



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

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HURRICANE SEASON CONTINUES

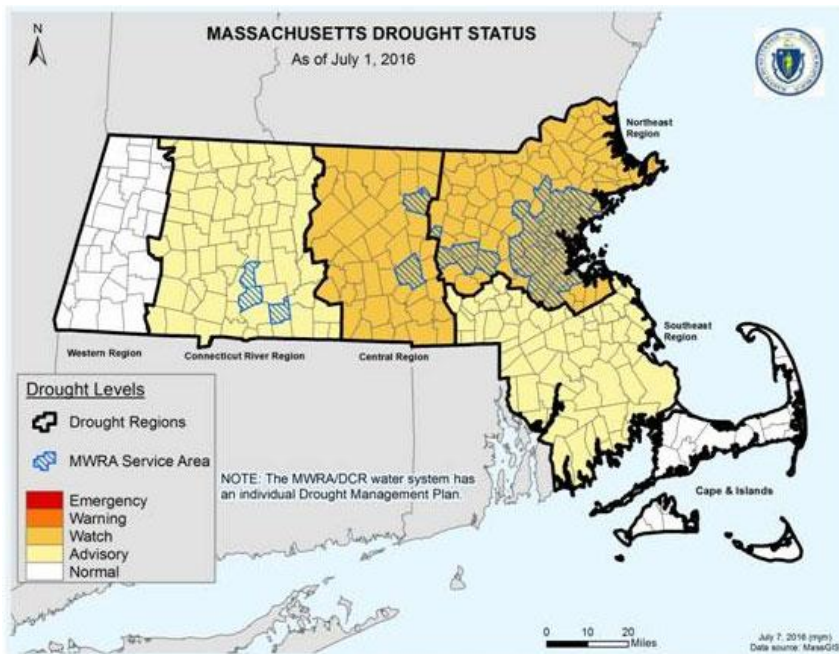
While the Atlantic Hurricane Season began June 1st, most tropical storm systems that have impacted New England have struck during the months of August and September. It is important for Massachusetts residents to be prepared before a hurricane or tropical storm approaches. During [Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) (July 17-23), MEMA launched two new preparedness videos: [Know Your \(Evacuation\) Zone](#) and [Build an Emergency Kit](#). Throughout the

summer, MEMA will continue to feature hurricane preparedness topics on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, on the [MEMA website](#) and on digital billboards across the state. We ask you to join us in encouraging residents and businesses of Massachusetts to prepare for hurricanes and tropical storms by determining if they live or work in a [hurricane evacuation zone](#), making [family emergency plans](#), building an [emergency kit](#), and staying [informed](#).

DROUGHT WATCH, DROUGHT ADVISORY ISSUED

Following four continuous months of unusually dry weather, the Commonwealth's [Drought Management Task Force](#) announced a Drought Watch for Central and Northeast MA and a Drought Advisory for Southeast MA and the Connecticut River Valley. The declaration was the result of a recommendation issued from a recent meeting of the Task Force, which is comprised of state, federal and local officials and is lead jointly by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and MEMA. The Watch and Advisory will remain in effect until water levels return to normal in the affected regions. A Drought Advisory, the second of five levels of drought conditions outlined in the MA Drought Management Plan indicates a level of dry conditions that warrants closer tracking by government agencies. The decline of the state's rainfall in the Connecticut River Valley, Central, and Northeast Regions since March led to the drought condition, with cumulative precipitation deficits of four to five inches below normal for the months of April, May and June. For the months of May and





June, precipitation was less than 61 percent of normal in the regions under Drought Watch and Advisory. Data from the state’s groundwater, streamflow and reservoir monitoring network show very low levels for the beginning of July. Seventeen streams across the four regions impacted by drought have registered record-low flows for early July. A Drought Watch, a higher degree of drought, represents extremely low groundwater and streamflow levels resulting from a precipitation deficit of nearly ten inches over the past 12 months, including a lack of snowfall in the winter months. The declaration of a Drought Watch warrants detailed monitoring of drought conditions, close

coordination among state and federal agencies, and technical outreach and assistance for the affected municipalities. For additional details, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/pr-2016/drought-watch-drought-advisory-issued.html>.

LATEST FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE TOTALS FOR 2015 BLIZZARD

The Disaster Assistance and Snow Assistance process for local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits for the January 26-28, 2015 Blizzard continues to advance. As of August 2, 2016, 941 Project Worksheets (PWs) have been obligated by FEMA, totaling more than \$64.0M in federal aid reimbursements to local communities, state agencies, and eligible private non-profits (75% of the \$84.7M eligible project costs).

SEPTEMBER IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September will again be recognized nationally as *National Preparedness Month* (NPM) and in Massachusetts as *Emergency Preparedness Month* which serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us. “Don’t Wait, Communicate” will again be the preparedness theme this September. Local, state and federal agencies and organizations are making plans for this month-long campaign to promote emergency preparedness. More information about preparedness month and overall preparedness is available at <http://www.mass.gov/mema/ready> and <https://www.ready.gov/september>

SELECTED DIGITAL FLOOD INUNDATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON USGS MAPPER

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with FEMA Region I, has recently posted a series of digital flood-inundation maps for selected flood stages for: A) Western section (9.1 miles) of the Deerfield River in Charlemont, Buckland, and Shelburne, MA, B) Eastern section (8.9 miles) of the Deerfield River in Conway, Deerfield, and Buckland, MA and C) Mainstem (3.3 miles) of the North River in Colrain, Charlemont, and Shelburne, MA. The flood–inundation maps are available at the website <http://wimcloud.usgs.gov/apps/FIM/FloodInundationMapper.html>. The maps can be combined with information regarding current (near real–time) stage on the three USGS stream gages: A) Deerfield River at Charlemont, MA (01168500), B) Deerfield River near West Deerfield, MA (01170000) and C) North River at Shattuckville, MA (01169000). This information will provide emergency management personnel and residents with information that is critical for flood response activities such as evacuations, road closures, and post–flood recovery efforts. The flood–inundation maps are nonregulatory, but provide Federal, State, and local agencies and the public with estimates of the

potential extent of flooding during selected peak–flow events. More information on Flood-Inundation Mapping can be found at the USGS website: http://water.usgs.gov/osw/flood_inundation/. A report documenting the flood-inundation maps for two sections of the Deerfield River is available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/sir20155104>. The report documenting the flood-inundation maps for the mainstem of the North River is available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/sir20155108>. Flood-inundation maps for a section of the Hoosic River in North Adams and Williamstown, MA was previously release last summer. The flood-inundation maps are on the USGS mapper, and the report is available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/sir20145236>. Within the next few months a flood-inundation map will be coming out for a section of the Green River in Colrain, Leyden, and Greenfield at the USGS stream gages Green River near Colrain, MA (01170100). USGS is also planning to come to Deerfield River and Hoosic River communities in the near future to do a presentation on the flood-inundation mapping studies and demonstrate the USGS Flood Inundation Mapper.

UMASS WINS APPROVAL OF FEDERAL & STATE HAZMIT PLANS

The University of Massachusetts has received FEMA and MEMA approval of plans designed to improve the way it prepares for and responds to natural threats. UMass has won \$1M in state grant funding for the purchase of emergency generators that further strengthen the safety infrastructure. “This achievement is the result of careful study, analysis and planning at each campus to assure that we are as prepared as we can be for any natural event that we may face,” UMass President Marty Meehan said. “This plan is just one example of how we are thinking ahead and are making sure we are protecting our students, our campus communities and the assets that have been entrusted to us.” Only one other New England public university, the University of Maine, has won state and federal approval of this kind of comprehensive multi-hazard mitigation plan. Development of UMass's Hazard Mitigation Plan began four years with three grants totaling \$650,000 from MEMA and the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which allowed the campuses to identify areas of critical importance, collect data, analyze risk and estimate the costs of lessening those risks. Having a FEMA-approved plan makes the University eligible for certain pre and post disaster funding for projects to reduce the risk to property, including generators, storm water management projects or structural improvements to vulnerable facilities. For additional information, go to <http://www.massachusetts.edu/news/press-releases/umass-wins-approval-federal-and-state-hazard-mitigation-plans>.

MEMA FIELD DEPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

During the month of July, MEMA deployed its field assets and personnel to support the following events across the Commonwealth:

- July 1 – 4: MEMA supported the ‘Boston Pops’ Fireworks’ spectacular in Boston with a Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) and the Mobile Communication Support Trailer (MCST). The MEOC was used as a Tactical Operations Center and the MCST provided data and communications for assets located at the Esplanade.
- July 4: MEMA supported the cities of Pittsfield and Springfield with an MEOC during their 4th of July activities. MEMA also supported the following with cache radios during the 4th of July: MA National Guard, Manchester-by-the-Sea, North Andover, East Longmeadow, and Randolph.
- July 7 – 9: MEMA supported North Attleboro with an MEOC during their annual ‘Kids Public Safety Day’ event. The MEOC was utilized as a command post for public safety during the event.
- July 23 - 24: MEMA supported the 120 acre brush fire at Joint Base Cape Cod with personnel to provide coordination services, including coordination of canteen services and porta-potty acquisition.

- July 25 – August 4: MEMA supported Westport and multiple state and local officials during a large animal rescue/animal cruelty investigation. An MEOC served as a Unified Command Post by police, emergency management, MSPCA, DAR, and other state and local agencies
- MEMA supported the Animal Neglect Investigation in Westport with the MEOC. The MEOC was utilized as a Unified Command Post by police, emergency management, MSPCA, DAR, and other state and local agencies
- July 28 – 30: MEMA supported the Northwest Massachusetts Incident Management Team (NWMIMT) by deploying the Mobile Satellite Trailer (MSAT) and personnel during the ‘Vigilant Guard 2016’ exercise in Vermont. The MSAT provided the NWMIMT with communications and internet connectivity.
- July 29 – 31: MEMA supported Lowell during its annual Folk Festival with an MEOC and Field Tent. The MEOC was utilized as an incident command post for fire, police, National Park Service, MA State Police and National Guard personnel. The mobile field tent was utilized as a medical station for the event.
- July 30: MEMA supported Canton’s ‘Festival at the Farm’ with an MEOC. The MEOC was utilized as an incident command post for fire, police and CERT personnel.

MEMA TRAINING UPDATE

During the month of July, MEMA’s Training and Exercise Unit hosted 103 students in 4 courses:

- *Basic Hurrevac (Hurricane Evacuation storm tracking and decision support tool)*
- *P-154/ATC-20: Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards & Post-Earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings*
- *AWR-160: Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standardized Awareness Course*

To date, in 2016, 1,429 students have taken 61 separate MEMA supported classes. For additional information about MEMA Training opportunities go to: www.mass.gov/mema.

EMI OFFERS SIMULATING EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER COURSE

The Emergency Management Institute is offering FEMA’s Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC), which is a four-and-a-half day training that simulates realistic crisis situations that emergency operations center (EOC) personnel and community leadership/elected officials may encounter during disasters or other events. The course’s target audience includes state, local, tribal, and territorial government personnel; their elected and appointed officials; supervisory, operations, and emergency support personnel; nonprofit organizations; the private sector; law enforcement personnel; firefighters; attorneys; public information officers; planners; and more. Each participant is assigned a role similar to their designed position in an EOC. Each IEMC course addresses leadership, policy-based decision making, lessons learned, and best practices from real world activations, as well as the functional aspects of an EOC. IEMC courses help increase the skills of participating officials, and provide a forum to evaluate the effectiveness of their specific emergency policies, plans, and procedures that protect life and property. IEMC classes are principally delivered at FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute at the National Emergency Training Center, Emmitsburg, Maryland; however delivery may occur in the community. Questions should be directed to FEMA-EMI-IEMB@fema.dhs.gov. If your jurisdiction is interested in applying for the program and obtaining information on the application process and its timeline, please visit <http://training.fema.gov/iemc/>.

FEMA NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM CONTINUING GRANTS

FEMA announced funding opportunities for the Fiscal Year 2016 Continuing Training Grants program. The Homeland Security National Training Program's Continuing Training Grants will provide \$11.5 million to qualified applicants to help improve the nation's ability to respond to and recover from all-hazard events. The grants are administered by FEMA's National Training and Education Division and will be available for awards in four focus areas: Cybersecurity, Hazardous Materials, Economic Recovery, and Rural Preparedness. This highly competitive program attracts applicants from state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, eligible non-profit organizations, and higher education institutions. Funding is provided as cooperative agreements and awarded directly to the selected applicants. For more information and to download the application package, visit www.grants.gov and submit applications no later than August 22.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM GRANT PROGRAM

On July 6, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson announced \$10 million in available funds for the new Fiscal Year 2016 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program. This is the first federal assistance program devoted exclusively to providing local communities with the resources to counter violent extremism in the homeland. In addition to state, local and tribal governments, non-profit organizations and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. These grants will help scale community-led initiatives across the country to address the evolving terrorist threat, including international and domestic terrorism. Specifically, funding will support training, community engagements, and activities that challenge violent extremist narratives used to recruit and radicalize individuals to violence. This grant program was developed by the DHS Office for Community Partnerships in conjunction with FEMA. The notice of funding opportunity and application process is now open. For more information on how to apply please go here: www.dhs.gov/cvegrants.

NEDRIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER

From Monday, November 7 to Wednesday, November 9, 2016, the Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-change will hold their Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Newport, 1 Goat Island, Newport, Rhode Island. For details and registration, go to <https://www.nedrix.com/nedrix-events/2016-nedrix-annual-conference/>.

MEMA'S MISSION STATEMENT

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses - - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, coordinating response operations, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover.

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YouTube - www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA; **MEMA WEBSITE** – www.mass.gov/mema;

READY MASSACHUSETTS – www.mass.gov/mema/ready;

And do not forget to download *Massachusetts Alerts* app – www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp

