



2014 Annual Report to the Coalition of Northeastern Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Coalition of Northeastern Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers on activities of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) for the period of June 1, 2013 through May 31, 2014.

General:

The role and responsibility of the International Emergency Management Group (IEMG) is to enhance the capability of the member jurisdictions to be positioned 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 capacity to respond through mutual aid support. This capability has been maintained through regular meetings, training and exercising.

Since last report to NEG/ECP, the member jurisdictions of IEMG have recorded an increase in frequency of intense weather events, several of which have caused wide impacts across several provinces and states. The financial impacts of several of these events has been substantial both in the costs associated in responding to and recovering from the event as well as the financial impacts to local economies. Some of these economic impacts are short term while others will require monitoring for the long term and possibly permanent economic loss.

Significant Events

The biggest single event in this time period was the train derailment and subsequent explosion in Lac Megantic, Quebec on July 6, 2013. Emergency responders from neighboring US States responded to the scene of the incident. The Canadian co-chair provided regular situation reports to all member jurisdictions during the response phase of the event.

Maine hosted Exercise Vigilant Guard in November 2013 and as part of the exercise requests were made of all IEMG member jurisdictions for some form of mutual aid using the established request and assistance procedures.

Winter 2013/14 provided many challenges and issues for the IEMG member jurisdictions on many levels and situational awareness reports were shared among member jurisdictions as appropriate.

In September 2013, David McCormack (NL) as the Canadian co-chair and Guy Laroche (QC) presented at the NEG-CCP meetings in La Malbie, Quebec.

July 14, 2014



Appended to this document is a brief summary of significant events and activities within each member jurisdiction.

Member Jurisdictions

Provinces that have adopted the Compact: Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

States that have adopted the Compact: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont (*On July 11, 2013 the Governor of Rhode Island signed into law legislation formally adopting the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Rhode Island is now a full member of the IEMG*).

Mission

The International Emergency Management Assistance Compact 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 at least twice each year, and communicate frequently via email and telephone calls to enhance regional situational awareness and provide opportunities for collaborative emergency management planning, training, exercises, and sharing of best practices.

Meetings of the IEMG

The International Emergency Management Group met twice during the 12 month period covered by this report: in Connecticut in November of 2013 and in Newfoundland and Labrador in May of 2014. The meetings are summarized below:

2013 Fall Session – Hartford, CT:

Cindy Tangney (CT) gave a presentation on Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response

Bruce Fitzgerald (ME) gave presentations on Canada US Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE) and Exercise Vigilant Guard Update

Guy Laroche (QC) gave a presentation on Lac- Megantic Disaster

Brenda Bergeron (CT) gave a presentation on Hurricane Sandy Response and Recovery/School Security Initiatives

Joe Flynn (VT) gave a presentation on Vermont Alert (VT Alert)

Guest speaker Michael Barry (Department of Justice) gave a presentation on Law Enforcement Mutual Aid (ESF 13)

Diane Smith (NL) provided an overview of the IEMG Compact and Memorandum of Understanding between States and Provinces as a refresher education session for new members. Secretariat representatives from New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers attended the proceedings to observe the work of IEMG.

July 14, 2014



2014 Spring Session – St. John's, NL:

Strategic Discussion – Development of a new Strategic Plan was agreed upon, starting with a review of the IEMG Mission, Vision and Goals. Need to focus on the International aspect of the IEMG and the uniqueness associated with this relationship.

Discussion on Updating the Operations Manual and the use of the IEMAC for non-emergency events.

Tony Eden (NS) & Jennifer Harper (NH) provided an overview of the IEMG Compact and Memorandum of Understanding between States and Provinces as a refresher education session for new members.

Mike Russas (MA) led a discussion and review of the Boston Marathon IEMAC Request Process

Joe Flynn (VT) facilitated Border Crossing Discussion

Jamia McDonald (RI) – Reviewed RI Social Media Processes

Atlantic-New England Hazmat Project – Aaron Campbell (PEI), Mark Gillan (NB), Bill Todd (NB) and David Riley (PEI)

Near Term Objectives

Further work on and clarification of procedures required by border control authorities with a goal of expediting border crossings of emergency management resources that have been requested under the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding. Representatives from both the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will be invited to attend the Fall 2014 meeting.

Further work on emergency management (EM) prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities as they relate to rail transport of dangerous commodities. As other regulatory bodies continue to work on this issue from their own legislative and regulatory perspectives, the State and Provincial EM entities need to ensure that they are aware of the challenges and changes regarding the transport of dangerous goods, both within and across jurisdictions. To complement this work, PEI is leading a federally funded project to address an operational plan and process to streamline the movement of hazardous materials response teams within the IEMG jurisdictions. The outcome will provide a consistent method to ensure the necessary response to any hazmat incident is delivered in a timely fashion.

Re-engagement with legal representatives from all IEMG member jurisdictions to review the current by-laws and provide direction on any changes or updates that may need to be contemplated to ensure that the MOU is reflective of current practices and procedures. The legal representatives will be invited to attend the Fall 2014 meeting.



Invitations will be extended to non-member jurisdictions that border some of the IEMG member US states (e.g. New York) to attend the Fall 2014 meeting. This will provide the non-member jurisdictions an opportunity to observe and gain an appreciation of the work being undertaken and the procedures involved with the IEMG group.

A need was identified to develop an orientation guide for new individuals, representing member jurisdictions, to the IEMG community. This orientation guide will complement the established operations manual and provide history and background of the IEMG and highlight the processes involved in activating the MOU among the member jurisdictions. This is an important undertaking given the transient nature of the individuals representing member jurisdictions – of note there are five new individuals since the Spring 2012 meeting in New Brunswick.

Further exploration of the logistics and administrative requirements to activate the MOU for non-emergency events. This issue has been raised since Massachusetts activated the MOU with the US jurisdictions in preparing for the 2014 Boston Marathon.

Challenges

Budgetary restraints faced by all member jurisdictions have curtailed travel opportunities for staff. With the exception of the Directors of each State/Provincial organization most jurisdictions have not been able to send operational leads that assist with and are called upon to operationalize the MOU when required. This can lead to a vacuum in networking and learning opportunities experienced during the semi-annual meetings by a broad base of emergency management practitioners. Additionally, the smaller turnout for the semi-annual meetings has impacted the established working groups and their ability to meet objectives set forth in the strategic plan.

Training opportunities remain limited between member jurisdictions and their respective staff. In order to maximize the education and training opportunities that exist, a commitment to dedicate resources is required.

Fall Session Boston, Massachusetts November 17-19, 2014:

Work will continue at the Director and Working Group level, as noted above, to advance the identified strategic goals in 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

David McCormack
Canadian Co-Chair

Joe Flynn
United States Co-Chair

July 14, 2014



Significant Events for IEMG Jurisdictions thru 5/31/14

CT

- Several Fast moving weather events which resulted in six activations
- Implemented Public Act 13-3, School Security
- Produced School security standards, planning templates and infrastructure standards

MA

- June 2013 – Full Activation – Vermont Yankee Graded Exercise
- July 2013 – Boston's July 4th Celebration
- October 2013 – Partial Activation – Boston Red Sox World Series Home Games
- November 2013 – Full Activation – 2013 Boston Red Sox World Series Championship Rolling Rally/Parade
- December 2013 – Full Activation – Snow Storm
- January 2014 – Full Activation – Significant winter storm with heavy snowfall, coastal hazards, high winds, low temps
- February 2014 – 3 Partial Activations due to snow storms
- March 2014 – 1 Full Activation – Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant exercise and 1 Partial Activation due to heavy snow
- April 2014 – Full Activation for the 2014 Boston Marathon (Multi Agency Coordination Center) and 1 Full Activation for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant graded exercise

ME

- November 2013 – State EOC activated for one week during the Vigilant Guard Exercise
- December 13, 2013: Declared limited State of Emergency to waive Hours of Service rules for heating fuel supply and deliveries
- December 20, 2013: Declared limited State of Emergency to waive Hours of Service rules for utility crews in advance of ice storm
- December 21, 2013 – January 1, 2014 : State EOC activated for 11 days to respond to statewide ice storm - Declared general State of Emergency
- December 31, 2013: Renewed the limited State of Emergency to waive Hours of Service rules for heating fuel supply and deliveries
- January 17, 2014: Third renewal of the limited State of Emergency to waive Hours of Service rules for heating fuel supply and deliveries. After this, Maine fell under the USDOT regional emergency declaration through early March, when conditions no longer warranted the SOE
- April 2014: Aroostook County EOC was activated for spring flooding and ice jams

NB

- Summer 2013 – three (3) minor wildfires required precautionary evacuations of residents. All were eventually brought under control without significant infrastructure damages.

July 14, 2014



- Summer 2013 – (July – September). Experienced some localized flooding in various communities due to heavy rainfall events.
- August 2013 - tornado touched down in a rural community in Central NB. Minor infrastructure damage
- December 2013 – January 2014 – Ice Storm/Multiple winter storms/Flash Freeze
- January – March 2014 – Multiple ice storms resulting in extensive power outages throughout the province
- March – May 2014 – Spring freshet flooding throughout the province. Significant ice jam flooding on several rivers systems, as well as overland flooding from rapid melt of snow pack

NH

- July 2013 – Rain event resulted in Presidential Disaster Declaration
- September 2013 –NASCAR race; attendance over 100,000
- December 2013 – Ice Storm resulting in power outages and sheltering operations
- January 2014 – Snow storm resulting in power outages and sheltering operations
- January 2014 – Support of public safety incident involving multiple communities statewide; call center established for 2 weeks.
- February 2014 – Support of community where chemical explosion severely damaged critical infrastructure asset
- March 2014 - Snowstorm resulting in power outages and sheltering operations
- April 2014 – Flooding resulting in Presidential Disaster Declaration
- May 2014 – Support of public safety incident in local community

NL

- August 26, 2011 Hurricane Irene
- September 14, 2011 Tropical Storm Maria
- September 16, 2011 High Waves/Storm Surge Activity
- October 5 to 6, 2011 Heavy Rains/High Wind Activity
- December 7 to 8, 2011 High Winds/ Storm Surge Activity Island of Newfoundland and Southern Coast of Labrador
- February 15, 2012 Water Supply Issue-State of Emergency Hopedale Labrador
- February 29, 2012 Power outage at Memorial University of Newfoundland Residences
- March 14, 2012 Fire at Electrical Generation Facility Black Tickle, Labrador
- May 18, 2012 Release of 40,000 barrels of Bunker Fuel at oil refinery
- May 25, 2012 Wildfire on Canadian Forces Base – Goose Bay

NS -

- December 2013- January 2014 – Multiple winter storms/Flash Freeze./ During this period, NS experienced several winter storms resulting in short term power outages
- February – March 2014 – Several winter storms resulting in sporadic power outages throughout the province

PEI

- December 2013 – Ammonium Nitrate spill Hazmat incident
- March 2014 - Winter Blizzard

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- March – April 2014 - Spring Ice Storm

QC

- July 6, 2013 – Lac-Megantic incident: 47 people deceased, destruction of a large sector of the city. Decontamination and reconstruction still ongoing
- June – August 2013 – Forest fires in the James Bay and Cote-Nord regions
- December 2013 – Ice storm in southern Quebec. Many municipalities without electricity for up to a week
- January 2014 – Major fire in a senior residence – 32 deceased
- Spring 2014 – Flooding reported in many regions, mostly due to ice jams. Three regions suffered major consequences, forcing the evacuation in total of close to 1000 residents.
- May 2014 – Several hundred residents from the Ontario First Nation community sheltered in Quebec due to an ice jam threatening Attawapiskat

RI

- December 2013 – Winter Storm Hercules – SEOC preparation
- January 2014 – Winter Storm Hercules Activation Monitoring Level 4
- January 2014 – Winter Storm Janus Activation Monitoring Level 4
- February 2014 - Winter Storm Pax Activation Monitoring Level 4
- February 2014 - Winter Storm Quinas Activation Monitoring Level 4

VT

- June – July 2013 – Flash flooding from repeated downpours damaged roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure in communities around the state. Federal Disaster Declaration
- December 2013 – Protracted Ice Storm coated trees and caused flooding of roads. There were 2 fatalities and thousands without power state wide with some outages continuing for several days. Public utilities were the hardest hit.
- April 2014 - DEMHS and FEMA completed preliminary damage assessment following storms and flooding from April 15-18, 2014. Governor Shumlin has submitted a request for a Major Disaster Declaration to the President.
- August 2013 - Announcement that Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station will close in December 2014