



2013 Annual Report to the Coalition of North-eastern Governors¹ and Eastern Canadian Premiers

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Coalition of North-eastern Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers on activities of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

History of the IEMG

In June of 1998, the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers passed Resolution 23-5 supporting the adoption of an International Emergency Management Compact to provide for mutual assistance among the states and provinces in managing emergencies or disasters. In October of 1998, representatives of the states and provinces began drafting a Memorandum of Understanding and Compact.

In 2000, the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers approved a Memorandum of Understanding, known as the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to serve as the framework for an International Emergency Management Assistance Compact by and between those states and provinces that later formally adopted the MOU. Over the next several years, 10 states and provinces formally adopted the Compact and became full members of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG).

Member Jurisdictions

Provinces that have adopted the Compact: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador.

States that have adopted the Compact: Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island.²

Mission

The International Emergency Management Assistance Compact provides a framework for participating jurisdictions to render mutual aid to each other when preparing for, responding to, or recovering from an emergency or disaster. Members of the International Emergency Management Group meet at least twice each year, and communicate frequently via email and telephone calls to enhance regional situational awareness and provide opportunities for collaborative emergency management planning, training, exercises, and sharing of best practices.

¹ Effective August 31, 2012, the New England Governors' Conference, Inc. was absorbed into the Coalition of North-eastern Governors (CONEG).

² On July 11, 2013, the Governor of Rhode Island signed into law legislation formally adopting the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact.



Meetings of the IEMG

The International Emergency Management Group met twice during the 12 month period covered by this report: in Rhode Island in November of 2012 and in Nova Scotia in May of 2013. The meetings are summarized below.

Fall Meeting: Newport, Rhode Island (November 26-28, 2012)

Significant agenda items and topics of discussion at the fall meeting in Rhode Island included:

- Each jurisdiction reported on major events, disasters, and ongoing initiatives;
- The Board discussed whether to form a sub-committee to review whether the IEMG/IEMAC may be used to facilitate cross border (State to state, Province to province, and US/Canada) mutual aid to support day to day public safety incidents that may not rise to the level of a major disaster. The board voted unanimously to establish a sub-committee to review the issues presented and make recommendations to the Board on how IEMG/IEMAC may be used to facilitate cross border mutual aid in smaller public safety incidents/disasters when the requesting jurisdiction is not willing to absorb the cost and/or liability associated with the response. Sub-Committee to be chaired by Joe Flynn (VT) and Aaron Campbell (PEI).
- A new draft of the IEMG Operations Manual was delivered to the Legal Working Group for review.
- The Group participated in a strategic planning session and updated the IEMG strategic plan.
- Presentations to the Group:
 - Massachusetts presented an overview of the IEMG policies and procedures, and applicable processes, for requesting mutual aid assistance, and for responding to requests for mutual aid assistance.
 - The Safer Institute presented on their First Responder Credentialing & Identity Management program;
 - Rhode Island presented on its Business Emergency Operations Center;
 - Representatives of the fire services discussed an initiative of the International Association of Fire Chiefs to create a new, fire based, national mutual aid agreement; and
 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Weston Observatory in Massachusetts discussed the risks of earthquakes and tsunamis in the north-eastern United States and Eastern Canada.
 - Massachusetts led a presentation on mutual aid assistance under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact during Hurricane Sandy.
- Rhode Island facilitated a table top exercise that focused on cross-border mutual aid assistance under the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC) in response to an Ice Storm.



Spring Meeting: Nova Scotia (May 14-15, 2013)

Significant agenda items and topics of discussion at the spring meeting in Nova Scotia:

- Each jurisdiction reported on major events, disasters, and ongoing initiatives;
- The Board of Directors engaged in a lengthy discussion on sustainability and structure of the semi-annual IEMG meetings. The Directors decided that the meetings should be shorter (maximum 1 ½ days) and structured to maximize discussions amongst directors and attendees, rather than being focused on conference-style presentations.
- The Board reviewed and approved a new Operations Manual. The new manual will be posted to the IEMG website once it has been translated into French.
- The Board held a strategic planning session and updated the IEMG strategic plan.
- Presentations to the Group:
 - Tony Eden (NS) and Jennifer Harper (NH) gave a presentation on the history of the IEMG;
 - Steven Kempton, of Public Health Agency of Canada and Greg Banner of the US Department of Health & Human Services reviewed, compared and contrasted the US and Canadian health and human services related Emergency Support Functions;
 - Bob Robichaud, who is a meteorologist with Environmental Canada, provided an overview of past and future hurricane and related weather patterns.
- The Directors discussed the use of Social Media in emergency management.
- The Directors identified a need for a web-based training session on the use of the IEMAC resource request forms prior to the Vigilant Guard exercise that Maine is hosting in November of 2013. The IEMG will host a webinar in August or September.
- The Directors agreed that the fall 2013 IEMG meeting will be held in Connecticut on November 20-21, 2013, subject to final approval by Connecticut.
- The spring 2014 IEMG meeting will be held in Prince Edward Island.

Significant Events & Activities, July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 (By Jurisdiction)

New Hampshire

- July 7, 2012. Exeter Hospital HCV Incident
- July 4, 2012. Microburst
- July 15, 2012. NASCAR Event
- July 15, 2012. Heat Wave
- July 17, 2012. Severe Storm
- August 20, 2012. New York Hazardous Materials Facility Incident
- September 7, 2012. Presidential Visit
- September 23, 2102. NASCAR Event
- October 16, 2012. Earthquake
- October 9, 2012. Meningitis Outbreak
- October 24, 2012. Hurricane Sandy (Presidential Disaster Declaration)



- December 6, 2012. Wolfeboro Radioluminescent Marker
- December 26, 2012. December Snow Event

Nova Scotia

Significant Operational Events

- July 4, 2012. IWK Children's Hospital Power failure/interruption
- July 24, 2012. Dartmouth General Hospital Power failure
- Aug 3 and 29, 2012. Support to municipality for major outdoor events (Summerfest and Wharf Rat Rally)
- Sept 6, 2012. Tropical Storm Leslie
- Sept 10, 2012. Major Flooding- Colchester County
- Dec 18, 2012. Major Storm Warning
- Dec 29, 2012. Winter Snow Storm/ Blizzard

Exercises

- June 11, 2012. Exercise Hurricane Ted- Provincial
- June 27, 2012. HEREX (Hazardous Materials)
- Oct 24, 2012. Exercise ACE (Hazardous Materials) (support)

Maine

- November 2012. Deployed personnel to New Jersey for security patrols and New York City to augment the city EOC and logistics operations following Hurricane Sandy.
- February 2012. Presidential Disaster Declaration following a blizzard with record snowfall.
- February 2012. Deployed personnel and equipment to Connecticut to assist with snow clearing operations
- March 2013. Participated in CAUSE II Interoperability Experiment (shared situational awareness) with NBEMO, FEMA, DHS, Public Safety Canada
- June 2013. Members of Maine EMA and the Department of Environmental Protection participated in the CANUSLANT Maritime exercise

New Brunswick

- March 2012. Conducted Recovery and Disaster Financial Assistance program for the community of Perth-Andover following spring ice-jam flooding.
- September 2012. Conducted Field Exercise (Decontamination of Evacuees) in partnership with the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station
- October 2012. Provincial Emergency Operations Centre was activated to level 1 in response to Hurricane Sandy
- March 2012. NBEMO participated in CAUSE II Interoperability Experiment (Shared situational awareness) with MEMA, FEMA, DHS, Public Safety Canada



- May 2013. Provincial Emergency Operations Centre activated to level 1 to coordinate evacuations from 3 communities due to Forest Fire threats.
- May 2013. NBEMO hired six (6) Regional Emergency Management Coordinators to implement a regional emergency management construct throughout the province

Connecticut

- February 8-9 2013. Blizzard resulting in Presidential Emergency Declaration and Major Disaster Declaration which provided for 48 hours direct federal assistance and snow assistance for all eight counties and the two Tribal Nations in Connecticut. Eventually, New Haven and Hartford Counties were provided an additional 24 hours of snow assistance (for a total of 72 hours) under FEMA's snow policy
- May 20, 2013. Metro-North Train Derailment response, and partial EOC activation to monitor subsequent commute issues.
- CT continues to work on a number of planning initiatives, including the update and revision of the State Response Framework (SRF), and the finalization of the Energy and Utilities ESF 12 Annex to the SRF, as directed by the Governor. In addition, a number of DEMHS responsibilities have been identified within Public Act 13-3, including serving on the School Security Advisory Committee, drafting school security templates, and conducting school security assessments. In addition, the legislature passed the Governor's CT CARE bill, which calls for various DEMHS personnel to assist in the implementation of a disaster relief fund.
- CT continues to coordinate the recovery process from Super Storm Sandy in addition to four other open disasters. At the direction of the Governor's Office, DEMHS is leading a Sandy Interagency Funding Coordination Committee to facilitate the exchange of information between state agencies regarding federal funding post-Super Storm Sandy. DEMHS Deputy Commissioner appointed State Disaster Recovery Coordinator.
- CT is deploying six Mobile Communications Vehicles (field communications vehicles) across the state to provide and supplement local and state communications assets for all hazards response.
- The DEMHS Radiological Emergency Preparedness Unit has started preparation for a 2014 Hostile Action Based Exercise for the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Waterford, CT
- DEMHS is working closely in a collaborative effort with other state agencies to share information, develop relationships, and to be able to prevent and react to attacks on CT cyber systems and threats to critical infrastructure.

Prince Edward Island

- July 2012. Cavendish Beach Music Festival (Severe Weather Event)
- July 2012. Propane Leak Community of Murray Harbour



Rhode Island

- Rhode Island Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm (DR-4107). Incident period: Friday, February 8, 2013 to Saturday, February 9, 2013 Major Disaster Declaration declared on Friday, March 22, 2013.
- Rhode Island Hurricane Sandy (DR-4089). Incident period: Friday, October 26, 2012 to Wednesday, October 31, 2012 Major Disaster Declaration declared on Saturday, November 3, 2012.
- Rhode Island Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-1894). Incident period: Friday, March 12, 2010 to Monday, April 12, 2010 Major Disaster Declaration declared on Monday, March 29, 2010.
- July 2013. The Governor of Rhode Island signed into law legislation formally adopting the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Newfoundland and Labrador

- June 22, 2012. Province announces project to implement province-wide basic 911 service.
- June 23-25, 2012. Wildfire forcing evacuation of two communities in central Labrador
- September 11, 2012. Post-tropical storm Leslie passed over the Island portion causing minor localized flooding, power outages and wind related damage
- November 4, 2012. In Labrador City a 108 unit apartment building (nearing completion) burned to the ground – created issues for local hospital, school and municipality.
- November 10-11, 2012. Weather system brings storm surge, high waves and pounding surf to the West and Southwest coastal regions.
- January 11, 2013. Blizzard moved over Central/Eastern portion of the Island – widespread power outages, significant snowfall and strong winds.
- February 8, 2013. Government releases the Provincial Emergency Management Plan.
- February 17, 2013. Weather system with strong winds caused wind damage to buildings/property in some communities along the West Coast.
- March 1-5, 2013. Sea ice blockage and poor flying conditions along Northeast Coast lead to request to Canadian Coast Guard ice breaker to deliver medical personnel, medical supplies and replacement equipment for high school water system to Fogo Island.
- March 28-30, 2013. Weather system produced storm surge, high waves and pounding surf along many parts of the coast of the Island.
- April 27-28, 2013. Weather system producing high rainfall that combines with snow melt/runoff leads to localized flooding and road washouts on West and Southwest coasts of Island.
- May 23-27, 2013. Elevated water levels in Deer Lake Power reservoir cause Company to open spillways causing minor flooding in Town of Deer Lake and downstream communities along the Humber River



Vermont

- 07/01/2012. EOC activation for organized Vermont Yankee Protest. Partial activation in support of larger planned police response.
- 10/28/2012. EOC activation for Hurricane Sandy. DEMHS and all state support functions staffed the state EOC for 30 hours in order to respond to Hurricane Sandy. Early indicators suggested the storm would track northward toward Vermont, but it did not and the state suffered only minimal damage. Vermont deployed State Police personnel, ambulance and emergency medical crews through EMAC to New Jersey in support of recovery efforts.
- 11/04/2012. Formation of the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). Previously these were two separately managed functions under two separate Divisions, Vermont Emergency Management and the Vermont State Police.
- 01/31/2013. Partial EOC activation for ice jams and potential flooding. DEMHS staff activated due to reports of ice jams along many local rivers, most notably the Lamoille River in Cambridge. Some field flooding occurred, but jams broke up and water flowed safely away.
- March 2013. DEMHS facilitated deployment of Agency of Transportation personnel and equipment to Massachusetts through EMAC.
- 05/23/2013 to 05/26/2013. EOC activation for flooding. State Emergency Operations Center activated on the evening of May 23rd as reports of flooding to a concentrated area of Vermont began to come in. Representatives from search and rescue, transportation, and public service were in the EOC to help shepherd resources to communities and pinpoint trouble areas. Although all state roads were fixed by the 26th, many local roads remained washed out and impassable. State requested a Public Assistance disaster declaration to help recover on June 5th. Preliminary damage assessments suggested Essex, Chittenden, and Lamoille counties would qualify. Subsequently Essex County was added and a request for a Presidential Disaster declaration was made and was granted.
- 05/26/2013. EOC activation for Vermont City Marathon. Activation pre-planned to support law enforcement in Burlington, which was the site of the marathon.
- 06/05/2013. Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station graded radiological exercise. This was a full state EOC activation, including New Hampshire, Massachusetts and all external facilities and partners.
- 06/25/2013 to 07/11/13. Numerous daily storms drenched Vermont with heavy amounts of rainfall causing flash flooding on a daily basis. Preliminary Damage Assessment Teams were requested. On July 23rd, a request was forwarded to Region 1 in support of a Presidential Declaration covering Caledonia, Chittenden, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington and Windsor counties.
- 07/06/2013. Vermont offered hazardous materials personnel and equipment to support operations in Lac Megantic, Quebec in the aftermath of the train derailment that devastated that community.



Massachusetts

- July 2012. Staffed the Unified Command Center/Emergency Operations Center in Boston for July 3-4 events along the Esplanade in Boston and Cambridge.
- August 2012. Level II Activation for industrial chemical fire in western New York and toxic plume over western Massachusetts. Governor declared a state of emergency.
- October 2012. Hurricane Sandy. Level I Activation. Governor declared a state of emergency. Pre-Landfall Emergency Declaration issued by President Obama, followed by a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance. MEMA also deployed A-Team personnel, Incident Management Assistance Teams, a Communications Unit, EOC support personnel (planning and logistics), State Troopers, and National Guard personnel to New York, New Jersey and Connecticut through EMAC.
- February 2013. Level II Activation for major blizzard. Governor declared a state of emergency and ordered a statewide motor vehicle travel ban. Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance issued for all 14 counties. Snow Assistance provided for 10 counties.
- March 2013. Level II Activation for major blizzard and coastal storm.
- March 2013. Graded radiological exercise for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- March 2013. In partnership with FEMA, MEMA hosted the four day Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) for all MEMA staff and personnel from other agencies and organizations who staff our Emergency Support Functions (ESF's) during activations.
- April 2013. Boston Marathon Terrorist Attack. Level II Activation for bombings. Emergency Declaration issued by President Obama for 4 counties.
- May 2013. MEMA hosted a 2-Day emergency management conference with 500 attendees.
- June 2013. Graded radiological exercise for Vermont Yankee Power Plant in Vermont.