



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Description: IEMAC Fall Meeting 2018

Report Date: November 15, 2018

Location: Providence, Rhode Island, USA

Meeting Begin Date: October 23, 2018

Meeting End Date: October 24, 2018

Present: See Attached Attendees List

Regrets: Erica Borneman (VT); Jean Bissonnette (QC); Aaron Campbell (PEI)

Invited Guests: Ryan FitzSimons, Gigunda Group Inc.

- 1.0 **Proxies:** Tanya Mullally for Aaron Campbell (PEI); Adi Jakupovic for Jean Bissonnette (QC); Charles Deasy for Erica Borneman (VT); Marc Pappas for Peter Gaynor (RI)
- 2.0 **Approval of Minutes:** Spring 2018 (Nova Scotia) minutes was approved – Quebec motioned to approve, Maine seconded; motion carried. Final document will be translated and posted to the IEMG website.
- 3.0 **Definitions & Acronyms:** To be reviewed annually.
- 4.0 **Legal Status of IEMG:** All 11 jurisdictions are officially full members of the IEMG.
- 5.0 **Administrative Support Position (Secretariat):** No changes as the State of Maine will continue to hold this position.
- 6.0 **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 website. Member only section contains nonpublic information. Presentations from this meeting, if available, will be posted in the member only section of the site.
- 7.0 **IEMG 101:** The PowerPoint presentation is available on the IEMAC website noted above. All newer delegates and/or partners to the IEMG are encouraged to review this PowerPoint.
- 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:

NB – Director MacCallum reported that during the reporting period there were 3 level 1 activations (enhanced monitoring) and no local declarations/states of emergency but were very busy because of the recovery phase of last spring's flooding event; 4 emergency exercises were completed and a number of training opportunities including ICS 100, 200, and 300 courses. The NB – ICS database reports the following I-100 (1816 certified), I-200 (65 certified), I-300 (11 certified); Additional courses such as Provincial Emergency Command Post, Emergency Operations Center course, Radio training for Warden Service, Radio Communications also conducted; NBEMO completed an extensive review and update of the Basic Emergency Management Course and is working at getting this training online; After the historic flooding event in the Saint John River System,



increased staff (especially regional staff) and budgets were approved. Additional staff in areas of Training exercise, planning and preparedness and recovery operations will take place over the next year; Energy Synergy Challenge Exercise (Point Lepreau Nuclear Power Plant) was conducted in October and encompassed over 1000 players between 35 agencies.

NS – Director Mason reported that the jurisdiction had no Provincial EOC activations or Disaster Declarations during this reporting period. The province held regular routine exercises and trainings including ICS and provincial 9-1-1 training (mostly weather focused); The province introduced improved technology including the WebEOC platform; The province expects to hire new staff in the next 4-5 months.

MA – Director Schwartz reported that the jurisdiction had 6 State EOC activations during the reporting period. One State of Emergency disaster was declared by the Massachusetts Governor on September 14, 2018 for a gas explosion (State of Emergency still in place at the time of this reporting). The MEMA facilitated 19 exercises and 51 trainings during the reporting period; Continue to support evacuees from Puerto Rico, even though the federal support ended, picking up 108 additional families that remain in local hotels. The program is slated to end December 31st; 3 separate EF1 tornadoes confirmed. MEMA partnered with Team Rubicon on the ground in local communities; Emergency Support Function, Cyber ESF, formally stood up with a focus on election security issues; Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation plan formally launched and FEMA approved September 2018.

Lawrence Gas Explosion Event: On September 13, 2018, excessive pressure in natural gas lines owned by Columbia Gas caused a series of explosions and fires in as many as 40 homes, with over 80 individual fires in the Merrimack Valley. 1 person was killed when a brick chimney fell on his car and 25 others reported injured. Over 10,000 homes and 30,000 persons were forced to evacuate their homes. A construction team was replacing a section of the low-pressure line and forgot a critical piece between a high pressure and a low-pressure line, causing the explosion that immediately destroyed 5 homes and about 50 miles of cast iron pipe. 80 homes were burning within an hour and gas lines and power were shut off in the affected areas to avoid igniting more fires/explosions. MEMA reports that mutual aid response was incredible with 200 pieces of equipment coming from NH, 2 from Maine, and ¾ of the State of Massachusetts local response agencies sent resources (500-600 pieces). Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) was tasked with establishing Unified Command. Evacuation orders were issued to anyone that had gas services and it took over 72 hours to render communities safe. 8000 services lines had to be checked door to door. This review was done by teams made up of Fire, Police and gas company personnel and hired locksmiths. 5 shelters were opened during this initial period. 80% of homes had destroyed meters, pipes and appliances. Some homeowners chose to replace their own appliances and get reimbursed but most are awaiting replacement by the gas company. A recovery resource center was opened and operated 8 days 24 hours.

MEMA was also tasked with finding alternative housing for families but there was a shortage of housing options because of the number of effected households and the influx of emergency personnel. Empire hospitality immediately secured 5000 hotel rooms but most of those were 45 miles outside of the city of Lawrence, which could be problematic for long term need and commuting times for parents and children returning to work and school. Apartments were leased, stand up trailer sites were set up, and old mill building undergoing remodeling for families, and a 750-room cruise ship was used to house construction workers (\$1 million dollar price tag for new berth to be built in Boston Harbor for the cruise ship to dock).

Lessons Learned: PUC's – over pressurization happens often but this one was human error and was the largest gas line incident in the country. Columbia Gas was deemed at fault due to an incorrect work order. UBER and Lyft services were used to commute some folks who were relocated 30+ miles out. There are currently



420 active construction sites in the 3 impacted communities with a target completion date of November 23, 2018. The staff at MEMA did an excellent job under such complex situations.

PEI – Tanya Mullally (proxy) reported no EOC activations or emergencies during the reporting period; facilitated/participated in 3 exercises and 3 trainings. The 6-month focus will be on exercises, new EOC and rewrite of Emergency Plans; Assisted with other events such as the Cavendish Beach Music Festival, which was awarded the best organized Canadian event, a Rock the Boat Music festival, International Air show; The National Disaster Mitigation Program Project ordered 4 new permanent real time tide gauges with installation being done by the University of PEI

VT – Deputy Director Chip Deasy (proxy) reported that Vermont there were no EOC activations during the reporting period; There was 1 Disaster Declaration issued from the severe storm and flooding from May 4-5; The Vermont Drought Task Force is active and monitoring within the state as 32% of the state in moderate drought and 8% in severe drought. VEM has hosted and/or participated in 5 exercises and 6 trainings, including ICS and local EM director courses; Annual preparedness conference held at the Lake Morey Resort with keynote presenters from FEMA. Many of the presentations are available on the VEM website; Vermont State Hazard Mitigation plan was completed, briefed and approved by Governor and submitted to FEMA for final approval; Staffing changes include the addition of a Program specialist responsible for school safety initiatives including training school administrators and staff.

RI – Director Peter Gaynor was sworn in as FEMA Deputy Administrator, therefore resigning his position as Executive Director at RIEMA on the starting day of the IEMG meeting. Marc Pappas was named as Acting Director, and proxy holder, effective immediately; Acting Director Pappas reports there were no state EOC activations or declarations during this reporting period; RIEMA supported several local events, 7 exercises and 38 training opportunities, including the Valley Falls Full Scale Exercise; RIEMA is participating in a FEMA FIT Team Program, RI being the third to join after North Carolina and Tennessee. There is no manual or guide but RIEMA believes this will be a very positive step; RI has the first ever State Search and Rescue Plan and full scale exercise is in the planning stages, ** see note below; RI has been nationally accredited from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) for over a year now, the 36th state in the US to achieve this; Several staff changes, now at 32 FTE's.

** Urban Search and Rescue in the Northeast is experiencing increased activity but only 1 team currently available (in Massachusetts). This group should discuss what resources are available. MA Task Force 1 deployed to assist with Hurricane Florence, but just for Swift Water Rescue. Will plan to discuss at the next NESEC meeting.

NH –Director Perry Plummer reported that since June, there have been two EOC activations, one for severe weather and one for the annual NASCAR event; NH conducted 15 exercises and 22 trainings during the reporting period including the expansion of school safety and houses of worship active shooter training. All state employees have also been trained on active shooter; NH State Hazard Mitigation Plan was formally approved by FEMA; Hosted the 14th annual Preparedness conference with over 900 attendees, 40 break out sessions and 60 vendors; Governor allocated \$30 million for school infrastructure upgrades/improvements and expect that 90% of all schools will have received funds by the end of the year. 95% of all public and charter school security assessments have been completed (611 assessments to date). Governor convened a School Preparedness Task Force that brought together 150 people from various disciplines who spent over 1100 hours and came up with 59 recommendations, we are now working with entities on an action plan for each of the recommendations. Other events of note, a NH Swift Water Rescue Team was deployed under EMAC to North Carolina; and NH increased the statewide See Something, Say Something campaign through posters, TV, and radio ads.



ME – Director Suzanne Krauss reported there were no state EOC activations during this reporting period but MEMA still has 2 open declarations from the 2017 October Wind Storm and 2018 March coastal flooding event; MEMA facilitated 8 exercises and 17 trainings (approximately 400 students) during the reporting period. Courses include ICS, Mass Fatality, All Hazards Communication, Public Information Officer and Business continuity planning. Exercises include Hurricane Recovery, Mass Rescue, Active Shooter, FEMA Sponsored Granite Pine Exercise collaboration with NH, and Dam failure exercises; In October President George H.W. Bush returned to Texas for the winter; Approximately 50% staff turnover in the last 9 months, including several vacant positions still needing filled.

CT – Director Bill Hackett reported there was 1 state EOC activation for statewide flooding on September 25, 2018; Still an open declaration from May 2018 tornado and flash flood event. Public Assistance was granted for that event and the Individual Assistance initially denied but currently undergoing appeal; Connecticut continues to support EMAC requests to hurricane areas and the MA explosion; Hosted the Annual Emergency Management Symposium with over 400 in attendance, as well as 5 other exercises, including FEMA’s Patriot Response and 4 training opportunities; 40 families remain from the Puerto Rico influx of 2017; CT continues to address the Pyrrhotite and crumbling foundation issues, which has effected up to 30,000 homes state wide. An executive level brief with the Governor and a public presentation have been completed regarding this.

NL – Director McCormack reported Newfoundland Labrador had no Provincial EOC activation or emergency declarations during this reporting period. There were a couple of municipality states of emergency to deal with water supply issues; There are 3 outstanding declarations dating back to October 2016 with a cost of \$30 million and federal audits are coming soon for these. Continue to work with municipalities and EM partners on emergency exercises and trainings; NL still experiencing staffing shortage with 2 vacancies in the already small staff, recruitment activities have commenced. NLFES is scheduled to host the IEMG Spring 2019 meeting and details will be released when the Executive Team confirms. In November 2018, there was a change in the Provincial Minister.

QC – Adi Jakupovic (proxy) reported that the province has had a very busy season with 4 partial and 1 full EOC activation for the reporting period. One of those activations was for a series of wildfires which recorded in as over 600 and was well above the annual average of 400. None of these fires threatened any municipalities but one large fire burned over 30,000 acres. Extreme heat, extreme rain, tornadoes were other reasons for EOC activations. The full EOC activation was attributed to the G7 Summit that was held at the beginning of June in the Charlevoix region. For the event, the EIOC was mobilized at full capacity in coordination with various provincial federal departments; The department held 3 exercises (G7 & Hazmat spills) and multiple training sessions angled towards all 1100 municipalities requirement to have an emergency preparedness plans by November 2019; New government/party in recent weeks so unsure of the impacts with this; Increased staffing at the regional level but still understaffed at the main office and the provincial EOC.

Federal Partners:

PSC – Canadian Government Operations Center continues restructure; Currently trying to bring the Urban Search and Rescue inline with the mass casualty piece and bring level up from medium to heavy. The missing piece of USAR is the operations piece deployment outside of Canada; Cruise ship activity has been growing and trying to map out framework for that.



FEMA- FEMA is working on the National Level Exercise (NLE2020) with a cyber focus with kinetic component. Asking if the IEMG jurisdictions wish to participate tentatively scheduled for June 2020. Public Safety Canada is already scheduled to participate. Conference calls will be set up during the planning stages and the IEMG US Co-Chair, Erica Borneman, will be included.

DHHS – The US continues to fund and support a nationwide “Ebola” response plan (designed really to handle any highly deadly and transmissible disease). This plan support the ability of every state to identify, move and hold such patients; and then for every region to have a capacity to treat a few of these patients. The New England center with the full treatment capability is at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. A full training session is scheduled for December at MGH with possibly a full-scale movement exercise in the following year; DHHS continues to publicize the availability of Dr. Susan Cibulsky in the region. Dr. Cibulsky is a Ph.D. chemist who is the DHHS/ASPR subject matter expert in chemical weapons and decontamination. She does international-level work at both the classified and unclassified level, including recent trips to the UK to discuss the recent nerve agent poisoning events there.

DHS – US – Matt McCann reports that DHS has a new Election Infrastructure being designated a Critical Infrastructure subsector by the Secretary of Homeland Security in 2016. New England received \$26 million in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant funding in 2018 to strengthen Election Infrastructure resiliency.

US Coast Guard: Joe Boudrow is the Co-chair of the regional response team. During the hurricane season, several deployments were sent south to the affected areas; co-led with the Canadian Coast Guard in the Canuslant Exercise (cruise ship/oil tanker collision scenario and a mass rescue operation) with heavy involvement from the State of Maine, After Action to follow.

- 9.0 **Operations Manual:** The Operations Manual is available at www.iemg-gigu-web.org. The document is now a mature document having been reviewed several times. The latest version is dated 2015 and there have been no major changes to the document since then. Discussion was introduced by Tanya Mullally who had some recommendations. 1. The Operations Plan is 3 years out of date. It is suggested that the document be reviewed (Tanya Mullally (PEI), Brenda Bergeron (CT) and Stacey Cooling (NB) will review) and report out at the Spring 2019 meeting 2. Review of this document should be a standing item at all meetings 3. Need to identify learning opportunities across jurisdictions meaning finding the opportunity for jurisdictions to visit and learn at other EOC’s during an event. Suggestion possibly using the EMAC process to do an A-Team training.
- 10.0 **Strategic Plan:** Discussion took place regarding the strategic plan and this has been added to the agenda for the Spring 2019 meeting in Newfoundland. The last strategic plan was dated 2015.
- 11.0 **New England Governors Eastern Canadian Premiers Briefing:** Vermont hosted the NEG-ECP meeting in August 2018.
- 12.0 **Annual Report:** The 2018 Annual Report was presented to the NEG-ECP by Peter Walke, Deputy Secretary of Vermont. The Annual report approval motioned Dave McCormack (NL) and seconded by William Hackett (CT) and approved by the board and the document will be available on the website.



13.0 Presentations and Discussions: Any presentations made available from the Spring 2018 meeting in Nova Scotia were posted to the IEMAC website in the member's only section. Not all presentations were available electronically.

- William Hackett (CT) presented on the Connecticut Emergency All-Sector Response Black Sky Event Exercise. The exercise scenario was listed as a widespread loss of cyber capabilities including internet, control systems, electric power loss as well as the cross-sector cascading impacts to critical infrastructure dependent on power, and to communities and the general public due to a world-wide cyberattack. Discussion about the use of Satellite phones by each jurisdiction (most satellite phone numbers are available on the jurisdiction contact sheets, except CT and RI)
- Presentation on Donations Management by Tom McQuarrie, ACS Disaster Response Coordinator for Southern New England. Lessons learned: 1. Know that the donations will come 2. Have a Plan 3. Own it; Best Practices: 1. Do NOT do donations without a plan 2. Suggest jurisdiction have a pre-scripted announcement of needs 3. Identify collection sites in area of need but Do NOT have the collection area the same location as the distribution area to the public;
- Matthew McCann (DHS) presented on Cross Border Electric Energy Regional Resiliency Assessment Program;
- Ryan FitzSimons from the Gigunda Group Inc. provided a presentation on Private Sector Assistance. Gigunda Group is responsible for projects such as Tide's Loads of Hope and Duracell's Power Forward campaigns;
- Shawn O'Rourke (RI) presenting on the Rhode Island State Resiliency Project and the establishment of RIEC4. Information can be found at climatechange.ri.gov;

Presentations noted above, if provided electronically, will be made available on the IEMAC website.

14.0 Bi-Annual Communication Exercise: This exercise was not completed.

15.0 Additional Discussion: Erica Borneman (VT) was voted in as the new US Co-Chair; The Canadian Co-Chair is expected to change in 2019. Rhode Island wrote a donations management plan and will share on the IEMG website;

16.0 Fall 2018 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items

The Annual Spring Meeting will be held in Newfoundland on June 11-12, 2019; Monday and Thursday deemed travel days and meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. Location has not been determined at this time.

Possible agenda items include: Strategic Plan session, Operations Manual, Massachusetts gas explosion presentation, FEMA crowd sourcing (Dan McElhinney, Emily Marcello?), Mutual Aid/Share Resources (Canada Border Services?), Climate Change update, FEMA's National Level Exercise and IEMG involvement, Donations Management Plans/Recovery management - how to draft/write session. The agenda for the spring meeting will be developed by the co-chairs and host jurisdiction in the coming months.

17.0 Appendix

- Attendees list