



2015 Annual Report to the Coalition of Northeastern Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Coalition of Northeastern Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers on activities of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) for the period of June 1, 2014 through June 3, 2015.

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

Hurricane Arthur impacted Atlantic Canada in July 2014. New Brunswick was the most affected, with Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island also impacted by this system. Extended power outages were the prevalent consequence of this event that required mutual assistance by utility companies in the region to assist in restoration efforts.

Record-breaking winter weather conditions affected most of the jurisdictions. Winter weather conditions came early and continued to impact jurisdictions into the early Spring. Several member jurisdictions experienced record snow fall and associated accumulations. In the face of some imminent winter weather systems jurisdictions declared states of emergency to mitigate against the impacts of snowfall, strong winds and blizzard conditions and associated consequences of poor traveling conditions, interruptions to utility services and disruptions to other essential services. Situational Awareness reports were shared among the IEMG member jurisdictions and in some cases response and recovery operations required mutual assistance.

The evolving Ebola situation in Africa, provided each IEMG jurisdiction with varying degrees of engagement with respect to emergency management planning for and responding to suspected

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and/or confirmed Ebola cases being reported and monitored within our respective Provinces and States. As they were many layers of government and private sector entities involved in this issue, it did provide an opportunity to confirm or establish relationships with emergency management stakeholders. The ongoing work around the Ebola issue also provided an occasion to discuss and highlight roles and responsibilities of various emergency management stakeholders with the ultimate goal of ensuring public safety.

In July 2014, Director Plummer provided an IEMG update to the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers at their annual meeting held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

Appended to this document is a brief summary of significant events and activities within each member jurisdiction.

Member Jurisdictions

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

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

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.

Meetings of the IEMG

The International Emergency Management Group met twice during the 12 month period covered by this report: in Massachusetts in November of 2014 and in Prince Edward Island in June of 2015. The meetings are summarized below:

2014 Fall Session – Boston, MA:

Tony Eden (NS) and Jennifer Harper (NH) provided an update to the strategic plan and led a session on reviewing and refining the strategic plan.

Greg MacCallum (NB) provided an overview on both the impacts of Hurricane Arthur and the Moncton Shooting.

Aaron Campbell (PEI) and Mark Gillan (NB) provided an update on the Eastern Canada/New England HAZMAT project.

Paul Rooney (US Customs and Border Protection) and Shawn Cox (Canadian Border Protection) provided an overview of their respective operations and joined in a roundtable discussion on the movement of personnel and resources across the border for emergency management purposes.

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Ellen Mecray (NOAA) and Elizabeth Hanson (MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) provided a presentation on climate change and led a discussion on climate change and emergency management activities.

Sam Sleiman (MA Port Authority) provided an overview of the Port Authority's resiliency project. An FBI representative provided an Unclassified Terrorism Threat Briefing.

Greg Banner (US Health and Human Services), Steven Kempton (Public Health Agency of Canada) and Mary Clark (MA Department of Public Health) provided an overview of the Ebola monitoring, preparedness and response activities. This was followed by a roundtable discussion on the topic of Ebola impacts and relationships with emergency management organizations and other emergency management stakeholders.

Each jurisdiction provided a report of significant activities that had occurred since the last meeting.

2015 Spring Session – Charlottetown, PEI:

An overview and subsequent group discussion was held on the IEMG website, with a goal of ensuring that it is meeting our needs and deliberation on what changes might be required to enhance this valuable tool.

Mark Gillan (NB) provided an update on the Eastern Canada/New England HAZMAT project, including a review of the functional emergency exercise (EAGLE BEAVER) conducted on May 31, 2015. This scenario will provided the basis for the IEMG representatives to undertake their own table-top emergency exercise during this meeting.

Tour of the Confederation Bridge Operations Centre and the Bridge itself was conducted.

Dr. Adam Fenech (PEI) presented on the Climate Impact Visualization Environment (CLIVE).

A table-top exercise (EAGLE BEAVER) was undertaken involving requests for mutual aid from PEI for IEMG members to consider and determine how they would be able to respond to the requests. This provided an opportunity to utilize both the IEMG operations Manual and the associated IREQ forms to request mutual aid.

Near Term Objectives

Continuing work on the refinement of procedures and processes that lead to expedient border crossings of emergency management resources that have been requested under the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding. Maintain communication links with representatives from both the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Continued sharing of situational awareness reports among the IEMG member jurisdictions, with this objective there will be a requirement to confirm and update distribution lists at Director and Operational levels and with other emergency management partners.

Continuing work on emergency management (EM) prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities as they relate to rail transport of dangerous commodities. State and Provincial EM entities work with other EM partners to maintain situational awareness of the challenges and changes regarding the transport of dangerous goods, both within and across jurisdictions. The PEI led, federally funded, hazardous material (HAZMAT) initiative, moved to

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the next stage through face to face visit with each IEMG member jurisdiction to identify HAZMAT related preparedness, response and recovery activities. This led to the development of a draft discussion paper that is being reviewed by the IEMG member jurisdictions with a goal of developing a consistent method to ensure the necessary response to any hazmat incident is delivered in a timely fashion.

Enhance the IREQ forms and process through the development of compendium documents that will further identify and explain such items as "Mission Type", "Assignments", etc.

Challenges

Promotion of the IEMAC within member jurisdictions that ensures our respective EM partners are aware of the mutual assistance arrangements under the Compact. By creating an awareness and understanding within the member jurisdictions, this can assist in the ability to respond to a request for mutual aid from an IEMG member jurisdiction or highlight the fact that there may be mutual aid available from neighboring jurisdictions through the MOU.

Budgetary restraints faced by all member jurisdictions require the seeking out of other opportunities and ways to interact. Video and teleconferencing options may provide the necessary platforms to allow for greater engagement of operational and support staff on the IEMG file.

Additional resources, if available would allow for expanded training and educational opportunities for operational and tactical level personnel especially in the areas IEMG Operations Manual training and familiarization with IREQ forms related to requesting and providing mutual aid.

Fall Session Portland, Maine October 5-7, 2015:

Work will continue at the Director and Working Group level, as noted above, to advance the identified strategic goals in 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

David McCormack
Canadian Co-Chair

Joe Flynn
United States Co-Chair

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Significant Events for IEMG Jurisdictions thru 5/31/15

Connecticut

- State EOC activation for Train Derailment Metro North in May
- State EOC activation for Regional Large Scale Water Main Break in August
- State received national accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program
- State EOC activations twice in January to manage effects of winter storms – one event received Presidential Major Disaster Declaration
- Governors Statewide Emergency Planning and Preparedness Annual Exercise (EPPI) conducted in June
- Evaluated Radiological Emergency Preparedness Hostile Action Based (HAB) Rehearsal (August) and Exercise (September)
- Connecticut Yankee Radiological Emergency Preparedness Bi-annual Exercise in October
- All acute care hospitals in CT completed an Ebola Preparedness Exercise (Coordinated by DPH)
- Planning for two upcoming emergency exercises in June – Radiological event with State EOC activation and Host Community exercise in New Haven
- Planning is underway for the 4th Annual Governors Emergency Planning and Preparedness in October – focus on Unified Command and School Security
- Ongoing emergency management training opportunities
- State hosted both the President and Vice- President at VIP graduation ceremonies this past Spring

Massachusetts

- State EOC activations supporting Emergencies and Disasters:
 - Tropical Storm Arthur
 - Tornado in the City of Revere
 - Coastal Storm (November)
 - Severe Snowstorm (November)
 - Nor'easter and Flooding (December)
 - Severe Snowstorm (January)
 - Severe Blizzard (January)
 - Severe Blizzard and Coastal Storm (Presidential Disaster Declaration)
 - Series of severe snowstorms (February)
 - New England Patriots Victory Parade (February)
 - Boston Marathon (Multi-Agency Coordination Centre)
 - Water Emergency in City of Brockton (May)
- Emergency Exercises conducted:
 - 2015 Boston Marathon Functional Exercise
 - Seabrook Nuclear Power Station Hostile Action Based (HAB) Workshop Exercise
 - Seabrook Nuclear Power Station HAB Tabletop Exercise
 - Seabrook Nuclear Power Station HAB Practice Exercise 1
 - State-Wide WebEOC Functional Exercise

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- Seabrook Nuclear Power Station HAB Practice Exercise 2
 - Seabrook Nuclear Power Station HAB Graded Exercise
 - Vermont Yankee Nuclear Station HAB Tabletop Exercise
 - Vermont Yankee Nuclear Station HAB Practice Exercise 1
 - Vermont Yankee Nuclear Station HAB Practice Exercise 2
 - Vermont Yankee Nuclear HAB Graded Exercise
- Emergency Management Training Programs delivered:
 - State Staging and Logistics Seminar
 - Massachusetts National Guard Joint Task Force Headquarters Orientation/Training
 - State Emergency Operations Center Activation Training
 - Haz-Mat Awareness Classroom Training for MEMA Field Staff
 - 2015 Statewide Hurricane Preparedness Conference

Maine

- State EOC activation for January 26 -28 blizzard
- State EOC activation for February 14-16 blizzard
- Partial State EOC activation for February 25 for I-95 pileup of 75+ vehicles in snow storm
- State EOC activation for Maine National Guard EMAC assistance to Massachusetts
- State EOC activation for Spring flooding concerns: River Flow Advisory Commission met in March and then bi-weekly conference calls through the rest of ice jam/flood season
- State EOC activation for Denial of Service (DoS) attacks on Maine.gov state website
- State EOC activation for small wildfires statewide during dry Spring conditions
- State of Emergency declared for two blizzard events
- State of Emergency declared for fuel delivery drivers, extended twice, during difficult winter travel conditions
- FEMA Disaster 4208-ME declared for four Maine counties following January blizzard event
- Participated in Exercise Intrepid planning sessions with New Brunswick
- Cybersecurity exercises with Governor's Cabinet, other state agencies
- Planning continues for Cyber Storm V exercise participating in March, 2016
- Ongoing county/local tabletop exercises
- Ongoing NIMS/ICS training at county/local levels
- Specialized training for response to Bakken Crude rail incidents. Training is being conducted for first responders, with second course in development for emergency managers and other non-responders
- New State Homeland Security Strategy in development
- New Virtual Maine situational awareness tool in development
- OPLAN41 responsibility is in effect for summer season (Pres. George HW Bush and family at Kennebunkport)
- Governor's Cybersecurity Working Group established
- 2015 Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness (annual conference) held, 2 days and 500+ participants

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New Brunswick

- EOC activation related to the RCMP shooting in Moncton
- EOC activation in response to impacts of hurricane Arthur
- Provincial level committee convened on Ebola preparedness
- Response and recovery activities associated with two train derailments
- Monitoring and support for two local state of emergencies – Saint John heavy snowfall event and Perth-Andover flooding
- Continued planning for major nuclear facility exercise (INTREPID) scheduled for November 2015

New Hampshire

- Update of State Emergency Operations Plan
- Development of Recovery and Commodities Annexes
- Development of Hazard Mitigation Mapping Database
- Continued work with Vermont on the decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant
- State EOC activations for NEG/ECP meeting, two NASCAR races and numerous weather related events
- April 2014 rainfall event with \$1.9 Million in damages did not result in a Presidential Disaster Declaration
- State EOC activation for winter storm events in January and February 2015; January blizzard resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration (projected reimbursement \$4.3 Million)
- Ongoing emergency management training and exercises with communities, state agencies and private sector entities
- In-house training for EOC operations are being conducted
- Providing Incident Command System (ICS) training for NH State Police
- Delivery of active shooter emergency exercises and training
- Involved in FirstNet project to provide for an interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety communication
- Continued to build out School Emergency Preparedness Program
- State-wide notification system launched (with associated App) – 15,000+ followers to date
- Planning underway for upcoming events – Bike Week and NASCAR

Newfoundland and Labrador

- Monitoring of Hurricane Gonzalo
- Provided response support for two hazardous materials events
- Monitoring and coordination of information related to Spring flooding event
- Monitoring and supporting community level state of emergency declared for one community experiencing water supply issues
- Monitoring of response and recovery activities associated with multiple suspicious package incidents at court houses and government mail rooms
- Province wide basic 911 implemented in March
- Planning underway for emergency exercises to be held in September and October 2015

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- Further validation of community level emergency management plans and processes through emergency exercise opportunities
- Annual Fire and Emergency Services Training School completed in May (300+ participants)
- Partnered with the Coalition for Persons with Disabilities to develop an emergency preparedness campaign and resources
- Providing ongoing emergency management training courses
- Fire and Emergency Services-NL moved to the Department of Justice and Public Safety in October

Nova Scotia

- Response and recovery activities related to impacts from tropical storm Arthur
- Six provincial EOC activations in support of municipal events
- One weather related event led to a federal Disaster Financial Assistance claim
- Participated in an emergency exercise related to closure of a major bridge that will be closed for an extended period of time for repair work
- Participated in an emergency exercise related to the trucking sector
- Undertaking a review of the provincial EOC
- Implemented province-wide capabilities to receive text messages at 911 public service answering points

Prince Edward Island

- Provincial EOC activation for the Royal Visit
- Provincial EOC activation for effects of tropical storm Arthur that coincided with annual Cavendish Beach Music Festival
- Monitored effects of significant rainfall event in December
- Provincial EOC activation due to effects of record breaking snowfall in February
- Ongoing business continuity plan training and exercising for provincial Government departments
- Pilot testing for the implementation of a next generation P-25 public safety mobile radio communications system

Quebec

- Provincial EOC activation -Longueuil diesel fuel spill impacting drinking water supply in January
- Provincial EOC activation - Varennes chemical leak In March
- Functional Exercise for Rimouski Regional EOC in March
- Conducted a field exercise in Dégelis with a mass casualty road accident involving a bus and hazardous materials tanker in June
- Ongoing provincial EOC exercises
- Published a new framework for wilderness rescue team operations
- Louis Morneau is appointed the Associate Deputy Minister for Québec EMO – replacing Guy Laroche



Rhode Island

- State EOC activation for Presidential visit
- Emergency exercise conducted related to Ebola planning
- Successful school safety conference was held
- Monitored effects of heavy snowfall event in January led to state and local road closures – some closures up to 72 hours
- Monitored impacts of harsh winter conditions in February
- Planning for a hurricane related emergency exercise
- Initiated a cyber-security table top exercise
- Implementation of an interoperable radio communications system
- Ongoing emergency management and first responder training

Vermont

- Partial activation of the State EOC and staffing at the VT Health Operations Center (HOC) in support of Ebola quarantine of citizen
- State EOC activation during week of December 15, 2014 for storms
- State EOC activation in January 2015, 2-days for storms
- Vermont Healthcare worker EMAC request to Indiana
- Partial state EOC activation for Vermont marathon
- Conducted an emergency exercise related to a hostile action against Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, followed by exercises in March and April and the FEMA Graded exercise conducted in May
- Emergency Management and Homeland security Preparedness Conference held in October 2014
- Hosted President of Senegal and other officials in support of the State Partnership Program
- The DEMHS Commissioner and Director joined the Adjutant General and his team from Vermont National Guard in Macedonia help assess Emergency Management readiness and plan future efforts to bolster the countries capabilities across the threat spectrum.
- Continued discussions on the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee
- Vermont National Guard responded to an EMAC request for Boston in February
- State-wide 911 service outage due to fibre optic line damage resulting from a winter storm
- Harsh winter weather conditions led to infrastructure damage (\$2.4 million in public sector damage)
- Vermont, in conjunction with US Department of State, hosted an International Visitor Leadership Program for leaders of various sectors from India
- State wide fire ban was instituted in May as conditions were conducive for wildland fires
- Planning activities with Vermont National Guard well underway for emergency exercise VIGILANT GUARD '16
- Vermont has commenced the process for accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program
- Hosted Canadian Consular Officer to discuss issues of interest pertaining to Canadian citizens

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- Continued emergency management training for Senior Leaders, emergency management personnel and first responders
- Deputy Director Ross Nagy retired in April
- Rob Schell appointed as Deputy Director
- Erica Bornemann appointed to newly created Chief of Staff position
- Christopher Herrick appointed as Director



IEMAC Legally Designated Official and Authorized Represented

Maine

Bruce Fitzgerald, Director

New Hampshire

Perry Plummer, Director

Vermont

Joe Flynn, Director (American Co-chair)

Massachusetts

Kurt Schwartz, Director

Rhode Island

Peter Gaynor, Director

Connecticut

William Hackett, Director

Quebec

Louis Morneau, Associate Deputy Minister

New Brunswick

Greg MacCallum, Director

Nova Scotia

Andrew Lathem, Director

Prince Edward Island

Aaron Campbell, Director

Newfoundland and Labrador

David McCormack, Director (Canadian Co-chair)

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