



## Meeting Minutes

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

**Report Date:** December 22, 2021

**Location:** Virtual MS Teams

**Meeting Begin Date:** November 18, 2021

**Meeting End Date:** November 18, 2021

**Present:** See Attached Attendees List

**Regrets:** Jean Savard (QC)

**Proxies:** Mylene Grenon (QC) for Jean Savard

- 1.0 Approval of Minutes:** Spring 2021 minutes were sent for review and approval prior to meeting and edits were completed. The formal motion to approve was not completed during this virtual meeting but will be conducted via email to ensure the minutes are made available on the website.
- 2.0 Definitions & Acronyms:** To be reviewed annually.
- 3.0 Legal Status of IEMG:** All 11 jurisdictions are officially full members of the IEMG.
- 4.0 Administrative Support Position (Secretariat):** No changes as the State of Maine will continue to hold this position.
- 5.0 Website:** Web address is [www.iemg-gigu-web.org](http://www.iemg-gigu-web.org). The website was completely redesigned and upgraded by New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization and is now live. 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.
- 6.0 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 IEMG101 - The International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding
- 7.0 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** –Director MacCallum reported that there is still a declared state of emergency in the province and the EOC activation status has gone from full activation down to enhanced monitoring and everywhere in between. There are about 500 active Covid cases in the province currently. NB has had a very successful vaccination campaign with approximately 93.3% of the population with at least the first dose and 87.1% fully vaccinated. NBEMO has been active in the non-traditional role of PPE warehouse management to support Covid response for GNB departments, First Nations, and essential critical infrastructure partners; ICS and other training has mostly changed to a virtual platform; The usual garden variety of emergencies such as train derailments, border blockades, and a public employees strike; The Alert Ready public alerting system testing was recently completed successfully. There is an initiative underway to further enhance the public alerting system and expand the

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capacity to alert all internet-based devices; NBEMO is set to expand staffing capacity in the planning and preparedness side, adding a Provincial Regional Preparedness Manager and Planning Coordinator. These additions will increase the outreach and ability to assist communities in their resiliency building; NBEMO is looking to do an extensive after-action review process and lessons learned from the Covid response; Director MacCallum also feels it's important to note that Stacey Cooling, Chief of Operations, stepped in as Acting Director for nine months while Director MacCallum was running a vaccination task force.

**NS** – Director Mason reported that the jurisdiction declared a state of emergency for Covid back on March 22, 2020. The Provincial Covid response is led by Public Health and levels of activation have varied depending on the intensity of event. NSEMO's primary role in pandemic response has been assisting with procurement of PPE, warehouse management, providing situational reports, and responding to queries regarding impacts of public health measures on critical infrastructure, municipal, and provincial partners, as well as the general public; Training and exercising opportunities were limited due to Covid-19, but courses were offered, some in person and some utilizing the virtual platform; NSEMO is implementing a new multi-year training and exercise plan including hiring a Training and Exercise Manager; NSEMO recently deployed the WebEOC platform software. Based on past lessons learned NSEMO is building a board map on WebEOC with all the various cell tower locations and hope to work more collaboratively with those telecommunications partners in the future.

**MA** – Dawn Brantley, Acting Director, reported that Samantha Phillips stepped down as director in October; Massachusetts Emergency Management (MEMA) is working a lot on the statewide training program and found the virtual platform very successful after they had to switch to all virtual for several months during Covid. They are looking into a hybrid training program where both in person and virtual will both be offered. MEMA is looking for a vendor that can help develop an online self-paced training courses, similar to EMI. MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit is rolling out the Massachusetts Professional Emergency Manager Program. This is not a professional certification program but will focus on validating and recognizing Emergency Managers who complete a set of requirements. MEMA is currently offering the Emergency Management Institute's Basic Academy with the goal of establishing a cadre of instructors who will be able to support the Academy year round. They have developed an EMD 101 training program for new local EM Directors to teach the fundamentals of Massachusetts Emergency Management and get connected with regional and local coordinators to get them started; MEMA developed a robust logistics plan and leased and built out a warehouse program. The logistics warehouse became operational during Covid and, in partnership with the Department of Public Health, nearly 59 million pieces of PPE have been distributed to health, human services, public safety stakeholders, other essential service providers, and schools. Additional staffing is in process, to include an in-house meteorologist.

**PEI** – Tanya Mullally, Acting Director, reported that PEI remains in a Public Health Emergency activation, with the Department of Health and Wellness being the lead agency. PEI EMO remains a support agency to the overall Covid-19 response assisting with processing applications for border entry travel to PEI; As a result of Covid-19 all in person training and exercising was suspended. The Province developed a pretty robust virtual training program, that integrates classroom and virtual learning, and based on high virtual enrollment PEI is considering continuing the virtual platform. A full-scale exercise with the Provincial Airport is planned for the fall of 2022; A Moderna MRNA vaccine plant is being built in PEI starting in March of 2022; Covid cases to date are primarily low with a current pandemic total of 335, 1 hospitalization, zero deaths, 7 current open cases, and 90% vaccination status. PEI is still planning to host the in person IEMG meeting in the spring of 2022.

**VT** –Director Erica Bornemann reported the Vermont Emergency Operations Center is not currently activated and the State of Emergency ended on July 4, 2021; Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) continues to work mostly hybrid schedule (3 days per week remote). Vermont is continuing to see an uptick of Covid-19 cases, mostly in the younger age groups; VEM has submitted a federal medical staffing request, to support the hospitals and a surge site if needed, and requested 2 monoclonal antibody teams; A rain event in July did warrant EOC activation and disaster declaration; Training and exercises continue to be offered but mostly in a hybrid status



(recording in person and offering virtual recording). Upcoming exercises being planned for cyber security, long term power outages, commodity points of distribution, and “Binary Blizzard”, a Statewide Catastrophic Exercise, with focus on a cyber-attack and a long term power outage. Director Bornemann has been heavily involved with the Statewide Climate Action Plan, co-chairing the resilience and adaptation subcommittee of the climate council.

**RI** –Director Marc Pappas reported one State of Emergency for Covid-19 remains in place; 72% of the population is fully vaccinated. Hospitals continue to report some staffing shortages. RIEMA is the supply lead for the state for PPE and medical supplies and equipment. RIEMA is a big player in vaccine support, 3 alternate care sites mobilized and demobilized, testing support, logistical support, and is in charge of all the state staging sites; RIEMA continues to support the RI Department of Education to get and keep the kids in school; ICS 300 and 400 offerings have continued as well as planning for the upcoming Operation Safe Return SAR full scale exercise early 2022; RIEMA is working with FEMA Region 1 with hosting the upcoming opioid crisis workshop in 2022; Several staff changes are in the works and the EMAP Review is in process.

**NH** – Director Jennifer Harper reported the jurisdiction had a few non Covid activations during this reporting period including two flooding events in July, a NASCAR event, an air show, and a power plant protest; New Hampshire’s State of Emergency ended but a Public Health Emergency remains in place. The State EOC closed on June 30, 2021. The Covid disaster reimbursement processes is a slow process, but negotiations continue. Current Covid case count stands at 6,910, with 317 current hospitalizations, and 1,648 total deaths, meanwhile 54.9% of NH residents are fully vaccinated. Vaccine supersite clinics were held in April and May and 4 fixed sites for testing were also stood up; Training and Exercises continue, including an upcoming Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant Exercise; NHHSEM has had numerous staff changes including a new Assistant Director, Grant Nichols, and a new Legal Counsel Matt Broadhead.

**ME** – Director Peter Rogers reported that Maine is still active in the Covid-19 pandemic. The EOC is in enhanced monitoring status but looking to increase back to partial activation. Title-32 was extended until 1 April 2022 allowing the almost 100 National Guard members to remain active in the response. Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is in unified command with the Maine Center for Disease Control (MECDC). In addition to the Covid pandemic Maine has been hit with other events, including a series of rain and windstorms. MEMA is working with FEMA for a disaster declaration for those storms; several training and exercise events continued, including fuel spill exercises and the Point LePreau Nuclear Power Plant exercise; MEMA continues to have staffing changes but one notable addition is a FEMA Integration Team (FIT) member, which has been deemed extremely helpful during the ongoing Covid response.

**CT** – Brenda Bergeron reports that the EOC continues to be in partial activation for Covid response. The Department of Public Health is the lead agency with EMA supporting as the Covid numbers remain fairly steady. EMA is also in charge of the PPE warehouse and is working with the Department of Public Health to handle the warehouse operations going forward; National Guard units are scheduled to go off orders December 15, 2021; Training and Exercises have continued but in a reduced capacity. Recently completed a very successful GridEx Exercise working with utilities on cyber issues. Also continuing to do the radiological emergency preparedness exercises and preparing to do more training and exercises on a virtual platform; EMA Staffing is down about 25% and recruitment continues, including the Agency Director. Brenda Bergeron will be the new Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Management and Homeland Security starting on December 3, 2021.

**NL** – Newly appointed Director Jamie Kennedy reports that although no provincial states of emergencies were enacted, the Provincial EOC was activated twice, for a blizzard and a hurricane. The Provincial EOC continues to provide a common operating picture report to the provincial emergency partners. The Emergency Services Division continues with an activation of Level 1 monitoring. The Covid operation and response are primarily being facilitated through the Department of Health and Community Services. Newfoundland Labrador has very



few Covid occurrence with 22 active cases, no current hospitalizations and 17 deaths. 89% of the population is fully vaccinated and boosters are currently being administered to the most vulnerable; Exercises and Trainings continue where Covid guidelines allow.

**QC** – Mylene Grenon, proxy, reported the province remains under a Declaration of Health Emergency and has 700 active Covid cases. The numbers have plateaued but are still ongoing. The Civil Security Organization of Quebec is still following the pandemic situation. Meetings are scheduled when needed and a working group for the security around the vaccination is still having discussions; The jurisdiction remains partially mobilized following the impacts of Urea Shortage (Diesel exhaust fluid); At the regional level, the organization has mobilized for more than 30 disasters since the beginning of the year including events like spring floods, drought, forest fires, heat wave, severe rain events, major landslide, and a few hazardous material events; The Civil Security Organization of Quebec is still following the pandemic situation and still awaiting confirmations from Health authorities to help the Ministry of Health in the planning of vaccination for children ages 5-12; Working with the Health and Immigration ministry with the anticipated arrival of migrants; A crisis unit was deployed to Nunavik where the number of cases remains high, and the medical resources are limited. Booster doses for vaccine are beginning with individuals over 70 years old; participated in exercises and trainings such as GridEx, Staunch Maple, and a couple more regional organization exercises and trainings; Currently working on the revision of the Civil Security Law.

**Federal Partners:** Dan McElhinney (FEMA), Steve Kempton (Canadian Public Health), and Matt McCann (FEMA CISA) reported on their perspective agencies events.

Dan McElhinney (FEMA) reports that Erica Bornemann (VT) is the newly elected President of National Emergency Management Association (NEMA); IEMG Federal Partners Co-Chairs continue to meet biweekly for ongoing information sharing. The National Level Exercise 2024 is in the preliminary planning stages and potential scenario is a Missile attack in New England (coordinating with US Department of Defense).

Steve Kempton (Canadian Public Health) reports their operations have been focused mainly on Covid, the Operations Center has been activated at Level 3 since the first Covid positive ship arrived in Halifax in March 2020. Ongoing coordination at the borders and points of entry as there has been an increase of staff needing quarantine. Halifax airport is the only airport in the region currently accepting international flights and the agency is also planning for the return of the cruise ship season in 2022. Health Canada is approving the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-12 where there has been an increase in positive cases in that group.

Matt McCann (Dept. Homeland Security CISA) worked early in the pandemic on complex supply chains and travel and transport across state and/or provincial borders. Also working with Tier 1 companies (Moderna) on security assurance issues. CISA continues with training and exercises, mainly virtual, on topics such as active shooter webinars, bomb prevention trainings, cross border energy Regional Resilience Assessment Program (RRAP) with Public Safety Canada. Additional RRAP with communications and data centers is planned. The Emergency Communication Coordinator, a position that has been vacant for three years, is being recruited. CISA has participated in several exercises in the region, including GridEX. And in the latest infrastructure bill, there was funding made available for cyber security grants and FEMA will be the financial manager for these grants.

**8.0 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.





**9.0 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.

**10.0 Bi-Annual Communication Exercise:** This exercise was not completed. Maine will conduct this exercise in the coming months.

**11.0 Co-Chair Nomination:** The current US Co-Chair, Erica Bornamann (VT), Erica has been elected as President of NEMA and must relinquish her IEMG Co-Chair position. Peter Rogers (ME) has been nominated and appointed the next US Co-Chair.

**12.0 Spring 2022 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items**

The Annual Spring Meeting is scheduled to be in person in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in June 2022. Date and meeting location to be determined. Massachusetts is scheduled host the Fall meeting in 2022.

**13.0 Appendix**

- Attendees List



**APPENDIX A**  
**IEMAC VIRTUAL TOUCH BASE MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 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
Brantley	Dawn	Emergency Management	MA
Broadhead	Matt	Homeland Security & Emergency Management	NH
Cayouette	Marc	Public Safety Canada	Federal Partner
Cimini	Josie	Consulate General of Canada, Boston	Partner
Cooling	Stacey	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
Desbarres	David	Public Health Agency of Canada	Federal Partner
Errington	Lori	Emergency Management Organization	NS
Grenon	Mylene	Ministere de la securite publique	QC
Hackett	Cindy	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
Harper	Jennifer	Homeland Security & Emergency Management	NH
Kempton	Steven	Public Health Agency of Canada	Federal Partner
Kennedy	Jamie	Emergency Services Division	NL
Lussier	Pete	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
Mallory	Steven	Emergency Management	ME
Mason	Paul	Emergency Management Organization	NS
McCann	Matt	FEMA Region 1 - CISA	Federal Partner
MacCallum	Greg	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
McElhinney	Daniel	FEMA Region 1	Federal Partner
Mew	Jason	Emergency Management Organization	NS
Mullally	Tanya	Public Safety Division	PEI
Nichols	Grant	Homeland Security & Emergency Management	NH
Pappas	Marc	Emergency Management	RI
Rogers	Peter	Emergency Management	ME