



## 2021 Annual Report to the Coalition of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers

The member states and provinces of the International Emergency Management Group are pleased to present the IEMG 2021 Annual Report.

COVID-19 continued to be an area of focus throughout 2021. All IEMG member jurisdictions had activated their provincial or state Emergency Operations Centers for pandemic response in 2020. The deactivation of these EOCs/PCCs and termination of States of Emergency varied by jurisdiction. Some stood down in 2021, others in 2022, and some are still activated at a monitoring level.

In addition to COVID-19, in 2021 IEMG member jurisdictions responded to severe storms and flooding, tropical storms/hurricanes, blizzards, landslides, supply chain disruptions, cyberattacks and civil unrest (protests and blockades).

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 member jurisdictions were still able to provide over 250 training sessions and lead or participate in over 75 exercises between June 2020-December 2021.

### **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 2020 – December 2021.

### **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 normally meet face-to-face 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**

Due to travel limitations and each jurisdiction's response to COVID-19, IEMG met virtually twice and in-person once between June 2020 and June 2022. The virtual meetings were held on May 11, 2021 and November 18, 2021. The in-person meeting was held June 7-8 in Charlottetown, PEI. Agenda items for these meetings included:

- Jurisdiction and partner briefings
- Update of IEMG website
- Cyber Security for Critical Infrastructure
- Critical Infrastructure update for Canada
- Sharing resources between jurisdictions
- Overview of Operations Manual updates
- Climate Change approaches in PEI

## **IEMG Objectives:**

**Update Strategic Plan for IEMG.** Work continues to update the IEMG Strategic Plan, with more discussions planned for Massachusetts in Fall 2022. Priority areas include:

- Enhancing shared training and exercising opportunities among IEMAC jurisdictions and partners
- Increased focus on sharing lessons learned and best practices
- Clarifying and simplifying the process for sharing resources between US and Canadian jurisdictions
- Creating a standing item for all IEMG meetings for climate change
- Consideration will be given in Fall 2022 to adding a critical infrastructure/supply chain standing item to meeting agendas

**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 were discussed at the Fall 2019 meeting. IEMG will invite the CCSC to provide a short presentation on their activity at the Fall 2022 meeting.



**Alignment of the approach of the three bi-national Emergency Management agreements:**

Similar compacts to IEMAC exist with the Northern Emergency Management Assistance Compact and Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement. While each jurisdiction is unique and the approaches differ, there are opportunities to create common processes and share valuable insight among participants in all three 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:**

IEMG members are exploring opportunities to share opportunities in training, exercising, and observing activations where possible. Leveraging these opportunities will strengthen all of our jurisdictions and promote enhanced collaboration and communication.

Jurisdictions have committed to sharing after-action reports on the IEMG website wherever possible to enhance learning opportunities among members.

**Co-Chairs:**

Peter Rogers from Maine was selected as the new US Co-Chair in November 2021, replacing Erica Bornemann. For continuity purposes and due to COVID-19 challenges, the Canadian IEMG co-chair Paul Mason agreed to extend his term until at least Fall 2022.

**Fall session:**

The next meeting is planned for Fall 2022, to be hosted by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Mason  
Canadian Co-Chair

Peter Rogers  
United States Co-Chair