



## Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Description:** IEMAC Virtual Touch Base Meeting 2021

**Report Date:** July 30, 2021

**Location:** Virtual MS Teams

**Meeting Begin Date:** May 11, 2021

**Meeting End Date:** May 11, 2021

**Present:** See Attached Attendees List

**Regrets:** Samantha Phillips (MA); Mitch Rumbolt (NL); Greg MacCallum (NB); Katia Petit (QC)

- 1.0 **Proxies:** No votes were taken during this Virtual meeting, no proxies were required
- 2.0 **Approval of Minutes:** Fall 2019 (Connecticut) were approved – Massachusetts motioned to approve, New Brunswick 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](http://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.

The website is set to be redesigned and upgraded in 2021, and hope to be completed by the Fall. Updates will be provided by New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization.

- 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. The PowerPoint presentation current name is The International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding and is located under the presentation tab on the public side of the website. I have asked that the presentation be renamed IEMG101 to avoid confusion.
- 8.0 **Report from Each Jurisdiction:** Each Jurisdiction Director gave a summary of what has been going on in their jurisdiction with Covid-19, staffing, lead changes, financial matters, other disasters, and exercises/events for all of 2020. Key comments listed below:

**NB** – Stacey Cooling reported that Director MacCallum has been temporarily heading up the NB Provincial Vaccination Task Force, and she has been the EMO Acting Director since December 2020; Cindy Hackett, who has been with the IEMG group in the past, has rejoined NB EMO; NB activated for Covid-19 on February

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4/ 2020 and are on day 450 and counting; 70 mandatory orders were put into place including public health and enforcement measures to include traffic control points, and established isolation hotels; Vaccinations will be offered early June; EOC was also activated for the River Watch Program / annual river flood threat but were lucky to only have minimal flooding this year; The jurisdiction had several staff changes but are on route to be fully staffed around June 2021; Are also on track for a nuclear exercise in October.

**NS** – Director Mason reported that the jurisdiction declared a state of emergency for Covid on March 22, 2020. Early on there was a lot of focus on border restrictions, critical infrastructure partners, identifying essential workers vs non-essential, PPE procurement, vulnerable populations and homeless shelter challenges, and adapting to the virtual environment; The province has been successful in keeping the Covid numbers relatively down and is offering vaccinations to all eligible in or around June; Covid Situation reports are produced and distributed daily; Regular business, although virtual, continues to move forward with updating the Provincial Emergency Management Plan, continuing WebEOC program rollout to provincial and local partners, provincial 911 services moving to a next generation IP platform and that work continues, and the Office of the Fire Marshal has been brought under the direction of EMO.

**MA** – Mike Russus, proxy, reporting for Director Samantha Phillips who is on maternity leave having had her baby just hours ago. The jurisdiction had 10 partial EOC activations during 2020. Most focus on the Covid-19 pandemic response to include PPE procurement, warehousing (75,000 square foot warehouse), and logistics; food insecurity, management of various isolation and recovery centers, support of non-congregate medical sheltering missions, standing up 7 Alternate Care Sites, lead agency for the Covid 19 Disaster recovery reimbursement program (approx. \$1.5 Billion), and developing recurring situational awareness and Covid 19 summaries for government and external stakeholders; 46 million pieces of PPE have been distributed throughout the commonwealth; MEMA offered 41 training opportunities and 21 exercises; The cancelled 2020 Boston Marathon is hoping to be back in the Fall of 2021.

**PEI** – Tanya Mullally, PEI EMO Manager delegated as primary to IEMG, reported after many years of provincial service, longtime director Aaron Campbell retired. An acting director is in place, but he is not taking on the Emergency Management files at this time. In the near future the department will be restructured and EMO will come out of the Division of Public and be a separate Division of Emergency Management with a respective director and team; The province saw 4 EOC activations during the reporting period, two Level 1 (monitoring), one Level 2 (partial) and one Level 3 (full activation) during the Provincial State of Emergency from March 12, 2020 to August 19, 2020. The Level 3 activation was only to enforce borders and restrict travel entry to the province. The Government of PEI made changes to Public Health Act to enable them to enforce borders, so a Provincial State of Emergency was no longer required; Covid -19 active cases remain very low and vaccination rate is around 40%; Hurricane Dorian After Action implementation plan has been completed in a span of 9 months, implementing all of the recommendations from the AAR; Finalizing the creation of a hybrid training program that integrates in classroom and virtual learning. First phase was the creation of a Professional Development training video series for Municipalities. The online series is offered through the learning management series called Moodle. It includes mini narrated videos on specific topics to support just in time learning. Phase 2 will see the traditional in classroom series be offered in an online format; Continued work on Business Continuity Plan and the Safe School program.

**VT** –Director Erica Bornemann reported the Covid-19 event is Vermont's largest ever disaster declaration topping over \$275 million in damages or eligible costs; Vermont EMA has been 100% remote / virtual since April 13, 2020 and will continue that posture until the State EOC is no longer activated, or probably longer; Vaccines are going well, Vermont is showing really strong in terms of vaccine and is number one in terms of



the number of people with their first shot (and the New England states are the six out of the seven top states in the country in terms of vaccinations; Last fall just around the time the state was to embark on receiving vaccines from the federal government, the states only Level 1 trauma center (UVM Health Network) was hit by a cyber-attack. That event deployed the National Guard Cyber Assistance Team for the first time for a domestic response; Vermont is embarking on a statewide comprehensive After Action Review for covid 19 through contracted support.

**RI** – Director Marc Pappas reported one State of Emergency for Covid-19 which remains in place. The EOC is fully activated but virtually; RIEMA Covid-19 Operations and Response is maintaining two warehouse spaces responsible for receiving and distributing PPE and other medical supplies/equipment throughout the state, is the Public Assistance lead for all cities/towns and all state agencies, overseeing 2 federally supported vaccination sites, assisting city/town regional POD sites, overseeing FEMA Expedition funding for vaccine, and overseeing demobilization and deconstruction of two large alternate hospital sites; RI conducted 8 trainings and exercises during the reporting period. Two events, PIO in all Hazards Event and SAR exercise scheduled for 2021.

**NH** – Director Jennifer Harper reported the State EOC activated on March 14, 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and remains fully activated. State of Emergency declared on March 13 and Presidentially declared on April 3, 2020; Grant Nichols has joined as Assistant Director and Matt Broadhead as new counsel; Some reorganization took place including the radiological program being moved under the field services section; Covid-19 Operations and Response reports 303 applications for PA, 163 situation reports, 5923 mission tasks, 3618 calls to the Joint Information Center, 55,269,815 PPE items distributed, 484,956 PCR tests performed, over 34,000 vaccination doses administered at the NASCAR venue over an 8 day period with more than 1.2 million doses administered statewide accounting for 40% of population fully vaccinated. 2021 training and exercise plan and events are dependent upon the Governor's Emergency Orders in response to Covid-19 state of emergency; HSEM is planning a \$750,000 EOC infrastructure upgrade.

**ME** – Director Peter Rogers reported that 4 days after he was sworn in as the new agency director, Covid-19 landed in the jurisdiction, which prompted a Governor declared State of Emergency and activated the EOC on March 14, 2021 and continues to be fully activated/operational; Also during this time Maine has had a landslide, mill explosions, widespread power outages, fatal shark attacks, EOC relocation due to Legionnaires disease, and snow events; Covid-19 response includes the second FEMA Mobile Vaccination Unit in Region 1, which came fully staffed. The MEMA staff, our National Guard partners, and our Emergency Response Team partners have all continued to support the Covid-19 mission; There have been 19 staff changes since the fall of 2019 that have hit every division/unit in the agency; There were 13 training events and 15 exercises held in 2020;

**CT** – Director Bill Hackett reported that he is retiring effective June 1, 2021 after 15 years. No replacement has been named yet, but questions can be directed to Brenda Bergeron. The jurisdiction is on day 435 of Covid-19 activation and counting; A State of Emergency was also called for tropical storm Isaias August of 2020. Covid-19 response was largely, but not entirely, virtual; Department of Health is the lead agency with support from the CT Military Dept. and many others. Major Emergency Support Functions activated include ESF7 Resource Support and Logistics, ESF 8 Public Health, ESF 6 Mass Care, ESF 14 Recovery, and ESF 15 External communications and public messaging. Ongoing Covid operations include testing, contact tracing, mobile and fixed site vaccinations (first state to deploy FEMA's Mobile Vaccine Unit), and much ongoing work with FEMA on reimbursements; Continued focus on the Homeland Security side of the cyber issue, particularly the cyber pipeline potential up the East Coast; Exercise and training opportunities were



limited in 2020 due to emphasis on Covid but training continued with WebEOC, NIMS, and ICS for new staff. There is also an upcoming Radiological ingestion pathway exercise scheduled for June 2021.

**NL** – Chris Foster, no proxy, reporting out for Director Mitch Rumbolt who was not available at the time of the meeting. He reported the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) was activated for 8 days in relation to the Eastern NL Blizzard of January 2020. 13 municipalities declared a local state of emergency. Statistics of note include a new all-time daily snowfall record of 76.2 cm/30 inches) was set at St. John's International Airport on January 17, 2020 with a total snowfall recorded in at 93 cm/ 36.6 inches; The EOC reopened in March of 2020 related to Covid-19 and remained activated until April 16, 2021. The Public Health State of Emergency remains in place but the EOC is operating at Level 1 enhanced monitoring; No training and exercises were reporting for 2020 but a regional exercise that was scheduled for May of 2020 will now likely occur in the spring or fall of 2022.

**QC** – Mylene Grenon, proxy, reported the province activated twice during the reporting period: New Associate Deputy Minister, Katia Petit, who is in charge of the department of civil security and fire safety (EMO); Activation of the Civil security organization of Québec since January 2020 for COVID-19: since January 24th and still activated. At the regional level, the organizations were mobilized from the 9th March 2020. Mobilization of the National Government Coordination Center (CNCG): 9 of March 2020 and still activated. Same for our Regional Coordination Centers in our 11 regional offices. From the 28th of March 2020, we had a separate team to our CNCG to manage the stakes and the connections for the flooding season. We also provide support for two major forests fires during the summer (Rivière-Ouelle et nord du Lac-Saint-Jean); During Covid-19 activation they provided support to local authorities to deal with the impact of Covid-19, sanitary measures, and the circulation of information, coordinate with the Ministry of Health to help them address the numerous stake and tasks to be carried out, made requests to the federal government requesting help in the senior living environments to support awareness efforts in isolated communities and to take actions concerning travelers into the province; MSP opened a new regional office, the 11<sup>th</sup>, for the areas of Laurentides et Lanaudière. Before they were covered by our regional office for Montreal and Laval; Publication of *Le cadre de référence intervention pipelines* (CRIP). It's interesting because it gives clues to match the operations between federal stakeholders using ICS and the system of consultation based on each one expertise in place in Quebec. [https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/securite-publique/publications-adm/publications-secteurs/securite-civile/soutien-municipalites/cadre\\_ref\\_crip\\_SC.pdf?1612903974](https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/adm/min/securite-publique/publications-adm/publications-secteurs/securite-civile/soutien-municipalites/cadre_ref_crip_SC.pdf?1612903974); MSP will participate in GRIDex with Hydro-Quebec on November 16, 2021 and will plan to play with our provincial operation center and two regional offices.

**Federal Partners:** Dan McElhinney (FEMA) reported out the group has been doing biweekly calls for quite some time, sharing situation reports and messaging. One of the things that has come from our continued discussion is the training opportunities offered by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). Anyone, even our Canadian partners, is eligible to take courses at EMI so long as they obtain a student number. If anyone is interested please reach out to Dan.

Steve Kempton (Canadian Public Health) reports their operations have been focused mainly on the Canadian side of the border reestablishing the quarantine and screening operations as well as having a presence at the three land points of entry along the Maine/New Brunswick border and at airports. Ongoing challenge is the increased number of covid positive or ill crew members arriving via ships. The Canadian Public Health Agency continues to work these issues such as increasing public health staff, setting up quarantine areas, and establishing testing sites. Continues planning and coordination on the upcoming Nuclear Emergency Response Exercise, Synergy Challenge as well as a coastal earthquake exercise on the West Coast.





Greg Banner (US Health & Human Services) reports they continue supporting vaccine programs around New England. Increased staffing has really altered the way the federal government has/can handled the Covid-19 event. New permanent staffing for long term recovery, medical countermeasures, and information management were added at the DHS office in New England.

- 9.0 Operations Manual:** The current Operations Manual is available at [www.iemg-gigu-web.org](http://www.iemg-gigu-web.org). The document was last revised in 2015. Tanya Mullally (PEI) reports the full reformatting and revision of the Operations Manual has not been completed as the proposed changes with EMAC which may influence the specific operational components of the plan. It was agreed to hold off on some portions of the plan until the EMAC work is completed. Tanya suggesting asking for a virtual presentation between now and the next meeting. Review of this document will be a standing item at all meetings.
- 10.0 Annual Report:** The 2020 Annual Report was drafted by Canadian Co-Chair Paul Mason and was presented via email to all the jurisdiction directors for comments. Will be presented to the NEG-ECP and posted to the IEMAC website.
- 11.0 CONEG Committee on Environment and Climate Change:** Paul Mason (NS) will reach out to and invite one of the committees leads to one of the next IEMG meetings to discuss and see what opportunities may arise.
- 12.0 Bi-Annual Communication Exercise:** This exercise was not completed.
- 13.0 Additional Discussion:** Connecticut EMA Director, William Hackett, retired as of June 1, 2021. Bill was the longest running EMA Director in New England and was a big player in the IEMG in the early years. He has seen many Region 1 EMA Directors come and go and has assisted all those who have asked for guidance without hesitation. He has served as Regional Vice President and Secretary of the National Emergency Managers Association. He has also served as acting Commissioner and acting Deputy Commissioner for his department, and the transition of 3 State of Connecticut Governors.
- 14.0 Fall 2021 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items**
- The Annual Fall Meeting will potentially be held in Massachusetts. Time and Location to be determined. Prince Edward Island will host the Spring meeting in June of 2022.
- 15.0 Appendix**
- Attendees RSVP List



IEMAC VIRTUAL TOUCH BASE MEETING  
MAY 11, 2021  
LIST OF ATTENDEES

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
Ayotte	Tara	Emergency Management	ME
Banner	Gregory	US Dept of Health & Human Services	FED
Bergeron	Brenda	Emergency Management & Homeland Security	CT
Bornemann	Erica	Emergency Management	VT
Boudrow	Joseph	US Coast Guard	FED
Broadhead	Matt	Homeland Security & Emergency Management	NH
Cayouette	Marc	Public Safety Canada	Federal Partner
Cimini	Josie	Consulate General of Canada, Boston	Partner
Greenlaw	Jacqueline	British Consulate General, Boston	GUEST
Cooling	Stacey	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
Deasy	Charles	Emergency Management	VT
Errington	Lori	Emergency Management Organization	NS
Foster	Christopher	Emergency Services Division	NL
Fraser	Lesley		
Grenon	Mylene	Ministere de la securite publique	QC
Hackett	Cindy	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
Hackett	William	Emergency Management & Homeland Security	CT
Harper	Jennifer	Homeland Security & Emergency Management	NH
Julian	Michelle	Emergency Management Organization	NS
Kempton	Steven	Public Health Agency of Canada	Partner
Libby	Mark	FEMA Region 1	Federal Partner
Luccier	Pete	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
Mallory	Steven	Emergency Management	ME
Mason	Paul	Emergency Management Organization	NS
Maynard	Elizabeth	DHHS	NH
McCabe	Joanne	Public Safety Canada	Federal Partner
McElhinney	Daniel	FEMA Region 1	Federal Partner
Mew	Jason	Emergency Management Organization	NS
Mullally	Tanya	Public Safety Division	PEI

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Nichols	Grant	Homeland Security & Emergency Management	NH
Pappas	Marc	Emergency Management	RI
Plamondon	Maryse	Public Safety Canada- QC	Federal Partner
Reedy	Allison		
Robichaud	Claude	Public Safety Canada	Federal Partner
Rogers	Peter	Emergency Management	ME
Rooney	Paul	Customs and Border Patrol	Federal Partner
Russas	Mike	Emergency Management	MA
Sizemore	Katie	FEMA International Affairs	Federal Partner
Wiktowy	Andrea	US Consulate General Halifax Consular Section	Guest