also reflective of what we can realistically achieve given the realities of today's resources. The results of our efforts are provided in paragraph 5 below.

5. Near Term goals, objectives and tasks:

It has been deemed essential at this juncture that the strategic direction of IEMG be re-stated and streamlined in light of the current challenges member jurisdictions face. Also, recent events such as the spring flooding in Vermont and Quebec, storm surge flooding in the Maritime Provinces and tornados in Massachusetts make it critical to IEMG Directors that processes are clearly in place and tested in order that mutual support to provinces and states is ready.

An outcome of the Strategic Planning session during the Quebec City meeting in May identified three primary strategic objectives to address over the period from 2011-2014:

- Operationalize the IEMG Compact
- Increase information sharing and situational awareness during events
- Develop and Implement Programs/ Marketing to Promote IEMG

The first objective builds upon the efforts to date to prepare processes in order to provide emergency assistance across jurisdictional borders. This builds upon work from the previous strategic plan to develop the operational guide to issuing requests for assistance and the process to respond to those requests. Over the next 12 months, efforts of operational managers will focus on refining the mechanisms to request and offer assistance so that clarity and consistency to delivering timely assistance during an emergency is in place.

The second objective will address the mechanisms necessary to ensure supporting jurisdictions will have a comprehensive operational overview of the emergency response and recovery efforts when a partner jurisdiction is dealing with an emergency situation. A key function in providing timely assistance is understanding what the issues are and anticipating how and what assistance may need to be provided. Currently, information does flow, however not in a consistent or uniform fashion. The best example of situational awareness sharing evolved around monitoring tropical storms and hurricane entering the Atlantic region.

The third objective is aimed at improving the operational capabilities of member jurisdictions. It is noted that the occasions where resources have been requested by an IEMG member have been very few. In order to provide the best response, it is important to understand how the member organizations operate and function. The latter term of the strategic plan period will focus on how member organizations can draw on partner resources during local exercises and drills. Also, the capacities to deploy staff to assist in local emergencies will be explored in much more detail.

6. Challenges:

A constrained resource environment will demand that we find creative ways to continue our development as an organization and our readiness to provide assistance when needed. While the Board of Directors have introduced methods to conduct business remotely through conference calling and web-based meetings, it is still essential to bring key staff from the member jurisdictions together periodically for training and exercising so that skills are developed to work effectively during emergencies.

7. Fall 2011 Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 15-17 and will be hosted by Vermont. Prior to that meeting work efforts will continue through a series of conference calls at both the Director and Working Group levels.

Respectfully submitted: July 11, 2011



Aaron Campbell
Canadian Co-Chair



Robert McAleer
United States Co-Chair

Summary of Significant Events

Connecticut

- January 2011 Recording breaking snowfall and historic accumulations resulted in Major Disaster Declaration
- Consolidation of Emergency Management, Homeland Security, State Police, Fire and Police Academies into the Department of Emergency Services and Public Safety Protection
- State Fusion Center moved into secure facilities

Maine

- Fall 2010 Federal Partners Cross-Border Exercise
- December 2010 Severe Weather Major Disaster Declaration
- June 2011 Severe rain and tornados

Massachusetts

- September 2010 Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Earl
- January 2011 Major Disaster Declaration for record snowfalls in seven counties
- June 2011 Major Disaster Declaration (3) tornadoes impacting (9) cities
- Participation with New Hampshire and Rhode Island in Regional Catastrophic Planning initiative

New Hampshire

- August 2010 Response to Hurricane Earl
- December 2010 Severe winter storm
- January and February 2011 Nor'easter/snow event
- April 2011 Connecticut River Flooding
- May 2011 Severe weather and request for Presidential Declaration

Nova Scotia

- August 2010 Meat Cove Flash Flooding
- November 2010 significant flooding South Shore NS
- December 2010 (4) severe winter storms
- June 2010 Royal Visit, Naval Centennial and Grand Chief Membertou

New Brunswick

- December 6 Storm Surge North Eastern Coastline
- December 12-13 Heavy Rainfall and Flooding
- December 20-22 Storm Surge South Eastern Coastline

Newfoundland Labrador

- September 20-21, 2010 Hurricane Igor
 - Major washout Trans Canada Highway
 - 150 communities isolated
 - State of Emergency in 23 towns
 - Estimated \$185M in damages
 - Over 100 bridges, culverts and other road infrastructure destroyed or severely damaged
 - 75,000 without power

Prince Edward Island

- December 2010 Severe storm surge

Rhode Island

- Operation Safe Haven was conducted at Rhode Island College with a TTX on 30 June. This HI-ED collaboration involved colleges and universities from multiple states.
- Cyber Disruption Team involving multiple public and private sector partners has been formalized after a two-year process.
- Currently distributing funds to communities in support of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) directly related to the Great Floods of 2010.
- New Adjutant General MG Kevin McBride has been appointed and he assumes the “Director of RI Emergency Management” title.

Vermont

- September 2010 Conducted a catastrophic exercise involving over 1000 people.
- October 2010 Flash flooding in central and northeastern parts of the state.
- December 2010 Major Disaster Declaration for high wind damage in three counties.
- May 2011 Participated in a FEMA evaluated exercise testing response capabilities for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.
- April –May 2011 Flash flooding incidents in several parts of the state during the 2 month period. Lake Champlain reached record high levels and remained above flood stage from April 13 –June 19. This resulted in a Major disaster Declaration for eight counties.

Quebec

- 460 monitored events during the year
- May/June 2010 Massive wildfires with evacuations of (3) aboriginal communities
- December 2010 Tidal wave damage along St. Lawrence River and heavy flooding in Gaspésie
- April/May/June 2011 Major flooding along Richelieu River and Lake Champlain