



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Description: IEMAC Spring Meeting 2019

Report Date: July 9, 2019 **Location:** St. John's Newfoundland, CA
Meeting Begin Date: June 11, 2019 **Meeting End Date:** June 12, 2019

Present: See Attached Attendees List

Regrets: Jean Bissonnette (QC); Aaron Campbell (PEI); Marc Pappas (RI); Suzanne Krauss (ME)

Invited Guests: US Consulate General Halifax/Department of State

- 1.0 **Proxies:** Tanya Mullally for Aaron Campbell (PEI); Adi Jakupovic for Jean Bissonnette (QC); Jennifer Harper (NH) for Suzanne Krauss (ME); William Hackett (CT) for Marc Pappas (RI)
- 2.0 **Approval of Minutes:** Fall 2018 (Rhode Island) minutes was approved – New Hampshire motioned to approve, Newfoundland 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.

The website is set to be redesigned and upgraded in the coming months, and will be completed 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.
- 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 6 level 1 activations (enhanced monitoring), 1 level 2 activation (partial activation), and no local declarations/states of emergency; The province is in the After-Action phase of 3 events, the 2017 Ice Storm, the 2018 and 2019 spring flooding; 10 emergency exercises were completed and many training opportunities including ICS 100, 200, and 300



courses. The NB – ICS database reports the following during the reporting period I-100 (283 certified), I-200 (75 certified), I-300 (41 certified), I-400 (20 certified); NBEMO will be participating in the International Atomic Energy Agency Emergency Preparedness Review of the Canadian nuclear response capability with the Health Canada agency; NBEMO has acquired a drone with Flir/thermal capability. 3 staff are trained to Transport Canada standards for UAV operations; New provincial EOC in process. New state of the art building is under construction with a scheduled completion date of Fall 2020 and will include a fusion center and cyber section; Heavy attention to mitigation projects.

NS – Director Mason reported that the jurisdiction had 2 Provincial EOC activations, winter storm and wind/rain event and zero Disaster Declarations during this reporting period. The province held regular routine exercises and trainings including several ICS specific trainings; The province hired several new staff including Director of Provincial 911, Operations manager and planning officer; ongoing key initiatives include WebEOC acquisition, Recovery Unit Review, and NG 911 Tet Lab.

MA – Massachusetts has a new director, Samantha Phillips. Director Phillips reported that the jurisdiction had 6 State partial EOC activations and 1 full EOC activation during the reporting period; MEMA had 29 exercises and 66 training opportunities during the period; The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station began the decommissioning process on May 31st. The communities within the EPZ boundary have had great emergency planning and coordination; The Annual 2-day preparedness conference is coming up at the end of June. There is a renewed interest in emergency management in the state after last year's natural gas explosion in Merrimack Valley; The State and the 3 local communities affected by the gas explosion are currently working on an after-action report with intensive facilitated discussions and a target completion date this fall; MEMA is working with FEMA to close up some open disasters, mitigation and cyber are the major focus points in the coming year.

PEI – Tanya Mullally (proxy) reported there was 1 EOC activation for a severe winter storm and no emergency declarations during the reporting period; facilitated/participated in 4 exercises and several ICS trainings; The National Disaster Mitigation Program Project installed 4 new permanent real time tide gauges which can be monitored live via internet along with the creation of an early warning notification website during high water levels; The provincial HazMat Team ceased operations in April. PEI Fire Marshal has reached to its NB and NS counterparts to make arrangements for mutual aid in the event of an incident in PEI and a working group has been created; PEI is hosting 4 music festival events in 2019; PEI has a new minority government, new minister and new premier elected April 2019.

VT –Director Erica Bornemann reported there were 2 EOC activations, 1 partial and 1 full, during the reporting period; there was 1 request for Major Disaster Declaration for the April 2019 flooding; VEM has hosted and/or participated in 3 exercises and 9 trainings, including ICS and Resource Support Section Training; Vermont's State Hazard Mitigation plan implementation has been a focus for VEM. The recent revision took a new approach and all mission areas, response/recovery/planning/mitigation, are now under one umbrella statewide network and no longer indexed; Staffing changes include the hiring of a new Operations and Logistics Section Chief.

RI – Not present, reported via email, Director Marc Pappas reported there was 1 EOC activation for a March Winter Storm and 1 State of Emergency for a gas outage on Aquidneck Island; RIEMA supported several local events, 8 exercises and 24 training opportunities, including the Rhode Island Community Emergency Response Team statewide rodeo; RIEMA is participating in a FEMA FIT Team Program.



NH – Jennifer Harper was promoted to Director in June 2019. There were 6 EOC activations, 1 full (Granite Pine Exercise) and 5 partial (winter storms); NH conducted 20 exercises and 29 trainings during the reporting period including the expansion of school safety and Houses of Worship active shooter training; Hosted the 15th annual Preparedness conference with over 800 attendees and 60 vendors; working on updating the State Operations Plan; Working with the Department of Environmental Services on the High Hazard Potential Dams Rehabilitation Grant Program; Continue working the Governor’s School Preparedness Program and School Safety Taskforce and online resource center; and NH increased the statewide See Something, Say Something campaign through posters, TV, radio ads, and anew tip line for schools that will allow individuals to call and report threats.

ME – Not present, reported via email. Suzanne Krauss has resigned as Director of Emergency Management therefor the acting Director is currently Peter Rogers. 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 16 trainings during the reporting period. Courses include ICS, cybersecurity, EOC Operations, Resource Unit Leader Course, Operations Section Chief course, basic PIO and community resilience training; Held the 11th Annual Preparedness conference in April and had over 600 attendees; Approximately 60% staff turnover in the last 12 months, including 3 vacant positions still needing filled, State Training Coordinator, the State Dam Safety Engineer/Inspector, and Agency Director.

CT – Director Bill Hackett reported there were 3 partial state EOC activation for weather related events; There was 1 new disaster declaration for flooding and heavy rains and there are 6 declarations that remain open. FEMA’s JFO is located at the EMA office; Hosted FEMA Region 1 Cyber Security Workshop in preparation of the NLE 2020 as well as 8 training opportunities; Several focus areas including reorganizing the state fusion center, school security and staff training, cyber security disruption plan and new app Connecticut Prepares; CT continues to address the Pyrrhotite and crumbling foundation issues, which has affected 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 activations or emergency declarations during this reporting period. There was one municipality state of emergency dealing with water supply issues where a water supply pond froze top to bottom, approx. 6 feet deep; There are 3 outstanding declarations dating back to October 2016 and are working with Public Safety Canada to close out. All individual claims have been paid out to get back to pre-disaster condition; Continue to work with municipalities and EM partners on emergency exercises and trainings. Planning is underway for a significant provincial level exercise in 2020; In May 2019 the provincial election resulted in a tie causing some delay in appointing a Provincial Minister.

QC – Adi Jakupovic (proxy) reported that the province has had a very busy season with 3 partial and 2 full EOC activation for the reporting period. One of those activations was for record breaking spring floods lasting over a month affecting over 200 communities and 13,500 persons evacuated from their homes; 59 local state of emergency declarations were issued by local authorities. The province formally requested and received the assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces in response to the massive impacts of the record spring flooding; The department held 9 exercises and 1 national flood preparedness training; EOC is slowly being restaffed and the recent floods have opened possibilities of increased staff, financial resources and upgraded EOC equipment and structure; Strengthened the interdepartmental relations with Guinea with collaborative delegation visits to both EOC’s; Working with federal partners to create urban search and rescue team in Montreal with hope to be fully operational to support entire province by 2022.



Quebec's Flooding 2019 Timeline:

- 4/1/19 rising waters, rapid melting due to increased temperatures and rain.
- 4/19/19 Canadian Armed mobilized and sent a max. of 1100 troops to Quebec at peak of event
- 4/27/19 flood levels surpassing the level of the record 2017 floods
- 4/27/19 levee broke, doubled the impacts of the flooding

Summary:

204 municipalities were impacted, 1 fatality, 10,122 flooded homes, and over 100 landslides. Over 1500 government employees responded from over 30 departments. Established a National Government Coordination Center in QC and 8 regional government coordination centers. Canadian Red Cross supported over 5000 persons and was in charge of management of fundraising which over \$5 million was raised. Additional agencies involved included Public Safety Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard. Satellite imagery charter was activated, mutual assistance government partners deployed to municipalities, and assistance from the Association of Fire chiefs of QC for local resource support.

The recovery process continues. Financial piece was replaced to a compensation program in hopes to speed up the processes. New financial cap is \$100,000 cumulative over several years. After financial cap the government will stop paying and the residents will have the option of relocation. If resident chooses to stay additional financial compensation will not be granted.

Continued challenges with reintegration of citizens, recovery of the road infrastructure and older flood zone mapping (that is now currently be updated).

Federal Partners:

PSC – New Regional Director on board and low staffing at the present time; Supported the historic flooding in QC and the after action on the federal response did uncover some lessons learned; Currently working on updating the Atlantic Intergovernmental Plan; Ministers adopted a National Emergency Management Strategy and a working group was formed. QC regional office facilitated 26 teams to cross border in response to flooding; Continue working with Hydro Quebec, New Brunswick Power, FEMA, and RRAP on Urban Search and Rescue functions; Cyber Security planning and shelter capacities are both ongoing.

An Emergency Strategy Action Plan Canada working group was created with focus on mutual aid, resource availability, etc. Several working group members are also IEMG delegates and will share information on the secured section of the IEMG website

FEMA- FEMA has a new regional administrator, Russ Webster. Russ had attended previous IEMG meetings several years ago; FEMA is working on the National Level Exercise (NLE2020), June 2020, with a cyber focus with kinetic component. IEMG jurisdictions do plan to participate. Public Safety Canada is already scheduled to participate. Currently working 11 disasters in Region 1 at \$200 million. Building up Federal Integration Teams (FIT) in the region, currently 3 in Rhode Island, 2 in New Hampshire, 3 in Connecticut and 1 in Vermont; Working on a pilot Virtual TTX dealing with family reunification

DHHS – The US continues support with customs and border protection with an upsurge in planning and asked to participate in the Summer Olympics in Japan; Continued training in disasters, Narcan use, and stop the bleed; Creating smart sheets with quick links; National stockpile program has changed over to regional program and looking to hire regional person to manage this.



- 9.0 Operations Manual:** The current Operations Manual is available at www.iemg-gigu-web.org. The document was last revised in 2015. Discussion led by Tanya Mullally (PEI) who had reviewed the document in its entirety and had several recommendations for edits. Tanya will do a full reformatting and revision (draft) ahead of the fall meeting with assistance from Lori Errington (NS) and also involve the US EMAC coordinator. Recommended that a review of this document be a standing item at all meetings
- 10.0 Strategic Plan:** It has been 4 years since this document was last updated. The group identified 5 areas of focus: 1. Situational Awareness 2. Update the Report Out Form to also include the projected jurisdictional 6-month outlook going forward 3. Lessons Learned and Best Practices 4. Training and Exercise 5. Streamlining the process for sharing resources cross border. In addition to the 5 focus areas the document will be reformatted to identify strategic vs administrative objectives. Vermont, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland directors will put together the revised strategic and administrative plan(s) and will roll out at the fall meeting in Connecticut. Also suggested that this be a standing agenda item at least annually if not every meeting.
- **1. Situational Awareness- Jurisdiction SA sharing varies by jurisdiction.** Most Canadian provinces automatically share with the other provinces and most US states automatically share with the other New England states but it's not automatic for SA sharing among all IEMG jurisdictions. And IEMG Support distribution list was created several years ago but that list does not appear to be used by all jurisdiction directors. Secretariat will poll the Support Googlegroups distribution list to determine continued interest and will also send new members updated information on this list serve. Also included in the SA reporting it was suggested that a chart be created on how each jurisdiction's activation levels and activation level descriptions.
 - **2. Report Out form-** Add section to report out initiatives and priority pieces for the next 6 months. Also decided to add the US and Canadian federal partners to the report out information request.
 - **3. Lessons learned and Best Practices-** jurisdictions that may have had an "event" may choose to do a presentation to the group at an upcoming meeting. These presentations are uploaded to the secure section of the IEMG website
 - **4. Training and Exercise –** currently the report out form asks for a summary of training and exercises by jurisdiction but was suggested to add upcoming trainings and exercises in the event that another jurisdiction could attend and/or participate. Discussion on the possibility of the IEMG recreating a training and exercise plan for this group.
 - **5. Cross Border resource sharing –** Erica (VT) will work on identifying ways to streamline the process for sharing resources and assess the use of EMAC. This has been previously discussed by the board and prior spreadsheet that identified available resources by jurisdiction and resources most likely to be requested by jurisdiction will be provided to co-chairs. Also, previously discussed A-Team training and Mission Ready Packages.
- 11.0 New England Governors Eastern Canadian Premiers Briefing:** St. John New Brunswick is hosting the NEG-ECP meeting from Sept 8-10, 2019.
- 12.0 Annual Report:** The 2019 Annual Report will be drafted by the co-chairs and sent to all the jurisdiction directors for approval to submit to the NEG-ECP in September.
- 13.0 Presentations and Discussions:** Any presentations made available from the Fall 2018 meeting in Rhode Island have been posted to the IEMAC website in the member's only section. Not all presentations were available electronically.
- Mikael Main (MA) presented on the 2018 Merrimack Valley Gas Explosion. This incident to date has cost the gas company over 1 Billion Dollars and may continue to increase.



- Amir Ali Khan from the NL Water Resource Division Presented on Hurricane Season Flood Alert System. Discussed how the Newfoundland Region has worked collaboratively to identify and map water location, times and depths in advance of an actual event. The data provided is more comprehensive and realistic
- Climate change/adaptations and some changes to jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans were discussed at length.
- Group discussion on the topic of shared challenges with catastrophic issues.
- Spring 2019 Floods in Quebec, by Adi Jakupovic.

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

14.0 Bi-Annual Communication Exercise: This exercise was completed by the host jurisdiction on June 6, 2019. Calls were made at 2 separate times, one during normal working hours and one after hours beginning around 8 PM NL, 7:30 ATL and 6:30 EST. All Jurisdictions were successfully connected during both calls.

15.0 Additional Discussion: Paul Mason (NS) was voted in as the new Canadian Co-Chair;

16.0 Fall 2018 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items

The Annual Fall Meeting will be held in Connecticut on November 19-20, 2019; Monday and Thursday deemed travel days and meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. Location has not been determined at this time.

Possible full two-day agenda with items such as: Strategic Plan session, Operations Manual session, Orientation of revised IEMG Website, EMAC Presentation with A-Team module, Working discussion on FEMA's National Level Exercise and IEMG involvement. The agenda for the fall meeting will be developed by the co-chairs and host jurisdiction in the coming months.

17.0 Appendix

- Attendees list