



2012 Annual Report to the Council of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) with a progress update since the 2011 report.

General:

The role and responsibility of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) is to enhance the capability of the member jurisdictions to be positioned to extend support to provinces and states in the preparation for, response to and recovery from significant emergency events. The member jurisdictions of IEMG have remained dedicated to developing capacity to respond through mutual aid support. This capability has been maintained through regular meetings, training and exercising.

Since last report to NEG/ECP, the member jurisdictions of IEMG have recorded an increase in frequency of intense weather events, several of which have caused wide impacts across several provinces and states. The financial impacts of several of these events has been substantial both in the costs associated in responding to and recovering from the event as well as the financial impacts to local economies. Some of these economic impacts are short term while others will require monitoring for the long term and possibly permanent economic loss.

Significant events:

During the period covered by this report, jurisdictions have reported several events with wide reaching impacts, many of which were caused by adverse weather events and spring flooding. Of note, was the spring flooding of 2011 on Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River. Both Vermont and Quebec Emergency Management Offices took advantage of the opportunity to coordinate emergency response information and messaging to citizens. This presented an opportunity to better understand messages delivered to neighboring citizens regarding the impacts of the flooding event and to better coordinate the messaging to assure consistency. With what seems to be a rise in the frequency and severity of weather / climate related events which have caused significant damages throughout the jurisdictions, there appears to be an opportunity to maximize coordination between climate change experts and emergency management officials .

The increasing financial cost associated with disaster response and recovery suggests that there appears to be an unfolding opportunity to identify partnerships to develop a methodology to more accurately predict and report on the economic effect disaster events play in the NEG/ECP jurisdictions.

Economic development agencies and insurance bureau representatives appear to be the most obvious partners. This concept requires further investigation.



2011 Fall Session - Burlington, VT:

Quebec & Vermont presented jointly on 2011 spring flooding Champlain / Richelieu River regarding the impacts on citizens as well as the coordination of information exchange between emergency management agencies.

Massachusetts presented on the June 2, 2011 tornados impact and recovery efforts.

Maine presented on Regional Resiliency Assessment/Cross –border Interoperability Demonstration Project in partnership with New Brunswick.

Diane Smith (NL) provided an overview of the IEMG Compact and Memorandum of Understanding between States and Provinces as a refresher education session for new members.

Secretariat representatives from New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers attended the proceedings to observe the work of IEMG.

2012 Spring Session - Fredericton, NB:

Centre of Security Science (CSS) presentation on Partnership potential IEMG and the Centre of Security Science to prototype Canada / US Inter-regional Collaborative Response Planning. A framework could include collaborative Strategic Planning outlook beyond the current International Policy.

Vermont presented on the recovery efforts resulting from the impacts of Tropical Storm Irene. Resource support from neighboring IEMG member states was highlighted as part of the presentation.

New Brunswick presented on the offsite nuclear emergency plan which has been recently updated and exercised in preparation for bringing the Pt. Lepreau nuclear power plant back online.

Public Safety Canada presented on the Canada/US Cross-Border Emergency Management support arrangement.

File leads reported on the progress related to the 2011-2015 strategic plan and critical tasks to date.

Goals & Objectives 2012:

The course of direction for the upcoming year will primarily be to further develop the functional capabilities to respond to requests for assistance by member jurisdictions through further training and exercising opportunities. Additionally, the strategic direction for the period identifies a priority to develop further strategic partnerships to enhance capabilities, particularly as they relate to crossing the international border between Canada and the United States of America.

Work will continue on critical tasks associated with the goals set out in the 2011-2015 IEMG Strategic Plan:

- 1) Operationalize the IEMG Compact
- 2) Increase situational awareness and information sharing during disaster events
- 3) Develop and Implement programs to promote IEMG



Efforts to explore strategic partnerships will continue, with agencies such as the Centre for Security Science, to align IEMG with organizations with a common purpose and strategic direction.

Fall Session Newport, Rhode Island November 26-28, 2012:

The Fall session will include a functional exercise which will test the abilities to make formal requests for assistance and monitor the capabilities to identify the requested resources and provide response to originator. Work will continue at the Director and Working Group level to advance the indentified strategic goals in 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Campbell
Canadian Co-Chair

Kurt Schwartz
United States Co-Chair



Significant Events for IEMG Jurisdictions thru 5/31/12

CT

- Tropical Storm Irene (EOC Activation August 25 – September 9)
- October Nor'easter (EOC Activation October 29- November 10)

MA

We had three presidentially declared disasters between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012:

- Three tornadoes hit Massachusetts, June 1, 2011
- Tropical Storm Irene, August 28, 2011
- October Blizzard/Nor'Easter, October 29-30, 2011

ME

- June 2011 -- Extensive rain storm/flood damage in Aroostook County
- August 2011 -- Deployed 350 personnel to Vermont after Hurricane Irene

NB

- Chris Hand was appointed Manager of Provincial Preparedness, and Stacey Cooling was appointed Manager of Operations.
- Provincial Emergency Operation Centre was activated to Level I to monitor Hurricane Irene
- Provincial Emergency Operation Centre was activated to Level I to respond to flooding in the Perth-Andover area and Tobique First Nations.
- Recovery Program was established for the residents of the Perth-Andover and Tobique First Nations.
- Exercise Intrepid, in partnership with Point Lepreau Generating Station and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.
- Conducted two - Basic Emergency Management; three -Emergency Operation Centre; two -Emergency Public Information and six - Emergency Site Management Courses.
- The Director attended the Fall IEMG meeting in Burlington, VT
- NB EMO hosted the IEMG Spring meeting in May 29 – 31, 2012.

NH

- 2011-006 June 1st Severe Weather 06/01/2011
- 2011 June 9th Severe Thunderstorms 06/09/2011
- 2011-07 Nascar Race 17 July 07/15/2011
- 2011 July 20 Heat wave 07/20/2011
- 2011-008 Stewartstown Incident Missing child/Suspicious death 07/31/2011
- 2011-010 Hurricane Irene **(Presidential Disaster Declaration)** 08/23/2011
- 2011-011 August Earthquake 08/23/2011
- 2011 Sept NASCAR Race 09/23/2011
- 2011-013 October Snowstorm **(Presidential Disaster Declaration)** 10/28/2011
- 2011-014 Thanksgiving Storm 11/23/2011



- 2011-015 Rochester Water Tower failure 12/13/2011
- 2012-002 March 01 Snow Event 03/01/2012
- 2012-003 Greenland Incident- 5 law enforcement officers shot/2 civilians shot (3-total fatalities) 04/12/2012
- 2012-005 Portsmouth Naval Shipyard USS Miami Submarine Fire 05/23/2012
- 2012-006 May Severe Weather (**Presidential Disaster Declaration-pending**) 05/29/2012

NL

- August 26, 2011 Hurricane Irene
- September 14, 2011 Tropical Storm Maria
- September 16, 2011 High Waves/Storm Surge Activity
- October 5 to 6, 2011 Heavy Rains/High Wind Activity
- December 7 to 8, 2011 High Winds/ Storm Surge Activity Island of Newfoundland and Southern Coast of Labrador
- February 15, 2012 Water Supply Issue-State of Emergency Hopedale Labrador
- February 29, 2012 Power outage at Memorial University of Newfoundland Residences
- March 14, 2012 Fire at Electrical Generation Facility Black Tickle, Labrador
- May 18, 2012 Release of 40,000 barrels of Bunker Fuel at oil refinery
- May 25, 2012 Wildfire on Canadian Forces Base – Goose Bay

NS -

- Aug 27- 2011- Hurricane Irene
- Oct 5- 2011- Storm system affecting most of the Province
- Nov 11- 2011- Heavy rainfall causing serious flooding
- Nov 23- 2011- Significant snow storm affecting most of the Province
- Feb 11- 2012 - Severe weather event
- May 8- 2012- Major EX prompting ops response

PEI

- Royal Visit - Duke & Duchess of Cambridge, July 2011
- Cavendish Beach Music Festival, July 2011
- Atlantic Air Show, August 2011

QC

- Major spring flooding in 2011
- Hurricane Irene, August 2011
- Minor spring flooding in 2012

RI

No report provided

VT

- August 9, 2011 – VEM moved back into renovated SEOC.
- August 28, 2011 – TS Irene. Current damage estimates at \$450 million.



- October 10, 2011 – Public Safety Building reoccupied after state office complex is damaged by Irene
- November, 2011 – VEM Director leaves to become Director of Fire Safety.
- February, 2012 – Governor appoints Joe Flynn as VEM Director.
- May 29, 2012 – Major storm causes flooding and a confirmed EF0 tornado.