



## Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Description:** IEMAC Fall Meeting

**Report Date:** January 14, 2013      **Location:** Newport, Rhode Island, USA  
**Meeting Begin Date:** November 26, 2012      **Meeting End Date:** November 28, 2012

**Present:** See Attached Attendees List

**Regrets:** Aaron Campbell (PEI), Edward Johnson (RI)

**Invited Guests:** US Customs & Border Patrol; Canadian Joint Task Force; Atlantic HAZMAT; Natural Resources Canada; Weston Observatory; Safer Institute; FEMA Credentialing & Validation Support, NCP; & The Centre for Security Science

**1.0 Proxies:** Terry Lynn Slaunwhite for Andy Lathem (NS); Brenda Bergeron (Tues) for William Hackett (CT)

**2.0 Approval of Minutes:** Spring 2012 (NB) minutes were approved. Final documents will be translated and posted to the IEMG website.

**3.0 Annual Report:** Can be located on the website. The next annual report will be available for review July 2013.

**4.0 Definitions & Acronyms:** To be reviewed annually.

**5.0 Legal Status of IEMG:** Rhode Island continues to be the only jurisdiction that is not 100% on board.

**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](http://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 Telephone Exercise:** The biannual telephone exercise was not completed prior to this meeting.

**9.0 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 – Brenda Bergeron reported that since January 2011 there have been 4 presidentially declared disaster events. The 2 largest were the October '11 Nor'Easter which caused 800,000 power outages and Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy. Shoreline counties were really hit by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy with 6 fatalities and 3000 homes damaged 900 of those severely damaged and 600,000 power outages. EMAC assistance requested needing help processing EMAC requests itself as well as individual assistance. Luckily there was favorable weather post event; Established a working group for utilities and municipalities

Approved 5/14/13



- Make Safe Protocol. There were challenges getting the private utilities to the table but this protocol assisted tremendously during Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy; 169 Municipalities participated and all opened their Emergency Operations Centers and participated in Incident Command and Unified Command. July '11 the agency merged to larger operations/agency which is still in its development. There has been great government support for this merge.

**ME** – Director McAleer reported that Maine again has been pretty lucky as no “major” events have happened again this reporting period; Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy yielded 165,000 outages and those were restored remarkably quick. Maine did respond to EMAC request from NY and sent Type 3 IMAT team to NY and a second crew was sent to the NYC Emergency Operations Center. Some lessons learned from the EMAC response were to have a second authorized representative, train A-Team members and make sure the assistance requests are general enough. Reminded of the value of the Google crisis map – geospatial data related to events (status of gas stations in NY); Budget issues continue as the government has hundreds of millions gap that needs to be closed. Maine is losing 50% of its Homeland Security funding, so we in turn will need to ask the legislature to make up that gap; MEMA Exercise Coordinator and MEARNG Lieutenant Colonel developed the upcoming Full Scale Exercise - Vigilant Guard. The program provides an opportunity for State National Guard Headquarters, State Joint Task Forces and field units to improve command and control and operational relationships and interoperability with civilian partners. BIDP (Border Interoperability Development Project) work continues; 4.0 Earthquake happened in southwestern part of the state, no damage reported, however there was a cell tower overload that caused outages.

**MA** – Director Schwartz reported the MEMA is a growing agency expecting to add 20 additional full time employees (technology, business applications, GIS specialists, and functional needs) in the next 2 years despite other agencies experiencing hiring freeze; Testing a web based mapping application called Ping 4 Alerts. This app sends text messages to smart phones when people sign up for the app; \$700,000 EOC rehab complete and reopened in September '12 but now also redesigning the WebEOC Boards; launching GIS platform to support/share info with local EOC's; Investing in a tablet based technology for rapid assessments which will send data immediately back to the EOC; Planning to have the shelter plan completed by January '13; Participated in the NLE '12 hazmat full exercise/ response along with CT, NH and NY; Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy ended up being a wind/power outage event. Very little damage reported to buildings but is looking for a declaration for public assistance for 6 counties. Experienced 5-6' surges but luckily minor damages; Provided support to other states, deploying several teams during Sandy response, via EMAC; experienced a natural gas explosion that damaged 42 buildings & 18 injured, but that was determined to be human error.

**NB** –Director MacCallum reported the government will be relocating about 80 households from a recovery operation; Point Lepreau is back online; Emergency Measures is being provincially regionalized and EMO staff is increasing even with continue budget constraints; Event responses are improving; Followed Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy and used as a case study to cross border communication. Identified that the amount and quality of information was good and had great situational awareness.

**NH** – Director Pope reported that he is retiring from HSEM on January 3, 2013; Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy did not cause huge impacts but there were a couple of homes destroyed and about 2 million in damages, which is rather small for NH; NH is a national primary state so they hosted multiple presidential visits. EOC is not usually opened but on one occasion there were multiple visitors in the state at the same time requiring the EOC to stand up; Both Hepatitis-C and Meningitis outbreaks. NHHSEM had coordinating roll and thousands were tested; an undisclosed threat forced the cancellation of a law enforcement special event.

**NL** – New Director McCormack became the IEMG Canadian Co-Chair in the absence of the sitting co-chair, he was originally scheduled to become the co-chair at meetings end. Regrets from Aaron Campbell from PEI as he was unable to attend the fall meeting; reports that it has been a quiet 6 months. One storm, Tropical Storm Leslie, was on the same path as the previously damaging IGOR, but the storm thankfully shifted and no heavy damages reported; Also spared from Tropical Storm Sandy's path; 9-1-1



enhancements continue; Fred Hollett, A long time IEMG Delegate, retired after 34 years of service between EM and Fire Services.

**NS** – Terry Lynn Slaunwhite reported that Director Lathem sends his regrets and NS will host IEMG Spring 2013 in Halifax; Busy 6 months but relatively uneventful. Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy did cause minor damages; EMO looking into mitigation for a small coastal area that is regularly flooded and/or affected by weather events; Power Failure and Generator failure event at a local children’s hospital; Everbridge telephone notification system approved, ICS training approved, and 9-1-1 system software all updated. Reports that there is a huge advantage partnering the 9-1-1 system with emergency management; Provincial public alert system still on track and expected to happen March 2013.

**PEI** – No report

**QC** – Director Laroche reported the province was relatively quiet event wise; a 4.2 earthquake recorded the day prior; deployed utility teams to US to assist with Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy response. No reportable damage in home province; Various exercises on forest fires, flooding, plane crash, HAZMAT spill and an upcoming CBRNE training; 9-1-1 center will be making some changes as currently some of the communication was not coming from the center but being seen on the news. Hope to change this process soon.

**RI** – Director Murray reported they also participated in the NLE12 which was the beginning of a rather busy summer for RIEMA; Vigilant guard exercise to follow (guard response to catastrophic event); Tall Ships and America’s Cup races were both held here; Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy did transform the shoreline to the community of Block Island as well as other coastal areas. The famous “Cliff Walk” was significantly damaged and some home damages were reported; Deployed EMAC Emergency Management team and State Police Teams to New York for Sandy Response. Looking to finalize IEMG involvement and sign sometime in the next few months.

**VT** – Deputy Director, and longtime IEMG delegate, Peter Coffey reported that this would be his last IEMG meeting as he was retiring at years end; Emergency Management has been reorganized and merged with Homeland Security; \$36 million mitigation money has been spent on Tropical Storm Irene and application are still coming in; State EOC plan was updated and should soon be approved and signed by the governor; Governor was re-elected and doesn’t anticipate any changes with EM; formed a partnership with transportation; Prepared heavily for Sandy with Federal IMAT team on site, but not needed as VT was spared. The QC power crews that were sent to VT were redeployed, along with VT power crews, south to assist with power restoration in the affected jurisdictions.

**10.0 Board of Directors:** The board met to discuss 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). Board plans to review old meeting minutes regarding New York joining the IEMAC and will bring forward at the next meeting.

**11.0 Operations Manual:** The revision created by the Operations Working Group and Rob McAleer (ME) has been given to the Legal Working Group for review. Once the Legal WG completes the review, the document will be sent to all Delegates. Once approved by the board, the document will be posted to the website. The Current version is still available at [www.iemg-gigu-web.org](http://www.iemg-gigu-web.org).



**12.0 Strategic Planning:** Reviewed the 3 goals previously identified by the group. Some Action Items were identified.

Action Items:

- Operations Manual Version 9 will need to go to Legal WG for final review then to board for vote and to be translated by QC after board vote.
- Board asked the Legal WG to review 501.C3
- Board to discuss need for funding
- WebEx Processes and instructions – it appears this tool is recommended for use during conference calls
- IEMG 101 on the public side of the IEMAC website

**13.0 Presentations:** Allen Phillips (MA) again gave a presentation on Resource/ EMAC Processes and reviewed the newly reformatted IEMAC request for assistance forms in preparation of the TTX; First Responder Credentialing & Identity Management by Safer Institute; RIEMA Business Emergency Operations Center by Julie Zito & Alex Ambrosius; International Association of Fire Chiefs on a proposed new mutual aid compact by Chris Herrick, Vermont HAZMAT; The Earthquake and Tsunami Potential of the Northeastern US and Southeastern Canada by Paul Morey, John Ebel and Miroslav Nastev;

All Presentation will be made available on the IEMAC website.

**14.0 IEMAC Fall 2012 Table Top Exercise “Ice Storm”:** The TTX was designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise their plans and procedures for utilizing the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC) in response to an Ice Storm.

We used the IEMAC Operations Manual, primary contact information, to examine the estimation of costs and use of IEMAC REQ-A forms. By testing these forms, the information flow between requesting and providing authorities, extent of standardized resource typing and cost estimations was examined. The purpose of this report is to analyze exercise results, identify strengths to be maintained and built upon, identify potential areas for further improvement, and support development of corrective actions.

The major strengths identified during this exercise are as follows:

- Mission ready packages will be of great benefit. Each jurisdiction has its own definitions of specific resources, but are willing to work together to get some clarity.
- Great to be able to have border patrol at the table to answer questions. Critical to have CBP at future meetings and exercises in order to fully clarify any issues that might arise having to deal with crossing the border.

Throughout this exercise, several opportunities for improvement the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact’s ability to respond to the incident were identified. The primary areas for improvement, including recommendations, are as follows:

- There are currently no designated A-Teams for the IEMAC. The US would use the same EMAC A-Team(s), however there are none formed in Canada at this point in time.
- Alter the I-REQ documents to allow for more detail as to what is specifically being deployed and to where they are to be deployed to.



- Better use of agreed upon resource typing in order to better identify requested resources. By creating a set standard of resource types it will allow for a smoother request and greater understanding in an emergency situation of what assets are needed.
- SAR teams with K-9 assets and the unique situation these assets present at border crossing sites should be closely examined. The US CBP states that IAW the Immigration and Naturalization Act, the K-9 teams would be titled “paroled aliens” for the time spent in the US. Customs and Border Patrol (US) also cites 19 CFR 10.107 for allowing equipment and supplies.

**15.0 EMAC Statistics for Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy:** Allen Phillips (MA) is the current National Chair for the EMAC ETF, and provided this overview and statistics. Overview: There was more time to train this year so that was helpful with the storm response. The coordinating state has to monitor national events as well as their own jurisdiction. As an event nears, the staff becomes busy. Responsibility transfers to the past ETF Chair’s state when the event affects the coordinating state (MA).

Statistics: Advanced A-Teams were deployed upon request from the affected states. A National Liaison Team (NELT) was deployed to FEMA Headquarters in Washington DC. Responsibility was transferred to Arizona on October 30, 2012. Daily input was provided on what the States were doing. Any issues that arose, appeared to be training related and those issues will be addressed in the after action report. Missions: 66% were state missions and 30% were guard missions with approximately 2630 persons deployed. 37 assisting states with multiple A-Teams in the field, deployed to the 6 States that were directly affected by Hurricane Sandy.

#### **16.0 Additional IEMG Information:**

Canadian Co-Chair –David McCormack of Newfoundland Fire and Emergency Services stepped in to replace outgoing chair Aaron Campbell (PEI).

Email distribution lists, googlegroups distribution lists and jurisdictional contact sheets will be updated.

The IEMG Meeting Host Manual was changed and available on the IEMG website.

The motion to create an IEMG Fire Services Working Group was tabled for board discussion

#### **17.0 Spring 2013 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items**

The Annual Spring Conference will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia May 13-15, 2013. Details will be posted on the IEMAC website. Massachusetts is scheduled to host the fall of 2013

- After Action Report on the “Ice Storm” TTX held in Rhode Island
- IEMG 101 Review
- Continue Strategic Plan work
- US & Canadian FESF’s dealing with Health and Human Services (proposed)
- Working Group Breakout sessions

#### **18.0 Appendix**

- Attendees list