



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Description: IEMAC Fall Meeting

Report Date: November 25, 2013 **Location:** Hartford, Connecticut, United States
Meeting Begin Date: November 20, 2013 **Meeting End Date:** November 21, 2013

Present: See Attached Attendees List

Regrets:

Invited Guests: Michael J. Barry, Department of Justice

- 1.0 Proxies:** Terry Lunn Slaunwhite for Andy Lathem (NS)
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes:** Spring 2013 (NS) minutes were approved. Final documents will be translated and posted to the IEMG website.
- 3.0 Annual Report:** The next annual report will be available for review July 2014.
- 4.0 Definitions & Acronyms:** To be reviewed annually.
- 5.0 Legal Status of IEMG:** On July 11, 2013 the Governor of Rhode Island signed into law legislation formally adopting the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Rhode Island is now a full member of the IEMG.
- 6.0 Administrative Support Position (Secretariat):** No changes as the State of Maine will continue to hold this position.
- 7.0 Website:** Web address is www.iemg-gigu-web.org. The website continues to be utilized as a central depository for documents. Everyone is encouraged to view the now working website. Member only section contains non public information. Presentations from this meeting are being posted in the member only section of the site.
- 8.0 Report from Each Jurisdiction:** Each Jurisdiction Director gave a summary of what has been going on in their jurisdiction with staffing, lead changes, financial matters, disasters, and upcoming exercises/events. Key comments listed below:

CT – Director Hackett reported that they currently have 5 open disasters that are over \$400 million in damages. They are working on a long term recovery plan. A report on the Sandy Hook school shooting incident will be coming out in the next couple months. The EOC is in the process of upgrading the emergency management software to Web EOC. The State now has a new capability on swift water rescue; we are also increasing the wide search area for urban ground search and rescue. June 2014 there is a State wide exercise that will see a Category 1 Hurricane come up the coast. We have been keeping an eye on MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory System) infection; nothing reported in the State yet.



The State remains to be the only one with a civil bio-dissymmetry unit at the hospital; the first year budget was approved for this unit. The Governor has started an emergency planning and preparedness initiative. There are a number of groups that have been instituted for emergency support functions, i.e. utility and energy; the partners in these groups are local and have established make safe protocols.

ME – Acting Director Fitzgerald reported that Maine has been pretty lucky as no “major” events have happened again this reporting period. Director Rob McAleer has retired after many years of service to our State. There is currently an audit going on with damage claims. There was a fire in Lewiston Maine; several buildings burned down within 48 hours. November 5 Maine hosted exercise Vigilant Guard; it was the largest exercise to date with over 900 military involved. The State had 20 Hazmat teams; some teams are voting to disband. There has been a lot of planning in regards to school safety with Department of Education. When Lac-Mégantic happened the State of Maine sent 30 fire fighters to help with the incident. MEMA is continuing to work on cross border initiatives; cyber related issues; and rewriting the debris plan.

MA – Director Schwartz reported that there is ongoing working with the Boston Bombings; there is a single extensive AAR (after action review) in the process. This AAR will include all Boston agencies that helped in the bombings; progress is well underway. There were a number of pre-planned events this year that were supported. We continue to overhaul the EOC (emergency operations centre), activation procedures; new SOP's (standard operating procedures) are being developed. There is a 2 years process in the works on building a State wide GIS platform; the platform is going to be an ESRI base. ESF 13 (emergency support function) has been realigned; the mass care and sheltering coordination plan is in the first phase; IND response and coordination plan is being revised; and the fuel distribution plan is bring revised. In Boston there are 4 major public utilities and there is no way of keeping track of their power outages. There is a project underway with the utilities that will allow tracking of outages through a web based report system; MEMA will be able to monitor in real time and develop mapping products in events. There has been a recent roll out of the first hurricane evacuation zones for the Coastal communities; the zone maps are developed for all 75 communities. MEMA has been reaccredited for another 5 years.

NB – Director MacCallum reported that New Brunswick has had a pretty quiet year. NB dealt with 3 wild land fires in the spring as well as a tornado touch down this past summer. It was a wet summer so there was some localized flooding. Hurricane contingency planning is ongoing; the rewrite of the Disaster Financial Assistance policy is almost complete. 6 regional coordinators were hired in May; there has been an uptake in Municipal plans; 2 operations officers were hired in August. NB is in the process of moving from ESS Crisis (emergency management software) to Sentinel Services, an NB based company. Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station has just finished refurbishment; there are 2 staff members dedicated to the file and they have developed a 5 year exercise plan. Shale gas protests are ongoing. The federal government announced that they will be funding a program to have emergency managers go onto First Nations and conduct training.

NH – Director Plummer reported that the reorganization process is in the final stages; there are 6 new positions that they are filling within the organization. This year has been fairly quiet for New Hampshire; there were 2 NASCAR events that were well attended with no major incidents; 2 Hepatitis C clinics held in New Hampshire and they were also well attended. There was a motion put forward to the eliminate IEMAC participation in New Hampshire; that motion was denied. There was a propane shortage in the Eastern part of New Hampshire. There is a plan to develop a large patient transportation and evacuation plan. The flood buyouts that were supposed to happen didn't happen due to no funding. Legislature is creating acquisition funds to get the houses out of the flood zones. The Seabrook Nuclear power plant is having concrete issues; it's breaking down so we have a hand in helping with this issue.



NL – Director McCormack reported there was flooding off the east coast of Newfoundland the long weekend in May. The hydro electric company had to open the gates to release water from the basin. This lead to a false water level reading and flooded parts of the Province; we are now in discussions with the hydro electric company on how to get accurate water level readings. Labrador was hit with 2 forest fires; 2 communities were affected. 1 community was evacuated as the fire was close to their residence; they were evacuated to the next town over. ESS, DH and Police were engaged as well because there was a change we may have had to evacuation to Québec. As a result of the fire there was 1 mile of fibre ops line that was downed; there were also road closures for 10-14 days. In August there was a rainfall event; as a result some resource roads were washed out over the Labour Day weekend. In October there was an apartment evacuation due to flooding. NL is moving forward with the 911 implementation; the implementation group is in place and the roll out date is June 2014. NL FES (Fire and Emergency services) has a new Minister and Deputy Minister within the last 5 weeks. NL now has mandatory emergency management planning for municipalities; we will be working with the municipalities to validate plans. Last year our training program saw 400-450 people go through. NL FES is looking for a new place to move to.

NS – Terry Lynn Slaunwhite (proxy) reported that NS has had a quiet spring and summer. In late October the EOC was ramped up to help with the Shale Gas protests. NS EMO participated in Exercise Frontier and Exercise Vigilant Guard. In September NS EMO implemented the Everbridge Mass Notification System; it's been well received so far and we are going to be buying more licenses. We have a project that is going to be phased in over 2 years; the EOC is going to be revamped to become a Provincial coordination centre. In 2015 the MacDonald Bridge is going to have a major overhaul where large portions of the bridge deck will be removed and replaced; we are building an exercise around that and the scenario will be what happens when we lose a piece of deck from the bridge; a working group has been created for this project. NS EMO is working on creating a capability with the First Nations; there has already been a training package created with Migma communities in NS. The NS 911 system went through a major overhaul last spring; the next step with this system is being able to text 911 and have response capability. The business continuity planning program is being updated across Government. As of October 8 NS has a complete new Government; it's now a Liberal Government. NS EMO has a new Minister but the Deputy Minister has stayed the same.

PEI – Director Campbell reported that they are working with health representatives on training them with ICS. We have had special requests from the RCMP and UPEI Campus for Emergency Operations Centre training. PEI participated in Exercise Vigilant Guard in November. At the end of October, the Charlottetown airport held an exercise that was a plane crash. West jet was a player in the exercise; the new ER was able to participate as well. There has been work done on business continuity disruption plans. PEI is in discussions with NS on the P25 platform (radio public alerting). In 2014 PEI is celebrating the 105th anniversary of confederation; there is lots of planning on going; we are trying to come up with a single window for planning, information sharing, etc. for mass gatherings. There is a new initiative for provincial fire services review; this has never been done before.

QC – Director Laroche reported the province has had some major forest fires this past summer. During the forest fires we had the train derailment of Lac Mégantic; the recovery phase has been very challenging. There is still a lot of work to be done; the decontamination phase will begin in the spring of 2014. There is a team in place at Mégantic working with the municipality. There were 3 industrial incidents this year that resulted with an issue with potable water in Montreal. A new program for mitigation was announced in QC; \$95 million dollars for 7 years (\$14 million a year) for natural disasters. We are currently working with the 911 dispatchers (30 stations) to establish protocols for standard operating procedures. Public Safety has been working on some new policy that will be approved in the new couple weeks.



RI – Director McDonald reported that RI officially adopted IEMAC July 11, 2013. RI is currently residing under the National Guard while they try to define rolls. Code Red public alerting system was purchased and 12 municipalities are currently using the system. We are in the process of remapping the amber alter process; we are working on getting alerts out within 20 minutes instead of an hour. There is a re-evaluation of all the dams in the state; there are some abandoned dams in the province. We are updating plans; we are looking at a debris management plan and sheltering protocols. RI has undertaken the revamp of a fire state wide communications plan; the fire stations are independent fire districts due to legislation.

VT – Director Flynn reported that this summer they conducted a 3rd cross border workshop with Quebec. Vermont now let Quebec police officers into the State with their fire arms. VT had 2 presidential declarations; 7 declarations are now opened; Hurricane Irene file is now up to \$480 million dollars. VT has undergone extensive audits that date back to 2009 in regards to disaster funding. In 2014 Entergy Nuclear Commission will be decommissioning one of their sites. VT has executed an alternate EOC location; all systems have been checked and everything works. In November we participated in Exercise Vigilant Guard; in 2016 VT will be hosting state for this exercise. Vermont Alert rolled out in the month of October; the system was bought from New York; there has been very positive feedback and residents are signing on to be informed of what is happening in their state. In September there was a change in EOC status; we no longer use Level1-4 because they mean other levels to other jurisdictions; we went with partial activation, etc. By the end of 2013 we will be hiring a search and rescue coordinator.

- 9.0 Operations Manual:** The Current version is still available at www.iemg-gigu-web.org.
- 10.0 Strategic Planning:** The group agreed that the existing strategic plan requires re-tooling and re-prioritizing the work in the coming 3-5 years. Tony Eden (NS) and Jennifer Harper (NH) offered to facilitate the development of the new strategic plan; the co-chairs will discuss and advise Jennifer Harper / Tony Eden as to how they want to proceed.
- 11.0 Presentations:** Cindy Tangney (CT) gave a presentation on Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response. Bruce Fitzgerald (ME) gave presentations on Canada US Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE) and Exercise Vigilant Guard Update. Guy Laroche (QC) gave a presentation on Lac-Megantic Disaster. Brenda Bergeron (CT) gave a presentation on Hurricane Sandy Response and Recovery / School Security Initiatives. Joe Flynn (VT) gave a presentation on Vermont Alert Report Out. Guest speaker Michael Barry (Department of Justice) gave a presentation on Law Enforcement Mutual Aid (ESF 13).

All Presentation except the presentation given by Michael Barry will be made available on the IEMAC website.

- 12.0 IEMG & Use of Social Media and Emergency Alerting Systems:** Director Discussion on the use of Social Media. The Group thinks it is a good idea because messages can be pushed out to the public quickly. But not every jurisdiction is using it because they do not have the resources. This will be an agenda item at the spring 2014 meeting in Newfoundland and Labrador.

13.0 Additional IEMG Information:

Joe Flynn from Vermont has agreed to be the new US Co-Chair. He will serve a 2 year term in this position.



14.0 Spring 2014 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items

The Annual Spring Meeting will be held in Newfoundland and Labrador but the exact location is unconfirmed at this time. There has been no scheduled date as of yet but it will be May 2014 (Possible week of May 5). Details will be posted on the IEMAC website. Massachusetts is scheduled to host the fall of 2014.

- Social Media
- Cross Border

15.0 Appendix

- Attendees list