



## 2016 Annual Report to the Coalition of Northeastern Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers

On behalf of the dedicated members of the International Emergency Management Group, it is with great pleasure that we present the IEMG 2016 Annual Report.

This year was another challenging but productive year for IEMG member jurisdictions. As a group, member jurisdictions opened their Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) 80 times, an average of more than 1.5 openings per week.

Preparing for disasters and reviewing and updating plans are some of the most important activities emergency management professionals do, and exercises are a key component of these preparedness activities. During this reporting period, our member jurisdictions were involved in conducting and participating in 215 exercises. While time consuming, these activities are critical to ensuring that plans can be effectively operationalized. Recovery from disasters continues to be a long and arduous process as indicated by the 101 open disasters IEMG member jurisdictions are currently managing. The 101 open disasters equate to more than \$1.4 billion.

### **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 2015 through June 2016.

### **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.

### **General:**

The role and responsibility of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) is to enhance the capability of member jurisdictions 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 the capacity to respond to these events through mutual aid support. This capability has been maintained through regularly meeting, training, and exercising.



## **Member Jurisdictions**

### Eastern Canadian Provinces:

New Brunswick  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Nova Scotia  
Prince Edward Island  
Quebec

### New England States:

Connecticut  
Maine  
Massachusetts  
New Hampshire  
Rhode Island  
Vermont

## **Meetings of the IEMG**

The International Emergency Management Group met twice during the 12-month period covered by this report: in Maine in December of 2015 and in Quebec City in June of 2016. The meetings are summarized below:

### ***2015 Fall Session – Portland, ME:***

#### ***Agenda Topics***

- Fédéral Médical Station Field Hospital - *Joshua Frances, Maine Medical Center*
- Cyber Security - *Dr. Edward Sihler, University of Southern Maine*
- International Assistance System - *Ronnie Djoukeng, FEMA Headquarters*
- New Brunswick Exercise Intrepid 2015 - *Greg MacCallum, Canadian Co-Chair*
- Cross Border Resource Management - *Group Work Session*
- Spring 2015 Confederation Bridge Exercise (PEI) After Action Report Briefout - *Aaron Campbell (PEI)*
- Director Perry Plummer from New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management was voted in as the New US Co-Chair. He joins the incumbent Canadian Co-Chair Director Greg MacCallum from New Brunswick.

### ***2016 Spring Session – Quebec City, Quebec:***

#### ***Agenda Topics***

- Quebec Syrian Refugee operation - *Louis Morneau (QC) and JT Bilodeau-Fortin (QC)*
- School Security & Emergency Planning - *Perry Plummer (NH)*



- Hazmat Cross Border Project Update - *Mark Gillan and Aaron Campbell (PEI)*
- Economic Impact from Hazmat Incidents and Mitigation - *Karen Wight and Andrew Carrothers, the University of Prince Edward Island*
- Quebec Emergency Operations Center Overview and Tour - *Jean Savard (QC)*
- Interagency Secure Transport of Radioactive Material - *Albert Tardiff, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission*
- US/Canadian Border Resource Movement - *Work Session - Entire Group*
- Jurisdiction Resource Needs Assessment - *Work Session - Entire Group*
- Jurisdiction Resource List - *Work Session - Entire Group*

### ***Near Term Objectives***

Obtain final approval and operationalize 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 the next stage through face-to-face visits 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 information request forms and process through the development of compendium documents that will further identify and explain such items as 'Mission Type,' 'Assignments,' etc.



Conduct and participate in cross border drill and exercises to ensure a state of readiness throughout the jurisdiction.

Develop and publicize a comprehensive training schedule which will expand training awareness and opportunities for all jurisdiction members.

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Decrease project timelines by expanding the use of cross-border working groups and committees.

### **Challenges**

Increasing promotion of the IEMAC within member jurisdictions is necessary in order to ensure our respective EM partners are aware of the mutual assistance arrangements under the Compact. 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 by creating an awareness and understanding within the member jurisdictions.

Budgetary constraints faced by all member jurisdictions require the exploration 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 of IEMG Operations Manual training and familiarization with IREQ forms related to requesting and providing mutual aid.

### **Fall Session New Hampshire:**

Work will continue at the Director and Working Group levels, as noted above, to advance the identified strategic goals in 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg MacCallum  
Canadian Co-Chair

Perry Plummer  
United States Co-Chair