



2020 Annual Report to the Coalition of North Eastern Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers

The member states and provinces of the International Emergency Management Group are pleased to present the IEMG 2020 Annual Report.

The past year has been unlike any other in recent memory. In the first half of 2020, COVID-19 planning and response dominated activities in all member jurisdictions. All IEMG member jurisdictions activated their provincial or state Emergency Operations Centers for pandemic response in 2020, and most remain fully or partially activated.

Other emergencies do not stop because there is a pandemic. IEMG member jurisdictions responded to hurricanes, blizzards, supply chain disruptions, cyberattacks and civil unrest.

As emergency management organizations, the members of IEMG have supported their respective governments in various capacities of pandemic response ranging from logistical support to supplying resources for testing, contact tracing, and vaccinations. As the response transitions into recovery into a new normal, IEMG partners will review the events of 2020-2021 for lessons learned that can help improve future emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for pandemics.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, and the forced cancellation of many training and exercising opportunities, member jurisdictions were still able to provide over 100 training sessions and lead or participate in over 50 exercises between June 2019 and May 2020.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Coalition of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers on the activities of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) for the period of June 2019 through May 2020.

Mission:

The International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC) 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 face-to-face at least twice a year and maintain close communication via email and conference calls to enhance regional situational awareness and provide opportunities for collaborative emergency management planning, training, exercises, and sharing of best practices.



Mandate:

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 by 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

IEMG met twice during this period, June 11-12, 2019 in St. John's Newfoundland and November 19-20, 2019 in Mystic, Connecticut.

A shortened "touch base" virtual meeting is planned for May 11, 2021. The agenda includes:

- 2021 Annual Report
- Operational Manual Review
- IEMAC Website Refresh
- CONEG Committee on Environment and Climate Change

Near Term Objectives:

Update Action Plan for IEMG. At the 2019 meetings in Newfoundland and Labrador and Connecticut, the IEMG Strategic Plan identified five areas of focus for future planning:

- Improved situational awareness among IEMAC jurisdictions
- Updated Report Out Form for distribution during and after events that includes a projected jurisdictional 6-month outlook
- Increased focus on sharing lessons learned and best practices
- Increased focus on sharing training and exercising opportunities
- Streamlining the process and updating the forms for sharing resources across the international border



Collaboration with the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) as directed by the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers resolution from August 2017 through sharing information, improving communications, and building climate-related risks and vulnerabilities into planning and decision making. Best practices on climate change planning and response was discussed at the Fall 2019 meeting, with a plan for jurisdictions to do a short presentation on their activity at a future IEMG meeting.

Emergency management (EM) training and exercising in prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities as they relate to hazardous materials (HazMat) transport. State and provincial emergency management entities are working with key partners to maintain enhanced situational awareness of the challenges regarding the transport of hazardous materials.

Promote alignment of the approach of the three bi-national agreements, including the Northern Emergency Management Assistance Compact, Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement and International Emergency Management Assistance Compact. IEMG recognizes that these three jurisdictions are unique but believes that opportunities exist to create common processes and share valuable insight among these compacts. Benefits would include reducing duplication, realizing economies of scale, and identifying and implementing best practices for emergency and disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery across member jurisdictions.

Opportunities and Challenges

A National Level Exercise was planned for May 2020 that would involve IEMG partners from the US and Canadian jurisdictions was cancelled due to COVID-19. IEMG will look for similar opportunities in the future, once the demands of the pandemic response have lessened.

Spring Session:

A spring session is planned for May 11, 2021 online. Members will begin to develop an agenda for the Fall 2021 meeting. Work and associated deliverables relating to the Near-Term Objectives noted above will be the focus of discussions.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mason
Canadian Co-Chair

Erica Borneman
United States Co-Chair